



Council

Wednesday 25 May 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:- **17 May 2022**

COUNCIL

Wednesday 25 May 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

THE MAYOR (Councillor Tajamal Khan)
DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Robert Taylor)

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 25 May 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 - 42)

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th April, 2022, and to approve the accuracy thereof.

5. PETITIONS (Pages 43 - 47)

To report on any petitions 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.

There are no such items at the time of preparing this agenda.

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 48 - 60)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 25th April, 2022.

11. OUTCOME OF THE WICKERSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN REFERENDUM (Pages 61 - 80)

To note the outcome of the Referendum and adopt the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.

12. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS (Pages 81 - 91)

To report on the establishment of political groups, the political balance of the Council and the entitlement of each group to seats on the authority's committees.

13. DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS ON COUNCILLORS (Pages 92 - 94)

To report on the Disclosure and Barring Service Checks on Councillors that have been undertaken since May 2021.

14. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 95 - 139)

To note the Climate Emergency Annual Report.

15. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS (Pages 140 - 150)

To receive updates from ward councillors from Greasbrough, Wickersley North and Boston Castle on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION - NATURE CRISIS

That this Council:-

Notes we are in the middle of a nature crisis. Almost half of all UK wildlife is in

long term decline and 15% of species are at risk of extinction. The climate crisis is only hastening this destruction of the natural environment, damaging habitats and disrupting ecosystems. Yet it is these very habitats that have the potential to lock up carbon and fight back against rising global temperatures. It is essential that we not only protect these spaces, but let them thrive – for the benefit of people, planet and nature. We recognise that the terms Nature, Ecological and Biodiversity can be and are often used interchangeably by people and, for the purpose of this motion, all mean the same thing.

Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta's review into The Economics of Biodiversity, commissioned by Her Majesty's Treasury, highlighted that humanity does not exist in isolation from nature but sits within it. Nature is an asset on which all aspects of our society depends and with biodiversity declining faster than at any time in human history, we are undermining the productivity, resilience and adaptability that nature lends our society.

As we recover from the Covid-19 crisis, the need for nature-rich green spaces where we live and work is clearer than ever and will help health, education and the economy build back stronger. We recognise that the Climate and Nature emergencies are intrinsically linked with each other and also to social justice; and by building a better world to deal with the Climate and Nature Crises we will also be building a better society. We recognise that action must be taken now to remedy this and to put nature into recovery at a local level, not only to benefit Rotherham, but in support of regional, national and international work to do the same.

This Council therefore notes and recognises that:

- a) Nature is in long term decline and urgent action must be taken to reverse this
- b) A thriving natural environment underpins a healthy, prosperous society
- c) The nature and the climate crises are intrinsically linked and that the impacts of the climate crisis drive nature's decline, while restoring nature can help to tackle the climate crisis.
- d) Local people and groups have recognised the issues and have declared a Nature Crisis for Rotherham themselves and call on the Council to do so too.

This Council resolves to:

- 1. Declare a Nature Crisis for Rotherham.
- 2. Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider commissioning a review into how the Council can support improvements to ensure a more natural environment is enhanced.
- 3. Ensure our responsiveness on tackling climate change is extended to be complimentary to this separate but well aligned cause.
- 4. Continue to further our work on enhancing biodiversity by adopting innovative approaches to support wild flowered areas and ecological approaches to grounds maintenance.
- 5. Note the ongoing significant progress the Council is making through its Climate Change Action Plans for a carbon neutral Council by 2030 and Borough by 2040.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION - OFFSHORING UK ASYLUM SEEKERS TO RWANDA

That this Council notes:-

The Conservative Government is proposing to fly UK Asylum Seekers, who cross the English Channel in small boats, to Rwanda, 4,000 miles away at an estimated initial cost of £120 million. This practice of offshore processing UK Asylum Seekers, should their application be successful, would provide them with long-term accommodation in Rwanda.

Rwanda has been accused of human rights abuses on numerous occasions. In January 2021, the UN Human Rights Council was told by Julian Braithewaite, Director General for Europe at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, “We remain concerned... by continued restrictions to civil and political rights and media freedom. We urge Rwanda to model Commonwealth values of democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights.” The UK’s International Ambassador for Human Rights, Rita French, has since expressed regret that Rwanda has so far largely ignored this advice. In addition, the US Government, in its most recent assessment of Rwanda, stated they had extensive concerns about their human rights practices.

Rwanda had a similar agreement, to offshore Asylum Seekers, with Israel, between 2014 and 2017 that failed. Almost all the 4,000 Asylum Seekers quickly left, to once again, try to travel to Europe. This journey, fraught with danger, left many at the mercy of human traffickers; the very people that the Conservative Government is claiming they are trying to protect UK Asylum Seekers from.

There is further evidence of the failure of detaining Asylum Seekers at offshore locations. In 2013, Australia introduced a policy of transporting Asylum Seekers fleeing war zones to camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. This process was widely condemned by refugee advocates, human rights groups, and the United Nations. The failure of these camps was marked by numerous major incidents of violence, riots, and even murder, and thirteen Asylum Seekers died. Australia ceased to transfer Asylum Seekers to Papua New Guinea as of the 31st December 2021.

The African Union has also objected to the transportation of Asylum Seekers from European Countries as “burden shifting.” As recently as August 2021, the African Union condemned “in the strongest terms possible” Denmark’s plans to send Asylum Seekers to Africa for processing.

Introducing offshore processing for UK Asylum Seekers, who only arrive by boat across the English Channel, is discriminatory practice. For those who arrive by other routes or other countries, such as people fleeing the war in Ukraine, the Conservative Government is not only allowing them to stay but encouraging the British public to house them. The UK has a proud tradition of providing protection for UK Asylum Seekers wherever they have fled from. Only offshoring those who arrive by boat crossing the English Channel,

introduces fragility to this proud customary practice.

In summary, the practice of offshoring Asylum Seekers, has been shown on numerous occasions to fail. It is not wanted by the African Union, is discriminatory, incredibly expensive, and puts the very people that the Conservative Government is claiming to protect, at significant personal risk.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Call on the Government not to fly any UK Asylum Seekers to Rwanda.
- 2) Call on the Government to process all UK Asylum Seeker applications in the UK, through a system that enables right to stay decisions to be made quickly, whilst safeguarding their human rights.
- 3) Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Government expressing this Council's support for a national asylum dispersal system, ensuring that every part of the country plays its role, alongside Rotherham, in meeting the needs of those people fleeing persecution.

Mover – Councillor Baker-Rogers

Seconded – Councillor Cusworth

18. NOTICE OF MOTION - TREE AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

Over 70% of Rotherham Borough is classified as Green and its many trees and woodland areas have positive environmental, physical and mental health benefits. The Council is committed to planting many more trees to tackle the declared Climate Emergency and is responsible for the care and maintenance of tree stock and woodland areas.

Some residents have raised concerns that certain trees and woodland areas need to be more proactively maintained by the Council.

There are trees in areas of our Borough that are of a disproportionate size and too closely located to residents' houses and gardens. Examples include those on Anston Plantation and The Steadlands, Rawmarsh. Such trees have caused significant issues for residents, including blocking light and heat, interference with telephone signal, overhanging branches, undue leaf fall in gardens, and damage to properties, fencing and equipment from falling branches and trees. Many are of a type and location that would not be permitted under current planting practices.

Many of these issues present a significant health and safety risk, highlighted during recent storms when several such trees fell, causing damage to properties and crashing into internal rooms. They also cause residents undue stress and anxiety, creating noise in high winds, fear of injury, damage to property and undermining their quality of life. The impact is more acute for many elderly residents, for whom this anxiety is coupled with a fear of slipping on an undue leaf fall and suffering serious injury, compromising their amenity.

The Council's Tree Management Protocol and Guidance currently places a disproportionate emphasis on the arboricultural needs of trees. It does not sufficiently consider the welfare, interests and views of residents living in close proximity and the exceptions to the policy of non-removal of trees are too

narrow and inflexible. Residents feel that their needs and views are not given appropriate weight in the decision-making process and the current Protocol allows for these to be ignored, providing an excuse for inaction.

A more proactive Protocol, that gives greater consideration and weight to residents' concerns, would improve their health and safety and quality of life, cut the costs of reactive maintenance, and minimise property repairs and insurance claims. It would also give the public a greater stake in tree management, improving engagement and public confidence and engendering greater support for sensible tree planting in line with the Council's targets.

Therefore, this Council will:

- Undertake a review of the current tree management Protocol and Guidance to ensure that it:
 - Follows best practice;
 - Maximises opportunities to seek the views of residents living in close proximity to trees and woodland;
 - Ensures RMBC always acts as a "good neighbour" when dealing with residents in connection with trees and woodlands, undertaking proper consultation, keeping them informed of actions, dealing with issues promptly and circulating the results of any tree and woodlands surveys to proximate residents;
 - Provides the flexibility to give appropriate weight to the nature and scale and resident concern and, where sufficient, attribute this equal or greater weight than the arboricultural needs of trees;
 - Recognises the potential serious impact poorly managed trees can have on residents' quality of life, including through secondary burdens like heavy leaf fall, and provides flexibility to act on this basis;
 - Provide scope for existing trees and woodland that breach current planting and location practice to be actively managed back in line with this, including pruning, felling, re-siting and/or replacement with more appropriate tree types in full consultation with proximate residents.

Mover – Councillor Baum-Dixon

Seconder – Councillor Thompson

19. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 151 - 155)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

20. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 156 - 157)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

21. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 158 - 159)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

22. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

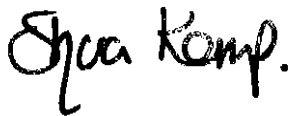
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council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

23. 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).

24. 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
20 July 2022 at 2.00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING
13th April, 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, Ellis, Fisher, Griffin, Hague, Haleem, Havard, Hoddinott, Hughes, Hunter, Jones, Keenan, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Mills, Miro, Monk, Pitchley, Read, Reynolds, Roche, Sansome, Sheppard, Tarmey, Taylor, Thompson, Tinsley, Whomersley, Wilson, Wyatt and Yasseen.

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

142. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor explained that as her term of office was ending, she had been extremely busy meeting and thanking people for their support over the past 3 years. Many of the supporters had been to visit the Town Hall and the Mayor had hosted some of them at Wentworth Woodhouse for afternoon tea and a tour of the building. The Mayor had also visited Wentworth Woodhouse in March to celebrate International Women's Day along with the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, Master Cutler, and the High Sheriff among many others.

The Mayor welcomed the opportunity to report on a number of engagements:-

- Attendance at theatre performances including 'Our House, The Musical, Guys and Dolls (courtesy of the Chapelton Musical Theatre Society) and Curtains', a musical comedy 'Whodunnit' performed by Maltby Minors which was thoroughly enjoyed.
- South Yorkshire Veterans' Breakfast Club get together at Toby Carvery.
- Rotherham Grammar School Old Boys' Association annual dinner at Sitwell Park Golf Club.
- Friendship lunch at the Manor Barn, Kimberworth which aimed to reduce social isolation and loneliness through entertainment and lunch.
- Visit to the Wonder Years Nursery in Ravenfield which had been given an award for ensuring a high level of safety for children in its care.
- Rotherham's World Day of Prayer at the Minster.

- A celebration of local brick industry and heritage at Swinton Brick Assembly Unveiling Ceremony.
- St Bernard's Catholic High School Career Fair.
- The Work-Wise Foundation which was an interactive Careers Showcase Event for schools, young people and families.
- The AESSEAL ceremonial signing of the Factory of the Future contract.
- The official launch of the Nayi Zindagi social enterprise project which creates positive awareness of its service to community members in and around Rotherham.
- The opening of the Treeton Community Centre outside area.
- The Brinsworth Academy Spring Fayre.
- The Jump Inc Autism Awareness Event.

The Mayor also advised that a couple of other fundraising events to support her own chosen charities had taken place including a charity race night at the New Inn Pub in Masbrough and a day-long raffle organised by Tesco at Dinnington. The Mayor thanked all of those who took part in those events.

The Mayor stated that she had been very lucky to attend a number of sporting events including the Rotherham Titans rugby match on 12th March, Rotherham United v Milton Keynes on 5th March and Rotherham United v Sutton United at Wembley on 3rd April. The Mayor explained what a fantastic day the trip to Wembley was and how she could not have asked for a better outcome for Rotherham.

Finally, the Mayor wished to place on record her thanks to the Mayoress for the support given throughout her time in office.

143. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

144. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to report.

145. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 2nd March, 2022, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

146. PETITIONS

The Mayor introduced the report and confirmed the receipt of one petition received since the last Council meeting which had not met the threshold for consideration by Council:

- Containing 643 signatures calling on the Council to “Improve Road Safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane.”

Councillor Ball and Councillor T. Collingham addressed the Council as part of the presentation of the petition.

Resolved:-

- 1) That the report be received.
- 2) That the petition be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for consideration.

147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

148. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions to report.

149. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

150. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader presented his statement and put on record his thanks to the Mayor for her 3 years of service. He also thanked the outgoing Mayor of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, Dan Jarvis, who had decided not to seek re-election. The Leader explained that the Mayor had been a good friend to him over the years and had been elected at a time when there had been great uncertainty over devolution in South Yorkshire. The approach of the Mayor had brought people together for the good of South Yorkshire and he was owed a debt of gratitude by the people in Rotherham for the work he had done. He had secured hundreds

COUNCIL MEETING - 13/04/22

of millions of pounds of investment in the region when it was most needed and led a co-ordinated approach to flood defence work and bus franchising.

An update on Council activity was given. The Government's Council Tax Rebate Scheme had been launched but the Leader explained that this was not related to Council Tax and was not a rebate. The first direct debit payments would be paid out by the end of April 2022 and the cheques would follow in May. The Council's Energy Bill Grant Scheme would be in place by the end of the month and details would be circulated to Members.

The DWP had put forward the Council for a partnership award in relation to the Kickstart scheme. This scheme aimed to help young people who were at risk of becoming long term unemployed by offering work placements paid at the Real Living Wage. Rotherham had done more than any other local authority in the region in terms of that work and that was testimony to the commitment by the Council to the young people within the Borough.

Work was due to start imminently on the Century Business Centre at Manvers and demolition works had commenced around Rotherham Market and the Rain Building. Construction of the flood barrier scheme around Riverside and Forge Island was well underway and those infrastructure improvements were required to make the borough more prosperous and a better place to live.

In relation to the comments about Mayor Dan Jarvis and his work on buses, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that one of the investments that had been secured was £15 million for 27 low emission buses. He expressed concerns over giving public money to private business and questioned what checks and measures were in place to ensure low emission buses would continue on the routes where they were most needed, specifically the Dearne routes which do suffer with connectivity issues?

The Leader explained that the electric buses would be based in Rawmarsh due to the air quality concerns and the links to Barnsley and Doncaster. At present, the charging infrastructure would not allow the buses to deviate from the agreed routes around Rawmarsh but the development of more electric charging infrastructure could make this a possibility in the future. The Leader agreed to provide further information outside of the meeting in relation to the contractual requirements concerning the routes.

151. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester made reference to Minute No. 125 (COVID Recovery Fund) and asked whether the £500,000 Energy Bill Scheme was a replication of schemes already in place such as the British Gas

Energy Trust and whether any checks or measures were in place to ensure residents use other schemes first? He also asked whether any of the remaining £679,000 from the Fund could be used to support the night-time economy, which had suffered due to COVID, until the Forge Island scheme was completed?

The Leader responded by explaining that it could be possible to use some of the remaining Fund to support the night-time economy but that any proposals would have to go through the correct channels as there was likely to be a huge demand for the funds across many sectors. He asked that Councillor Bennett-Sylvester email him with any further details so that they could be fed into the discussions.

In relation to the Energy Bill Scheme, the Leader explained that the priority was making sure the money was available to residents as quickly as possible. As such, there were no pre-requisites that required residents to try other schemes first. It was, however, anticipated that most residents that sought help through this scheme would come via advice groups and other options would likely have been discussed as part of that advice.

Councillor Ball made reference to Minute No. 116 over concerns that his question about why the figures for referrals from the Council, in relation to issues such as hoarding and houses, to the Fire Authority had not been properly addressed. The Leader agreed to pick this matter up outside of the meeting.

Resolved:- That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 28th March, 2022, be received.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Allen

152. NOMINATIONS - MAYOR-ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR-ELECT FOR THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Nominations had been invited for the positions of Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect for the 2022-23 Municipal Year.

One nomination for the position of Mayor had been received:-

“That Councillor Khan be elected Chair of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing (2022/23) Municipal Year and that he be entitled to the style of Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.”

Proposer:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Allen

On being put to a vote, the motion was carried by majority.

COUNCIL MEETING - 13/04/22

Councillor Tajamal Khan was appointed Mayor-elect for the 2022-23 Municipal Year. His election as Mayor will take place at the Annual Meeting on 20th May, 2022.

One nomination for the position of Deputy Mayor-elect had been received:-

“That Councillor Taylor be elected Vice-Chair of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing (2022/23) Municipal Year and that he be entitled to the style of Deputy Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.”

Proposer:- Councillor Pitchley

Seconder:- Councillor Keenan

On being put to a vote, the motion was carried by majority.

Councillor Robert Taylor was appointed Deputy Mayor-elect for the 2022-23 Municipal Year. His election as Deputy Mayor will take place at the Annual Meeting on 20th May, 2022.

153. NOTICE OF MOTION - SCRUTINY

It was moved by Councillor Adam Carter and seconded by Councillor Charlotte Carter that:-

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

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was declared lost.

154. NOTICE OF MOTION - ROTHERHAM STANDS WITH UKRAINE

It was moved by Councillor Miro and seconded by Councillor Tarmey:-

That this Council:-

- 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;
- takes a stand in complete solidarity with the Ukrainian people as they bravely resist this assault;
- notes the horrific ordeal facing many as they flee to safety and who now face a future that they could never have imagined;
- 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;
- notes that this is not a war waged by Russian citizens but by its President and his high-ranking military officials;
- 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
- 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.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared as carried by the majority.

155. NOTICE OF MOTION - MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES AND DIGNITY FUNERALS LTD

It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Tinsley that:-

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.

An amendment to the motion from the Labour Group had been received. It was moved by Councillor Alam and seconded by Councillor Hoddinott that the motion be amended as follows:-

This Council notes that:

- **[Insert] The Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG) manage several municipal cemeteries in the borough on behalf of the Council: East Herringthorpe, Cemetery and Crematorium, Greasbrough Lane Cemetery, Greasbrough Town Lane**

Cemetery, Haugh Road Cemetery, High Street Cemetery, Masbrough Cemetery, Moorgate Cemetery and Wath Cemetery. [to here]

- **[Delete] Problems persist with the management of several Municipal Cemeteries and funeral services across the Borough, which are contracted out by RMBC to Dignity Funerals.**
- **[Delete] At times [Insert] There are reports of** poor management and lack of preparation of plots has led to funerals being cancelled at very short notice, causing significant distress to families.
- **[Delete] Problems with the maintenance of Municipal Cemeteries include [Insert] The maintenance is further contracted out and there are reports of:**
 - 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 **[Insert] Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG) [Delete] 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 **[Insert] Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG) [Delete] Dignity Funerals.**
- **[Insert] That the Cabinet Member has led on requiring improvements in the contract from the Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG). That has included a regular contract management process, better recognition of equality needs including longer times for short-notice burials, and improvements to the facilities at East Herringthorpe.**

- That there have been extensive scrutiny session looking at the contract, including by Improving Places in September 2021, September 2020, February, June and December 2019, January and July 2018, site visits in 2017 and September and December 2016.
- There is an Performance Management Framework which identifies key areas for improvement and contract management process with the Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG) and this goes at least annually to Scrutiny. This process has led to improvements in relation to: free child burials across all types of services, longer opening hours at the Crematorium, physical improvements to the Crematorium, and lower cost headstone maintenance. The Improving Places Select Commission may wish to look at this in more detail, noting that their last recommendation in September was for it be looked at again in 12 months.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- **[Delete] 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 **[Delete] RMBC Bereavement Services [Insert] Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG)** provide 'Friends of...' groups with clear guidelines, policies, protocols, and key points of contact – ideally in a short handbook – as soon as possible.
- Request **[Insert] Crematoria and memorial Group (CMG)** publicise their complaint process at the sites, and that Councillors use the casework system for resident's concerns. **[Delete] RMBC and Dignity Funerals agree, implement, and publicise a clear and fair complaints procedure within three months.**
- **[Insert] That scrutiny members on OSMB are provided with the minutes of previous scrutiny sessions with the Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG), and that all members are invited to the next planned Improving Places scrutiny session on municipal cemeteries.**
- **[Delete] 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.**

The amendment was put and carried and became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion now reads:-

This Council notes that:

- The Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG) manage several municipal cemeteries in the borough on behalf of the Council: East Herringthorpe, Cemetery and Crematorium, Greasbrough Lane Cemetery, Greasbrough Town Lane Cemetery, Haugh Road Cemetery, High Street Cemetery, Masbrough Cemetery, Moorgate Cemetery and Wath Cemetery.
- There are reports of poor management and lack of preparation of plots has led to funerals being cancelled at very short notice, causing significant distress to families.
- The maintenance is further contracted out and there are reports of:
 - 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 Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG) 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 Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG).
- That the Cabinet Member has led on requiring improvements in the contract from the Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG). That has included a regular contract management process, better recognition of equality needs including longer times for short-notice burials, and improvements to the facilities at East Herringthorpe.
- That there have been extensive scrutiny sessions looking at the contract, including by Improving Places in September 2021, September 2020, February, June and December 2019, January and July 2018, site visits in 2017 and September and December 2016.

- There is an Performance Management Framework which identifies key areas for improvement and contract management process with the Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG) and this goes at least annually to Scrutiny. This process has led to improvements in relation to: free child burials across all types of services, longer opening hours at the Crematorium, physical improvements to the Crematorium, and lower cost headstone maintenance. The Improving Places Select Commission may wish to look at this in more detail, noting that their last recommendation in September was for it be looked at again in 12 months.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- Request Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG) provide 'Friends of...' groups with clear guidelines, policies, protocols, and key points of contact – ideally in a short handbook – as soon as possible.
- Request that Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG) publicise their complaint process at the sites, and that Councillors use the casework system for resident's concerns.
- That scrutiny members on OSMB are provided with the minutes of previous scrutiny sessions with the Crematoria and Memorial Group (CMG), and that all members are invited to the next planned Improving Places scrutiny session on municipal cemeteries.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared as carried by the majority.

156. AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

Mover:- Councillor Baker-Rodgers

Second:- Councillor Cowen

157. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Resolved:- That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Roche

Second:- Councillor Cusworth

158. LICENSING BOARD AND LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester advised of a correction to the Licensing Board Committee Minutes of 25th February, 2022, as he was present at the meeting.

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

Mover:- Councillor Ellis

Seconded:- Councillor Hughes

159. PLANNING BOARD

Resolved:- That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Planning Board be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Atkin

Seconded:- Councillor Bird

160. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor McNeely

Seconded:- Councillor Griffin

161. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There were no questions.

162. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

(1) Councillor Whomersley submitted a question asking what amendments were being made for the second Levelling Up Fund bid for Dinnington and if the Council was on track for the deadline?

As Councillor Lelliott had left the meeting at this point, a written answer would be provided.

(2) Councillor Mills asked how many people had signed up to become a Snow Warden last winter and how effective the service was?

Councillor Beck stated that the Council's Snow Warden service was a huge success with 572 volunteers to date. This was a significant increase on numbers in previous years which had been the result of a drive for more volunteers.

The Council's Snow Wardens were volunteers who gave their own time over and above Council services, and the aim was to support them, so it was not a matter of measuring their performance. However, Councillor Beck did believe the service has been very effective in local areas in supporting the overall response to wintry weather. Councillor Beck wanted to put on record his thanks to the large number of residents who were already signed up as Snow Wardens, for their hard work and support and

he encouraged others to get involved and help their local community in the future.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Mills stated that he and other Conservative Members had applied to be Snow Wardens in November 2021 and had never received their packs. He asked if this was another failure of the Labour-run Council and how many more failures would be delivered?

Councillor Beck apologised for the failure to deliver the packs but stated that had he been made aware of the matter sooner, i.e. before Spring, he could have addressed the matter. He encouraged any Members that wanted to become Snow Wardens to email him and he would pick the matter up.

(3) Councillor Griffin stated that he was of the understanding that South Yorkshire's bid for funding in relation to bus service improvements – cheaper tickets; moving to simpler ticketing; and new buses – had been rejected by the Conservative Government. He asked what the Leader expected to be the impact and consequences of that decision?

The Leader expressed huge disappointment in the fact that the bid for the South Yorkshire Bus Improvement Plan had been rejected by the Government.

This meant Rotherham would not benefit from:-

- a cap on daily and weekly fares, access to more cashless ticketing to create an easy to use system.
- it would not be able to fund the plans for a wider network of bus priority measures leaving buses continuing to be stuck in traffic and making services less reliable.
- the Borough would have fewer new bus shelters with real time information, less support for new on-demand services and no funding for free bus travel for under 18 year olds.

and all that together meant that South Yorkshire and Rotherham particularly, would continue to fall further behind other parts of the country.

It was the fundamental problem of this kind of short term competitive bidding process that the Government seemed addicted to – one place wins, another has to lose. It was what happened when politicians saw this all as some sort of political game to be played, rather than a matter of ensuring that people received the decent basic services that everyone should be entitled to.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Griffin asked what impact this would have on the bus franchising proposals?

The Leader explained that there would be no immediate impact on the bus franchising proposals as that work was now underway. It could be an indirect consequence of the rejected bid that franchising was now more likely but the Leader would continue to keep Members updated on any developments.

(4) Councillor Whomersley stated that the new solar powered bins on Dinnington High Street were overflowing and asked if there was a problem with the bins and if so, had it been fixed?

Councillor Beck understood that there have been some intermittent problems with the alerts on a small number of solar bins, which meant that they had not always been sending alerts when they should have been, and this may have affected Dinnington High Street. He explained that this problem had now been rectified, but to let him know if there were any further problems.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Whomersley stated that he had spoken to an employee who emptied the bins and it was stated by this employee that he had received no training on how to empty the new bins nor did he have access to them. It was asked whether it would be a good idea to provide the training and a key for access?

Councillor Beck explained that awareness training had been provided on how to empty the new bins, however, it was not complicated and not that different to what was used before. Councillor Beck stated that he wished to speak to Councillor Whomersley about the matter after the meeting.

(5) Councillor Whomersley stated that he had heard the Council was looking at the potential to bring leisure centre facilities into Dinnington and asked whether this was possible with Maltby and Aston leisure facilities in the surrounding areas?

Councillor Sheppard explained that, as part of the development of the Levelling Up Fund bid for Dinnington, and in light of representations from the local area, there had been some consideration given to the possibility of a new leisure centre. However, it was advised that there was no viable plan for any such facility at the moment.

The cost of a new leisure centre along the lines of those at St Ann's or at Aston would be around £10m in capital (Sport England, 2021) and £1.3m in revenue (based on the current contract). In addition any new leisure centre would be likely to have financial implications for the Council's current PFI contract for leisure centres.

Whilst it was technically possible, those costs in totality would seem to place any such development well beyond the available resources, even if Levelling Up Funds could be secured, without an overwhelming amount of long-term private sector funding.

(6) Councillor Mills asked whether the Cabinet Member would support reducing the speed limit outside Ravenfield Primary School to 30 miles per hour in the interests of safety?

Councillor Beck stated that there were no proposals to date to lower the speed limit on Moor Lane North, outside of the Primary School, to 30 miles per hour.

There were a number of existing measures on Moor Lane North, outside Ravenfield Primary School, that had been put in place to address road safety over the last few years including:

- ‘School 20’ signs, which flash up at pupil arrival and leaving times to improve awareness of school activity;
- Billy and Belinda (children shaped) bollards to highlight the presence of the school to passing motorists; and
- a Clearway Traffic Regulation Order on the School Zig-Zag lines to discourage parking directly outside the school gates.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Mills stated that the 20 miles per hour speed sign no longer worked. He questioned whether it would take the death of a child to get the speed limit reduced?

Councillor Beck confirmed he would follow up on the issue of the road sign. In terms of the speed limit, Councillor Beck confirmed that he would take Councillor Mills’ question as a proposal and would discuss the matter with officers and provide feedback.

(7) Councillor Baker-Rogers asked that given the unprecedented rise in energy prices, what advice about and access to home energy saving measures was the Council giving to residents?

Councillor Sheppard explained that the Council offered advice to residents through the “Community Energy Rotherham” page on the Council’s website and social media. This was a scheme that the current administration had introduced over the last 2 years. The service provided advice on what energy saving measures people could take, and what to do if your supplier was to become insolvent, as well as advice on debt management.

The Community Energy Team at the Council also delivered advice on a one-to-one basis to individual residents. The impact on residents of the rising energy prices was evident as demand for the service has tripled in

the last month. Now that COVID restrictions had been removed, a programme of events was being developed to deliver Energy Saving Workshops throughout the Borough to residents. Residents would be informed through social media, the Council website and Council information portals and would be able to turn up on the day or register for one-to-one support sessions.

Additionally, advice had also been sent out to Members through the Ward update. A useful information leaflet had also been distributed a month prior to the meeting which signposted residents that were struggling with energy costs and other costs to relevant help.

In terms of energy prices, the best advice the Council could offer was for residents to remain on the standard rate and be protected by the Price Cap as this was currently the cheapest available option, although it was expected that the price cap would increase again in October 2022. It was expected that many more residents would struggle with the choice between eating and heating in Winter 2022 and the Council would continue to do what it could to help.

(8) Councillor Mills explained that the Council had received £10,000 to install a zebra crossing on Flash Lane, however, the residents of Bramley were yet to see the money or the zebra crossing. Councillor Mills asked where it was?

Councillor Beck explained that the funding contribution received by the Council for Flash Lane dating back to a 2005 planning agreement related to the provision of improved pedestrian crossing facilities, and did not specifically require the provision of a zebra crossing.

In 2011, the monies received were invested in the installation of 2 pedestrian tactile drop crossing points and conversion of grass verge to hard surfacing adjacent to the playground.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Mills stated that Bramley Parish Council and residents were under the impression that a zebra crossing was going to be installed. Given that it was over 15 years since the planning agreement, could the residents have the zebra crossing?

Councillor Beck reiterated that the money had been spent for its intended purpose. In terms of any additional road safety measures, such as a zebra crossing, proposals could be made through the Road Safety Programme and details on how to do this would be circulated to Members in the coming weeks.

(9) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked what was happening to celebrate the 600th birth anniversary of Archbishop Thomas Rotherham in 2023?

Councillor Sheppard explained that to celebrate the anniversary, Rotherham Council's Museum, Arts and Heritage Service would research the Rotherham Archives and Museum Collections for items related to the Archbishop Thomas Rotherham and create a digital programme and small exhibition at Clifton Park Museum with items from the collection. As with all events, local school children would be invited to attend and learn more about their town.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that this was a story that needed telling loudly and proudly and that the celebrations needed to be promoted.

Councillor Sheppard agreed that local history needed to be celebrated and passed onto future generations so he would make sure plans were progressing.

(10) Councillor Hoddinott asked, with the good news that HS2 would no longer cut through parts of Rotherham, was it known when the Government would finally end the project and remove safeguarding from properties?

Councillor Beck explained that the answer to the question was, shamefully, no; it was not known when the Government would finally end the HS2 project and finally relieve Rotherham's residents of the blight inflicted on their properties and on their lives.

The position in the Government's Integrated Rail Plan was that the route would remain safeguarded until, at earliest, the review of rail connectivity between Sheffield and Leeds was complete. There was no timescale yet set for this.

The Leader had written to the Government highlighting the continuing blight resulting from the safeguarding and to seek clarity of timescales for the withdrawal of that safeguarding of the HS2 alignment.

Councillor Beck explained that many residents in his Ward of Wales were impacted by this issue with people having no certainty over their future and not being able to get on with their lives. He reiterated the Leader's statements to Government that this must end soon.

In her supplementary, Councillor Hoddinott expressed concern at the lack of any progress and asked for confirmation that the Council would continue to press for the removal of the safeguarding?

Councillor Beck confirmed that they absolutely would and that they would not drop the issue because it was in the interests of Rotherham Residents. The Council had also submitted formal representations to the Transport Committee in Parliament, outlining the impact the safeguarding of the properties was having in Rotherham.

(11) Councillor Thompson asked what the actual figure of CSE victims in Rotherham was since 2017?

Councillor Cusworth stated that since the beginning of 2017 to 8th April, 2022, there had been 584 individual children and young people that CYPS had worked with where it was believed that there was a risk of CSE.

This did not of course mean that all of those children had been abused, and certainly not that they had made a disclosure.

To give a little further context, nearly half of those children were regarded as being at “low” risk, with 78 considered at “high risk”.

Of course, there might also be children who did not come into contact with services.

As Members would be aware, the Council would continue to regularly publish the number of children being supported through the Evolve Service as part of the Council Plan performance reports, so Members would have easy access to that information.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Thompson explained that she had now been given 3 different responses to the same question and whilst she understood the difficulties in recording the number of victims accurately, it was not acceptable to have unreliable data in 2022. She asked what was going to be done to sort that out?

Councillor Cusworth stated that she did not believe that the data was unreliable. Some young people were subject to more than one risk assessment which could confuse figures. The figures were the most up-to-date available.

(12) Councillor Thompson asked where the up-to-date CSE action plan, that had been aligned to the recommendations from the Jay and Casey reports, was and could access to it be provided?

Councillor Cusworth explained that when the Council discussed the Conservative groups motion at Council in November, the Council asked the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Board to review the Partnership’s Strategy to Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation. That strategy, supported by an operational action plan, was the relevant document in terms of responding to CSE in Rotherham. It was the responsibility of the multi-agency Child Exploitation Delivery Group. The strategy could be found on their website.

Those documents were not a direct response to the recommendations of the Jay and Casey reports, which were of course the subject of the Council’s Intervention and Improvement Plan over a number of years. More information about that work was still available on the Council’s

website.

The first part of the review that was asked for had been conducted by the independent reviewers and had provided substantial assurance, and the second part, reviewing the Strategy, was now underway. Once that review was complete in the next few weeks Councillor Cusworth suggested that the documents be referred to Members for formal consideration through Scrutiny, if that was what Members would wish.

In her supplementary, Councillor Thompson stated that some of the problems identified by Professor Jay within South Yorkshire Police were still problems today as shown by the IOPC report and SYP's own strategic profile. Without proper assurance, it could not be guaranteed that the problems identified by Professor Jay within the Council had not either continued or re-emerged. Referring back to the motion from November Council, Councillor Thompson claimed that the Council had stated there were no problems and that it was a whitewash. Referring back to her original question, she asked where the up-to-date CSE plan was as it was showing an incomplete online?

Councillor Cusworth explained that substantial assurances had been given by the independent review in stage one of the report. When the Commissioner's left Rotherham they were confident that the actions taken had led to the required improvements across Children and Young People's Services and Scrutiny etc. Councillor Cusworth reiterated that Scrutiny was the best route for the plan to be accessed as it was a working document.

(13) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked what measures were in place to ensure tenants with furnished tenancies had their furnishings regularly replaced?

Councillor Brookes explained the process involved with furnished tenancies. Once a tenant requested a furnished package, an officer would arrange to visit the tenant within the first 2 to 3 weeks of the start of the tenancy to discuss their furnished homes package and complete an inventory check.

Each year, around the 12 months anniversary of the tenancy start date, the Furnished Homes Team visited the tenant to discuss the package, check the items and replace items where necessary.

However, tenants could contact the Furnished Homes Team at any point during their tenancy by email at rotherhamfurnishedhomes@rotherham.gov.uk or telephone 01709 382121.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that some residents, particularly elderly and vulnerable residents, were not getting the required updates and he was concerned that some were slipping

through the net. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if could discuss the matter further with the Cabinet Member outside of the meeting?

Councillor Brookes stated that she would be happy to take the matter forward outside of the meeting.

(14) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked what was the total collective amount paid in charges for Rothercare on top of their rents by Council tenants who had not been in receipt of the Rothercare Service in the 2021/22 financial year?

Councillor Roche explained that the Council allocated a number of council homes as 'Rothercare properties', where the rent included provision of Rothercare, at a cost of £3.10 a week, whether residents chose to use it or not. It was a similar principle to the Neighbourhood Centres connected to many of the Council's bungalow complexes.

Most of the tenants received help through Housing Benefit or Universal Credit that, therefore, covered some or all of the cost of the Service. There were 8,228 properties in Rotherham that had Rothercare equipment installed but only 1,360 paid the full cost. The Council did not collate the details of those tenants not choosing to participate in the Rothercare Service. Councillor Roche could not, therefore, tell Councillor Bennett-Sylvester how many properties were not using it, or any associated financial information.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester expressed concern that the answer was not known. He asked whether it would be a good idea to plan forward and find out how many people were using the Service in order to be prepared for an increase in demand for what was a very good Service?

Councillor Roche responded to the acknowledgement that it was a good Service by informing that it had dealt with 348,000 separate calls. There were plans to move the Service away from landlines and Councillor Roche agreed to discuss with the Strategic Director whether it would be possible to write out to all of the concerned properties to ascertain whether or not the Service was being used.

(15) Councillor Elliott noted that there was a public consultation on the proposed cycle lane on Main Street and Westgate and asked whether the Cabinet Member would guarantee that the results of the consultation would be acted upon and not ignored?

Councillor Beck responded by stating that he was happy to confirm that the results of the consultation would be fully considered in informing how or if the scheme was progressed. He encouraged everyone to participate in the consultation which would close on 24th April.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Elliott stated that the proposal

was so wrong in many aspects: it was a major reconfiguration of a junction that had recently been done; it would make access into Rotherham Town Centre even more difficult at a time when it was already struggling and make Westgate a back water for what, a couple of cyclists a day? He stated that public opinion was very much against the scheme and that there were many off-road options available to cyclists and money could be invested in those rather than wasting the money on this scheme. Councillor Elliott asked Councillor Beck if he would do the right thing and scrap the scheme in its entirety?

Councillor Beck reiterated that all of the responses from the consultation would be taken into account when making a decision on how to progress.

(16) Councillor Tinsley explained that with the sudden closure of Queens Corner Medical Centre, over 1,000 patients found themselves without a doctor in Maltby and asked what support was being given to assist patients in finding another local doctor?

Councillor Roche explained that this was an important matter for the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and that he was aware that the concerns had been raised directly to them. This was a matter for the CCG to resolve and resolve as soon as possible. Councillor Roche had been informed by the CCG that they had contacted all patients in order to find a new practice. More information on the support that was being provided had been requested.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Tinsley asked if communication between the Council and the CCG could be improved?

Councillor Roche explained that this was a matter for the CCG but confirmed that the CCG informed him that all patients had been written to and advised on how to register with an alternative practice – there were 3 in Maltby, Manor Field Surgery, Braithwell Road Surgery and Blyth Road Medical Centre, although some patients who lived further afield may find more local practices through the nhs.uk website.

Patients had been advised about how they could access any urgent medication requirements via NHS 111 while their registration with a new practice was completed.

Councillor Roche also explained that the reason for such closures was due to a national shortage of GPs and he expressed concerns over the possible privatisation of the NHS.

(17) Councillor Tinsley explained that residents on Strauss Crescent, Maltby, had been served with enforcement letters because waste had been flytipped onto vacant land that once had garages on it. He asked whether the Council would work with residents to clear the land rather than seek to serve enforcement letters?

Councillor Beck explained that the land in question was privately owned by a number of residents of Strauss Crescent and the Council did not have any responsibility for maintaining the land. As a result of a complaint received by the Council, the Council did, out of good will, undertake works to clear the land, to support the residents in fulfilling their obligations as land owners. Having done so, the Council sent letters to the land owners to remind them of their responsibilities.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley explained that he had not noticed any difference and that waste had not been removed. He asked if that could be followed up?

Councillor Beck restated that the land was not the responsibility of the Council. The Council had acted, out of good will, to clear the waste and if further waste had accumulated, the letter previously mentioned clearly set out the land owners' responsibilities.

(18) Councillor Tinsley asked that with 7 months to go to this year's Remembrance Sunday parades, had there been any progress on arrangements for Parish Councils or local groups wanting to close roads locally and arrangements over traffic management?

Councillor Sheppard explained that all actions in the motion to Council on 29th September, 2021, which included matters in relation to traffic were completed in time for last year's Remembrance Sunday Parade and would continue again this year.

In his supplementary statement, Councillor Tinsley thanked Councillor Sheppard for his clarification that the Council would pay for the road closures. He was sure the Town and Parish Councils would appreciate the gesture.

Councillor Sheppard confirmed that the Council had agreed to waive the costs associated with road closures for up to one parade in each Ward to allow residents to pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday.

(19) Councillor Tinsley asked whether there were any plans to change the Mayoral car to something a little bit greener?

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working explained that Rotherham Council had produced a Climate Action Plan which was acknowledged as being the best in South Yorkshire. The Council would of course therefore look at all options for the Mayoral car when it got to the point of being uneconomical, whether that be electric, hybrid or whatever else was around at the time.

(20) Councillor Tinsley had submitted a question asking whether parking enforcement was prioritised in Rotherham over areas such as Maltby?

As Councillor Lelliott had left the meeting at this point, a written answer would be provided.

(21) Councillor Monk asked what the Council was doing to support children from disadvantaged families over the Easter and Summer holidays?

Councillor Cusworth explained that there were a wide range of activities for disadvantaged families during the Easter holidays and a full list of open access opportunities for disadvantaged families was previously shared with Members in March. It had also been covered in the Members Briefing on the 5th April and promoted on the Council's social media platforms.

The Easter activities were in addition to the existing targeted support that was in place throughout the year to 1,326 families and, included in that, 2,917 children currently being supported by Early Help, and to the free school meal vouchers that the Council continued to provide this holiday.

Councillor Cusworth explained that she was looking forward to visiting Coleridge School and Wath Academy to see the activities that would be taking place and the healthy meals that would be part of the session.

Further examples of things happening this easter include:

- Free workshops for families at Clifton Park Museum, which tied in with the latest exhibition for Children's Capital of Culture
- U DO IT Dance @Thrybergh Academy ages 5-6y years
- Nova City – parkour, dance, aerial work, tricks and flips for children aged 6-16 years
- Computer Xplorers – coding, robotics, game design plus a Minecraft adventurer challenge for children aged 5-16 years
- Rotherham BMX – are offering football and BMX sessions. The perfect combination for ages 8-16 years
- Rotherham Theatres - on the 19th, 20th and 21st of April there would be free Arts Award training residencies at the theatre

With regards to the summer programme, this would be planned and developed once the Easter programme had concluded and evaluated.

163. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for consideration.

Sent: 27 April 2022 14:51

To: Cllr Michael Sylvester <Michael.Sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Action from Council - Question from Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

The successful bid for electric buses was made by the SYCMA in consultation with Stagecoach as the only operator willing to participate at that time. The Council is not party to the contractual terms of the grant. However we believe that the grant terms will stipulate the operation on the stated routes for a minimum of 5 years as this has been the case with previous grants for bus retrofitting. Since the grant is from central government they must have been satisfied that the bid conformed with rules regarding subsidy and competition. A request has been made to SYMCA for them to respond in greater detail to Councillor Bennett-Sylvester directly.

Kind Regards

Paul Woodcock
Strategic Director
Regeneration and Environment
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Wing A, Floor 3, near pod A31
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Email: paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk

Visit our website: <http://www.rotherham.gov.uk>

Councillor Denise Lelliott – Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy

Riverside House

Main Street

Rotherham

S60 1AE

E-mail: denise.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk*Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!*

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DL/LH	01709 823566	Councillor Lelliott

21st April 2022

Councillor Whomersley

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

Dear Councillor Whomersley

Council Meeting – 13th April 2022

I am sorry that I was unable to answer your question at the Council meeting on 13th April. However, I have detailed the question submitted below and my subsequent response for your information.

What amendments are being made for the 2nd Levelling up Fund bid for Dinnington and are you on track for the deadline?

Since receiving feedback on the Council's Round 1 application in January, the Council have reviewed the bid, engaged with Dinnington St Johns Town Council and local ward members and an updated proposal is in development.

The updated proposal will seek to address issues raised locally such as supporting the high street and the market area, improving connectivity, and dealing with blight on Laughton Road.

I can confirm that we are on track for the 6th July deadline. Council Officers will continue to engage with Members and I would like to thank Ward Members and Dinnington St John's Town Council for their continued support and partnership working.

I hope that the above response answers your questions but please feel free to contact me further should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Denise Lelliott**
Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy

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

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: dominic.beck@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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

28th April 2022

Councillor Mills

Via email: lewis.mills@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Mills

Speed limit reduction

Further to the comments made in the original response in Council, it is accepted that the issue of pedestrian safety, particularly that of children is an emotive subject. However, it is crucial that consideration is given to the full situation and that measures are not introduced, such as the suggested speed limit change, which may create other collision risks such as those previously explained. For any change of speed limit, officers would need to follow Department for Transport guidance on the setting of local speed limits and if there is likely to be a foreseen risk of introducing additional hazards, then without further extensive physical measures to regulate speed and driver behaviour, this could not be supported. It was therefore suggested that the additional funding could be something local members want to put forward as a priority when we come to the process of identifying local road safety concerns for further consideration.

It may help to understand the recent accident history for this site - an examination of reported injury collision data over the past 5 years reveals that no collisions have been recorded by the police involving any pedestrians (data range from: 1/1/2017 to 2/3/2022). Whilst this is no indicator of future trends, it does however provide an early warning of any emerging road safety issues, such as child pedestrian safety, and as a matter of course is analysed annually to identify any collision type trends by officers in the Transportation Team.

In relation to the existing 20mph signing no longer working, we were unsure whether you meant that they no longer have a speed reduction benefit or if they are just not functioning. Arrangements are being made for RMBC Highways teams to check the operation and visibility of the signs to ensure both scenarios are addressed.

I hope this helps clarify the original response in Council.

Yours sincerely



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

Councillor David Roche – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: david.roche@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DR/KS	07792421800	Councillor David Roche

5th May 2022

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Via email: Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Bennett-Sylvester,

Following your supplementary question at Council on 13th April 2022, I am writing to provide you with the response.

Data is currently being interrogated to accurately identify those tenants who pay for Rothercare but don't access it and the reasons for that, which are varied. The outcome of this work and any subsequent impact upon capacity will be taken into account in service planning. Rothercare does have a programme of work in place to ensure the transition from equipment that requires a landline to equipment that operates via a simm card is delivered. There are currently no capacity concerns.

Yours Sincerely



Cllr David Roche
Hoover Ward
Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care; Chair HWBB

Councillor Denise Lelliott – Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy

Riverside House

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E-mail: denise.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk*Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!*

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DL/LH	01709 823566	Councillor Lelliott

21st April 2022

Councillor Tinsley

Via email: adam.tinsley@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Tinsley

Council Meeting – 13th April 2022

I am sorry that I was unable to answer your question at the Council meeting on 13th April. However, I have detailed the question submitted below and my subsequent response for your information.

Is parking enforcement prioritised in Rotherham over areas such as Maltby?

The Council prioritises where Civil Enforcement patrols take place based upon the number and type of parking restrictions that are in place at different locations.

Over the last six months Maltby has, on average, been visited every week. This has resulted in 95 Penalty Charge Notices being issued in Maltby in the same period.

There will be more parking enforcement in Rotherham Town Centre as it is the only place in the Borough which has paid parking within Council owned Car Parks and on street locations and is also the location of the largest number of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) (yellow lines) which limit vehicle parking activities. This does mean that Civil Enforcement Officers will be more visible in the Town Centre.

I hope that the above response answers your questions but please feel free to contact me further should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Denise Lelliott
Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 25 May 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)
Samantha Mullarkey, Governance Advisor
01709 247916 or samantha.mullarkey@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 13 April 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 relevant Strategic Director be required to respond to the lead petitioner, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Friday 10 June 2022.

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

Petitions

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 13 April 2022 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision-making processes.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The following e-petition has been received which meets the threshold for presentation to the Council meeting and for a response to be issued by the relevant Strategic Director:

Subject	Number of Valid Signatures	Lead Petitioners	Directorate
Zebra Crossing for Flash Lane, Bramley	66 signatures	Rachel Carter	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 13 April 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.
- 5.2 Factoring in the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend, the deadline for responding to the petition is Friday 10 June 2022.

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 petition referred to earlier in this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no known implications for partners arising from the petition 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

Report Author: Samantha Mullarkey, Governance Advisor

Samantha.mullarkey@rotherham.gov.uk

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

THE CABINET
25th April, 2022

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

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lelliott.

132. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

133. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) Mr. David Smith asked why the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion tried to make out in the Rotherham Star that the reason for not building a leisure centre in Dinnington was based on financial constraints and also why he made it clear that the Council had no intention of making it part of the proposals for the Levelling Up Fund bid for Dinnington which he should have nothing to do with?

The Leader explained that the Council's decisions were made collectively by the Cabinet and, in responding to the question, Councillor Sheppard was responding on behalf of the administration of the Council. Any Member of Cabinet would be able to comment on the issue.

Councillor Sheppard explained that there had been a question at the last full Council meeting about the provision of potential new leisure facilities in Dinnington which had been looked at. Unfortunately, the finances did not fit with the possibilities that were available at that time and were a huge ask at the moment. If there were any proposals that the Council was able to finance or find external funding for, the Council would look at them. However, the Council also had to consider the implications on the existing contract for leisure facilities within the Borough. This did not mean that the Council was not going to help the people of Dinnington and the Council would always be looking to provide as much sporting and recreational facilities as they could across the Borough.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Smith asked why it was not made clear that the real reason for not allowing Dinnington to have a much needed leisure centre, because of its major health problems that are worse than any other area in Rotherham, was because of the PFI contract that was agreed with the then DC leisure, which operated Aston, Wath and Maltby? The contract is still in place with the company (now called Places for People Leisure) and has a non-competition clause which is the real reason why Dinnington could not have the leisure centre. It was possible

as it could form part of the Levelling Up Fund Bid as it met the Government criteria. It could have done it last time but it can also do it this time.

Councillor Sheppard stated that there were many considerations to take into account when looking at potential funding and there was not one thing that cancelled anything out. Over the last 20-30 years, lots of facilities had moved to more centralised leisure facilities which provided a much broader and wider range of activities as opposed to the smaller, more localised ones. The Council would always strive to deliver as many recreational opportunities across the Borough in order to improve health and keep residents active.

(2) Councillor Castledine-Dack asked for an update on the reworking of the Levelling Up Fund bid for Dinnington High Street including what iterations of the plan currently looked like with the deadline fast approaching in July?

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, explained that officers had been working alongside Elected Members and members of the local community, including the Town Council to develop the bid prior to submission before the deadline. Verbal feedback on the Round 1 bid had been received from Government and the proposal was to have a bid in for Wath and Dinnington. The bids were being developed and the bid for Dinnington was focused on the High Street, diversification, the markets, the public realm and leisure opportunities for children and young people based on the feedback from the local community.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Castledine-Dack asked for confirmation whether or not the reworking of the bid would be based broadly on the first bid that was put forward? The first bid fell down on two parts, firstly the match funding element and secondly, on the application of the theory of change model. She asked whether the Cabinet Member could confirm that the reworking of the bid was based on the first plan put forward and was not an attempt to redraw the wheel 3 months before the deadline?

Paul Woodcock confirmed that there had been much positive feedback on the bid and the first bid would be worked on based on the consultation with the local community and within the remit of what was allowed within the capital criteria from Government and within ongoing revenue costs as plans progressed into the future.

(3) Mr. Ian Sanderson stated that the people living and working in Dinnington did not feel that they had been consulted on in relation to the Levelling Up Fund bid and on other regeneration projects in the town. He asked who in the local community had been worked with and when did this take place? He noted that with the first bid, the community did feel engaged and involved but the second bid felt like it was happening behind closed doors. He asked when the consultation would happen to find out

what the local community wanted rather than ideas being imposed by the Council?

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, explained that officers had mainly been working with Elected Members as representatives of their community and with the Town Council as elected representatives.

In his supplementary, Mr. Sanderson explained that that was disappointing as the Town Councillors and Borough Councillors felt that plans were being presented to them at a late stage and without chance to get community involvement. Mr. Sanderson gave the example of involving hockey in the bid and questioned who in Dinnington played hockey? He asked when officers would actually ask the community what they would want to see?

The Leader confirmed that a written response would be provided and any further conversations facilitated if required.

(4) Mr. Osman Suleman stated that, as a Muslim resident of Rotherham, he had significant concerns to raise about the Muslim burial section at East Herringthorpe Cemetery. A recently dug test grave had been flooded with what appeared to be contaminated water and had been poorly protected which was a further health and safety risk. The area around the Muslim burial section had been littered with soil, bricks and fencing which made the area look untidy and was disrespectful to those buried there and their families. Mr. Suleman asked what actions the Council and Dignity were taking to rectify the concerns?

Councillor Alam explained that the concerns had been raised on Good Friday after the test grave, which had been covered, had been uncovered by unknown persons. At no time was it planned to use the test grave for an actual burial. The Council had taken action over the drainage issue and was working with Dignity. Council engineers had visited the Cemetery on Tuesday, 19th April, 2022, to identify the source of the leak and look at potential solutions, such as a new drainage system. Councillor Alam agreed that the Cemetery did need tidying up but it was a live site where graves were dug. As such, work was underway to look at how live graves could be dug in batches of 20 or 30, to stop repeat visits by workers and accompanying vehicles. This would have to be done sensitively to meet the cultural needs.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Suleman asked whether an underground water risk assessment would take place and what steps could be taken to improve communication with the local community?

Councillor Alam explained that both Council engineers and Dignity engineers would be assessing the site to look at the issues. In relation to the communications, he confirmed that there was a Muslim Liaison Group but that it had not met for the last year and a half due to COVID-19. There

were other groups, that included local Imam's, that looked at the ethical needs for Muslim graves and gave independent advice to Dignity.

(5) Ms. Nida Khan explained that her family had recently lost their Mum to COVID-19 and had been spending a lot of time at East Herringthorpe Cemetery during what was a very difficult time for them. On the Thursday prior to Good Friday, the family had been at the Cemetery from the time it opened to the time it closed. They had watched the test grave being dug and then watched the water be pumped out for most of the day. The grave was dry when they left but the workers never supported the grave next to it. Later that day the family noticed that parts of the existing grave, including items left on the grave, were falling into the newly dug test grave. They then tried to get in touch with anyone that could help, phoning all numbers that were available but they could not get through. The family then decided that the best way to show respect to the person that was resting there was to try and support the grave with a piece of metal fencing that had been left. Ms Khan stated that the newly dug test grave had more resembled a well, given that it was half full of dirty water and this was extremely concerning to families, such as her own, that had recently buried relatives in that same ground. She felt that she had to speak up for those buried there as they could no longer speak for themselves. Further concerns were raised as even more new graves were being dug in the same location. There had been no rainfall so it was not known where all of the water was coming from. Ms. Khan stated that she had tried to contact groups, Councillors, Dignity and the Council but had no response. As such, the family asked the community to meet and raise any concerns. Over 200 people attended. Ms. Khan explained that no-one in her family had seen any testing being done at the Cemetery, despite someone being there for the duration of the opening hours.

Ms. Khan asked what a test grave was and what action was being immediately taken?

The Leader expressed his condolences to Ms. Khan's family and offered his sincerest apologies for the difficulties faced at what was already an extremely challenging time. In addition to the response for Councillor Alam below, the Leader confirmed that Ms. Khan would be updated on what action was being taken outside of the meeting.

Councillor Alam explained that he felt a personal obligation to this matter as Ms. Khan's mother was one of his aunties. He explained that as he was in a position of public leadership, he felt he had a responsibility to make sure that those buried in the Cemetery were in a safe and dry environment. Councillor Alam explained that the test grave was filled in and covered and not used for any burials. The Leader explained that a test grave was simply a hole dug to see if water was present in that location and if so, what actions were necessary. Councillor Alam explained that the Council was ready to fund their own works on the drainage system and he assured Ms. Khan that this was being taken very seriously. He explained that the issue was in identifying where the leak

was as the drainage system was quite old, having been installed about 60 years ago.

Ms. Khan explained that the “hole” very much resembled a grave as it had the breezeblocks in it. Ms Khan also explained that the new graves were being dug level with the test grave and that family members were not informed of the issues prior to burials. She questioned why burials were still being allowed? Ms. Khan also raised the issue of health and safety as the test grave was not fenced off and anyone could have fallen into it.

Ms. Khan explained that Councillor Yasseen had attended the gathering but Councillor Alam, along with other Councillors who had been invited, did not.

In response to further comments, the Leader explained that Councillor Alam was not responsible for the day-to-day running of the cemetery and was not in charge of operational matters such as who gets buried where. The Leader confirmed that the issues raised would be looked into.

(6) Ms. Farzana Khan stated that she has a disabled niece who has Downs Syndrome but cannot visit the grave because there is no disabled access or even footpaths in that area of the Cemetery. Ms. Khan asked what the Council was going to do to rectify this matter?

Councillor Alam explained that the Council had been chasing Dignity for the last 6 months and a temporary footpath had been installed. It was hoped that this would be tarmaced and Dignity had committed to making the layout disability friendly.

In her supplementary question, Ms. Khan stated that the path referenced by Councillor Alam was not close to her mother’s grave and, therefore, tarmacing would not help matters.

Councillor Alam explained that Dignity had been asked to do a Disability Access Audit to make sure it was accessible. He explained that he had been raising this for a significant period of time and he understood the concerns. He confirmed that it was being raised with Dignity.

134. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 25th March, 2022, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

135. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There was no exempt information on the agenda.

136. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT HIGH NEEDS BLOCK SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to report which explained that, as part of the Department of Education (DfE) work to address long term challenges in the High Needs funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant, a small number of identified local authorities, including Rotherham, had been invited to have a financial agreement known as a 'Safety Valve.' The key emphasis for the Rotherham involvement in the programme was ensuring that more children with special needs could be supported to stay in mainstream education in the Borough. Rotherham involvement also allowed appropriate SEND provision mapping in the Borough to meet the Council's needs to continue to be developed and improve SEND outcomes.

Following the December budget report, progress had been made in negotiations with the DfE. The budget report also included a delegation for officers to progress the Safety Valve Agreement with DfE and this report back to Cabinet provided the final agreement reached. The final agreement was attached to the report at Appendix 2. The finalised agreement set out an investment of £20.528m to be received from the DfE across the lifespan of the agreement (2021/22 to 2025/26), and this would remove the DSG deficit based on the Council's revenue assumptions as detailed in paragraph 1.4 of the report.

In agreeing to the financial investment from the DfE, Rotherham was agreeing to implement the following strategies as set out in the Council's DSG management plan. This included actions to:

- (1) Reduce the use of independent specialist provision outside of the Local Authority by creating appropriate capacity within Rotherham's high needs system, with a focus on ensuring provision was high quality and value for money.
- (2) Improve Rotherham's Early Intervention Strategy, including through investment in outreach work.
- (3) Ensure appropriate use of provision and avoid escalation of children and young people's needs by, among other things, improving the governance around placement decisions.
- (4) Review support services in Rotherham to ensure value for money was achieved.
- (5) Increase the outreach offer for Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs at primary and secondary.
- (6) Increase the outreach offer for specialist SEND.
- (7) Develop local sufficiency arrangements, including for Rotherham's Looked After Children.
- (8) Drive mainstream schools to adopt inclusive practice to enable more children and young people to remain in mainstream settings where appropriate.

- (9) Maintain engagement with stakeholders through strong and collaborative governance arrangements, such as ISOS partnership work, Schools Forum High Needs sub-group, primary and secondary head teachers.

Ongoing monitoring would be in place across the lifespan of the plan, and this would involve regular meetings between the DfE and RMBC on a quarterly basis to both support delivery and hold accountability of the agreement.

As part of the process, the Council had also been invited to submit a capital investment plan to support the Strategy. This was submitted to DfE on the 18th March, 2022. The capital schemes were factored in to the DfE application for capital investment as part of the Safety Valve Agreement.

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 and requested that the Audit Committee be provided with further updates on the implementation of the programme. The Leader confirmed that Cabinet could not recommend what the Audit Committee looked at as they set their own work programme but confirmed they were more than welcome to review the Safety Valve Programme if they wished.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet:

1. Note the delegated decision taken by the Strategic Director as agreed by Cabinet in December 2021 to enter into the 'Safety Valve' Intervention Programme Agreement.
2. Agree as part of the involvement in 'Safety Valve' intervention programme to submit a capital request to the DfE to develop SEND provision in the Borough to aid delivery of the programme.
3. Agree that all associated information incorporated in the report and appendices be noted including key risks and areas subject to review within the DfE finalised document.
4. Agree that an annual progress report is presented to Cabinet.
5. Note that the Audit Committee would receive, if it so wished, updates on the implementation of the Safety Valve Intervention Programme via their regular reports on the Risk Register.

137. BANNING ORDER POLICY (PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING)

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval of the new Banning Order Policy in relation to private sector housing. The Housing and Planning Act 2016 introduced a number of tools and powers related to private sector housing enforcement, including the use of Banning Orders. Banning Orders became law at the end of 2018 and were to be used as a sanction for those who rented out private residential properties and were convicted of certain offences. A Banning Order would result in the individual being banned from managing rented properties anywhere in England for a defined period and a breach would constitute an offence which could result in imprisonment or a fine. A Banning Order also had the effect of determining an individual to be not 'fit and proper' to hold a licence under Parts 2 and 3 of the Housing Act 2004: Houses in Multiple Occupation Licences and Selective Licensing Licences respectively.

Due to the significance of the sanctions, the Policy, attached to the report at Appendix 1, had been produced to outline the Council's approach to Banning Orders and under what circumstances the Council would consider using such powers. In particular, work through Selective Licensing and recent targeted operations had created the need to consider further sanctions available to address persistent or serious offences.

Banning Orders provided a potentially useful tool for excluding landlords, agents and property management agencies from the private rented sector where relevant convictions exist. This power added to the tools that were available to the Council to use in relation to those individuals who routinely offered poor housing conditions, often to the poorest and most vulnerable people in society.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet approve the new Banning Order Policy.

138. INTRODUCTION OF FIRST HOMES AND APPROVAL OF LOCAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Consideration was given to the report which explained that First Homes became a mandatory Central Government requirement from 28th December, 2021. They were a new affordable home ownership product to be delivered via Section 106 planning obligations on residential development sites. One quarter (25%) of all affordable homes secured by Section 106 planning obligation would be First Homes. The Planning Policy Guidance required First Homes:

- be discounted by at least 30% against the market value;
- be sold to a person or persons who met the First Homes eligibility criteria, including locally determined criteria;
- to be at a price of no higher than £250,000 (or £420,00 in Greater London) after the discount had been applied for the first sale; and
- on their first sale First Homes would apply a restriction on the title of the property at HM Land Registry to ensure the discount (as a percentage of market value) and certain other restrictions were passed on at each subsequent sale of the property.

Central Government had established mandatory national criteria relating to the delivery of First Homes. In addition to this requirement, local authorities could choose to apply local eligibility criteria, including local residency and employment criteria, income, and price caps. It was proposed that the Interim Policy Statement with Local Eligibility Criteria require that:

- Applicants shall currently live or have lived in Rotherham within the last 3 years for a continuous period of not less than one year. Proof of address and residency will be required; or,
- Applicants who leave Rotherham to pursue higher or further education opportunities will be eligible to apply for a First Home for up to 3 years after their exit/graduation from a higher/further education course provided they can prove they were resident in Rotherham Borough, prior to leaving for higher/further education opportunities; or,
- Applicants shall currently be permanently employed in Rotherham Borough or be able to demonstrate a contract with a local employer. Proof of employer/employment status will be required; or,
- Applicants are a serving member of the Armed Forces, spouses, or civil partners of current members of the Armed Forces, spouses, or civil partners of a deceased member of the armed forces (if their death was wholly or partly caused by their service) and veterans within 5 years of leaving the armed forces. (Other local connection criteria are disapplied for those meeting the armed forces criteria); and,
- The property must be the applicant's only and main home and cannot be rented out for any reason, without the specific consent of the Council and only in exceptional circumstances.

Local eligibility criteria only applied for 3 months from the date the First Home properties were advertised for sale. If First Homes were not sold within this timeframe, the local eligibility criteria was removed and the only restrictions imposed on purchasers would be in compliance with national eligibility criteria. In the future, and only if there was sufficient robust evidence, the Council could introduce additional local eligibility criteria. For example, the reduction of the national income cap and/or increasing the level of discount that could be applied to the sale of First Homes.

It was the developer's responsibility to sell First Homes to eligible applicants. However, the Council would be directly involved in the sales process for First Homes, both at the initial sale stage and any subsequent resales. As the Council would be involved in the administration of First Homes, a fee was to be charged to the developer for the first sale and to cover costs of administration on subsequent re-sales. Details of the fee charging system were set out in Appendix 1.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet:

1. Note the introduction of First Homes as a mandatory requirement by Central Government.
2. Approve the proposed local eligibility criteria as additional requirements over and above the First Homes mandatory national criteria. The local eligibility criteria would be published in an Interim Policy Statement on the Council's website.
3. Approve the introduction of a fee charging system to cover reasonable costs associated with the administration of First Homes in perpetuity.
4. Approve delegation to the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, to amend the First Homes local eligibility criteria and fee charging system as required by monitoring and review.

139. HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFFS

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the amendments to the Hackney Carriage tariffs and soiling charge along with a 14-day consultation period.

A request had been received at the end of October 2021 on behalf of members of the Rotherham Hackney Carriage Association requesting a rise in the metered fares currently being charged in hackney carriage vehicles. A period of discussion had taken place and the proposed tariffs were finalised in February 2022. The tariffs were then submitted to local taximeter suppliers to verify that the proposals were compatible with their equipment, and slight amendments were made to the tariffs following this. The final proposal had been agreed with Rotherham Hackney Carriage Association and was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The current tariffs had been set in 2017. Since this time, the cost of fuel, insurance and vehicle servicing has increased significantly. Fuel had increased by around 38% since 2017 (as detailed in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Weekly Fuel Prices). Licence holders were therefore requesting the increase to cover running costs and allow them to see sufficient return for their business.

Under tariff 1 (Standard Tariff), the current charge for the first mile was £4.00, with each additional mile costing the passenger £1.40. This would increase to £4.50 for the first mile (an increase of 12.5%), and £1.50 for each additional mile thereafter (an increase of 7%). In addition to the increase, the recommended tariffs would see the charge for the first half mile increased from £3.30 to £4.00. This had been introduced due to the trade seeing an increase in the numbers of very short journeys that take place during the daytime.

Under tariff 2 (Night time, Sunday and Bank Holiday Tariff, except Christmas and New Year), the current charge for first mile was £4.30, with each additional mile costing the passenger £1.60. This would increase to £4.70 for the first mile (an increase of 9.3%), and £1.70 for each additional mile thereafter (an increase of 6.25%). It had also been proposed that the times during which tariff 2 was applicable should be amended. Currently, tariff 2 was applied all day on Sundays and Bank Holidays and was activated at 10.00 p.m. on other days (except those days covered by tariff 3). It was proposed that the starting time on days other than Sundays or Bank Holidays be changed to 9.00 p.m. (the finishing time would remain at 6.00 a.m.). In addition, it was proposed that the charge for waiting was increased from 20p per minute (or part thereof) to 30p per minute (or part thereof). This represented an increase of 50%.

Under tariff 3 (Christmas and New Year Tariff), the current charge for the first mile was £6.60, with each additional mile costing the passenger £1.70. This would increase to £7.00 for the first mile (an increase of 6.1%), and £1.90 for each additional mile thereafter (an increase of 11.8%). Currently, tariff 3 was activated at 5.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. It was proposed that this be amended so that tariff 3 be activated at 3.00 p.m. (the times and days that tariff 3 would end would remain the same). The charge for waiting would be the same as under tariff 2.

It was also proposed that the Soiling Charge for all tariffs be increased to £50 (an increase of 11%). The Large Group Surcharge would be unchanged.

Any change in the proposed tariffs had to be advertised in the local press (through the publication of a public notice), and this would take place following agreement of the proposed tariffs by Cabinet. Should any objections be received, a further report would be presented to Cabinet for their consideration. This would propose that the fares are either introduced as advertised or amended prior to their introduction. If no objections were received (or objections made but subsequently withdrawn) the revised tariffs would come into effect on a date to be agreed with the Hackney Carriage Trade (allowing sufficient time for practical arrangements to be completed).

Councillor Alam requested that the tariffs be reviewed on an annual basis. It was confirmed this would be taken back to officers for consideration.

Resolved:-

1. That the amendments to the Hackney Carriage tariffs and soiling charge detailed in this report and Appendix 1 be approved along with 14 days consultation period.
2. That following the period of consultation, if no objections were received or any objections received were subsequently withdrawn, then the amended tariffs and soiling charge were to take effect immediately.
3. Should any objections be received following the period of consultation then a further report will be presented to Cabinet to determine whether the fares should be agreed and introduced, or amended prior to their introduction.

140. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on progress against actions outlined in the 2021/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan. At its meeting on 30th October, 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency and produced a policy and action plan “Responding to the Climate Emergency”. This set out key policy themes of Energy; Housing; Transport; Waste; Built and Natural Environment; Influence and Engagement. On 23rd March, 2020, Cabinet had resolved to establish the targets of the Council’s carbon emissions be at net zero by 2030 and the Borough’s carbon emissions be at net zero by 2040.

Climate Emergency UK had produced a set of scorecards for local authorities’ Climate Action Plans, in partnership with Friends of the Earth, Centre for Alternative Technology, Ashden and APSE Energy. While these scorecards evaluated planned actions, rather than actions completed, it was positive that the Council’s Climate Emergency Action Plan scored 51%. This was above the national average (50%) and was the highest score achieved by a local authority in South Yorkshire.

Particular attention was paid in the report to the development of a carbon emissions baseline, which represented an important evidence base for strategic development of the Council’s climate change agenda. The report outlined the next steps, particularly the ongoing development of a refreshed Climate Emergency Action Plan, which would be developed once the new Climate Emergency Delivery Team has been established.

Appendix 1 to the report was a Progress Summary Table with appendices 2 and 3 containing case studies.

At the meeting, Cabinet Members and officers highlighted key parts of the report that related to their portfolios, such as decarbonising the fleet, improving health inequalities and tree planting. Councillor Allen confirmed that the report would be presented to the Parish Councils.

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 and requested that developments related to the Environment Bill, as referenced at paragraph 2.53 of the report, and the subsequent impact on the waste and recycling strategies be submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission in due course.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress to date towards the NZ30 and NZ40 targets.
2. Note the progress against the actions from the 2021/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan.
3. Agree the approach laid out for continued development of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, including an updated Action Plan in 2022.
4. That the Climate Emergency Annual Report be submitted to the next Council meeting for information.
5. Agree that developments related to the Environment Bill and the subsequent impact on the waste and recycling strategies be submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission in due course.

141. 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.

142. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday, 16th May, 2022, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 25 May 2022

Report Title
Outcome of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Not applicable

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Rachel Overfield, Planning Officer
01709 254746 or rachel.overfield@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Thurcroft & Wickersley South
Wickersley North

Report Summary
Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act (2011). It gave parish councils and local communities the power to write their own plans and take more control of planning for their areas.

Wickersley Parish Council has produced a neighbourhood plan for the parish area, which has subsequently undergone a successful independent examination and referendum. In accordance with Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the Council is required to 'make' (adopt) the neighbourhood plan as part of the statutory development plan for Rotherham following a successful referendum. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations also require local authorities to make a neighbourhood plan within eight weeks of the date of the referendum, which was held on 5 May 2022.

Recommendations

1. That the outcome of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan Referendum as set out at paragraph 1.5 of the report is noted.
2. That the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan is adopted as part of the statutory development plan for Rotherham Borough.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equality Part A – Screening

Appendix 2 Equality Part B – Analysis

Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan referendum version

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/2759/wickersley-ndp>

Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan Appendix

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/2760/wickersley-ndp-appendix>

Wickersley Design Code

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/2761/wickersley-ndp-design-code>

National Planning Policy Framework

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

Planning Practice Guidance: Neighbourhood planning

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/contents/made>

The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2031/contents/made>

Independent examiner's report on the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/2732/report-of-the-independent-examination>

Decision statement confirming the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions and other legislative requirements

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/2744/decision-statement-22-february-2022->

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

N/A

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Outcome of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum

1. Background

- 1.1 The Localism Act (2011) allows for local communities to prepare plans and strategies for development in their area called neighbourhood plans. Draft plans must go through several stages as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 before they can be adopted (referred to in the legislation as being 'made'). The Council has a statutory duty to advise and assist during the preparation of a neighbourhood plan, as well as fulfil certain requirements to comply with the Regulations.
- 1.2 Wickersley Parish Council has produced a neighbourhood plan for the parish area. This is the second neighbourhood plan in the borough to have undergone a referendum.
- 1.3 There are a number of legally prescribed stages that need to be undertaken in preparing a neighbourhood plan:
- Designation of the neighbourhood area (in this case the parish of Wickersley)
 - Publication of the draft plan
 - Submission of the plan to the Local Planning Authority
 - Examination by an independent examiner
 - Referendum
- 1.4 Where a neighbourhood plan is subject to a successful referendum (where more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan), and the Local Planning Authority is satisfied that retained EU and human rights obligations have been met, it is a requirement to 'make' the plan and adopt it as part of the statutory development plan. Once adopted, a neighbourhood plan forms part of the statutory development plan for Rotherham Borough and sits alongside the Core Strategy (2014), the Sites and Policies Document (2018), the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan (2012), and the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan (2021). Any planning applications for development within Wickersley parish must be determined in accordance with relevant development plan documents and the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.5 The question asked in the referendum was "Do you want Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Wickersley to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?". The referendum was held on 5 May 2022 and the electorate was 6,193. The number of ballot papers verified was 1,811 giving a 29.24% turnout. The votes cast for Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan were as follows:

The number of votes cast in favour of a 'Yes'	1,455
The number of votes cast in favour of a 'No'	334
Rejected ballot papers	22

Having achieved just over an 80% majority in favour, the neighbourhood plan was successful at referendum.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 In accordance with Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the Council is required to 'make' (adopt) neighbourhood plans following a successful referendum, providing that the Local Planning Authority is satisfied that retained EU and human rights obligations (the basic conditions) have been met.
- 2.2 The Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan was successful at referendum and in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority it has met the basic conditions, so in accordance with the Act the neighbourhood plan should now be adopted as part of the statutory development plan for Rotherham Borough. Regulation 18A of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires that the Council adopts the neighbourhood plan within eight weeks of the date of the referendum. In this case, adoption is required by 30 June 2022.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The recommendation as set out above is that the Council adopts the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2 Having passed independent examination and referendum, and there being no conflict with retained EU and human rights obligations, it is recommended that the Council adopts the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan as part of the statutory development plan for Rotherham Borough.
- 3.3 Having passed independent examination and referendum there is no good reason not to adopt the neighbourhood plan, and if the Council did so it would be in breach of its statutory duty under the Town and County Planning Act 1990.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 All neighbourhood plans are subject to consultation at various stages of their preparation. The draft plan is subject to formal consultation for a minimum of six weeks before being submitted to the Council. The Local Planning Authority is then required to carry out its own statutory consultation on the plan before it can progress to examination stage. The neighbourhood plan is examined by an independent examiner and must be accompanied by a consultation statement demonstrating that the legal requirements of consultation have been met.
- 4.2 This process has been followed in preparing the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan, providing ample opportunity for input and influence from any interested party, including residents, businesses and statutory consultees. Ultimately, the neighbourhood plan is voted for by the local community at a referendum. In this case, a majority of those voting supported the use of the Wickersley

Neighbourhood Plan when making decisions on planning applications in Wickersley parish.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations require local authorities to 'make' (adopt) a neighbourhood plan within eight weeks of the date of the referendum, which was held on 5 May 2022. In this case, adoption of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan is required by 30 June 2022.
- 5.2 Under the Council's Constitution, the development plan for Rotherham Borough is part of the policy framework. As such, the adoption of a neighbourhood plan as part of the statutory development plan must be considered by a meeting of the Council.
- 5.3 Prior to publication, the front cover of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan will be amended to reflect its adopted status.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The Council funds the activity from £25,000 Neighbourhood Planning Grant from Central Government. Of this, £5,000 relates to the original neighbourhood area designation and £20,000 to the referendum stage. The grant covers the costs of public consultation, independent examination, referendum, advertising and printing. The expected payment date of the £20,000 grant for the referendum stage is June 2022. It is anticipated that the grant will be utilised in full.
- 6.2 Procurement is satisfied with the approach set out. Any chargeable goods or services required by the Council should be sought in accordance with Section 58 – Normal Procedure of the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 As stated above, there are narrow circumstances where the Council is not required to make the neighbourhood plan. These are where it considers that the making of the neighbourhood plan would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any retained EU or human rights obligations.
- 7.2 Where the Council considers that the making of the neighbourhood plan would not breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any retained EU or human rights obligations, a decision not to make the plan is likely to be subject to legal challenge by way of judicial review which could result in the Council's decision being quashed by the High Court. This would expose the Council to the risk of paying the claimant's legal costs in addition to the Council's own legal costs incurred in defending such a claim.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The Plan seeks to reflect the needs and aspirations of the community. It includes a supportive housing policy to meet the needs of the local community and designates three areas of Local Green Space of value to the local community.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Planning applications for new development in Wickersley parish will be determined in accordance with the policies in the neighbourhood plan that have been developed in consultation with the local community. The plan has subsequently been examined by an independent examiner and modified in accordance with the examiner's recommendations to ensure that it meets all the required legal tests.
- 10.2 An equalities screening and analysis have been carried out and are attached as appendices.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Climate change poses a significant threat to environments, individuals, communities, and economies on local, national, and international scales. In recognition of this the Council has aimed to be net carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030, and for Rotherham as a whole to achieve the same position by 2040.
- 11.2 A carbon impact assessment has been carried out and is attached as an appendix.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Relevant partners have been consulted at key stages of developing the neighbourhood plan.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The Local Planning Authority considers the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan has met the basic conditions and it has been successful at referendum. As such, the Council would be in breach of its statutory duty under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 if the Plan is not adopted. As the legislation concerning the recommendation is quite explicit there is no way of mitigating this risk.

14. Accountable Officers

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment
Report Author: Rachel Overfield, Planning Officer
01709 254746 or rachel.overfield@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title

Title:

Outcome of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum

Directorate:

Planning Regeneration and Transport

Service area: Planning and Building Control

Lead person:

Rachel Overfield

Contact number:

01709 254746

Is this a:

☒

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

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

The decision to adopt Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Statutory Development Plan for Rotherham.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

relevance to equality and diversity.

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society

by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

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

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

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

Neighbourhood Plans are subject to consultation within their preparation. For example, the draft plan is subject to formal consultation for a minimum of six weeks before being submitted to the Council, and then the Local Planning Authority is required to carry out its own consultation on the plan before it can be submitted to examination stage. This allows ample opportunity for input and influence from any interested stakeholder as well as statutory consultees. The Neighbourhood Plan is examined by an independent examiner and must be accompanied by a Consultation Statement demonstrating that the legal requirements of consultation have been met. Ultimately the Neighbourhood Plan is voted for by the local community at a referendum.

who is likely to be affected

Residents and businesses in the parish of Wickersley.

consultation and engagement

See above. Ultimately there was a referendum in which a majority of the electorate who voted supported the plan.

- **Key findings**

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

Negative impact

None have been identified.

Positive impact

The Neighbourhood Plan enables local communities to have more control over development in their own area by preparing a framework against which planning proposals can be judged. The plan has subsequently been examined by an independent examiner and modified in accordance with their recommendations to ensure that it meets all the required legal tests.

- **Actions**

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/reduce negative impact)
Neighbourhood Plans are subject to consultation within their preparation (see above)

<i>Ultimately the Neighbourhood Plan is voted for by the local community at a referendum.</i>	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	1 March 2022
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	1 March 2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Rachel Overfield Planning Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Andy Duncan	Planning Policy Manager	1 March 2022

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	1 March 2022
Report title and date	Outcome of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Council 25 May 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	21 March 2022

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Outcome of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 1 March 2022	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment Services	Service area: Planning Policy Team Planning, Regeneration and Transport
Lead Manager: Rachel Overfield, Planning Officer	Contact number: 01709 254746
Is this a: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

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

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Andy Duncan	RMBC	Planning Policy Manager
Rachel Overfield	RMBC	Planning Officer
Helen Sleigh	RMBC	Senior Planning Officer

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

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

The proposal will affect groups identified by protected characteristics (along with the rest of the population) in Wickersley.

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

Information on the protected characteristics of planning applicants or consultees (either in relation to planning applications or to the preparation of planning documents) is not collected by the Council.

The independent examiner (in the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan Report of Independent Examination January 2022) concluded that the neighbourhood plan is compatible with the Convention Rights, and does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, retained EU obligations. In accordance with Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the Council is required to 'make' (adopt) a neighbourhood plan following a successful referendum and providing the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is satisfied that retained EU and human rights obligations (the basic conditions) have been met. The Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan was successful at referendum and in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority it meets the basic conditions, so in accordance with the Act the neighbourhood plan should now be adopted as part of the statutory development plan for Rotherham Borough.

Consultation and engagement

Neighbourhood plans are subject to consultation at various stages of their preparation. For example, the draft plan is subject to formal consultation for a minimum of six weeks before being submitted to the Council. The Local Planning Authority is then required to carry out its own statutory consultation on the plan before it can be submitted to examination stage. This allows ample opportunity for input and influence from any interested stakeholder as well as statutory consultees. The neighbourhood plan is examined by an independent examiner and must be accompanied by a consultation statement demonstrating that the legal requirements of consultation have been met. Ultimately the neighbourhood plan is voted for by the local community at a referendum (hence the importance that the community are engaged with the plan from an early stage).

<p>Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?</p> <p>No</p>	
<p>What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?</p> <p>Wickersley Parish Council intends to monitor the progress and appropriateness of the neighbourhood plan and its content on an annual basis to the end of the plan period, once formally adopted.</p> <p>Wickersley Parish Council wishes to track whether the plan has a positive impact on planning decisions and will work closely with the relevant stakeholders, and residents to help deliver and realise local projects identified within the plan.</p>	
<p>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>11 December 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wickersley Parish Neighbourhood Area approved at the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting <p>Spring/Summer 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial engagement (promotion and awareness raising) • Online and physical surveys • Local business survey • Two community drop-in sessions (feedback and Design Code engagement) <p>Autumn 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback reports produced and presented to project group and community • Meeting with RMBC • Design Code workshop • Ongoing consultation and amendments <p>Spring 2019 - 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community feedback and consultation drop-in session on emerging draft neighbourhood plan <p>Winter 2020-2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation for 8 weeks with statutory bodies and key stakeholders on pre-submission neighbourhood plan <p>Autumn 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory consultation from 10 September to 25 October 2021 on submitted neighbourhood plan <p>1 December 2021 to 20 January 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Examination of the neighbourhood plan

	5 May 2022 • The neighbourhood plan was successful at referendum
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Relevant partners have been consulted at key stages of developing the Neighbourhood Plan and in returning comments in its preparation.

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

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

Rotherham's communities in Wickersley Parish will benefit from having a Neighbourhood Plan that the community has prepared, that seeks to provide locally formulated policies and proposals that are specific to Wickersley and reflect the needs and aspirations of its community.

The Independent Examiner (in the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan Report of the Independent Examiner 2020) concluded from his examination that the Neighbourhood Plan would appear to have neutral or positive impacts on groups with protected characteristics as identified in the Equality Act 2010.

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

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) considers the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan to have met the basic conditions and has been successful at referendum. As such the Council would be in breach of its statutory duty under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 if the Plan is not adopted. If not adopted, it is considered the Council is at risk of legal challenge. The plan's non-adoption would be a problem to the affected communities.

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

Rotherham's communities in Wickersley Parish will benefit from having the decision being made on the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

The Council would be in breach of its statutory duty under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 if the Plan is not adopted and this would have a detrimental effect on community relations.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Outcome of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum
Directorate and service area: Planning Policy Team, Planning, Regeneration and Transport, Regeneration & Environment Services
Lead Manager: Rachel Overfield, Planning Officer
Summary of findings:
<p>Rotherham's communities in Wickersley will benefit from having a Neighbourhood Plan that the community has prepared, that seeks to provide locally formulated policies and proposals that are specific to Wickersley and reflects the needs and aspirations of its community. The Independent Examiner (in the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan Report of Independent Examination January 2022) concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan would appear to have neutral or positive impacts on groups with protected characteristics as identified in the Equality Act 2010. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) considers the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and has been successful at referendum, as such the Council would be in breach of its statutory duty under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 if the Plan is not adopted. If not adopted, it is considered the Council is at risk of legal challenge.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations require Local Authorities to 'make' (adopt) a Neighbourhood Plan within eight weeks of the date of the referendum i.e. by 30 June 2022.	All	30 June 2022

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Paul Woodcock	Strategic Director – Regeneration & Environment	4 May 2022
Councillor Lelliott (Leader to review in Cllr Lelliott's absence)	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	4 May 2022

7. Publishing

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

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

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

Date Equality Analysis completed	1 March 2022
Report title and date	Outcome of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum 25 May 2022
Date report sent for publication	9 May 2020
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	21 March 2022

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following: *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Impact unknown	Unknown (subject to any new development by the Council within Wickersley Parish)	The Neighbourhood Plan relates only to Wickersley Parish	Unknown (subject to any new development within Wickersley Parish)	No specific emission monitoring
Emissions from transport?	Reduces impact through the introduction of EV charging points in new developments	Unknown (subject to any new development by the Council within Wickersley Parish)	The Neighbourhood Plan relates only to Wickersley Parish	Unknown (subject to any new development within Wickersley Parish)	No specific emission monitoring. However, Wickersley Parish Council will carry out annual monitoring on new development meeting the parking standard (including the installation of EV charging points)
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No impact	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Impact unknown	Unknown (subject to any new development by the Council within Wickersley Parish)	The Neighbourhood Plan relates only to Wickersley Parish	The Neighbourhood plan is supportive of sustainable homes and renewable energy principles; it establishes biodiversity and green infrastructure requirements for new developments and ensures new development supports sustainable travel	No specific emission monitoring. However, Wickersley Parish Council will carry out annual monitoring on new development meeting the housing standard (including the fitting of renewable energy equipment)

Emissions from construction and/or development?	Impact unknown	Unknown (subject to any new development by the Council within Wickersley Parish)	The Neighbourhood Plan relates only to Wickersley Parish	Unknown (subject to any new development within Wickersley Parish)	No specific emission monitoring
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Impact unknown	Unknown (subject to any landscape / greenspace proposal by the Council within Wickersley Parish)	The Neighbourhood Plan relates only to Wickersley Parish	Unknown (subject to any new development within Wickersley Parish)	No specific emission monitoring. However, Wickersley Parish Council will carry out annual monitoring on the amount of new green space
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:					

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

If in due course the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, it will become part of the Rotherham Local Plan and will be included within the remit of the Rotherham Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report. The Annual Monitoring Report provides carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions per capita data under performance figures for Policy CS30: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Winsze Lam, Planning Policy Officer, Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Sam Blakeborough, Policy Officer, Policy, Performance and Intelligence, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate Andy Duncan, Planning Policy Manager and Climate Champion, Built Environment – Planning, Planning and Regeneration Service

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 25 May 2022

Report Title

Membership of Political Groups on the Council, Political Balance and Entitlement to Seats

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

Not applicable

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Barbel Gale, Governance Manager, Democratic Services
01709 807665 or barbel.gale@rotherham.gov.uk

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
01709 823566 or emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, places on local authorities the duty to allocate seats to political groups and sets out the principles to be followed when determining such allocation, following formal notification of the establishment of political groups in operation on the Council.

There is a requirement to annually review the entitlement of the political groups to seats on the committees of the Council.

The allocation of seats must follow two principles:

- (a) Balance must be achieved across the total number of available seats on committees; and
- (b) Balance must be achieved on each individual committee or body where seats are available

There are presently 4 political groups in operation on the council – the Labour Group (majority), Conservative Group (opposition), Liberal Democrat (Lib Dem) Group and Rotherham Democratic Party (RDP) Group – with 1 non-aligned councillor (members who are not in a political group).

There are 149 seats available on committees, boards and panels and under the calculation the Labour Group is entitled to 83 seats, the opposition Group (Conservative) 45 seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 10 seats, the Rotherham Democratic Party Group 8 seats. 3 seats are allocated to the non-aligned councillor.

Recommendations

1. That the operation of 4 political groups on the Council and the detail of their designated Leaders be noted:
 - (a) Labour Group – Councillor Chris Read (Leader of the Majority Group)
 - (b) Conservative Group – Councillor Emily Barley (Leader of the Majority Opposition Group)
 - (c) Liberal Democrat Group – Councillor Adam Carter (Group Leader)
 - (d) Rotherham Democratic Party Group – Councillor Rob Elliott (Group Leader)
2. That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees.
3. That approval be given to the appointment of Members to committees, boards and panels, and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as set out on the schedule to be tabled at the meeting.
4. That approval be given to the appointment of Members to joint committees, as set out on the schedule to be tabled at the meeting.

List of Appendices Included

None.

Background Papers

The Council's Constitution.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No.

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Membership of Political Groups on the Council, Political Balance and Entitlement to Seats

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, places on local authorities the duty to allocate seats to political groups and sets out the principles to be followed when determining such allocation. The main principles, which must be satisfied sequentially, include:
- (a) That the number of seats on ordinary Committees/Bodies ... which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that Authority, as is borne by the Members of that group to the membership of the Authority (i.e. the allocation of the **total** number of seats available must mirror the political composition of the council).
 - (b) That the number of seats on the Body (Committee, etc.), which are allocated to each political group, bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Body as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the Authority (i.e. the allocation of seats on **individual** committees must mirror the political composition of the council).
- 1.2 Local authorities are able to depart from the statutory provisions where there is unanimous agreement to do so.
- 1.3 Those members not in a political group may still at the discretion of the Council, be allocated a due share of seats, although the Council will decide how to allocate seats to non-aligned councillors.
- 1.4 In line with the provisions of the Council's Constitution, appointments will be made to committees of the Council at this annual meeting. This report confirms the entitlement to seats on committees.

2. Political Groups

- 2.1 The Proper Officer has received formal notification, under the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, of the establishment of four political groups in operation on the Council, namely:

Name of Group	Designated Leader & Deputy Leader (Number of Members)
Labour	Leader – Councillor Chris Read
	Deputy Leader – Councillor Sarah Allen
	(33 Members)
Conservative	Leader – Councillor Emily Barley
	Deputy Leader – Councillor Zachary Collingham
	(18 Members)
Liberal Democrat	Leader – Councillor Adam Carter
	(4 Members)

Rotherham Democratic Party	Leader – Councillor Rob Elliott
	(3 Members)

- 2.2 Councillor Bennett-Sylvester is unaffiliated to a political party. For the purposes of this report, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester is regarded as a non-aligned councillor.

3. Allocation of Seats

- 3.1 The allocation process must be applied 'so far as is reasonably practicable' to achieve a balanced outcome. The allocation of the 149 seats to the political groups is determined by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Members of Political Group}}{\text{Total Number of Members of Council}} \times \text{Number of Seats to be allocated}$$

For the 149 seats available in applying principle (a) in paragraph 1.1, this gives:

Political Group	Seat Entitlement
Labour	83
Conservative	45
Liberal Democrat	10
Rotherham Democratic Party	8
(balance)	3
Total	149

- 3.2 Application of principle (b) in paragraph 1.1 of this report, relating to the number of seats on individual committees gives the following:

Regulatory Committees/Boards	Seats Available	L	C	LD	RDP	NA
Audit Committee	5	3	2	0	0	0
Licensing Board	21	12	6	1	1	1
Licensing Committee	15	8	5	1	1	0
Planning Board	15	8	5	1	1	0
Staffing Committee	5	3	2	0	0	0
Standards and Ethics Committee	8	4	2	1	0	1

Overview and Scrutiny	Seats Available	L	C	LD	RDP	NA
Overview & Scrutiny Management Board	12	7	3	1	1	0
Health Select Commission	18	10	5	2	1	0
Improving Lives Select Commission	18	10	5	1	2	0
Improving Places Select Commission	18	10	5	1	1	1
Other Bodies	Seats Available	L	C	LD	RDP	NA
Corporate Parenting Group	5	3	2	0	0	0
Introductory Tenancy Review Panel	4	2	1	0	0	1
Joint Consultative Committee	5	3	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	149	83	45	9	8	4

Please note that the Liberal Democrat Group are entitled to two seats on the Improving Places Select Commission however they have chosen to gift one of those seats to the non-aligned member.

- 3.3 In the table in paragraph 3.2 above, the committees and panels listed have locally agreed provisions in respect of their membership which were determined by the Council at its annual meeting in May 2018. For ease of reference additional information relating to appointments is set out below:

Panel	Description of Role and Function
Employment Appeals Panel	Appeal Panels shall comprise three members of the Council selected from a pool of 8 members (two of whom shall be Cabinet Members, four who shall be scrutiny members and two whom shall be members of the opposition.)
Corporate Parenting Group	The Corporate Parenting Group shall comprise of five members (three of whom shall be from the majority political party and two of whom shall be from the majority opposition party).

Introductory Tenancy Review Panel	The Panel shall comprise of at least three elected members from the Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission or Improving Places Scrutiny Commission and a housing policy advisor.
Joint Consultative Committee	The Committee shall comprise of the Deputy Leader, two Cabinet Members and two members of an opposition group.

- 3.4 Political Groups are invited to submit their nominations to the Head of Democratic Services, in order for Council to consider a schedule of nominations and confirm appointments to committees, boards and panels at its meeting on 25 May 2022.

4 Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs – Overview & Scrutiny

- 4.1 The recommendations of the Governance Working Group (approved 2016), introduced a provision for the Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to be a member of the main opposition party and for the allocation of the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair on the Select Commissions to be according to the political balance of the council.
- 4.2 Applying the principles of political balance to the positions available on the Council's Overview and Scrutiny bodies, the entitlement is set out in the table below:

	Chairs	Vice-Chairs	Total
Majority	4	1	5
Opposition	0	3	3
TOTAL	4	4	

- 4.3 It is a matter for the political groups to nominate Members as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny bodies, however the appointments must be made by the individual committees.
- 4.4 There is no provision in law or within the Constitution, for the other bodies of the Council which specifically require the appointment of Chairs or Vice-Chairs, to reflect the balance of the representation of Political Groups on the Council.
- 4.5 Political Groups are invited to submit their nominations for the positions, detailed in paragraph 4.2 ahead of this meeting on 25 May 2022.

5 Appointments to Joint Bodies

- 5.1 The Council also appoints to a number of joint authorities and representation on those bodies must also reflect the balance of the representation of Political Groups on the Council.
- 5.2 The entitlement in respect of the political groups in operation in Rotherham is set out below:

Joint Committee	Membership	Entitlement
Sheffield City Region – Mayoral Combined Authority Board	1 Member plus 1 substitute	Leader of the Council with the Deputy Leader of the Council as substitute
Sheffield City Region – Mayoral Combined Authority Rotational Board Member	1 Member plus 1 substitute	Relevant Cabinet Member
Sheffield City Region – Mayoral Combined Authority Local Enterprise Partnership Board	1 Member plus 1 substitute	Leader of the Council with the Deputy Leader of the Council as substitute
Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Housing and Infrastructure Board	1 Member plus 1 substitute	Relevant Cabinet Member plus any other member from the majority party
Sheffield City Region - Combined Authority Transport and Environment Board	1 Co-Chair	Leader of the Council
Sheffield City Region - Combined Authority Transport and Environment Board	1 Member plus 1 substitute	Relevant Cabinet Member plus any other member from the majority party
Sheffield City Region - Education, Skills and Employability Board	1 Member plus 1 substitute	Relevant Cabinet Member plus any other member from the majority party
Sheffield City Region - Business, Recovery and Growth Board	1 Member plus 1 substitute	Relevant Cabinet Member plus any other member from the majority party
Sheffield City Region - Combined Authority Audit, Standards and Risk Committee*	2 Members plus 2 Substitutes	Labour = 1 seat plus 1 substitute Conservative = 1 seat plus 1 substitute
Sheffield City Region - Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee *	2 Members plus 2 Substitutes	Labour = 1 seat plus 1 substitute

		Conservative = 1 seat plus 1 substitute
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority *	2	Labour = 1 seat Conservative = 1 seat
South Yorkshire Pensions Authority *	2	Labour = 1 seat Conservative = 1 seat
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel *	2	Labour = 1 seat Conservative = 1 seat

*The entitlement to seats on these bodies marked with an asterisk * is calculated to reflect political balance across the four South Yorkshire local authorities.

- 5.3 Nominations will be required as appropriate from the political groups in operation on the Council in respect of the seats available.

6 Other Bodies

- 6.1 The authority to appoint councillors to serve on external organisations and partnerships (outside bodies) is a matter for Cabinet and a report will be submitted to the June Cabinet meeting recommending appointments.
- 6.2 The bodies listed in the table below require the appointment of Members according to local conventions (those appointments required by Select Commissions will be made at those commissions' first meeting of the new municipal year). There is no requirement for political balance to be applied in respect of appointment to these bodies.

Body	Membership requirement
Adoption Panel	Two Members of the Council
Complaints Panel	Three non-Executive councillors
Education Consultative Committee	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People Representative of Improving Lives Select Commission
Education School Transport Appeals	Panel of six non-Executive Members from a pool
Emergency Planning Shared Service Joint Committee	Cabinet Member – Jobs & the Local Economy Cabinet Member – Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance
Fostering Panel	Two Members of the Council

Health, Welfare and Safety Panel	To be appointed by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance
Local Admissions Forum	Deputy Leader of the Council, along with two councillors appointed within the 'Community Representative' category of the Forum's membership
Parish Councils – Liaison Meetings	Deputy Leader
Rotherham Schools Forum	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and one other Member
Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and two other Members
Transport Liaison Group	There is no set membership for this Group with the exception of the relevant Cabinet Member who has responsibility for transportation and who shall be Chair of the Group. Attendance at meetings shall be open to all elected members of the Council. Each Parish/Town Council within the Borough may also send on representative to each meeting.

- 6.3 Political Groups are invited to submit their nominations for the bodies set out in the table at paragraph 6.2, to the Head of Democratic Services by 10.00am on 25 May 2022.

7. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 7.1 The Local Government and Housing Act and the Council's Constitution provide for the appointment of members to serve on committees and other bodies as a power reserved to the Council.
- 7.2 The Council may determine not to appoint to the committees at this meeting, however this will delay the conduct of the Council's business until the next available council meeting. This option is not recommended.
- 7.3 As listed in the recommendations section at the beginning of the report, the preferred option is:
- that the operation of 4 political groups on the Council, including details of their designated Leaders be noted.

- That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups be agreed and any entitlements be reflected in the Council's appointments to committees.
- That the appointment of Members to committees, boards and panels, and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as set out on the schedule to be tabled at the meeting be approved.
- That the appointment of Members to joint committees as set out on the schedule to be tabled at the meeting be approved.

8. Consultation on proposal

- 8.1 Political groups have been advised of the requirement for political balance and have been requested to provide nominations to the Head of Democratic Services for the available seats ahead of this meeting.

9. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 9.1 There is a requirement for the Council to make appointments to committees, boards and panels at its meeting on 25 May 2022.

10. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no financial and procurement implications directly arising from this report.

11. Legal Advice and Implications

- 11.1 The legislative requirements are set out at paragraph 1.1 above.

12. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 12.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

13. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 13.1 The appointment of members to serve on committees and other bodies of the council will indirectly impact on children and young people and vulnerable adults through the activities and decisions of those bodies. There are no apparent direct implications at the time of writing this report.

14. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 14.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the report. Political groups are required to have regard to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 when nominating Member appointments to committees and other offices.

15. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 15.1 There are no implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change arising from this report.

16. Implications for Partners

- 16.1 The appointment of councillors to serve on external bodies and partnerships is designed to have a positive impact on the council's relationship with those organisations and enhance the relationship through the presence of accountable and elected representatives.

17. Risks and Mitigation

- 17.1 By having regard to the detail of the report above in respect of meeting statutory requirements, any risk implications will have been mitigated. Therefore, there are no risks to be borne in mind in respect of the recommendations.

Accountable Officer(s)

Barbel Gale, Governance Manager, Democratic Services
Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

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

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 25 May 2022

Report Title

Disclosure and Barring Service Checks on Councillors

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
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Ward(s) Affected

All

Report Summary

This report is submitted for information, to confirm that all current councillors serving on Rotherham MBC have commenced the process to complete the checks on offences and convictions by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Recommendations

That the report be noted.

List of Appendices Included

Nil

Background Papers

Disclosure and Barring Service Checks on Councillors Report – 8 March 2017
Internal Audit Report – Elected Members Procedures Audit 2015-2016 – April 2016

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

N/A

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Disclosure and Barring Service Checks on Councillors

1. Background

- 1.1 In response to the findings of the Casey Review of corporate governance within Rotherham MBC, the Commissioners identified that all councillors should be required to be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Services check, as part of rebuilding trust and confidence in the leadership of the authority. This requirement was also included within recommendations in an Internal Audit report on Elected Member Conduct – April 2016.
- 1.2 The approach adopted in administering DBS checks, was to require any councillor elected following the May 2021 Election to undertake a standard check through the Disclosure and Barring Service. Elected Members appointed to Corporate Parenting Panel were also asked to complete an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Services check as these Members have responsibility and oversight of issues in respect of Looked After Children.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 At the time of writing this report, all councillors that were required to make an application for either a standard or enhanced DBS check have done so. With the exception of two checks that are yet to be completed all other checks have been returned.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 A Risk Assessment has been completed for the councillors which RMBC does not currently hold a DBS result for.
- 3.2 Political Group Leaders have been consulted in all cases where DBS results are not held by RMBC.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 N/A

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 N/A

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no direct implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults associated with this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct equalities or human rights implications associated with this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no direct CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change implications associated with this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no direct implications for partners associated with this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There are no risks directly associated with this report as all councillors requiring an enhanced DBS check have been completed.

Accountable Officer(s)

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Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

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

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 25 May 2022

Report Title

Climate Emergency Annual Report

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

On 25 April 2022 Cabinet resolved to submit the Climate Emergency Annual Report and associated decisions to the next Council meeting for information. The report had also been subject to pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at their meeting on 20 April 2022.

At its meeting on 30 October 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency and produced a policy and action plan “Responding to the Climate Emergency”. This set out key policy themes of Energy; Housing; Transport; Waste; Built and Natural Environment; Influence and Engagement.

At its meeting on 23 March 2020, Cabinet resolved to establish the targets of:

- The Council’s carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
- Borough-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)

A Climate Emergency Action Plan for 2021/22 was included in the previous Climate Emergency Annual Report on 22 March 2021. This report provides an update on progress against actions outlined in the 2021/22 Action Plan, with particular attention paid to baselining work, which will be an important factor in the continuing strategic development of the Council’s response to the climate emergency. The report then

outlines next steps on this agenda, particularly the ongoing development of a new Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Recommendations

1. That the Climate Emergency Annual Report be noted.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Progress Summary Table
- Appendix 2 Case Study A: The Lanes Retrofit
- Appendix 3 Case Study B: Rotherham to Kilnhurst Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Appendix 4 Part A - Initial Equality Screening Analysis
- Appendix 5 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Greenhouse Gas Protocol (2014). *Mitigation Goal Standard: An accounting and reporting standard for national and subnational greenhouse gas reduction goals*:
<https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/Mitigation_Goal_Standard.pdf>

Rotherham Council (2020). *Responding to the Climate Emergency*. Cabinet 23 March 2020:
<<http://modgov-p-db/documents/s125066/Responding%20to%20the%20Climate%20Emergency.pdf>>

Rotherham Council (2021). *Climate Emergency Annual Report*. Cabinet 22nd March 2021:
<<http://modgov-p-db/documents/s130298/Report%20-%20Climate%20Change.pdf>>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Cabinet – 25 April 2022

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 20 April 2022

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Climate Emergency Annual Report

1. Background

1.1 At its meeting on 30 October 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency. The subsequent Cabinet report of 23 March 2020, *Responding to the Climate Emergency*, outlined two overarching goals which were accepted as a basis for action:

- The Council's carbon emissions to be net zero by 2030 (NZ30).
- Rotherham-wide carbon emissions to be net zero by 2040 (NZ40).

1.2 The 2020 Cabinet report *Responding to the Climate Emergency* included a Policy Statement, which identified the following themes as a framework for action:

- Energy.
- Transport.
- Housing.
- Waste.
- Built & Natural Environment.
- Influence & Engagement.

1.3 The first Climate Emergency Annual Report was submitted to Cabinet on 22 March 2021. This report included an account of actions that had been taken to reduce emissions from Council assets, operations, and services and to reduce emissions across the Borough of Rotherham. The report included a Climate Emergency Action Plan for 2021/22, which laid out actions corresponding to the above themes, as well as a set of "overarching activities," which included the development of a carbon emissions baseline and the introduction of carbon impact assessments for all Cabinet reports.

1.4 Climate Emergency UK has produced a set of scorecards for local authorities' Climate Action Plans, in partnership with Friends of the Earth, Centre for Alternative Technology, Ashden and APSE Energy. While these scorecards evaluate planned actions, rather than actions completed, it is positive that the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan scored 51%. This is above the national average (50%) and is the highest score achieved by a local authority in South Yorkshire.

1.5 The Climate Emergency Annual Report had been presented to and discussed by Cabinet at the meeting held on 25 April 2022. During the meeting it was resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress to date towards the NZ30 and NZ40 targets.
2. Note the progress against the actions from the 2021/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan.

3. Agree the approach laid out for continued development of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, including an updated Action Plan in 2022.
4. Agree that the Climate Emergency Annual Report be submitted to the next Council meeting for information.
5. Agree that developments related to the Environment Bill and the subsequent impact on the waste and recycling strategies be submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission in due course.

2. Key Issues

2.1 This report sets out progress to date against the 2021/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan. Particular attention is paid to the development of a carbon emissions baseline, which represents an important evidence base for strategic development of the Council's climate change agenda. The report goes on to outline next steps, particularly the ongoing development of a refreshed Climate Emergency Action Plan, which will be developed once the new Climate Emergency Delivery Team is established.

2.2 The 2021/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan was structured around strategic themes, as follows:

- **Energy** – the energy used by Council assets, operations and services, including energy used by contractors.
- **Housing** – emissions from domestic energy usage, whether from social housing or privately-owned housing.
- **Transport** – includes emissions from the Council's fleet vehicles and "grey fleet", as well as from public and private transport use across the Borough.
- **Waste** – the Council works with other local authorities through the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy, to extend sustainable waste processing and to reduce the amount of waste.
- **Built and natural environment** – incorporates carbon emissions from construction and development and the urban environment, as well as carbon sequestration through green infrastructure.
- **Influence & Engagement** – most emissions from Rotherham are not related to Council activities: therefore, to have a meaningful impact on Borough-wide emissions, the Council must work alongside local residents, communities and organisations, as well as national government.

2.3 ***Progress to date***

2.4 ***Theme: Overarching activity***

2.5 • ***Action: Continue to develop baseline data***

2.6 As of 1 November 2021, a Climate Change Data Analysis Officer has been recruited to the Council, to support the development of carbon emissions baselines for the Council's own assets, operations and services (NZ30) and for the Borough of Rotherham (NZ40). The Data Analysis Officer role will also support the development of emissions monitoring and the projection of carbon emissions reduction pathways.

2.7 A carbon emissions baseline is an inventory of emissions which are produced over a specified timeframe. Two separate baselines have been produced in this case, corresponding to the Council's two net zero goals. Guidance in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol's Mitigation Goal Standard identifies baselining as a key step in developing evidence-based strategy and actions towards emission reduction. A carbon emissions baseline will allow the Council to:

1. Establish the scale of current carbon emissions across a range of sectors and subsectors.
2. Create scenario-based projection models to test the effectiveness of proposed projects, plans and strategies to mitigate climate change.
3. Provide a reference point, against which the Council's data analysts can measure changes in emissions resulting from a project, plan or strategy.
4. Create a 'road map' towards NZ30 and NZ40 targets.

2.8 The baseline used in this report covers the year 2018/19. This reporting year was chosen as the most recent period with sufficient data coverage, prior to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Data collected over lockdown periods can be considered anomalous due to temporary laws, regulations and behavioural changes, which had an impact on emissions. For example, during the first national lockdown, there was a decrease in carbon emissions from transport across the Borough. Emissions data from these periods would therefore not be appropriate for baselining.

2.9 In the Council's NZ30 and NZ40 Baselines, carbon emissions are measured in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) and kilotons of carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO₂e).

2.10 **NZ30 2018/19 Baseline:**

The carbon emissions included in the Council's NZ30 target and baseline are shown in the following table:

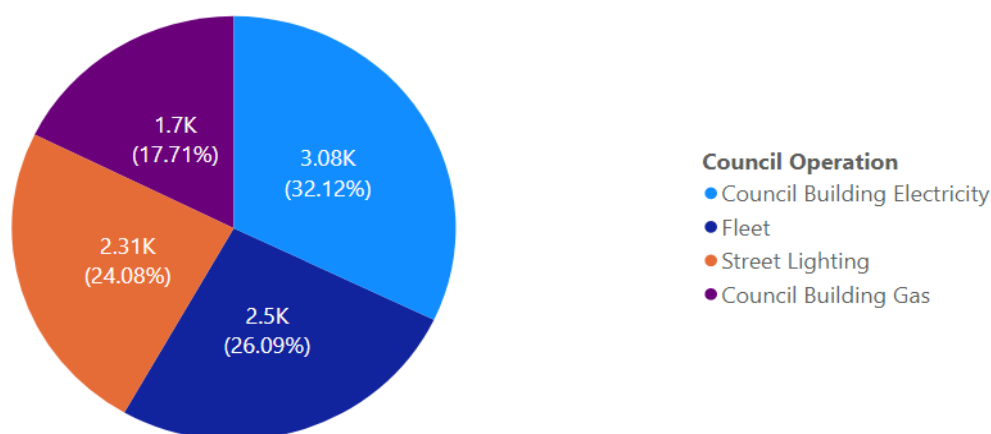
Scope	Definition	Examples	Target
Scope 1	Carbon emissions from sources that directly burn fossil fuels, such as gas boilers and combustion engines.	Heating of RMBC owned and managed assets (e.g. offices and libraries). RMBC's fleet emissions.	NZ30
Scope 2	Carbon Emissions from electricity use.	Electricity from RMBC owned and managed assets (e.g. offices and libraries). Electric vehicles and their charging points. Streetlighting and traffic signals.	NZ30
Scope 3	Carbon emissions from sources that the Council does not directly control, but over which it has some responsibility or influence.	RMBC council housing and third party occupied buildings. RMBC supply chain & procured services. RMBC waste management. Staff commuter journeys and 'grey fleet' mileage.	NZ40

Scope 1 & 2 emissions from Council assets, operations and services are those considered under the NZ30 target and baseline. Scope 3 emissions are not considered under the NZ30, as they are outside the Council's direct control: instead, they are considered under the NZ40 target for carbon emissions across the Borough of Rotherham. Two exceptions can be made:

- Council policies can set expectations relating to 'grey fleet' mileage.
- Whether emissions from the Council's contractors can be accounted for and whether these can be influenced by the Council will be reviewed, to determine if these should be included in the NZ30 baseline. For now, these are included under NZ40 emissions.

The following chart demonstrates internally held data used to construct the Council's NZ30 baseline for 2018/19 across several operational areas. For simplicity, despite being defined as Scope 3 emissions, emissions from 'grey fleet' mileage have been included under general fleet emissions. The 2018/19 baseline, covering Scope 1 & 2 emissions and 'grey fleet' emissions, puts the Council's total annual carbon emissions at 9,590 tCO₂e.

Scope 1 & 2 Emissions (tCO2e) by Council Operation



2.11 NZ40 2018/19 Baseline:

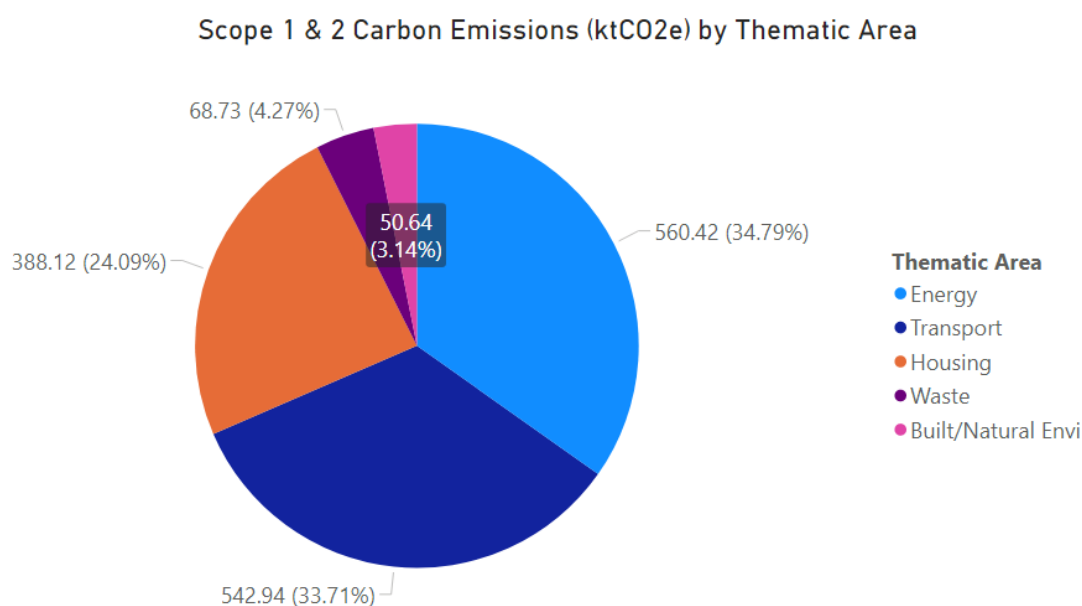
Carbon emissions included in the Borough-wide NZ40 target and baseline are shown in the following table:

Scope	Definition	Examples	Target
Scope 1	CO2 emissions from sources located within the Borough boundary.	Domestic, industrial, commercial and public sector gas Transport within the Borough Emissions from waste treated within the Borough boundary Emissions from agricultural, other land-use and land-use-change Fugitive Emissions Emissions from industrial process within the Borough	NZ40
Scope 2	CO2 emissions occurring because of supplied electricity within the Borough boundary.	Domestic, industrial, commercial and public sector electricity Electric vehicle charging emissions	NZ40
Scope 3	All other CO2 emissions that occur outside the Borough's boundary, due to activities within the boundary.	Transmission and distribution losses from the use of grid supplied energy Emissions from the portion of trans-boundary journeys occurring outside the Borough, and transmission and distribution losses from grid-supplied energy for electric vehicle use	

		<p>Aviation</p> <p>Emissions from waste generated by the Borough but treated outside its boundary</p> <p>Emissions from the production of goods consumed in the Borough but produced elsewhere.</p>	
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Regarding the NZ40 target and baseline, Scope 3 emissions are those that relate to Rotherham or its residents but occur outside of Rotherham's geographic boundary. As it is so difficult to accurately measure or meaningfully influence such Scope 3 emissions, they are excluded from the NZ40 target and baseline.

The following chart shows Scope 1 & 2 emissions across thematic areas during the baseline year, using data from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) greenhouse gas emissions inventory and the SCATTER emissions tool. This comes to a total of 1,611 ktCO₂e.



2.12 Baseline development will continue through the following steps:

1. Conduct uncertainty and sensitivity analysis on current baseline models to ensure that reporting procedures and carbon emission estimations are as accurate as possible.

2. Use baseline data to create projections, mapping a series of scenario-based outcomes to establish a feasible pathway to NZ30 and NZ40 targets.
3. Work with cross-departmental services to utilise scenario-based projection models to test potential effectiveness of proposed future strategies.
4. Work with climate leads to ensure that annual reporting strategies are in place to measure the success of implemented strategies.
5. Annually review and report carbon emissions productivity, reviewing and amending projections where necessary.

2.13 • ***Action: Introduce carbon impact assessments for all Cabinet reports***

2.14 It is now standard practice for all Cabinet reports to include a carbon impact assessment. This is seen as an important step in order to assess and understand the carbon emissions impacts of Council decisions. However, carbon emissions data are not sufficiently available across all Council services, for the impacts of all decisions to be fully understood. Data and information on emissions is being developed, which will support consistent detail across impact assessments. Impact assessments may also be improved through climate change awareness training, to ensure emissions considerations are embedded across Council services.

2.15 • ***Action: Deliver carbon literacy and energy awareness training for Council staff***

2.16 In the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021/22, this key action was included under the Energy theme, as energy awareness training for Council staff. Briefings have been delivered to officers responsible for writing carbon impact assessments. Further training will continue to be rolled out over 2022, to support Council officers in developing carbon impact assessments.

2.17 ***Theme: Energy***

2.18 • ***Action: Develop a site decarbonisation plan and implement energy efficiency upgrades***

2.19 The Council has reduced energy consumption and CO2 emissions in its operational buildings year on year since 2014/15:

	Annual CO2 Emissions (tons)	% Reduction
2014/2015	14,589	0
2015/2016	12,796	14.01%
2016/2017	10,896	17.44%
2017/2018	9,047	20.44%
2018/2019	7,005	29.15%
2019/2020	6,003	16.69%
2020/2021	5,034	19.25%

There has been a total carbon emissions reduction of 65.49%, since 2014/15.

- 2.20 Phase 1 of the Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP), covering 43 of the highest energy consuming operational buildings, has been developed. A capital proposal for £6.4 million has been approved as part of the Council budget setting for 2022/23. Projected carbon emissions reductions from Phase 1 HDP are from 3,716 tCO₂e in 2019, to 806 tCO₂e in 2030: a reduction of 78%. Work is ongoing to extend the HDP to cover all operational buildings, with more than 40 smaller buildings to be decarbonised in Phase 2. Further technical site-specific decarbonisation reports have been completed or arranged in preparation for future funding opportunities, especially from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
- 2.21 Additionally, a £1 million proof of concept renewable energy project is underway and officers are assessing sites to identify one suitable for a solar farm. The system size will be approximately 1000kWp (1000kW peak generating capacity) of photovoltaic panels. For comparison, the system on the roof of Riverside House has a generating capacity of 61kWp: the proof of concept project will be 18 times larger and will cover the area of two and a half football pitches. A facility of this type is expected to have an output of 1,120,000kWh and would save carbon emissions of the order of 240 tCO₂e, compared with using grid electricity.
- 2.22 • ***Action: Continue to support the private sector led development of Templeborough biomass heat network***
- 2.23 The Climate Emergency Annual Report 2021 noted that Government investment amounting to £8.4m had been secured for the heat network development. The report also noted that the owners of the plant had withdrawn their investment of an additional £8 million. Alternative private sector investors ended their involvement with the scheme in July 2021. Engagement has begun with another potential investor, introduced to the Council by BEIS in December 2021.

2.24 **Theme: Housing**2.25 • **Action: Delivery of schemes under Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme funding**

2.26 Energy performance upgrades have been delivered to 217 homes in The Lanes, East Dene. The works were completed in September 2021, after just six months. Retrofitted triple glazing, external doors, insulation, and energy efficient boilers have saved an estimated £320 (33%) from energy bills and 1.5 tCO₂e (37%) of carbon emissions, per household, per year. Emissions from homes at The Lanes are now 22% less than the Borough average, due to this project.

2.27 £4.2m was invested in the project, including £1.14m funding from the Government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme, Phase 1B. The Council submitted a further bid for funding, under a third phase of the scheme (LAD 3) for Private Sector housing, but this was unsuccessful. Feedback received will support development of bids in future funding rounds.

2.28 • **Action: Develop a "road map" to zero carbon for Council housing**

2.29 Last year the Housing Service acquired access to Parity Projects software, a sophisticated carbon reduction asset management tool that helps landlords to plan and programme future carbon reduction measures and the impact and estimated costs across housing stock. The software is supporting the development of a road map to zero carbon council housing, the types of interventions required and the associated costs.

2.30 A road map to zero carbon for Council housing is being developed this year. It will require an estimated £585m to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Council Housing: the road map will plan and guide future stock investment, external funding bids, set targets and measure progress. It will also set out a strategic approach, including how best to move away from gas heating and benefit from funding available for carbon emissions reduction. As well as defining a work programme, the action plan will set out how the Council can help the local economy gear up for the work and, in doing so, address supply chain challenges and skill shortages in the local labour market.

2.31 • **Action: Establish energy efficiency specifications for new Council homes**

2.32 Housing specifications are being developed as part of a scheme to develop a total of 36 properties on two sites in Eastwood, with Local Partnerships. Local Partnerships have provided comparable detailed specifications, to allow the Council to assess the difference between 'zero carbon' and 'zero carbon ready'.

2.33 Two sites in Thrybergh will be developed, in partnership with one of the Council's repairs and maintenance contractors. This will deliver four properties as zero-carbon demonstrators, to explore implications of zero

carbon delivery. Both these schemes will be used to develop specifications, to inform the forward programme.

2.34 • ***Action: Development of a Community Energy Support Scheme***

2.35 The Community Energy Support Scheme was launched on 1st March 2021. The scheme is intended to provide support for Rotherham residents to reduce energy costs, improve energy efficiency and access future Government grants. Due to the energy price crisis, consumers have been recommended not to switch suppliers. Assistance provided to residents has therefore focussed on energy efficiency, to reduce consumption through direct advice and support and by identifying funding opportunities.

2.36 Several other support and advice services exist alongside the Community Energy Support Scheme, including the housing service's Financial Inclusion support offer and the Rotherham Federation's Energy Knowhow scheme. A toolkit was provided to Members in 2021, following a presentation to the Improving Places Select Commission on housing energy efficiency, which explains how these different services can be accessed. Further work is ongoing, to establish how people who are most at risk of fuel poverty can be identified and can receive targeted support.

2.37 ***Theme: Transport***

2.38 • ***Action: Delivery of Cycling and Public Transport Infrastructure***

2.39 The Cycling Strategy was adopted by Cabinet in January 2022. If delivered in full, the strategy is expected to reduce emissions from transport by ca. 2% of 2019 levels, across the Borough.

2.40 Works continue to deliver the Transforming Cities programme. Together with the Active Travel Fund, this is expected to deliver £12 million worth of improvements for public transport, walking and cycling by March 2023. An update on Active Travel was presented to the Improving Places Select Commission 22nd March 2022. The first phase of the Sheffield Road cycle route has been substantially completed and public transport improvements in the Parkgate area are due to commence in Spring 2022, subject to planning and South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) approval. These will include a new park and ride facility at the Parkgate tram train terminus: a new link road to the park and ride facility will divert traffic from the busy A633.

2.41 • ***Action: Further Expansion of Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure and Support for Uptake***

2.42 As part of 2022/23 budget setting, £648,000 of capital funding was approved for residential and public charging infrastructure, which includes the development of neighbourhood charging hubs. A further £340,000 has been allocated by SYMCA, to provide additional fast and rapid charging infrastructure in Rotherham and to facilitate support for EV uptake. South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) will also fund £50,000 worth of EV charging improvements in Rotherham.

- 2.43 Use of Council-owned EV charging infrastructure in 2021 saved carbon emissions of 5.21 tCO₂e. Excess electricity from solar powered EV charging points was used to power Council buildings, with the effect that EV charging had Net Zero carbon emissions in 2021.
- 2.44 In partnership with bus operators and SYPTE, electric buses will be procured and operated on two routes in the Borough. Services are expected to go live from the end of the 2022/23 financial year.
- 2.45 • **Action: Rollout of Telematics**
- 2.46 Multiple telematics systems are already in use, with different functions for different fleet users. Telematics helps to improve driver behaviour and fuel efficiency and supports vehicle use monitoring. A new system will be trialled in Spring/Summer 2022 and a fully costed plan to rollout Telematics across the Council fleet by March 2023.
- 2.47 • **Action: Timeline for fleet electric vehicle (EV) Conversion**
- 2.48 An officer working group has been established to phase out petrol and diesel vehicles from the Council Fleet. The working group will consider the full life costs and carbon emissions of Low (LEV's), Ultra Low (ULEV's) and Zero Emissions Vehicles and associated challenges, such as grid capacity for EV charging. Work to develop a timeline for conversion will resume once data has been collected from a trial of electric refuse collection vehicles (RCV's), in March 2022.
- 2.49 The Council will assess options for electric vehicle conversion and will develop an action plan by March 2023. This will guide further development of the Council's approach to date, which has been to replace fleet vehicles at the end of their service life with an EV or ULEV, wherever possible. The development of a strategy and timeline for EV conversion will require a full review of infrastructure and charging capacity, to include known limitations of grid capacity at the Hellaby depot.
- 2.50 **Theme: Waste**
- 2.51 • **Action: Review the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy**
- 2.52 The South Yorkshire Waste Partnership is currently reviewing the achievements and progress of the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy covering the period from 2017 – 2021, to help inform a future strategy. Detailed work on the development of a new strategy that will contribute towards Net Zero targets is on hold, pending publication of results from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) Resources and Waste Strategy consultation.
- 2.53 The Environment Act 2021 sets out specific legislation that is likely to have a significant impact on how waste and recycling are dealt with and how local authorities deliver waste services in future. This includes proposals for:

- Measures to reduce and prevent waste from homes and businesses.
- Improving the consistency of household and business waste and recycling collections, including the introduction of separate food waste collections.
- Extended Producer Responsibility, to ensure the costs of disposal are borne by the producers of waste e.g., packaging.
- Deposit return schemes to incentivise the recycling of certain types of packaging wastes e.g., plastic bottles.

Consultations indicated that there will be a greater focus on data and efficient and effective services. This will involve resource intensive work to set up new systems and make service changes, to comply with new requirements.

2.54 • ***Action: Recycling improvement and landfill diversion***

2.55 The landfill sharing mechanism in the BDR contract has been varied to better incentivise the contractor to divert waste from landfill. The contract diversion target is 5%: by negotiating a better position the contractor is forecasting landfilling of 1.24%. This means that 98.76% of residual waste is diverted from landfill. The contract recycling target has also improved by 1.09%, to 14.89% of residual waste being recycled.

2.56 • ***Action: Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer***

2.57 The Council does not currently offer commercial waste recycling; there is the potential for significant diversion of materials from existing customers if not managed effectively. A review of existing practice in house, benchmarking with other local authorities and the private sector has been undertaken, to identify best practice and potential routes forward.

2.58 In 2022, Waste Services will soft launch commercial waste recycling services in house, ensuring all Council operated services have access to multi-stream recycling. In the event of a successful trial, the service may be extended to all commercial sites in Rotherham, from 2023. The service offer would include collections of paper and card, glass, cans and plastics, as well as support to recycle effectively.

2.59 ***Theme: Built and Natural Environment***

2.60 • ***Action: Partial Update to the Local Plan Core Strategy***

2.61 A partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy is ongoing. The following sections are to be updated:

- CS 25 Dealing with flood risk (reduce and mitigate)
- CS 26 Minerals (reduce reliance on fossil fuels)
- CS 30 Low carbon & renewable energy generation (EV charge requirements, new dwelling requirements, required info in planning applications)

Consultation on a draft strategy is expected in Summer 2022, with the strategy expected to be adopted by Summer 2025.

2.62 • **Action: Production of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)**

2.63 Supplementary Planning Document's (SPD's) offer technical guidance to developers. As such they encourage higher standards of development: they are a material consideration in the planning process.

2.64 A Natural Environment SPD and Transport SPD were adopted at Cabinet in June 2021. Consultations on three other SPD's, related to Soils, Trees and Green Spaces, are scheduled for Summer 2022.

2.65 • **Action: Appointment of a Trees and Woodlands Engagement Officer**

2.66 A Trees and Woodlands Engagement Officer has been appointed, following £50,000 revenue investment in tree planting support.

Since starting in post, the Trees and Woodland Engagement Officer has led engagement on tree planting and the administration of new woodland creation, through the following actions:

- Surveying potential woodland sites
- Carrying out land searches and applications to the Forestry Commission
- Making funding applications to Defra and SYMCA, for new woodland creation
- Consulting with Members on an urban tree planting programme
- Contacting local schools, scout groups, ramblers and voluntary sector organisations, to arrange community planting days throughout the winter planting season

2.67 • **Action: Adoption of the Tree Management Policy**

2.68 The Tree Management Policy has been adopted as the Council's Tree Management Protocol & Guidance document (2021). This sets Key Targets for tree planting, as follows:

1. *Rotherham Council will dedicate a minimum of 5 hectares of land to woodland creation, either through planting or re-wilding, up to 2030. This will see the Council's woodlands estate increase in size by at least 10%.*
2. *Rotherham Council will plant a minimum of 500 new trees in urban settings per year for the next ten years.*
3. *Rotherham Council will commit to a net gain of 250 new trees in urban settings per year for the next ten years.*

4. *Rotherham Council will plant a minimum of 10,000 new trees in woodland settings per year for the next ten years.*

2.69 • ***Action: Development of a Tree Planting Strategy***

2.70 A draft Tree Planting Strategy is to be delivered in Spring 2022.

2.71 • ***Action: Capital Funding for Tree Planting***

The Council has invested £350,000 capital programme funding in tree planting over two years, 2021-2023, with £150,000 made available in the first year. Further funding has been received from Defra's Urban Tree Challenge Fund, Defra's Treescapes Fund and from SYMCA's Mayor's Office. Thanks to this funding, 9 hectares of new woodland has been created and more than 22,000 trees planted, this planting season.

2.72 • ***Action: Data Related to Carbon Sequestered by Trees***

2.73 The Council has little data related to carbon sequestered by trees, limiting understanding of the planting required to offset emissions. The Council has applied for funding from the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund. If successful, this will be used to conduct an i-Tree Survey of the Borough, to establish a baseline of current tree cover and species mix in Rotherham and to inform the new Tree Planting Strategy.

2.74 ***Theme: Influence and Engagement***

2.75 • ***Action: Regional Engagement***

2.76 The Council continues to engage with partners regionally and nationally, to develop a shared response to the Climate Emergency.

2.77 The Council joined other Local Authorities in its contribution to COP26, where the BDR Waste Treatment Facility at Manvers was featured in a showcase of climate action in local government, led by the Local Government Association (LGA).

2.78 Regionally, RMBC has contributed to the development of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan. Collaboration with partners in South Yorkshire, such as the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE), promises local benefits for public transport and active travel, while the South Yorkshire Woodland Creation Group is expected to deliver improvements for the Borough's natural capital.

2.79 Recently, the Council invited members of Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) to 'take over' a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, as part of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge, a national initiative. The young people involved questioned Council officers on the subject of climate change, with several questions relating to plastic pollution, waste and the role of schools in the Climate Emergency.

- 2.80 • **Action: Develop Emissions Considerations as Part of the Council's Social Value Policy**
- 2.81 Carbon emissions have been developed as a consideration under the Council's Social Value policy. Through this approach, suppliers are invited to make commitments to reduce their carbon emissions. Commitments made in the second year of the Social Value policy amounted to carbon emissions savings of 2554 tCO₂e, or roughly equal to emissions from the Council's fleet transport in 2018/19, the baseline reporting year.
- 2.82 To support further progress, procurement documents have been updated to highlight carbon emissions as a consideration throughout the procurement process. Similarly, questions have been included in the tender process, to gauge market understanding of carbon emissions and progress to Net Zero. Information gathered in this way can support future efforts to decarbonise the Council's supply chains.
- 2.83 • **Action: Develop a climate emergency communications plan**
- 2.84 A separate communications plan has not been developed, as was anticipated in the 2021/22 Action Plan. Communications activity to date has included the promotion of regional and national partnerships such as the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan and COP26. The Council website has also been updated, with web pages on Tackling Climate Change.
- 2.85 Development of a communications and engagement plan forms part of the Council's commitment to respond to the Climate Emergency in 2022 and is contained within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan
- 2.86 **Further development of the response to the Climate Emergency**
- 2.87 "A Cleaner, Greener Local Environment" is a key strategic priority in the Council Plan 2022-25. The plan sets out ambitions to protect Rotherham's natural environment, emphasising sustainability, ensuring that Rotherham is a clean and vibrant place to live and reaffirming the commitment to Net Zero.
- 2.88 In the Council Plan the environment appears alongside other priorities. These are:
- Every Neighbourhood Thriving
 - People Are Safe, Healthy and Live Well
 - Every Child Able to Fulfil their Potential
 - Expanding Economic Opportunity
- 2.89 At the Council meeting 2nd March 2022, £155,000 revenue budget was agreed to establish a Climate Emergency Delivery Team. This includes funding for two new posts, Climate Change Lead Officer and Climate Change Project Officer, as well as funding to extend the existing post of Climate Change Data Analysis Officer.

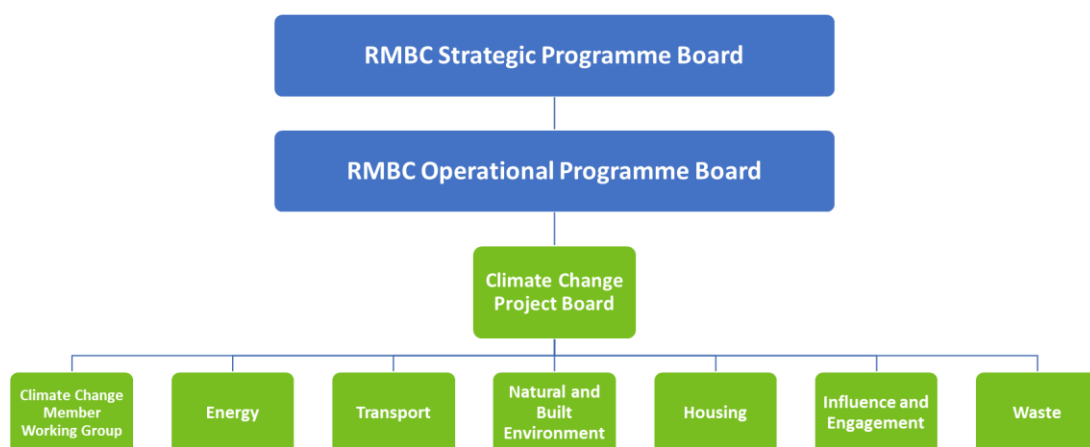
2.90 Decarbonisation will be delivered through capital investment, such as the funding approved at Cabinet on 2nd March 2022 for Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure and decarbonisation of operational buildings.

2.91 As noted, a new Climate Emergency Action Plan will be developed in 2022. This updated plan will outline key priorities in responding to the Climate Emergency, identify potential solutions to the above problems, outline an approach to responding based on the development of emissions baselining and carbon reduction pathways and will priority actions for carbon emissions reduction.

2.92 **Governance Structure**

2.93 Governance arrangements were established to support the Lead Cabinet Member for Climate Change and to ensure that Key Actions from the Climate Action Plan 2021/22 were developed and embedded. These governance arrangements are represented in the organogram below.

2.94



2.95 Strategic and Operational oversight provides assurance of strategic change and improvement initiatives at the Council.

2.96 Workforce Leads from key Council services report to a Climate Change Project Board.

2.97 A Climate Change Members' Working Group meets monthly, to update elected Members on progress towards the Council's Net Zero targets.

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 No alternative options are recommended, as it has been agreed that an Annual Report will be produced to ensure effective monitoring of actions, in response to the Climate Emergency.

- 3.2 On 25 April 2022, Cabinet agreed to submit the Climate Emergency Annual Report to the next Council meeting, for information.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Delivery of the 2021/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan has been a cross-Council effort; service leads have been identified to drive forward the ambition in the Action Plan, meeting regularly to collaborate on delivery of actions, across the Climate Emergency agenda.
- 4.2 As this is a progress report, not implying any changes to policy or services, it has not required public consultation.

5.1 Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.2 Further development of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency will be presented as an updated Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2022. This is to follow further engagement not only with communities and partners in Rotherham, but also with regional and national organisations, as required.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this update report. The work to be undertaken as outlined within the report will be funded within the Council's existing revenue and capital budgets. Where additional Council funding is required to deliver the objectives of the Climate Change workstream, this will need to be identified as part of the Council's annual budget setting process.
- 6.2 Procurement updates are noted above, sections 2.81 and 2.82. As climate change projects are developed, appropriate procurement considerations will be needed, to ensure compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report; however, any necessary legal advice should be sought in relation to individual decisions resulting from the ongoing implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 In 2021/22, HR has supported recruitment activity for the Climate Change Data Analyst post and work is underway for recruitment to two new posts in the Climate Emergency Delivery Team, agreed in the 2022/23 budget.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People or Vulnerable Adults in respect of this report, however there will be meaningful opportunity to engage these groups through the development of the new Climate Emergency Action Plan.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 No equalities implications arise from this report directly. An Equalities Screening Assessment and Analysis will be completed in the context of a new Climate Emergency Action Plan. Equalities and human rights will be considered throughout development, consultation and engagement to understand potential impacts, including the need for a “just transition”.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 While this report deals with progress around climate change and carbon reduction, the report outlines progress only and therefore no additional implications for emissions or climate arise.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no direct implications for partners in respect of this report, however there will be meaningful opportunity to engage our partners across all sectors through future delivery of the Council's programme to reach Net Zero targets, as well as opportunities to contribute to and co-produce the Climate Emergency Action Plan during 2022.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There are risks associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation, however they are outside the scope of this report, which provides a summary of progress to date, towards the Council's Net Zero targets.

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

Theme: Overarching Activity Summary: There has been strong progress in the Council's overarching activities related to climate change, with the introduction of improved governance arrangements and development of the Council's carbon emissions baseline providing the foundation for future monitoring and reporting.			
Priority Area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Monitoring and reporting	Introduce carbon impact assessments	It is now standard practice for all Cabinet reports to include a carbon impact assessment.	Carbon impact assessments can be improved by developing the Council's carbon emissions data and through training for Council officers.
	Continue to develop baseline data	<p>A Climate Change Data Analysis Officer has been recruited to the Council.</p> <p>A carbon emissions baseline has been established, for the financial year 2018/19.</p>	The Council's Scope 3 emissions baseline, including emissions from the Council's waste, staff travel and procured services, will be developed further in collaboration with partners, leveraging support from regional and national organisations as required.

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

Awareness raising	Monitor and report CO₂ emissions publicly	The Council's carbon emissions baseline has been submitted for publication on the Rotherham Data Hub.	Monitoring and reporting CO ₂ emissions will support a better understanding of carbon emissions reductions, to ensure the Council is taking the right actions to meet its Net Zero targets.
	Implement energy awareness training for Council workforce	Briefings have been delivered, to support officers completing carbon impact assessments. A business plan is being developed, for climate change awareness training across the Council.	Delivery of climate change training will underpin decision making that is well informed of environmental impacts.
Theme: Energy Summary: Carbon emissions from the Council's operational buildings have been decreasing since 2014. Further progress towards Net Zero 2030 will be delivered through the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan (Phase 1).			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Decarbonising buildings	Develop a site decarbonisation plan and implement energy efficiency upgrades	Phase 1 of the Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) will cut carbon emissions across 43 of the Council's most energy intensive operational buildings, from 3,716 tCO ₂ e per annum in	A £6.4 million capital proposal was included in the Council's budget setting for 2022/23. Site-specific decarbonisation reports have been completed or arranged, to support future funding opportunities, especially

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

		<p>2019, to 806 tCO₂e p.a. in 2030, a 78% reduction.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the HDP will extend decarbonisation to all operational buildings, with more than 40 smaller buildings to be included.</p>	from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
	<p>Continued development of Templeborough biomass heat network</p>	<p>As noted in the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021/22, the owners of the plant have withdrawn their £8 million investment. Alternative private sector investors ended their involvement with the scheme in July 2021. Engagement has begun with another potential investor, introduced to the Council by BEIS in December 2021.</p>	

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

Theme: Transport Summary: Significant investment has been secured for the extension of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, through the Council's own capital allocation and through regional partners. This is supported by a new Cycling Strategy, to facilitate a modal shift from car travel to active transport.			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Promote electric vehicle charging	Further expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure and support for uptake	<p>The Council's 2022/23 budget setting includes £648,000 capital investment for residential and public charging infrastructure.</p> <p>Use of Council-owned EV charging infrastructure saved carbon emissions of 5.21 tCO₂e in 2021. Excess electricity from solar powered EV charging points was used to power Council buildings, with the effect that EV charging had Net Zero carbon emissions in 2021.</p>	<p>A further £340,000 has been allocated by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), to provide additional fast and rapid charging infrastructure in Rotherham and to facilitate support for EV uptake. South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) will also fund £50,000 worth of EV charging improvements in Rotherham.</p>
Develop cycling strategy	Delivery of cycling and public transport infrastructure	<p>The Cycling Strategy was adopted by Cabinet in January 2022. If delivered in full, the strategy is expected to reduce emissions from transport by ca. 2% of 2019 levels, across the Borough.</p>	<p>Commitments made by national government to date fall short of the funding required, for the strategy to be delivered in full. The Council will need to engage with government and others to secure the necessary funding.</p>

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

		The first phase of the Sheffield Road cycle route has been substantially completed. Public transport improvements in the Parkgate area will commence in Spring 2022, subject to planning and SYMCA approval.	
Fleet transport	Roll out telematics across the fleet	<p>Multiple telematics systems are already in use, with different functions for different fleet users.</p> <p>A new system will be trialled in Spring/Summer 2022, with a fully costed plan for rollout across the Council fleet by March 2023.</p>	Telematics can help to improve driver behaviour and fuel efficiency. Telematics data can support emissions monitoring and a future transition to zero emission vehicles.
	Continue to develop a timeline for electric vehicle conversion	<p>A working group has been established to phase out petrol and diesel vehicles from the Council Fleet.</p> <p>Development of a timeline for electric vehicle conversion will resume, following a trial of electric refuse collection vehicles in March 2022.</p>	Development of a strategy and timeline for EV conversion will require a full review of infrastructure and charging capacity, to include known limitations to grid capacity at Hellaby depot.

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

Theme: Housing Summary: Good progress has been made in 2021/22, with successful delivery of a retrofitting project at The Lanes, East Dene. Future progress will depend on the availability of funding, as installing energy efficiency upgrades to existing housing stock is a capital-intensive process.			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Green housing strategy	Delivery of schemes under LAD funding	Energy performance upgrades were delivered to 217 homes at The Lanes, East Dene, in September 2021. Of £4.2 million invested in the project, £1.14 million was from the Government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme, Phase 1B.	The Council submitted a further bid for funding, under a third phase of the scheme (LAD 3), but this was unsuccessful. Feedback received will support development of bids in future funding rounds.
	Develop a "road map" to zero carbon for Council housing	A road map to zero carbon for Council-owned homes is being developed, supported by Parity Projects software.	Interventions to reduce carbon emissions from Council-owned homes can conflict with other priorities, such as reducing fuel poverty. The road map will seek interventions that address both priorities.

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

	Establish energy efficiency specifications for new Council homes	<p>Energy efficiency specifications are being developed as part of a development of 36 properties at two sites in Eastwood.</p> <p>Two sites in Thrybergh will be developed as zero carbon demonstrators, to explore implications of zero carbon delivery.</p>	Higher energy efficiency specifications can affect the viability of new Council housing developments.
	Establish housing stock emission baselines	This action is now monitored as part of the Council's carbon emissions baseline. Surveys of the Borough's housing stock have contributed to the development of a road map for zero carbon Council housing.	Publication of 2021 Census data, from March 2022 onwards, can inform the Council's current understanding of its housing stock baseline.
Community energy support scheme	Developing a Community Energy Support Scheme	The Council's Community Energy Support Scheme was launched in March 2021.	Since the energy price crisis, savings from switching tariff have not been available to residents. Assistance has therefore focussed on energy efficiency upgrades, reducing consumption through behaviour change and identifying funding opportunities.

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

Theme: Waste Summary: Emissions from waste are the subject of collaboration, through the South Yorkshire Waste Partnership and the BDR Waste Partnership. Further progress will depend on engagement and education activity, across the Borough.			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Waste from households	Review the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy	South Yorkshire Waste Partnership is currently reviewing the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy, 2017 – 2021.	Detailed work on the development of a new strategy is on hold, awaiting the delayed publication of responses to Defra's Resources and Waste Strategy consultation.
	Recycling improvement and contamination reduction	Recycling rates were improving year on year before the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, but there are high levels of recycling contamination. The Waste Service is developing a 12-month communications plan to drive improvements across the waste hierarchy.	Further increases in recycling rates, decreases in waste contamination and wider improvements across the waste hierarchy, will depend on an effective engagement and education campaign with residents.
	Diverting waste from landfill through BDR waste partnership	BDR contract has been varied to better incentivise diversion of waste from landfill. As a result, 98.76% of residual waste is expected to be diverted from landfill. BDR contract recycling	

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

		target has also improved, with 14.89% of residual waste being recycled.	
Commercial waste	Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer	Commercial waste recycling will be soft launched in Council offices in 2022, with a view to extending the service offer to all commercial sites, in 2023.	The soft launch will provide an opportunity to propose options for an extended commercial offer.
Theme: Built and Natural Environment Summary: Revenue and capital investment in tree planting have delivered large scale success this planting season, with more than 22,000 new trees. Future success will be directed by a new Tree Planting Strategy and supported by updates to the planning process, to offer better protections for the Borough's natural capital.			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Planning	Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy	A draft strategy will go to consultation in Summer 2022. The following sections are to be updated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS 25 - Dealing with Flood Risk • CS 26 – Minerals 	

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS 30 - Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation 	
	Introduction of further Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) relevant to climate change	A Natural Environment SPD and Transport SPD were adopted at Cabinet in June 2021. Three further SPD's, related to Soils, Trees and Green Spaces, will go to consultation in Summer 2022.	
Green spaces and trees	Appointment of a Trees and Woodlands Engagement Officer	A Trees and Woodlands Engagement Officer has been appointed and has since led public engagement on tree planting and the administration of new woodland creation.	<p>£350,000 capital investment over two years was dedicated to tree planting in the Council's 2021 budget. This has been matched with other funding to deliver more than 22,000 newly planted trees, in the first year of investment.</p> <p>There is still limited understanding of the carbon sequestered by trees in Rotherham. The Council has applied to the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund, to enable an i-Tree Survey of the Borough.</p>
	Adoption of the Tree Management Policy	The Council's Tree Management Protocol & Guidance, adopted in 2021, sets Key Targets for tree planting.	
	Development of a Tree Planting Strategy	Work on a Tree Planting Strategy was paused during the winter planting season, October 2021 - March 2022, so that resources could be diverted to tree planting. A draft strategy is now expected in Spring 2022.	

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

Theme: Influence and Engagement Summary: The Council continues to influence its partners nationally, regionally and through its own procured services. The Council is directly responsible for less than 2% of carbon emissions across the Borough, so more engagement will be needed to achieve the Net Zero 2040 goal.			
Priority area	Key Actions 2021/22	Progress Summary	Challenges / Opportunities
Regional engagement	The Council will continue to play an active role regionally and nationally to promote the climate agenda.	The Council is engaged with regional and national partners through the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission and the Local Government Association.	The Council continues to seek new opportunities for collaboration with partners, including the recently established South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre.
Procurement	Develop emissions considerations as part of the Council's Social Value Policy	Carbon emissions have been developed as a consideration under the Council's Social Value policy. Commitments made in the second year of the policy amount to carbon emissions savings of 2554 tCO ₂ e.	Services across the Council have a shared responsibility for emissions arising from procurement, through commissioning.
Communications	Develop a climate emergency communications plan	A separate climate emergency communications plan has not yet been developed, but communications will play a key role as the Council develops its approach to consultation and engagement on an updated	

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

		Climate Emergency Action Plan, as set out in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan	
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COUNCIL HOME IMPROVEMENTS CUT RESIDENTS' FUEL BILLS AND CARBON EMISSIONS



Rotherham Council has made homes at The Lanes cheaper to heat - and reduced carbon emissions - by fitting new triple glazing and external doors, improving insulation, and replacing old boilers.

It is estimated that these improvements will, on average per household, cut fuel bills by of £323 per year (a saving of more than 30 per cent) and eliminate approximately 1.5 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually.

Properties at The Lanes, East Dene have become progressively more difficult and expensive to heat since they were built in the 1950s and 60s. They were built without roof insulation, making them incompatible with today's fuel prices, energy efficiency requirements or standards of comfort.

The programme of work – which was completed in just six months by the Council's partner EQUANS, part of the ENGIE Group – retro-fitted more than 215 homes with triple-glazing and insulated external doors as well as re-sealing and insulating all flat roofs; pitched roof and cavity wall insulation was topped up where necessary. In the 48 homes that still had old central heating boilers, AA-rated, energy-efficient boilers with flue-heat recovery systems were also installed.

Before these improvements almost all of The Lanes' homes had an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of D or below, with 98 homes being in band E or F. With this work completed, of the 175 homes reassessed to date, 73 per cent now have an EPC rating of band B or C.

Pam Walker, who has lived in The Lanes for more than 10 years, said: "I can already tell that it's a lot warmer in here. My sitting room and bedrooms used to be freezing. I needed to have the electric fire and the central heating on to get warm. Now I only need a little bit of central heating for part of the day and the rooms heat up fast – and they stay warm."

The improvements were made possible by a £4.2 million investment – including £1.14 million that the Council secured from the Government's Green Homes scheme.

Rotherham Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Amy Brookes, said: "I'm glad we have been able to make this investment in The Lanes for its residents - the

improvements will have a real impact in making their homes more comfortable and cutting heating bills. Given the recent increase in energy prices, this will be even more vital this coming winter.

“It’s good news in terms of meeting our borough’s environmental targets as heating homes is one of the biggest sources to domestic carbon emissions.

“The Council has recently applied to the Government’s Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund in a bid to improve the energy performance of more council homes. We recognise that making all Council properties energy efficient is a huge task and we hope the Government will support this work by releasing further funds without delay.”

Sean Corcoran, Regional Director at EQUANS, said: “With energy costs rising, it’s more important than ever that the public and private sectors come together to make the UK’s homes warmer and more energy efficient.

“Using EQUANS experience to support Rotherham Council’s zero-carbon ambitions has been great.

"Our site team worked incredibly hard to ensure the project was completed in time for the Government funding deadline, so we’re delighted to get such great feedback from residents."

As part of its commitment to giving back to the communities in which it works, EQUANS also installed a boiler in The Lanes Community Centre, with staff also carrying out redecorating work to the building.

Published: 2nd November 2021

Innovation Case Study – Rotherham to Kilnhurst Flood Alleviation Scheme

Introduction

In collaboration with Breedon, Jacksons Civil Engineering (JCE) used 180m³ of C30 grade Earth Friendly Concrete (EFC), an Ultra-Low Carbon Concrete (ULCC) consisting of Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS) and a geopolymer binder in place of Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC), on the Rotherham to Kilnhurst Flood Alleviation Scheme. Typically, substituting OPC for EFC binder can reduce embodied CO₂ by 55-70%, and the concrete itself requires similar aggregate proportions in mixing and the same production, delivery, placement and compaction infrastructure as OPC-based concrete. The EFC C30 grade mixture used in this project had 76.5kg/m³ of CO₂e, as opposed to a typical OPC C30 grade mixture with 320.2kg/m³ of CO₂. Therefore, 44t of CO₂ was saved in using 180m³ of the EFC C30 grade mixture instead of an OPC mixture.



Figure 1 – A model render of the new canal barrier (JCE, n.d)

Background

Following flood events in Rotherham town centre in 2007 and 2019, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) identified the need to upgrade the flood defences and canal barrier along 5km of the River Don. This led to the development of the £17m Rotherham to Kilnhurst Flood Alleviation Scheme to reduce the risk of the River Don overtopping into the canal and flooding Rotherham town centre and the Central Railway Station. Jacksons Civil Engineering Group has been commissioned to complete the central part of the scheme on Forge Island, which consists of installing a new multi-million-pound canal barrier – a guillotine-style gate leaf within an architectural statement superstructure – and constructing flood walls and abutment supports and extending tow paths.

JCE saw potential in this development to use EFC, instead of OPC-based concrete, on lower risk elements in the scheme to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the project. Cube compressive strength test results showed this C25/30 EFC mix reached 21.5MPa and 36.6MPa, 7 days and 28 days after pouring, respectively.

Solution – Using 180m³ of EFC C30-grade concrete in the sub-structure

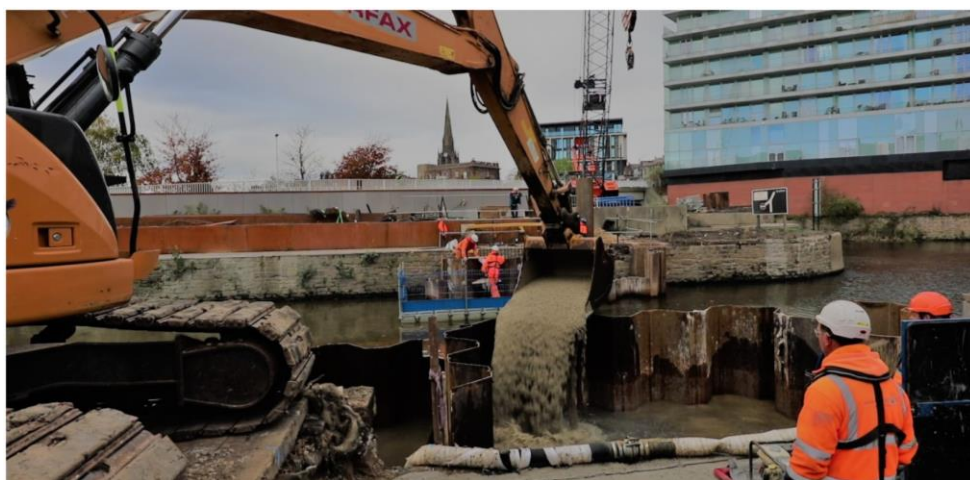
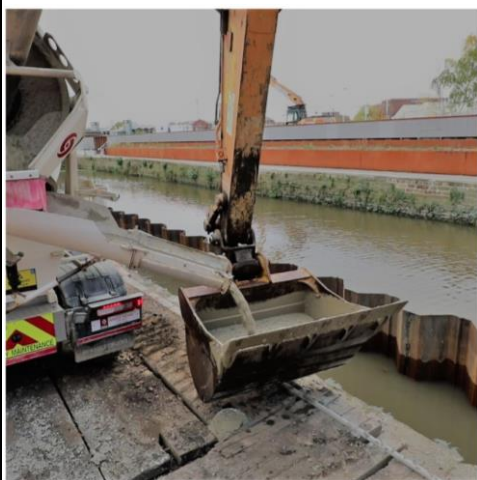
JCE investigated the feasibility of using an alternative low-carbon material in the sub-structure of the development in conjunction with their supply chain partner, Breedon. The EFC product that had recently been trialled between JCE and Breedon looked to be an ideal material to use. Through continuous liaison between JCE and Breedon, an EFC mix design was developed and submitted to the project design team at Pell Frischmann to ascertain the viability of using the product in place of the designated standard OPC mixture for lower risk elements of the sub-structure. Once the use of EFC was agreed in, RMBC were contacted to confirm if there was an appetite for incorporating EFC into the project. RMBC were interested in the use of EFC as using it aligned with their Net Zero Carbon targets and ambitions.

JCE developed a production and delivery programme with Breedon and scheduled the pours that were to take place in the coming 6 to 8 weeks. A bespoke batching set-up needed to be created at local batching plant, which is approximately 3 miles from the site, to ensure that the large volume pours could be supported. This

created challenges, as the chemical activators required being kept at a temperature of 25°C in insulated tanks during delivery and storage, prior to incorporating into the mix.

Further complications arose nearer to the pour window as there was no way to fully de-water the pour point, therefore requiring a plan to remove displaced water. After pouring, JCE also found that the surface of the EFC concrete remained wetter for longer, unlike an OPC concrete surface that cures more rapidly. Despite all this, the pours were carried out with little issue and both large volume pours were supported fully in good time.

The collaboration between JCE, Breedon, Pell Frischmann and RMBC allowed for part of the sub-structure and surrounding landscape to be constructed utilising approximately 180m³ of C25/30 grade EFC-based concrete in a mass concrete foundation and capping, which saved the project 44t of CO₂. As the design of the sub-structure was comprised of lower risk, non-structural elements, JCE's Project Manager saw the potential in using an alternative, lower-carbon concrete, which defines the innovation behind this project.



Figures 2 and 3 – De-watering the pouring points (behind the sheet piles) using an excavator (JCE, n.d.)

Concrete cube samples were taken to measure the compressive strength development of the EFC. The results from compressive strength testing showed compressive strengths of 21.5MPa and 36.6MPa 7 days and 28 days after pouring, respectively. Therefore roughly 72% of the concrete's compressive strength was gained after 7 days.

Benefits

- Substituting EFC for OPC achieved ~76% reduction in CO₂e by using EFC instead of OPC in the delivery of lower-risk non-structural elements, which is a CO₂ saving of 44t.
- EFC can gain the majority of its C25/30 grade strength in 7 days and exceed the target strength in 28 days.
- Key public relations advantage in showing the use of innovative carbon saving measures.
- Normalising the use of products that can be seen as 'niche'.

Key lessons learned

- Early assessment and engagement with suppliers and clients was vital to using this technology.
- The product itself can be treated exactly like an OPC-based concrete and requires no additional facilities or specialised equipment is required for storing, placing, compacting or curing the concrete.
- A standard C30 OPC-based mix costs roughly £82-£85/m³ whereas the EFC mixture cost roughly £150-£160/m³. The cost-to-benefit analysis requires a forward-thinking client as EFC currently costs roughly twice as much as OPC-based concrete. Increased usage of EFC will drive down cost.
- The mix activators needed to be kept at a consistent temperature above 25°C prior to mixing with EFC.

- If concrete pumping is to be used, it must be noted that specific grouts must be used to line the pump and these grouts cannot be washed out into the pour, therefore requiring separate discharge areas.

Where can I get further information?

For further information, see:

- [YouTube video about the project](#)
- [Ultra low-carbon concrete used on Rotherham canal barrier scheme \(jackson-civils.co.uk\)](#)
- [Pell Frischmann Appointed Onto Flood Alleviation Scheme - Excellence Through Innovation - Pell Frischmann](#)
- [Work begins on new town centre flood defence – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

For details on the case study please email: andrew.powell@environment-agency.gov.uk

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following: *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65.49% reduction in carbon emissions from the Council's operational energy use, from 2014/15 to 2020/21 A further 78% reduction in carbon emissions, from 43 operational buildings under Phase 1 Heat Decarbonisation Plan, by 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2018/19, carbon emissions from the Council's operational energy use accounted for less than 1.4% of total energy use in non-domestic buildings, across Rotherham as a whole 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon emissions from the Council's operational energy use are monitored and reported against the NZ30 target and carbon emissions baseline
Emissions from transport?	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Council-owned EV charging infrastructure in 2021 saved carbon emissions of 5.21 tCO₂e Excess electricity from solar powered EV charging points was used to power Council buildings, with the effect that EV charging had Net Zero carbon emissions in 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's Cycling Strategy will deliver carbon emissions savings, up to 2% of 2019 emissions from transport, across Rotherham as a whole 		
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	N/A		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 98.76% of residual waste is diverted from landfill, through the BDR waste partnership 		

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	N/A		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy performance upgrades to 217 homes at The Lanes, East Dene have delivered carbon emissions savings of 1.5 tCO₂e per household, per year 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon emissions from Council-owned homes are included in the NZ40 target and carbon emissions baseline
Emissions from construction and/or development?	N/A				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has created 9 hectares of new woodland and has planted more than 22,000 trees, this planting season 			

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

Commitments made in the second year of the Council's Social Value policy amount to carbon emissions savings of 2554 tCO₂e

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The Climate Emergency Annual Report updates on progress from the previous annual report's Climate Emergency Action Plan, and wider emission reduction measures; no additional decision is implied in this report and therefore no additional impacts are identified.

The report recommends that "Cabinet... Agrees the approach laid out for continued development of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, including an updated Action Plan in 2022." Emission impacts arising from an updated Action Plan will be addressed in the plan's own reporting cycle.

Where estimated carbon emissions savings are available, these have been included against relevant actions in the main body of the report and highlighted in the table above.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Arthur King, National Management Trainee, Change and Innovation, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this form.	Carbon emissions data held internally by the Council, including but not limited to NZ30 and NZ40 carbon emissions baselines.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form, please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	UK Government Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Environmental Reporting (BEIS)
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Sam Blakeborough, Policy Officer, Policy Performance and Intelligence, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title

Title: Climate Emergency Annual Report

Directorate:
ACEX

Service area:
Policy, Performance and Intelligence

Lead person:
Sam Blakeborough

Contact:
sam.blakeborough@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy**
☐ **Service / Function**
☐ **Other**

If other, please specify

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

The Climate Emergency Annual Report is a summary of progress to date, (1) towards the Council's Net Zero 2030 (NZ30) and Net Zero 2040 (NZ40) carbon emissions reduction targets and (2) against Key Actions identified in the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021/22.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

The Climate Emergency Annual Report is a summary of progress to date, against strategic objectives (NZ30, NZ40) and an action plan (Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021/22). These objectives and actions were subject to Equality Screening Assessment and Equality Analysis before they were adopted by Cabinet, 23rd March 2020 and 22nd March 2021, respectively.

The Annual Report does not propose any changes to the Council's services, commissioning or procurement practices, or to the Council's workforce or employment practices. There will be a separate Equality Screening Assessment and Analysis for the new Climate Emergency Action Plan, to be developed in 2022.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

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

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Robert Savage	Acting Head of Change and Innovation	28 th March 2022

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	28 th March 2022
Report title and date	Climate Emergency Annual Report, April 2022
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	<p>Cabinet decision</p> <p>Date of committee meeting: 25th April 2022</p> <p>Date sent for publication: 1st April 2022</p>
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	30 th March 2022

Councillor
Sarah AllenCouncillor
Robert Elliott

Annual Report to Full Council

May 2022

Hello and welcome to our Annual Report. Since we last reported back in November 2020, there have been changes..... to the priorities, the name of our ward and the number of us. What has not changed is our joint commitment. We may come from different political parties but we work together for the benefit of our local community.

Our Ward priorities

1. Work with partners, including the local community, to develop a 'Green Corridor' linking Greasbrough Park and Greasbrough Recreation Ground
2. Support activity
 - a. which will help to create sustainable Council tenancies, and
 - b. designed to increase understanding of / respond to the needs of leaseholders
3. Support activities for both young people and older members of the community
4. Support initiatives which make use of our assets; in particular the green spaces, the library and community / neighbourhood centres
5. Ensure targeted engagement; focused in particular on local issues (for example anti-social behaviour, traffic and so on) and on the needs of our older Council tenants

How our ward priorities were agreed

- We used a range of information to inform our Ward Plan priorities for the new Greasbrough Ward i.e.
 - The new Ward boundaries
 - The new Ward profile which showed e.g.
 - a high number of Council properties,
 - a relatively older population profile and
 - areas of deprivation
- The previous Wingfield Ward Plan's priorities and the actions taken to address them
- Feedback from residents and stakeholders
 - We included an article in our ward e-bulletin asking for feedback on the priorities and what we could do in response to them
 - We held a frontline workers' meeting on Microsoft Teams attended by over 25 staff
- Progress of ongoing projects
- Our own aspirations for the Ward
 - As returning Ward Councillors, we were able to draw upon a lot of existing knowledge and experience

The progress we've made so far

1 - Work with partners – including the local community – to develop a 'Green Corridor' linking Greasbrough Park and Greasbrough Recreation Ground

- We have worked with RMBC Green Spaces, Landscape Design and Asset Management on a project we are calling Greasbrough's Green Corridor which will link the Park and Recreation Ground
- Concept design developed and approved
- This concept design was submitted as our proposal for Towns and Villages Funding

Work has finished on Phase One of this £100k Towns & Villages Project



- This new development will be named 'Brimmagen Fold', which is based on historic mapping.
- We are also looking at external funding to bring the unit attached to the sub-station into community use
- Information boards will be situated throughout the link providing historical information

3 - Support activities for both young people and older members of the community

Launch of the brand new Greasbrough Rec multi-use games area (MUGA)

- We secured £100k+ from the Football Foundation and Veolia Environmental Trust, with the remaining £25k coming from

Former Councillor John Williams said "I was involved with Cllrs Allen and Elliott in bringing together funding for the MUGA and it's great to now see it in use"

internal sources including our devolved budget, to build this new community asset

- This was a real team effort which meets the aspirations of our community including children as evidenced from a survey **We** commissioned by CYPs
- **We** arranged a football tournament involving local primary schools to mark the official launch of the new MUGA in May 2021
- The launch was attended by RMBC's Deputy Mayor, Cllr Tajamal Khan, and RUFC's Assistant Manager, Ritchie Barker
- **We** are planning a 1st Birthday celebration on 2nd July, where there will be a range of free activities including, Dog Show, family entertainment, family games, food outlets, children's carousels, craft stalls, information stalls and a picnic area.



For the really young members of our community

- Open day event held at St Marys Neighbourhood Centre in April 2022 to launch services that will be provided by Early Help.
- Sessions to include Baby Yoga, Baby Massage, Toddler Yoga. This will provide access to services for residents that are local to the centre.
- Residents of the complex would like to see the centre used more and welcomed the opportunity to speak to the officers providing future services.

For everyone Willow Tree Academy's (WTA) LEAF Centre

- WTA's LEAF Centre will be both a base for providing children with additional support and a hub for community use
- **We** secured £70k Housing funding – given that this will benefit an area with the highest number of Council properties - and this in turn was matched by Special Educational Needs funding. The remaining majority of the funding is being provided by WTA
- The aspiration is that the Centre will be completed and opened operationally over a phased period.

Initial £70k levered in a further £270k to get this project off the ground



4 - Support initiatives which make use of our assets; in particular the green spaces, the library and community / neighbourhood centres

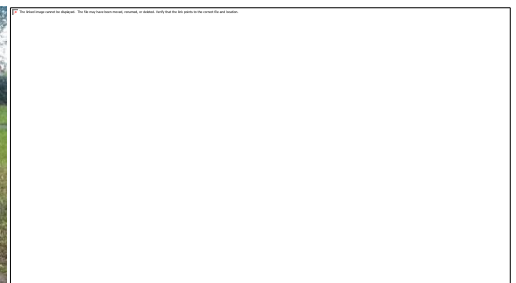
Launch of Charlie's Food Pantry

- The Food Pantry at the Chislett Centre opened its doors on 8th Jun 2021
- The Pantry is different to a supermarket in that people who use it become members through a process where they have indicated both a need for & a wish to use it
- The Pantry is run by volunteers and supported by members of staff from the Chislett Centre. It is open 2 days a week
- Funding towards the purchase of the cabin & to kit out the unit with fridges, freezers & shelving for the pantry has come from many sources including Kimberworth Park Community Partnership, National Lottery and Covid Emergency Fund
- We also provided some Ward Budget funding along with our Councillor colleagues in the neighbouring Keppel Ward



5 - Ensure targeted engagement; focused in particular on local issues e.g. anti-social behaviour, traffic etc, and on our older Council tenants

- **Meeting our communities during Covid**
 - These have been difficult times in so many ways. As Councillors, **We** would normally be arranging Ward Network events with partners and 40-50 residents / groups. We could not do that but we still wanted to make ourselves available
 - To that end, we held bring a chair meetings – e.g. on Greasbrough Rec and at Church Street – with residents and partners, and we held surgeries on our Friendship Bench in Greasbrough Park (alternative Saturdays, 10-11am)



And a final word on working in partnership

Without involvement from local community groups and individuals as well as Local Partners we would not have made the achievements we have, so a big THANK YOU to everyone, included those from.....

- South Yorkshire Police
- RMBC – Various
- Friends of Greasbrough Parks
- Greasbrough History Society
- Greasbrough Youth FC
- RUCST
- Individuals – too many to mention individually



WICKERSLEY NORTH WARD

Covering Wickersley, Bramley, Flanderwell,
Sunnyside, Brecks and Woodlaithes



Councillor
Sue Ellis



Councillor
Emma Hoddinott



Councillor
Chris Read

Report to Full Council

May 2022

Ward priorities (2021-2022)

1. Improving community safety by continuing to address crime and anti-social behaviour
2. Improving our streets and green spaces, so the community can access and enjoy them
3. Promote opportunities for bringing people together, enhancing community spirit and improving mental and physical wellbeing
4. Support a clean and safe climate through improving the local environment

How these ward priorities were agreed

We consulted with members of the public to assess their ward priorities, whilst taking into consideration intelligence from Parish Councils, voluntary and statutory sector partners. We reflected on the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic had on community need. Essentially, we wanted to know the best way to support the community.

As a result, we adapted our way of working, so that plans could be delivered safely within changing Government guidelines, as we emerge from the pandemic; ensuring that constituents felt safe but continued to engage in and benefit from a range of community projects, whilst adjusting to a new way of life.



How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

Our aim is to put communities at the heart of everything we do and to make people healthier, happier, safer and proud by:

- Working with communities on the things that matter to them
- Listening and working together to make a difference
- Supporting people from different backgrounds to get on well together

With the pandemic changing the way of working, it was crucial to ensure that projects & activities focussed on bringing people together, reducing the sense of isolation, brought joy to people and celebrated the sense of community, whilst showcasing volunteers within Wickersley North ward.

The projects outlined below, demonstrate how neighbourhood working, even in particularly challenging and uncertain times have allowed us to lead on and support essential community initiatives, such as recognising the Wickersley Heroes, coordinating Sunnyside Foodbank & working with local schools during the pandemic to ensure that children had the equipment to learn from home. Whilst interjecting fun & togetherness through community-wide projects, like the Scarecrow Challenge, were equally essential in bringing joy to the ward.



Working in partnership

As local Councillors during the pandemic we worked with many other organisations that were assisting local people in our area. This included our parish councils – Wickersley, Bramley and Dalton. Whilst dealing with residents' issues we worked with key organisations like the Job Centre, Housing, Rotherham United Community Sports Trust to name just a few.

A key partner was South Yorkshire Police. We carried out regular speed watches within the ward and have worked collaboratively to reduce the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on Wickersley North residents.

Progress so far

Sunnyside Food Bank is now a well-established community group, Sunnyside Supplies, providing a Social Supermarket and Community Café to the local community. Feedback from volunteers and attendees shows how essential this service is, providing healthy, affordable groceries, a range of valuable volunteer roles and a much-needed place to come together for those who are lonely or socially isolated. The group is well attended, including single-parents and older people.



Cyber poverty is often hidden, but many children do not have access to internet or suitable equipment to work from, often sharing with family members or relying on hand-held devices. Funds donated to Flanderwell Junior School to purchase laptops enabled children from low-income families to access learning away from school, during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nuisance off-road vehicles were tackled through joint work with local police. A cooperative approach from partners has reduced the number of off-road vehicles around the former Silverwood Pit site; Police operations have taken place and a barrier was installed on Elton Lane/Flanderwell Lane public right of way to block access from that point. Progress & further measures continue to be monitored through monthly partnership meetings.

In 2020-21, the installation of a **solar light in Wickersley Park** provided a safer environment during dark nights. Since then, Wickersley Parish Council requested funding for 5 additional lights for the park, which are now in place and further improving visibility and safety in the park.

Erecting bunting across the ward to celebrate **Yorkshire Day** was a simple, yet effective way of bringing joy to the community, especially to those who had been isolating for some time and had limited contact with family, friends or neighbours. Similarly, the **Scarecrow Challenge** in October 2021 enabled residents of all ages to create, collaborate and celebrate each other's constructions. Some brilliant scarecrows were displayed across the ward.

In 2020-21, "**Wickersley Heroes**", residents who went above & beyond to support their community, were recognised and thanked for their outstanding contributions during the pandemic, as they came forward to support neighbours and really embodied true community spirit.

And finally, through 3 '**Blitz Days**' and 3 community skips across the ward, we have encouraged a safer and cleaner environment for everyone to enjoy.

In summary, we have successfully adapted our way of working & listened to our constituents in particularly challenging times, as environments, ways of working, learning, and living have dramatically changed.

Covering Rotherham Town Centre, Canklow,
Moorgate, Broom, Herringthorpe, Clifton,
Wellgate and Wharncliffe



Councillor
Saghir Alam



Councillor
Rose McNeely



Councillor
Taiba Yasseen

Report to Full Council

May 2022

Ward priorities

- Help communities to be safe and feel safe
- Ensure families are supported as we emerge from the pandemic
- Support initiatives which bring together new and existing communities in the Town Centre and beyond
- Work with communities to improve local green spaces; in particular Clifton Park, Boston Park and Herringthorpe Playing Fields
- Support initiatives designed to develop an understanding of, and involve, our diverse communities

How these ward priorities were agreed

We used a range of information to inform our Ward Plan priorities for the Boston Castle Ward i.e.

- The new Ward boundaries
- The new Ward profile which showed e.g.
 - high BAME community (33.6%)
 - higher than average deprivation
 - above average levels of crime and ASB
- The previous Boston Castle Ward Plan's priorities and the actions taken to address them
- Feedback from residents and stakeholders
 - We included an article in our ward e-bulletin asking for feedback on the priorities and what we could do in response to them
 - We spoke to a number of organisations, agencies and individuals working and/or living within the ward
- Feedback from services
- Progress of ongoing projects
- Our own aspirations for the Ward
 - As returning Ward Councillors, we were able to draw upon a lot of existing knowledge and experience



How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

Our approach has been and remains centred on the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy.

We

- ❖ Work with communities on the things that matter to them
- ❖ Listen and work together to make a difference
- ❖ Recognise that there are a wealth of social and community assets that are underutilised

Below are just a few examples of what we have done with partners to try and make a positive difference.

Progress so far

Help communities to be safe and feel safe

Wharncliffe

- A meeting was held in November 2021 with the MP, Ward Councillors, partners and tenants following concerns raised by tenants in respect of Crime / ASB and maintenance issues
- In response
 - RMBC Housing and SYP identified key offenders and taken appropriate enforcement action
 - SYP have increased foot patrols
 - RMBC Housing have identified a number of physical improvements which could prevent crime and are working on repairs issues too
- A follow up meeting will be held with a particular focus on repairs issues
- In the meantime, the Ward Councillors and partners produced a newsletter and delivered this to every property during March



Speeding

- Feedback from residents and services identified speeding as an issue in various location
- In response
 - Councillors used their ward budget to purchase a redeployable electronic speed sign, which was most recently deployed on Boston Castle Grove
 - In addition, there was effective partnership working with SYP, Thomas Rotherham College and RMBC Green Spaces / Early Help who provided detached youth work in the area

Ensure families are supported as we emerge from the pandemic

Rotherham Minster Social Supermarket

- We were approached by Rotherham Minster who were looking for a sustainable location for their Social Supermarket, which was operating at the time from the Minster. The initiative was invaluable, offering access to affordable food and support with other issues - money management, debt advice and social isolation
- In response
 - Ward Councillors, with the support of their Neighbourhood Co-ordinator (NC), helped the Minster to identify and move to a more suitable, sustainable location. We also paid for equipment to get the new premises ready

Rotherham Cancer Care Centre

- We were approached by the Centre seeking support for upgrading their fire alarm / system. The Centre provides support and counselling services to people diagnosed with cancer and their families
- In response
 - Ward Councillors provided some funding which enabled the Centre to carry on delivering their valuable service.



Health Promotion, keeping safe from Covid 19

- We have continued to keep Boston Castle Residents up to date with information regarding Covid 19 and how to protect themselves from the virus. This work has included.
 - Handing out face masks, hand gel and information leaflets at various venues across the area
 - Speaking to residents about Covid testing
 - Informing community members about the importance of vaccinations, where the vaccination sites are and how to book.

Support initiatives which bring together new / existing communities in the Town Centre and beyond

Wellgate – Towns / Villages Funding

- There has been some concern that Wellgate does not get overlooked when it comes to regenerating the Town Centre
- In response
 - The Councillors decided that Wellgate should be the focus for their Towns / Villages Funding proposal.
 - This has been informed by site visits and will be further informed by consultation with local businesses



Work with communities to improve local green spaces; in particular Clifton Park, Boston Park and Herringthorpe Playing Fields

Clifton Park

- The Councillors were approached by an artist with a view to delivering an art project in Clifton Park
- In response
 - The Councillors, in partnership with Rotherham East, funded an art project. An artist worked with young people to plan the carving and they put forward a design reflecting life in the area.



Herringthorpe Playing Fields

- The Councillors have been working with a group of residents who are passionate about the playing fields
- In response
 - The Councillors have funded a tree planting initiative
 - A longer term aim is to explore the development of a Master Plan for improvements to the site with RMBC partners and residents

Support initiatives designed to develop an understanding of, and involve, our diverse communities

- Boston Castle Ward is incredibly diverse, the Councillors want to ensure that their work reflects this.

- In response
 - The Councillors have funded a wide range of groups
e.g. a newly formed South Asian group for celebrating Diwali
An existing community group for a Chinese New Year event and
RUCST for a Ramadan football tournament



- More recently, a Ward Councillor in partnership with a colleague from another ward, recently organised and delivered a special event for Syrian and Afghan refugees. The event comprised of an Iftar (Ramadan Meal) at Chapel Walk Mosque, giving refugees the chance to meet other families and to make them feel welcome in Rotherham
- Another initiative designed to develop an understanding of, and involve, our diverse communities is a 'Community Summit'. The Councillors, supported by their Neighbourhoods Team, are in the process of organising our first 'Community Summit' which will give up to 20 community stakeholders the opportunity to come together and discuss the issues that are important to them. The topic of the summit will be a current Ward Priority – *'Supporting families as we emerge from the pandemic'*.

Working in partnership

Finally, we want to say **Thank You** to all of our statutory and voluntary / community partners for supporting us in the development and delivery of our ward work.

There are too many to mention but some of the ones we've worked with on the above initiatives are:

- Boston Castle Community Action Partnership / Ward Briefing
- Rotherham Minster and Social Supermarket
- Rotherham Cancer Care Centre
- Friends of Boston Castle and Moorgate Cemetery
- Herringthorpe Playing Fields Group
- REMA
- Rotherham United Community Sports Trust
- Canklow Kidz
- Casting Innovations
- South Yorkshire Housing Association
- Local Primary Schools

AUDIT COMMITTEE
12th April, 2022

Present:- Councillor Baker-Rogers (in the Chair); Councillors Cowen, Mills, Wooding and Wyatt.

Gareth Mills (Grant Thornton External Auditors) was in attendance.

An apology for absence was received from John Barber (Independent Person).

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

97. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency to be considered.

98. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was noted that Minute No. 102 (Local Government Ombudsman Confidential Report B) will be considered in the closed part of the meeting.

99. GRANT THORNTON - VALUE FOR MONEY

Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton, presented the external auditor's 2020-21 annual report for Value for Money (VFM). Under the National Audit Office Code of Practice, external auditors were now required to consider whether the Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Auditors now reported in more detail on the Authority's overall arrangements as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in arrangements identified during the audit.

Grant Thornton had identified risks in respect of:-

Financial Sustainability

- The Authority had maintained a steady financial position which had improved in the past 2 years.

One possible risk of significant weakness identified at planning stage (risk covered in detail in the 2020-21 Audit Findings Report)

Conclusion

- Overall, they were satisfied the Council had appropriate arrangements in place to ensure it managed risks to its financial sustainability
- They had not identified any risks of significant weaknesses
- They had identified one improvement recommendation in respect of the clarity of reporting the Council's savings programme

Governance

- No significant weaknesses in arrangements identified but improvement recommendations made

Conclusion

- They had not identified any significant weaknesses in respect of the Council's governance arrangements
- Overall they were satisfied the Council had appropriate arrangements in place including for budget setting and risk management
- Their work had identified 2 improvement recommendations to further enhance the Council's governance arrangements

Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

- One risk of significant weakness identified with an associated key recommendation. Also 2 improvement recommendations made.

Conclusion

- Overall they were satisfied the Council had appropriate arrangements in place in relation to improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness except for arrangements in implementing Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Reforms as set out in the Children's and Families Act 2014
- Grant Thornton considered there was a significant weakness in these arrangements as highlighted by Ofsted and the CQC in their report in November, 2021
- As a result they had raised a Key recommendation on this
- They had also made 2 improvement recommendations for improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Covid-19 Arrangements**Conclusion**

- The review had not identified any significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements in relation to responding to the Covid-19 pandemic

In July 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission conducted a joint Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection of the local SEND system in Rotherham to assess the effectiveness of the area in implementing the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The inspection had highlighted some strengths in the Service, however, there were 4 areas for improvement. As a result of these findings, it was the external auditor's view that there was a significant weakness in arrangements in relation to improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness in Rotherham in implementing Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities reforms as set out in the Children's and Families Act 2014 and the following recommendation made:-

The Council should

- Have a clear "Written Statement of Action (WSOA)" in response to Ofsted and CQC report on joint area SEND inspection which identified significant areas of weaknesses in implementing SEND reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014
- A clear action plan to implement this WSOA working with all stakeholders including parents, carers, the CCG officers, Ofsted and the CQC
- The action plan should be subject to formal monitoring and challenge by the Improving Lives Select Commission

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The Council's reserves position had improved since 2018-19. Benchmarking with similar sized metropolitan authorities had shown Rotherham's reserves level to be lower than others
- Reference had been made to inflationary pressures facing local authorities
- Although the findings of the Ofsted and CQC inspection will have been captured in the respective risk registers, under the terms of the new Value for Money approach an external auditor was duty bound to reference as part of their review and raise a key recommendation. Should the actions required by Ofsted have been implemented/Ofsted visit finding the Council had responded appropriately by the time of the next Value for Money review, it would be reflected accordingly

It was noted that the recommendations regarding procurement arrangements and the latest Procurement Procedure Rules would be included within the six monthly external inspections, reviews, and audits update to enable implementation to be tracked by the Committee.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

100. ADULT SOCIAL CARE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN REPORT

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, presented a report setting out the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman findings in relation to a complaint in respect of Adult Social Care Services. Its decision was that there was fault by the Council which had caused injustice to residents Miss X and Mrs. Y.

The Ombudsman report had been made available to the public (in hard copy from Riverside House reception) and 2 public notices placed in local newspapers as directed by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman had also publicised the report via its own website and advised its media partners.

The Council had 3 months from the date of the Public Interest Report (28th May, 2022) to inform the Ombudsman of the action the Council has taken or proposes to take in response to the recommendations. The report submitted set out the actions that the Council proposes to take for the Committee's consideration.

The Council has agreed to take the action to remedy that injustice. It was noted that an apology had been made to Miss X and Mrs. Y for the distress and uncertainty caused by the faults identified and payments offered in acknowledgement of the significant distress and uncertainty caused by the faults identified.

It was expected that all the recommendations would have been met by the completion date of 28th May, 2022.

The matter was being reported to the Audit Committee to ensure that it was able to discharge its function in ensuring that sufficient systems and improvements (in line with the recommendations from the Ombudsman) have been put in place.

Resolved:- (1) That the Public Interest Report 21 001 468 completed by the Ombudsman be noted.

(2) That the action plan created in response to the recommendations in the Public Interest report be noted.

101. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN - CONFIDENTIAL REPORT A

Phil Horsfield, Monitoring Officer, presented a report advising that the Local Government Ombudsman had provided findings in relation to a complaint and had directed that the findings were not made public as doing so would mean identification of the complainant.

Section 30(3) of the Local Government Act 1974 required the Local Government Ombudsman to report without naming or identifying the complainant or other individuals. The LGO had further powers under Section 30(7) of the Act to direct that a report was not made available to members of the public or advertised in the press.

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 Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

102. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN - CONFIDENTIAL REPORT B

Suzy Joyner, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, presented a report setting out the findings made by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman in relation to a complaint in respect of the Council's Children's and Housing Services.

The Council had agreed to take the actions suggested by the Ombudsman and to ensure that the circumstances of the complaint did not recur and apologise to the complainant.

Discussion ensued on the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman with full explanations provided for what had led to the complaint and the procedures put in place since to rectify the situation.

Resolved:- (1) That the Public Interest Report, attached at Appendix 1 of the report submitted, completed by the Local Government Ombudsman be noted.

(2) That the completion of the actions arising from the report be noted.

(3) That the Council respond to the Local Government Ombudsman setting out the work that has been completed and that all the actions required have been discharged.

PLANNING BOARD**7th April, 2022**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Bird, Burnett, Cowen, Elliott, Fisher, Havard, Keenan, Sansome, Sheppard and Tinsley.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lelliott, McNeely and Tarmey.

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

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

81. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

82. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sheppard (Substituting for Councillor Lelliott) declared a personal interest in application RB2021/2041 (use of land to extend garden areas including boundary wall/fence and gate at land to rear of 40-46 Roundwood Grove, Rawmarsh for Mr. Ding) on the grounds of objecting to the proposal as a Ward Member. He spoke on the application, left the room and did not observe the debate or vote.

84. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY, 2022

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

85. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

86. 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.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure, a number of people attended the meeting and spoke about the following application:-

- Use of land to extend garden areas including boundary wall/fence and gate at land to rear of 40-46 Roundwood Grove, Rawmarsh for Mr. Ding (RB2021/2041)

Mr. D. Thorpe (on behalf of the Applicant)
Mr. P. Seekings (Supporter)
Councillor D. Sheppard (Objector)
Mrs. S. Metcalfe (Objector)

(2) That the Planning Board declare that it was not favourably disposed towards application RB2021/2041 and that it be refused on the grounds of loss of urban green space.

(3) That, application RB2021/2127 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting, subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report, and subject to an amendment to Condition 8 to now read:-

08 - The development hereby granted, including all related works necessary to drain the site, shall be carried out in accordance with the details submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in respect of the pumping stations and discharge approval. These works shall be carried out concurrently with the development and the drainage system shall be operating to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority prior to first occupation of the dwellings, and shall thereafter be retained and maintained.

(4) That, application RB2022/0115 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting, subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report, and subject to an amendment to Condition 7 to now read:-

07 – The development hereby granted, including all related works necessary to drain the site, shall be carried out in accordance with the details submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in respect of the pumping stations and discharge approval. These works shall be carried out concurrently with the development and the drainage system shall be operating to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority prior to first occupation of the dwellings, and shall thereafter be retained and maintained.

87. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

88. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 28th April, 2022 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE**11th April, 2022**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Browne, Hughes, Jones and Monk.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair declared a Personal Interest as Mr. A.A.S. lived within the Ward she represented but did not know him personally.

35. 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).

36. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee, considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to applications for the grant/review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Messrs. A.A.S., M.B and T.M.

Messrs. A.A.S. and M.B. were in attendance at the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. T.M. had requested an adjournment due his representative being unavailable to attend the meeting.

Resolved:- (1) That the applications for the grant of a private hire/hackney carriage driver licence in respect of Mr. A.A.S. and Mr. M.B. be granted

(2) That the application for review of a private hire/hackney carriage driver licence in respect of Mr. T.M. be adjourned to the next meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee.

**LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
9th May, 2022**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Browne, Hughes, Jones and Monk.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

38. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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).

39. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee, considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to applications for the grant/review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Messrs. T.M, I.Z. and K.H.

Messrs. T.M., I.Z. and K.H. were in attendance at the meeting together with their respective representatives as well as an interpreter in the case of Mr. T.M.

Resolved:- (1) That the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. T.M. be revoked.

(2) That the applications for the grant of a private hire/hackney carriage driver licence in respect of Mr. I.Z. and Mr. K.H. be granted.

40. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM ROTHERHAM MBC HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY REQUIREMENT

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to an application from Mr. A. for an exemption from the requirements of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in respect of the licence plate and door signs being affixed to licensed vehicle XXXXFLX. This request was made on the basis that the vehicle would be used for executive hire and airport runs.

Resolved:- That the request from Mr. A. for an exemption from the Council's Licensing Policy in relation to the requirements to affix a licence plate and door signs to his licensed vehicle XXXXFLX be refused.