



CABINET

Monday 24 January 2022

10.00 a.m.

**Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall,
Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**

Cabinet Members:-

Leader of the Council

Councillor Chris Read

Deputy Leader of the Council,

Councillor Sarah Allen

Neighbourhood Working Portfolio

Councillor David Roche

Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio

Councillor Victoria Cusworth

Children and Young People Portfolio

Councillor Saghir Alam

Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance Portfolio

Councillor Amy Brookes

Housing Portfolio

Councillor Denise Lelliott

Jobs and the Local Economy Portfolio

Councillor Dave Sheppard

Social Inclusion Portfolio

Councillor Dominic Beck

Transport and Environment Portfolio

CABINET

Venue: **Council Chamber - Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S60 2TH**

Date and Time: **Monday 24 January 2022 at 10.00 a.m.**

Agenda Contact **Governance Unit – goverance@rotherham.gov.uk**

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

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

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. 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.

3. Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions from members of the public who wish to ask a general question in respect of matters within the Council's area of responsibility or influence.

Subject to the Chair's discretion, members of the public may ask one question and one supplementary question, which should relate to the original question and answered received.

Councillors may also ask questions under this agenda item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 17)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 December 2021.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There are no exempt items on the agenda.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

6. Prescribed Alterations to the Willows Special School (Pages 19 - 39)

Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations:

1. That the proposal to make prescribed alterations to the Willows Special school by increasing the number of planned places from 120 to 150 be approved.
2. That the Secretary of State for Education be informed accordingly.

7. The Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy (Pages 41 - 89)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet approve and adopt the Domestic Abuse strategy.
2. That Cabinet note that regular oversight of the Strategy will be undertaken by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

CORPORATE SERVICES, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND FINANCE

8. November Financial Monitoring 2021/22 (Pages 91 - 119)

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast of a balanced budget.
2. Note that actions will continue to be taken to ensure that a balanced financial outturn is delivered.
3. Note the Capital Programme update.
4. Note the officer delegated decisions taken by the Strategic Director of Adult

Care, Housing and Public Health, as detailed in sections 2.45 to 2.58 of the report.

5. Note Governments base criteria for the new business support scheme, Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant, as detailed in sections 2.59 to 2.65 and that the Council will administer the scheme in line with Government guidance.
6. Note Governments announcement of a further top up to the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), a discretionary grant to provide support packages to businesses impacted by the continuing pandemic, and that schemes will be approved via the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), as detailed in sections 2.66 to 2.68.
7. Note Governments base criteria for the Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF), a discretionary fund to provide business rates relief to businesses impacted by the continuing pandemic, as detailed in sections 2.69 to 2.72 and that proposals for the scheme will be developed and recommended to Cabinet in February.

9. Modern Slavery Annual Transparency Statement (Pages 121 - 145)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet note the progress against the commitments made in the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement and Action Plan.
2. That Cabinet approve the refreshed Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for publication.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING

10. The Towns and Villages Fund (Pages 147 - 168)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet approves the Towns and Villages programme as detailed in this paper and delegates the delivery of category 1 schemes within the programme to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working.
2. That Cabinet receives a further report to update on the delivery of category 1 schemes and agree to progress to delivery of category 2 and 3 schemes in Summer 2022.

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

11. Rotherham Cycling Strategy (2021) (Pages 169 - 227)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

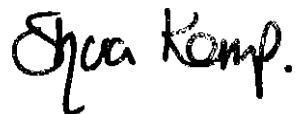
1. To note the consultation responses and subsequent findings.
2. To adopt the Rotherham Cycling Strategy.

12. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

To receive a report detailing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in respect of the above items that were subject to pre-decision scrutiny on 19 January 2022.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 14 February 2022 commencing at 10.00 am in Rotherham Town Hall.



SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.

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THE CABINET - 20/12/21

THE CABINET
20th December, 2021

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

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

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

76. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) Councillor Simon Ball asked the following question to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Brookes:

Having visited a constituent in a flat, the boiler was found to be completely inadequate, like it was something from the 80's. I have asked for a review of all the boilers in that place [that block of flats] and it found that several need replacing. Can we have a look at the whole stock of boilers because the amount of money that the resident must be wasting is phenomenal? Is that something we can look at?

In response, the Cabinet Member explained that there had been correspondence regarding the block of flats and confirmed that the Council were investigating all of the boilers in that block. The Cabinet Member confirmed that she would speak with officers regarding a review of the whole stock to see if others were at risk.

(2) Councillor Simon Ball asked the following question which was responded to by the Leader, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor Dominic Beck, and the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment:

Cumwell Lane – unfortunately there was a death this week. I reported that road on Sunday; Councillor Singleton has reported that road for speed and mud. I want to know why it has taken all of that and then a death to happen on that road for action to be taken?

In response, the Leader offered his condolences to the family and friends of those impacted. It was explained that roads operated within a legal framework and the Council would be looking at ways to ensure an accident like that mentioned never happened again.

The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment also offered his condolences to the friends and family of the deceased and invited the

Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment to give an update on the current situation. Mr Woodcock explained that the Council was working with South Yorkshire Police and other partners on the investigation. There had been previous reports of speeding and road traffic concerns on that road as it was a long stretch of country road and that information would feed into the analysis on road safety measures and other potential mitigations should that be forthcoming. It was explained that this would not be a quick process but officers had been working over the weekend in relation to the particular incident mentioned.

The Leader invited Councillor Ball to ask a supplementary question and Councillor Ball explained that he believed the problems stemmed from the planning permission as Hellaby residents were not consulted despite them being majorly impacted by the development. Why were Hellaby residents not informed of the tip opening? Councillor Ball also expressed concerns about a large warehouse opening at the end of the lane which would create 1,500 jobs. The concern was that Cumwell Lane could not accommodate that number of vehicles and following the recent incident on the road, it needed looking at.

The Leader explained that Councillor Beck and officers would provide a written response regarding the concerns raised.

77. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 22nd November, 2021, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

78. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Appendices 3 and 4 to Minute No. 80 and Appendix 2 to Minute No. 84 were exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. However, none of the appendices were discussed during the meeting and as such, the meeting remained open to the press and public throughout.

79. PROPOSALS FOR THE REACH SERVICE

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to commence a 90 day consultation exercise to establish the views and needs of users of the REACH day service, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding the new service offer.

As part of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme that had been agreed by Cabinet in May 2018, the Council had agreed to continue

to provide a Complex Needs Day Service offer and this was currently delivered by the REACH service at the Elliott Centre in Rotherham Town Centre and Maple Avenue at Maltby.

The proposal being consulted on was to replace the two existing premises that the REACH day service used with modern, accessible and fit for purpose facilities. The facility at the Elliott Centre was leased from NHS Property Services and the wider site in which it was situated was being redeveloped. This meant the daily operation of the Service was a challenge, particularly in relation to maintaining a safe environment. The facility at Maple Avenue was an old children's home that did not meet modern accessibility standards.

Appendix 1 to the report provided more detail on the current arrangements and the risks associated with those arrangements.

Capital funding of £2.1m had already been secured and as such, the recommendation only related to the consultation. The people directly affected by the potential changes were to be engaged with throughout the consultation process and a final report would be brought back to Cabinet in September 2022 setting out the proposals.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve a 90 day consultation exercise to establish the views and needs of users of the REACH day service, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding the new Service offer; and
2. That a further report detailing an options appraisal, with recommendations for Cabinet approval on the location, building design; capital spend; delivery plan and service offer be brought back to the Cabinet meeting in September 2022.

80.

**THE LOCATION OF PARKHILL LODGE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE -
OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND SUBSEQUENT
RECOMMENDATIONS**

In August 2021 Cabinet agreed for a formal consultation to be carried out concerning the temporary location of the Parkhill Lodge Residential Care Service. Parkhill Lodge was a 22-bed residential care home for adults with learning disabilities located in Maltby. It was originally built as a hostel in the 1970's to provide temporary accommodation. There were currently 16 residents.

During October 2020 there was a significant COVID-19 outbreak at the Lodge rendering the Service unsafe. The decision was taken to move the residents to an empty pavilion at Lord Hardy Court in order to prevent the spread of infection. The Service continued to be supported by the same staff. The initial stay was due to end in December 2020, however, the

continuing pandemic meant that a decision was taken to extend the stay.

The decision was then taken to review the decision for residents of Parkhill Lodge to temporarily reside at Lord Hardy Court with the option of a permanent move being proposed. The positives and negatives for each site were set out in the report to Cabinet in August, 2021.

The consultation ran from August, 2021 to October, 2021 and the Council commissioned the services of Cloverleaf, an advocacy organisation, to ensure that residents had a voice that was independent from the Local Authority.

A summary of the outcomes of the consultation was provided in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 of the report. Paragraph 2.9 of the report explained the difficulties that COVID-19 had caused at Parkhill Lodge and why it was not deemed suitable. The Cabinet Member explained that if the decision was taken to return to Parkhill Lodge, that decision would not be able to be actioned for a further 12 months to allow for the completion of all necessary upgrades that were required to get the facility up to the required standard. Further, the spread of the Omicron variant of the Coronavirus meant it was not possible to return to Parkhill Lodge in the foreseeable future.

It was acknowledged that this was a difficult situation for some residents and a huge change for those that had lived at Parkhill Lodge for a number of years. However, the Council could not move residents back to a building that was not safe.

The exempt appendices provided Cabinet with information on infection prevention and control at Parkhill Lodge along with details of a health and safety inspection.

It was noted at the meeting that the report had originally been published with the fourth recommendation stating that a consultation would commence in May 2021; this had since been corrected to May 2022.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the views of residents and their families expressed in the consultation and the responses provided by officers to ensure residents' care and support needs are met in Lord Hardy Court;
2. That Cabinet approve the Parkhill Lodge residential service being provided from Lord Hardy Court on an interim basis;
3. That Cabinet approve the proposal to close the Parkhill Lodge building;
4. That Cabinet agree to a consultation from May 2022 on options for new Council accommodation with support from people with Autism and

learning disabilities and that the investment proposals return to Cabinet in November 2022 following the conclusion on the consultation.

81. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which, following the release of the Government's Spending Review 2021, set out in detail the review and update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26. The MTFS would be revised further in advance of the Council Budget setting meeting in March 2022 to take account of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23 when issued, along with budget policy proposals on levels of Council Tax and fees and charges and any budget investment.

The MTFS review, alongside the latest Financial Monitoring 2021/22 report which was presented to Cabinet in November 2021, envisaged a balanced financial outturn position being achieved for 2021/22. It also made recommendations on reserving funds and savings from 2021/22 in order to support the budget over the medium term.

The MTFS forecasts identified that a balanced budget for 2022/23 could be set with a small funding gap for the following two years. That position would be subject to review when the Finance Settlement for 2022/23 was received.

It was noted at the meeting that the provisional settlement announcement that had been made in the week prior to the Cabinet meeting did not significantly alter the financial position of the Council. More funding than expected had been announced in relation to the New Homes Bonus but this would be offset by the higher than expected rise in inflation. The announcement in relation to the Public Health Settlement was still pending. It was confirmed that everything would be reviewed as part of the budget setting process.

It was also reported that the Council's collection rates for Council Tax and business rates were ranked fifth and second out of all Metropolitan Councils in 2021/22.

It was recommended that Cabinet agree to carry forward any remaining budget for 2021/22 revenue budget investment into 2022/23 to allow for the completion of those investments with the full twelve months of funding.

Rotherham MBC had been invited to work with the Department for Education as part of the Safety Valve Intervention Programme which provided support to local authorities with large DSG deficits. The aim of the work was to achieve a mutually agreeable solution to eliminating the Council's DSG deficit and to secure a more sustainable DSG position going forward. A proposal had to be submitted to the DfE by 7th

December, 2022, however, an agreement with the DfE would need to be signed in early 2022 so that any additional grant payments could be made by Government in March 2022. The authority to complete the agreement would be delegated to the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member, Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

The Leader noted the difficulty in financial forecasting due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report had been selected for pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 15 December 2021. All of the recommendations were fully supported.

Resolved:

1. That the MTFS update is noted;
2. That the proposals to reserve funding and savings from 2021/22 to support the budget across the medium term are supported;
3. That finalisation of the Budget for 2022/23 and the MTFS to 2025/26 maintains the approved Budget Strategy;
4. That it is agreed that any remaining budget for 2021/22 revenue budget investments into 2022/23 to allow for those investment to be completed is carried forward;
5. That the delegated officer decision on the use off CCG funds as set out in paragraphs 2.37 and 2.39 on the report are noted; and
6. That the authority to complete an agreement with the DfE within the DSG Safety Valve Intervention Programme is delegated to the Strategic Director – Children & Young People's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director – Finance and Customer Services.

82. HRA BUSINESS PLAN 2022-23

Consideration was given to the report which provided a detailed overview of the current position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the reason for any changes to the Business Plan. The HRA recorded all expenditure and income relating to the provision of Council housing and related services, and the Council was required to produce a HRA Business Plan setting out its investment priorities over a 30 year period.

It was reported that by the end of March 2022, 194 new Council homes would have been built since the start of the Housing Growth Programme. A further £92.3m would be invested to deliver the Council's ambition to create 1,000 homes between 2018 and 2025-26. It was also reported that

over the short to medium term forecast, the Business Plan was operating at or around the minimum balance. However, over the longer term, there was a significant squeeze on resources due to inflationary pressures even before the costs of achieving net zero carbon were factored in.

Paragraph 2.2 of the report outlined the focus on the HRA Business Plan which included objectives such as supporting new affordable housing, supporting tenants to maximise income, tackling fuel poverty and achieving and maintain the decent homes standards.

Since the last update of the HRA Business Plan there had been significant policy changes, specifically relating to the Council's commitment to become net zero carbon by 2030. This created a significant financial challenge for the Plan. The overall position remained challenging, particularly given the inflationary pressures evident in costs for delivery of the Housing Growth Programme and more generally the cost base of the HRA. As a consequence, it was deemed necessary to increase rents by 4.1%, in line with the Government's Rent Standard. It was noted that the increase would not impact the most financially vulnerable tenants.

The preferred option for the HRA Business Plan Base Case was outlined in the report as Option 1 and would result in the HRA having an operational surplus of £34m and provide support to the housing growth agenda and the Council's General Fund position.

This report had been selected for pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 15th December, 2021. All of the recommendations were fully supported.

Resolved:

That Cabinet recommend to Council that:

1. The proposed 2022-23 Base Case Option 1 for the HRA Business Plan be approved; and
2. The Plan be reviewed annually to provide an updated financial position.

83. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RENTS AND SERVICE CHARGES 2022-23

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the proposed values of the housing rents, non-dwelling rents, District Heating and service charges and the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2022/23. The proposed charges were attached to the report at Appendix 1 and the proposed budget at Appendix 2.

The average rent in 2021/22 was £75.45 when aggregated over 52

weeks. The 2022/23 average weekly rent based on the Government policy of CPI (3.1% as at September 2021) plus 1% would be £78.54 totalling in an average increase of £3.09 per week. Rent increases in respect of shared ownership properties were subject to a different formula of RPI (4.9% as at September 2021) plus 0.5%. 51 shared ownership properties would be affected with rents increasing by £2.29 per week on average, from £42.41 to £44.70.

It was also proposed that there be a 2% increase in charges for garages and parking spaces, communal facilities, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities. This was in line with the Council's policy on fees and charges.

Due to the current energy crisis and subsequent rise in gas prices, it was proposed that the charging model for District Heating, which had been agreed by Full Council in December 2017, be revised to allow for a planned deficit should energy price increases exceed scheme income. This would allow the Council to shield the most financially vulnerable residents from significant increases.

The Cabinet Member for Housing explained how the increase in rents and charges was necessary to fund the Council's ongoing Housing Growth Programme and maintain properties to the Decent Homes Standard.

This report had been selected for pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 15th December, 2021. All of the recommendations were fully supported.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note the report and recommend to Council that:

1. Dwelling rents are increased by 4.1% in 2022/23 (Option 1) in line with the Government policy on rents for social housing which allows rents to increase by Consumer Price Index (CPI) (3.1% as at September 2021) plus 1%;
2. Shared ownership rents are increased by 5.4% in 2022/23 (Option 1) in line with the Government policy on rents for social housing which allows rents to increase by Retail Price Index (RPI) (4.9% as at September 2021) plus 0.5%;
3. There is a 2% increase in charges for garages and parking spaces, communal facilities, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities, in line with the Council's policy on fees and charges;
4. The charging model for District Heating (as agreed by Full Council in December 2017) is revised to allow for a planned deficit should energy price increases exceed scheme income;

5. The unit charge per KWH and weekly prepayment charges for District Heating Schemes be increased by 15% in 2022/23 (Option 1) to limit the impact of anticipated market increases in the prices of energy and fuel costs; and
6. That the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23, attached at Appendix 2, be agreed.

84. WESTGATE CHAMBERS REDEVELOPMENT - REMOVAL OF THE DEVELOPER OVERAGE PROVISIONS

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the removal of the developer overage provisions on the Westgate Chambers redevelopment. Westgate Chambers was a key redevelopment site in the Town Centre and was previously under the ownership of the Council. It was sold to the current developer in 2016 for a reduced value as there were serious viability issues in delivering any scheme on site and the Council wanted to support wider regeneration in the area.

Included in the sale was a number of overage provisions to provide extra security to the Council in the event that there was a significant upturn in the market and scheme viability was no longer an issue. However, the developer was having difficulties securing further funding against the part-completed scheme as no lending institutions were prepared to release any funds against schemes where overage provisions were in place.

The developer had approached the Council and asked if they would consider the removal of the overage provisions to allow for funding to be secured and the full redevelopment of the site to be completed.

All relevant financial information had been made available to the Cabinet in Appendix 2 and a site plan was attached at Appendix 1.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the removal of the developer overage provisions that were included in the original site transfer of the Westgate Chambers redevelopment site.
2. That the Strategic Director (Regeneration and Environment) be authorised to instruct Legal Services to formally remove the restrictions from the title documentation and the transfer for sale.

85. COUNCIL PLAN 2022-2025 AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which explained that a new Council Plan had been developed for 2022-25. The Plan was attached at Appendix 1, and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2022 was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Council had adopted the Year Ahead Plan in September 2020 as the Council Plan for operating within the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan had been extended in March 2021 and finished at the end of November 2021.

The Council Plan 2022-25 had been developed following a public consultation and was a key document outlining the Council's vision for the Borough and the priorities for serving residents and communities. The consultation had included online and postal surveys, focus groups and engagement at the Rotherham Show. Appendix 3 detailed the key findings of the consultation. Engagement also took place with key stakeholders, Cabinet Members and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. There was also an engagement session available for all Elected Members.

This engagement led to the Plan being framed around five themes:

- Every neighbourhood thriving
- People are safe, healthy and live well
- Every child able to fulfil their potential
- Expanding economic opportunity
- A cleaner, greener local environment

There were 26 outcomes and 47 commitments included in the Plan. In order to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve the commitments, a Year Ahead Delivery Plan had been developed which set out the key activities to be delivered from January 2022 to March 2023. This included 91 priority actions/milestones.

It was proposed that the first Council Plan progress report, covering the period January 2022 to March 2022, be reported to Cabinet in June 2022.

This report had been selected for pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 15th December, 2021. All of the recommendations were fully supported. Further, OSMB requested that they continue to monitor performance against the objectives contained in the new Council Plan by receiving the quarterly performance reports produced for Cabinet as part of their pre-decision scrutiny role.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Recommend to Council that the Council Plan 2022-2025 be approved.
2. Recommend to Council that the Year Ahead Delivery Plan be approved.
3. Recommend that the first quarterly progress update is provided by the Cabinet in June 2022.

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4. Agree that that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board should continue to monitor performance against the objectives contained in the new Council Plan by receiving the quarterly performance reports produced for Cabinet as part of its pre-decision scrutiny role.

86. 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.

87. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

The next meeting of the Cabinet would be held on Monday, 24th January, 2022, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 24 January 2022

Report Title

Prescribed Alterations to the Willows Special School

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Suzanne Joyner, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

Dean Fenton, Head of Service – Access to Education
01709 254821 or dean.fenton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Statutory consultation on proposals to change the number of planned places at the Willows Special School under the Department for Education prescribed alterations process has been completed. This report seeks approval of the proposals.

Recommendations

1. That the proposal to make prescribed alterations to the Willows Special school by increasing the number of planned places from 120 to 150 be approved.
2. That the Secretary of State for Education be informed accordingly.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment (Initial screening)

Equalities Impact Assessment (Final Screening)

Appendix 2 Environmental Impact Assessment

Background Papers

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

School Organisation (Maintained Schools) guidance for proposers and decision makers (January 2014)

Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) phase 1 capital projects approved by Cabinet on 19th February 2018.

Determination of proposals to make prescribed alterations at the Willows School under the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 approved by Cabinet on 18th March 2019.

Report to Cabinet seeking approval to commence a period of pre statutory consultation on proposals to make prescribed alterations to the Willows School on 14th June 2021.

Report to Cabinet seeking approval to commence a period of statutory consultation on proposals to make Prescribed Alterations to the Willows School on 18th October 2021.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Prescribed Alterations to the Willows Special School

1. Background

- 1.1 This report follows previous reports to Cabinet on 14 June 2021 and 18 October 2021 respectively seeking approval to commence periods of pre statutory and statutory consultation on proposals to make prescribed alterations to the Willows Special School.
- 1.2 The previous reports outlined that the proposals fall within the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
- 1.3 Proposals were brought forward because the number of pupils in a special school on a permanent basis had increased by 10% or 20 pupils (whichever is the lowest) and this increase was expected to be in place for more than 2 years (as this is considered a permanent increase).
- 1.4 In relation to the above, the school is currently registered for 120 pupils and it is proposed to increase the number of registered places to 150 to align to the current number of pupils attending the school and the capacity on site.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 As the current number of pupils on roll exceeds the registered number of 120 places by more than 10% or 20 pupils (whichever is the lowest), and the registered number is expected to be exceeded by the above criteria for more than 2 years, it is necessary to complete a prescribed alteration process.
- 2.2 As the above criteria has already been exceeded for 12 months, it is necessary to complete the prescribed alteration within the next 12 months to meet statutory requirements as the registered number of places will still be in excess of 10% or 20 pupils beyond 2 years.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 **Option 1:** Maintain the registered number of places at the school at the current level of 120. However, as the school is already oversubscribed by above the criteria threshold and has been for the past year, this would mean that in future years parents / carers would be unable to secure a place for their child as the schools current registered number is oversubscribed and pupil numbers would need to be reduced back to the registered number, which would not be achievable within the timeframe.
- 3.2 Proceeding with option 1 would mean that places would need to be sought at other schools or out of authority to meet demand as all special schools in Rotherham are full to their registered number and this trend is set to continue. This would have an impact financially as out of authority places can be more expensive and subsequent transport costs would be increased.

3.3 **Option 2: (Recommended Proposal):** Increase the registered number of places from the current 120 to 150 by prescribed alteration to enable parental preferences for placements to continue to be satisfied in the future avoiding the need to seek placement at another school or out of authority against the wishes of parents/carers.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 As outlined above, the proposal falls within the requirements of the 2013 Regulations. Following Cabinet approval of the report on 14 June 2021, a period of pre-statutory consultation was undertaken with stakeholders between 29 June and 9 August 2021.

4.2 Following a second report to Cabinet on 18 October 2021, a period of statutory consultation was completed by the posting of a public notice outlining proposals and inviting representations. The notice period was from 12 November 2021 to 10 December 2021.

4.3 There is a strong expectation that Local Authorities will consult interested parties in developing proposals. This requirement was met by way of Pre statutory and statutory consultation periods as part of the duty under public law to act rationally and to take into account all relevant considerations.

4.4 As the Local Authority is the decision maker in relation to this proposal, it must make a decision within a period of two months of the end of the representation period (public notice). Where a decision is not made within this time frame, the proposal must be referred to the Schools' Adjudicator for a decision.

4.5 A public notice has been in place from 12 November to 10 December 2021. The public notice was placed in a local newspaper and displayed on the school website / a prominent place in school as required by the prescribed alterations regulations. Furthermore, the public notice was given by the school to parents, placed on the RMBC website, sent to all schools, Elected Members, Parish Council's and local Members of Parliament, shared with Rotherham Parent Partnership and RMBC Communications and Neighbourhoods Teams.

4.6 There were 2 representations received in response to the public notice. Responses were broadly supportive of the proposal with one representation acknowledging the proposals with no further comments and the other representation being supportive of the proposal to align the registered number of places to the number of children on roll at the school and the available capacity.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 **June 2021** - Reported to Cabinet seeking approval to commence a period of pre-statutory consultation on proposals.

29 June – 9 August 2021 - period of pre-statutory consultation completed.

October 2021 - Report to Cabinet outlining the outcome of pre-statutory consultation and seeking approval to commence a period of statutory consultation by the publication of a public notice.

October 2021 - Notification to the Department for Education and submission of proposals being consulted upon.

12 November – 10 December 2021 - Public Notice period (4 weeks minimum) commences.

January 2022 - Report to Cabinet outlining the outcome of statutory consultation and seeking a determination of the proposals.

January 2022 - Notification to the Secretary of State for Education of the determination of the proposals.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 6.1 There are no procurement implications linked to this proposal.
- 6.2 The prescribed alteration will enable young people to continue to be placed locally and avoid the need to place with high cost out of area / independent providers in the future.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, to consult on the proposals set out in this report.
- 7.2 The DfE statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers - Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools (April 2016) provides that: Where a Local Authority is the decision maker, it must make a decision within a period of two months of the end of the representation (public notice) period, where a decision is not made within this time frame, the proposal must be referred to the Schools' Adjudicator for a decision.
- 7.3 The Education Act 1996 requires an English local authority to secure (as far as their powers enable them to do so) efficient education in their area (section 13(1); and so far as is compatible with efficient instruction and training and the avoidance of unnecessary expenditure a local authority must exercise its Education Act powers and duties having regard to the general principle that pupils are educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents (section 9). Provision for a permanent increase in pupil numbers at the school assists compliance with the section 13 duty; consultation assists compliance with the section 9 duty.

7.4 The Equality Act 2010 imposes a public sector equality duty upon public (including local) authorities, (see section 10 below). The promotion of equality of opportunity includes the removal of a disadvantage suffered by persons with disability, or their carers. The need to educate Rotherham children out of area because there is insufficient SEND provision within the Borough could amount to such a disadvantage, and the proposed prescribed alterations if implemented would minimise that disadvantage.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resource implications for the Local Authority to consider as the school is resourced to support the cohort.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Additional Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) places created within the borough give more children and young people the opportunity to access high quality provision closer to home to meet their educational needs and in line with parental wishes.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that public bodies, in exercising their functions, have due regard to the need to:

1. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other unlawful conduct under the Act,
2. advance equality of opportunity and
3. foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

10.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken in relation to the proposals and is Appendix 1 to this report. The assessment did not identify any potential for unlawful conduct or disproportionate impact and concludes that all opportunities to advance equality are being addressed. The increase in SEND places on a permanent basis contributes to ensuring sufficient provision for the increasing numbers of children within Rotherham and ensures that appropriate provision is made in accordance with parental preference. By acting to ensure children in Rotherham have access to a high-quality school place, the Council is promoting equality of opportunity for all children and young people.

10.3 The Council must ensure it meets its public law duties when making decisions, including meeting its public sector equality duty. It must consider all relevant information, disregard irrelevant information, act in accordance with the statutory requirements and make its decision in a fair and transparent manner.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 An impact assessment has been undertaken linked to the proposals contained within this report and is Appendix 2.
- 11.2 In relation to the pupils already on roll and attending the school, there will be no changes to journeys although, journey planning arrangements remain under constant review by the Corporate Transport Department aligned to Education, Health and Care Plans.
- 11.3 In relation to any post 16 pupils in extended transition to other settings, an assessment is completed by the Corporate Transport Department to evaluate journey variances, current arrangements and options to reduce impact aligned to the transition arrangements.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. The proposals will have a positive implication for ward priorities across the borough, as more children are able to continue to access specialist provision in line with their parents' wishes within Rotherham in future years.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There are always risks and uncertainties when school place provision is considered, since future pupil numbers are based on estimations. Over provision at one school could influence pupil numbers at other schools. However, current provision is full or over-subscribed within the borough and this trend is set to continue, meaning that more pupils would be placed in provision out of authority increasing the financial burden on the High Needs Block.
- 13.2 The proposals seek to amend the registered number of places at the school from 120 to 150 to ensure the school remains complaint with statutory requirements.

14. Accountable Officers

Dean Fenton, Head of Service – Access to Education

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	07/01/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/12/21
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	22/12/21

*Report Author: Dean Fenton, Head of Service – Access to Education
Tel: 01709 254821 Email: dean.fenton@rotherham.gov.uk
This report is published on the Council's [website](#).*

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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: Prescribed Alteration to the Willows Special School	
Directorate: CYPS	Service area: Education
Lead person: Dean Fenton / Jackie Ross	Contact number: 01709 254821
Is this a: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other </div> If other, please specify: Change to official number of registered places at the school	

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

As the number of pupils at the school currently exceeds the registered number of places by above 10% and this is likely to be the case for more than 2 years (already been so for 1 year), then it is necessary to complete a prescribed alteration under the DfE Prescribed alterations to maintained schools (England) regulations.

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)

The proposal is seeking to commence a period of pre statutory consultation on proposals to increase the registered number of places at the Willows Special School from 120 to 150 registered places.

As the school is a school for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), once a period of pre statutory consultation is approved, the outcome of the consultation will inform recommendations to Cabinet when seeking approval to move to the next stage of statutory consultation on proposals. The consultation will also inform a full equalities impact assessment.

- **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)

The school is an inclusive school that accommodates pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school.

The prescribed alterations to maintained schools (England) regulations require that as the schools registered number of places (120) has been exceeded by 10% or 20 pupils – which ever is least, and the excess will remain for over 2 years (already been exceeded for 1 year), then prescribed alterations should be made to amend the registered number of places.

- **Actions**

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

The first part of the prescribed alterations process after approval is to consult all stakeholders on the proposals and report back to decision makers on the outcome and seek approval to commence a period of statutory consultation whilst submitting proposals being consulted on to DfE.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	June 2021
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	August 2021
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Dean Fenton

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Nathan Heath	Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion	13.4.2021 23.8.2021 (reviewed)

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	9.4.2021 23.8.2021 (reviewed)
Report title and date	Prescribed alterations to the Willows school
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Scheduled for Cabinet for June 2021 (1 st report) seeking approval to commence a period of pre statutory consultation. 24 January 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement <u>equality@rotherham.gov.uk</u>	13.4.2021 24.8.2021

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: <i>Prescribed Alteration to the Willows Special School</i>	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 23.7.21 to 16.8.2021	
Directorate: CYPS	Service area: Education
Lead Manager: Dean Fenton	Contact number: 01709 254821
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify Prescribed alteration to the Willows school to increase number of planned places to align to capacity assessment.	

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)
<i>Dean Fenton</i>	<i>RMBC CYPS</i>	<i>Head of Access to Education</i>
<i>Jackie Ross</i>	<i>RMBC CYPS</i>	<i>Interim Head of SEND/Inclusion</i>
<i>Chris Stones</i>	<i>RMBC CYPS</i>	<i>Principal Officer – School Organisation</i>

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.)		
<i>Proposal to make prescribed alterations to the Willows Special School by increasing the number of planned places at the school from 120 to 150 to align to the capacity of the school and pupils attending.</i>		
What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)		
<i>Pre statutory consultation was undertaken with parents of pupils at the school, staff, governors, all Rotherham schools, Elected members, MPs and parish councils and via Neighbourhoods teams and corporate communications.</i>		
<i>Consultation allowed an opportunity to comment on proposals as reported to Cabinet on 14th June 2021.</i>		
<i>The school is a special designation school for children with moderate learning difficulties who have an Education, Health and care plan (EHCP) naming the school.</i>		
Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?		
<i>None</i>		
What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?		
<i>Yes, access to the school is via statutory EHCP process.</i>		
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	<i>Stakeholder consultation took place between 29.6.21 and 9.8.21 as part of the pre statutory consultation process aligned to DfE regulations for prescribed alterations. No objections / concerns were raised.</i>	

Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	<i>Stakeholder consultation took place between 29.6.21 and 9.8.21 as part of the pre statutory consultation process aligned to DfE regulations for prescribed alterations. No objections / concerns were raised.</i>
--	--

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)

Places at the school are allocated via EHCP statutory process which includes consultation with all parties with ultimate access to tribunal. Special schools are designated to meet specific needs of children hence place allocation via statutory EHCP process.

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

No – the prescribed alteration seeks to establish additional permanent places at the school aligning the number of places to the capacity assessment following DfE statutory process.

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

Yes – the prescribed alteration would establish 30 places at the willows school on a permanent basis to ensure children with moderate learning disabilities are able to continue to access specialist provision in borough.

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)

As part of the ongoing SEND sufficiency strategy work, wider community consultation and parent/carer representation is sought when developing sufficiency plans. The SEND sufficiency strategy and phase 1, 2 and 3 programmes to create additional capacity have been received and supported positively as the create resources for children with specific needs.

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: <i>Prescribed Alteration to the Willows Special School</i>
Directorate and service area: <i>Children and Young People's Services – Education and Inclusion</i>
Lead Manager: <i>Dean Fenton</i>
Summary of findings: <i>The prescribed alteration seeks to provide 30 permanent places to a special school aligning available places to capacity available. Places allocated at the school are via statutory EHCP process. Wide reaching consultation has not raised any issues or concerns.</i>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
<i>Complete prescribed alteration process in line with DfE guidance</i>	<i>A D S GR RE RoB SO</i>	<i>January 2022</i>

***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
Nathan Heath	Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion	2.9.21

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	16.8.21
Report title and date	<i>Prescribed alteration to the Willows School</i>
Date report sent for publication	3.9.21
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	24.8.2021

Appendix 2 – The Willows School

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?	No impact	As the proposal seeks to align the actual number of pupils on site to the capacity available, the current assessment is based on current number of 175, as the number is proposed to reduce to 150 post transition of post 16 learners to match the capacity assessment this will impact positively on future emissions impact.	Emissions will remain at similar levels as the pupils will remain in Rotherham.	The proposal seeks to reduce the number of pupils on site to align to capacity. Pupils who should have transitioned to post 16 education settings will commence transitional arrangements from September 2021 onwards reducing on site numbers.	Monitoring of transitions will be facilitated via EHCP process.
Emissions from transport?	Impact unknown	The school currently has an excess number of pupils attending in relation to registered number of places. Proposals seek to align the registered number of places to capacity of the school. Pupils are already being transported to the school. As pupils leave and new pupils are admitted via an EHCP journeys will need to be re-evaluated.	Pupils are transported to school via funded transport. Any changes to school placement would be determined via the EHCP process and transport implications considered at that point.	As the current number of pupils is currently 175 due to delayed post 16 transitions, the cohort will reduce in the coming months to the onsite capacity assessment number of 150 as transitional programmes are completed and transport arrangements are reviewed as part of transition arrangements.	Transport to school arrangements are kept under review by the Corporate Transport Unit. Ongoing monitoring / assessment by Transport Unit.

Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No change	There will be a slight reduction in the amount of waste generated by the school.	Waste levels across the borough will remain at similar levels to present.	School has a waste management process	Impact will be monitored by the school governing body and LA.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No change	There is no further construction work to be undertaken. Construction works have already previously been completed and were coordinated by RMBC Asset Management Service at that time.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

None

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

Transport implications of school transport arrangements are kept under review by Corporate Transport Unit.

Emissions from council buildings will be reduced as a consequence of transitions and alignment of pupils on site to match capacity assessment. Emissions overall will remain at similar levels.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Dean Fenton Head of Access to Education, CYPS
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
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.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Feedback received from Sam Blakeborough

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 24 January 2022

Report Title

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Sam Barstow

Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Following consultation in November 2021, the Safer Rotherham Partnership, of which the Council is a key statutory partner, has drafted and agreed a new Domestic Abuse Strategy for the period 2022 – 2027.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy came to an end in December 2020, having commenced in 2017. The Strategy has guided the partnership in delivering significant work to reduce Domestic Violence and improve support for victims. The partnership had committed to developing a further five-year strategy to continue to tackle Domestic Abuse, which has now been fully developed and consulted on by the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, which reports to the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

In addition, as a result of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which received Royal Assent in April 2021, the Council itself now has a statutory duty to produce a Domestic Abuse Strategy which sets out how it will deliver the new duties contained within the Act. These new duties are detailed within the body of the report. Cabinet are therefore recommended to adopt the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approve and adopt the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
2. That Cabinet note that regular oversight of the Strategy will be undertaken by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Domestic Abuse Strategy

Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Previous Cabinet Report and Domestic Abuse Strategy:

<https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/g13936/Public%20reports%20pack%20Monday%2019-Feb-2018>

[10.00 Cabinet and Commissioners Decision Making Meeting d.pdf?T=10](#)

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Lives Select Commission – Various

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 – 2027

1. Background

1.1 The previous Domestic Abuse Strategy for Rotherham ran until December 2020. A draft strategy was prepared by the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and presented to the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) in December 2020 however, due to the rapid progress of the Domestic Abuse Bill (now Act) which subsequently received Royal Ascent in April 2021, completion of the Strategy had been deferred by the Board so the national requirements could be appropriately addressed. The Strategy has been subsequently reviewed by the partnership group who initially developed it, alongside the wider Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, in order to ensure that the new Domestic Abuse Act and its associated requirements were adequately captured. The SRP Board approved the final draft in October 2021 for publication and consultation and have subsequently approved the final version at the December 2021 meeting.

1.2 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (the Act) received Royal Ascent in the Spring of 2021. In summary, the Act seeks to do several things as follows:

- Places a new definition of Domestic Abuse on a statutory footing
- Creates provisions for the Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- Confers additional powers in responding to Domestic Abuse
- Creates new requirements for Local Authorities
- Updates the protection of victims in legal proceedings
- Creates new offences relating to the disclosure of private images

1.3 In relation to the new duties for local authorities, these are covered within the Domestic Abuse Strategy attached as Appendix One. In particular these focus on the need for the production of a Domestic Abuse Strategy, the provision of support for victims and family members (including therapeutic support) and the extension of priority status within homelessness processes for victims of Domestic Abuse. All of these offers are currently in place within Rotherham and through the Strategy partners are seeking to continue to strengthen this work.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The Strategy seeks to deliver a number of aspects including setting the national and local scene, reflecting on what has been delivered as a result of the previous Domestic Abuse Strategy and critically, identifying gaps and future areas of priority for delivery.

2.2 The national position in relation to the scale and impact of Domestic Abuse is outlined within the Strategy, as is the picture for Rotherham which, whilst unique as a place, has many parallels with the national picture. In terms of reported incidents and crimes relating to Domestic Abuse, in 2020 South Yorkshire Police received just under 7,000 calls. Domestic Abuse support services engaged with over 1,500 service users and 150 people presented as homeless as a result of Domestic Abuse. This small selection of figures gives an understanding of the scale and impact locally of reported domestic

abuse and critically, based on the Home Office reckoner, this is under-representative of the actual scale of the issues and this is reinforced by the stories of many victims and survivors who report having suffered a number of domestic abuse incidents before coming forward for support.

2.3 The Strategy identifies five areas of priority for the partnership and in addition, highlights priority activities within each. The Strategy will be supported by an annual delivery plan which will be agreed with the Domestic Abuse Partnership group on an annual basis. The priority areas are detailed below:

1. Drive Change Together

This priority focuses on providing seamless services for victims, strengthening our governance processes and improving the way that we work together.

2. Prevention and Early Intervention

This priority aims to increase the focus on early intervention and prevention, which is not only about stopping Domestic Abuse but also preventing the escalation of abuse.

3. Justice and Ongoing Protection

This priority focusses on the provision of effective, engaged, supportive, responsive, and timely protection and justice.

4. Responding to Changing Need and Demand

This priority focuses on working together to plan, deliver and commission appropriate services to meet needs. We are committed to co-production methods for reform and innovation.

5. Minimising Harm through the Provision of Early Help Support for Children and Families

This priority seeks to minimise harm, providing positive outcomes, and promoting equality of access for all survivors of Domestic Abuse. Recognising and reducing barriers to reporting.

6. Providing Safe Accommodation and Appropriate Support

This priority aims to ensure that every victim of Domestic Abuse that present at homeless to RMBC is provided with safe, supported secure accommodation.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The production of the Strategy is now a statutory requirement and as a result, no alternative options were considered. In relation to the focus and

priority areas, these have been developed as a result of extensive engagement and learning from both service users and professionals, and subject to public consultation.

3.2 The recommendation is that the Cabinet adopts the Strategy and notes the annual partnership delivery plan, which will be produced by the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and monitored by the SRP.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 A full public consultation was delivered during November 2021. Though the volume of responses received was smaller than hoped for (21), the trends and patterns of what people believe to be priorities are, for the most part, clear to see. Whilst the feedback has not led to change in terms of the strategic objectives, it will inform the prioritisation of the annual delivery plan. A summary of the key points are set out below:

- Increasing the awareness of Domestic Abuse and of the support that is available was seen as a priority by the majority of respondents, and early intervention for both victims and perpetrators came through as a strong priority. All of these priorities scored highly among all survey respondents.
- ensuring staff are fully trained and providing priority access to accommodation for homeless victims was also important to survey respondents.
- The priority which scored lowest amongst respondents was about Information Sharing and Increased Data Gathering – this may well be because it is a priority more directly related to service providers than service users – 6 of the 7 respondents who identified this as a priority, work with victims of DA

4.2 In addition, during the production of the Strategy, a number of partners and service users were engaged in order to co-produce the priorities and areas of focus. Further detail of these activities are provided within Appendix 2 however, in summary the following key engagement activities have informed the production of this Strategy:

- Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (Summer 2021)
- Key Stakeholders and Voluntary Group Engagement – Housing, Commissioning, Voluntary Sector, South Yorkshire Police, Health Providers (Summer 2021 and on-going)
- Market Engagement with Domestic Abuse support Service Providers (Spring 2021)
- In-House Domestic Abuse Staff Engagement (Autumn 2020)
- Rotherham Rise Provider Engagement (Autumn 2020 and on-going)
- Victim Engagement with those in the commissioned Refuge service (Autumn 2020 and on-going) (Victims have protected characteristics)
- Victim Engagement with service users from the Commissioned Outreach Service (Rotherham Rise) (2020) and the BMER service

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 If agreed by Cabinet, the Strategy will be published within 10 days, following the 'call-in' period. Delivery will be monitored through a quarterly dashboard showing key performance indicators and an annually refreshed delivery plan. This will be overseen by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 The report discusses and makes recommendations around the endorsement of a Domestic Abuse Strategy. As such there are no direct financial implications. The production of the Strategy is funded from approved Council budgets.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in the report. However, it is important to note that, where external delivery is commissioned which supports the themes of the Strategy, this must be done in accordance with the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended).

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act introduces a new statutory duty on local authorities, placing clearer accountability on local areas to ensure the needs of victims within refuges and other forms of domestic abuse safe accommodation are met in a consistent way across England. Under the new duty in the 2020 Act, tier one authorities in England will be required to appoint a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to support them in undertaking local needs assessments including developing and monitoring local strategies. The Board will be made up of members representing organisations who have a stake in this vital work. The Local Partnership Boards will be central to ensuring that local authorities set out a robust strategy for tackling domestic abuse based on an assessment of the needs of all victims in their local area. The Local Partnership Boards will also be required to assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support.

7.2 Tier one authorities will be required to deliver their Strategy, and report back annually to Government. The annual reporting requirement will help the Government and others to monitor how the new duties on local authorities are working, understand where there may be challenges and how the funding is being used, and help identify and disseminate good practice. The duty will also require tier two authorities to co-operate with the lead tier one authority. This duty is set out with the Domestic Abuse

Support (Local Authority Strategies and Annual Reports) Regulations 2021. These Regulations must be complied with to minimise the risks of challenge.

- 7.3 Under the 2020 Act there is a requirement for statutory guidance to be introduced. This has now been published and should be followed by the Local Authority in order to minimise risks of legal challenge.
- 7.4 There are also a number of sets of Regulations which are now in force following consultation and these must also be complied in order to avoid the risk of legal challenge, including the Domestic Abuse Support (Relevant Accommodation and Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Sanctuary Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Victims of Domestic Abuse are often vulnerable due to the abuse and or violence they face. In many cases domestic abuse occurs within the family and children that are a part of the household are also therefore victims of the abuse. In some cases, children or other family members can commit domestic abuse against their parents or other family members. As can be noted the impacts of domestic abuse in relation to vulnerable adults and young people are far reaching.
- 9.2 The Strategy itself focusses on these issues in a number of areas through its focus on victims, children and the wider family. The Strategy seeks to ensure that services are robust across partner agencies in tackling domestic abuse and that all of those impacted are identified and supported. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 also makes clear the need for support to be extended beyond the direct victim and to incorporate children within the offer.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to support the development of the Strategy and can be found in Appendix 2. One of the areas of key learning again is around fragmented pathways and the need to bring services and pathways together, which is a key element within the draft Strategy.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been undertaken which can be found in Appendix 3. No specific impacts have been identified related to the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. There are wide-ranging implications for partners, who have been involved throughout the process of drafting the Strategy. Partners are also required to sit as part of the local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board which is now a statutory requirement. Partnership engagement, activity and outcomes will continue to be monitored through the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks primarily relate to capacity to deliver on strategic intentions as Government funding linked to the Domestic Abuse Act 21 is not confirmed in future years. This will be mitigated wherever possible through regular partnership meetings, tracking of actions and performance and where required, changes to delivery models.

14. Accountable Officers

Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	10/01/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/12/21
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phi Horsfield	23/12/21

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

DRAFT DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

2022-2027

SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP

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Foreword

The Safer Rotherham Partnership continues to develop and strengthen, building on the commitments made within the Partnership Plan covering 2021 - 2027. Whilst it is collectively accepted that there are significant challenges ahead, it is encouraging to see progress being made against the aims of the partnership and in this case, the development of a further strategy to build on the previous version, which ran from 2017 – 2020. This strategy will be supported by a joint action plan agreed and championed by each partner within the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

Domestic Abuse continues to be a priority for the Safer Rotherham Partnership. Building on our previous strategy, which focussed on raising awareness of the issues, encouraging people to access support and streamlining processes, this strategy will seek to build on the best practice established and further enhance the service offer. This strategy seeks to harness the energy of the partnership and focus development towards common goals. Making best use of the limited resources available by working together will enable a rigorous and proactive approach to improving the quality of relationships across Rotherham and reducing harm caused by Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

What is Domestic Abuse?

Rotherham adopts the Home Office definition of Domestic Abuse 2021, which is defined as: "any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality". This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Controlling Behaviour is: "a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour". Coercive Behaviour is: "an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim". This definition includes so-called 'honour' based violence, Female Genital Mutilation, and Forced Marriage; it is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

This abuse weaves a web through many social issues; child abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, prostitution, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and slavery. It is a cyclical pattern of power which victims experience as escalating control over themselves and their lives. Furthermore, crimes committed in the name of 'honour', such as Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), are also clearly Domestic Abuse.

NB: Throughout the strategy we refer to victims of Domestic Abuse. The term 'victim' in this context refers to anyone who has experienced Domestic Abuse, including witnesses, e.g. children witnessing Domestic Abuse within the home.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021.

The Act not only focuses on substantive and procedural changes to the criminal law, but also includes provisions which are relevant to family proceedings. The key provisions contained in the Act are as follows.

1. The Act creates the **first statutory definition of domestic abuse** which includes not only physical violence but that of emotional, coercive and controlling behaviour and economic abuse. This can be limited to a single event or a series of actions. Children will now be given statutory recognition as “victims” rather than “witnesses” if they see, hear or experience abuse in the home.
2. The Act has **extended the scope of coercive and controlling behaviour** to incorporate abuse post-separation. The offence, initially introduced by the Serious Crime Act 2015, has seen cases increase each year but now the definition will widen the parameters of “personally connected” to include ex-partners and family members who do not live together. This is likely to result in an increase in investigations and prosecutions for this offence.
3. A statutory presumption is made under the Act, **that victims be eligible for special measures** in criminal, family and civil courts (for example, to provide evidence via video link). There is now a prohibition on victims of offences being cross-examined by the person who is alleged to have committed the offence against the victim.
4. Following release from custody, high risk offenders could now be the subject of **polygraph testing as a condition of their licence**. Though polygraph testing isn't 100% accurate, domestic abuse offenders could be subject to regular tests to determine whether they have breached release conditions. Should an individual's risk be deemed to have increased they could be returned to prison.
5. Police have been given new powers to issue **civil Domestic Abuse Protection Notices** (“DAPN”). These provide victims with immediate protection from offenders and require them to leave the home for up to 48 hours. Magistrates' courts are now able to issue **Domestic Abuse Protection Orders** (“DAPO”) following an application by the police. It is suggested that these will prevent domestic abuse offending by enforcing mandatory steps on offenders to change their behaviour such as receiving mental health support. It is estimated that the Police attend more than one million incidents of Domestic Abuse each year, so these powers are expected to be used extensively in replacement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (“DVPOs”) and Domestic Violence Protection Notices

(“DVPNs”). Should individuals breach the conditions of a DAPO they will commit a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment or dealt with by way of a civil penalty as contempt of court.

6. A statutory duty is to be placed on local authorities to ensure victims and their children are placed in refuges and other safe accommodation. All those made homeless by domestic abuse will automatically have **‘priority need’** for homelessness assistance.
7. The Act ensures that the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“**Clare’s law**”) is put on a statutory footing. The scheme permits any member of the public to ask the police if they or someone they know is in a relationship with someone that could be abusive towards them.
8. The Act creates a **new criminal offence of non-fatal strangulation** (which includes suffocation). The act of non-fatal strangulation involves the intentional strangling of another person or any other act that affects a person’s breathing and could see offenders face up to 5 years imprisonment.
9. It extends the scope of disclosing intimate images without the consent of the individual, also known as ‘revenge porn’, to cover the **threat to disclose intimate images** with the intent to cause distress. The maximum penalty of 2 years imprisonment remains in place.
10. The Act contains a theoretical statutory bar to Defendants raising the **defence of consent to serious harm for sexual gratification**. The intention of the Act was to provide a clarification of the law on consent following the case of *R v Brown [1993] 2 WLR 556*. In Brown and associated cases, the Courts have held a person cannot consent to serious assaults, such as occasioning actual bodily harm for public policy reasons. It was argued that the so called ‘rough sex’ defence was being used often by individuals stating the death was caused accidentally during ‘rough sex’ where the victim consented and that this amendment was required to address.
11. A new **Domestic Abuse Commissioner** role was created and is the first of its kind. Nicola Jacobs, who has taken on this role indicated that the legislation won’t transform things overnight, that there is more to do and so she will be advocating for further change.

In preparation for these new duties, and as a prerequisite to effectively commission Domestic Abuse services, RMBC has completed a robust Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment is a standardised form which aids Local Authorities to review the impact of Domestic Abuse on their community-based services. The purpose of this Needs Assessment is to ensure RMBC has comprehensive knowledge of the impact of Domestic Abuse in Rotherham and is therefore equipped to meet the duty of providing support within safe accommodation for all victims and their children. The form therefore acts as a useful tool to aid data capture and to promote consistency across the country; better ensuring all Local Authorities are considering the needs of all victims in their area.

Prior to the completion of the Needs Assessment, a review of the Housing Pathway and a Market Engagement event were undertaken. The findings of the Needs Assessment, the Pathway review, and the Engagement event shed light on the needs of Domestic Abuse victims in Rotherham and will inform the transformation of services.

1. Introduction

Rotherham

The Borough of Rotherham covers a district of 110 square miles and has a mix of communities in both rural and urban areas. Centrally placed within South Yorkshire, the population continues to grow and change over time with an increase in the numbers of those aged over 60, who now make up one in four of our residents, and those from minority ethnic groups, who now account for one in ten. This range of communities and the changing nature of them mean our services must continue to adapt to meet demand. To adapt we must ensure that we continue to be informed by feedback, consultation findings and inspection recommendations, whilst responding to a changing national picture, making best use of available interventions for support that help to change behaviour as well as tools and powers.

Across the partnerships in Rotherham, there are a range of services which are commissioned and voluntary, that offer advice and support for victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence alongside refuge provision, housing support and a range of counselling interventions. We have learnt a lot from a wide range of people and organisations, our own assessments, alongside external reports, which tell us that we need to focus on addressing the following:

- Continue to improve assessment of risk, evidence gathering and action to address offences of Domestic Abuse
- A focus on tackling offenders and bringing them to justice
- Increased work around prevention and early identification of issues, before abusive situations develop
- Develop a greater understanding of Domestic and Sexual Abuse both from a victim and an offender perspective
- Building on existing strengths related to information sharing that facilitates communication across the continuum of need
- Upskilling agencies to swiftly identify the signs of Domestic Abuse and building consistent, integrated pathways
- Embed a culture of learning across the strategic partnership that enables a robust response to emerging research as well as findings from Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews, whether local or national
- Publicity awareness raising and training remains key to keeping Domestic and Sexual Abuse at the top of everyone's agenda; this type of violence is everyone's business

Whilst we know that Rotherham is a unique place with its own identity and history, there are many parallels in relation to Domestic Abuse when comparing with the national picture.

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales year ending March 2020, an estimated 5.5% of adults age 16 to 74 years (2.3 million) experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year (1.6 million women and 786,000 men).

The police recorded a total of 1,288,018 Domestic Abuse-related incidents and crimes in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police) in the year ending March 2020. Of these, 756,941, were recorded as Domestic Abuse-related crimes, an increase of 9% from the previous year.

Prevalence of domestic abuse experienced in the last year:

For the year ending March 2020, an estimated 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse in the last year. This equates to a prevalence rate of approximately 5 in 100 adults (Figure 1). The latest prevalence estimates for all types of domestic abuse experienced in the last year showed no statistically significant change compared with the previous year.

An estimated 7.3% of women (1.6 million) and 3.6% of men (757,000) experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year. Women aged 16 to 19 years were more likely to be victims of any Domestic Abuse in the last year than women aged 25 years and over. Adults who were separated or divorced were more likely to have experienced Domestic Abuse compared with those who were married or civil partnered, cohabiting, single or widowed.

Data from the Home Office Homicide Index for the year ending March 2017 to the year ending March 2019 show that over three-quarters of victims of Domestic Homicide were female (77% or 274 victims). This contrasts with Non-Domestic Homicides where the majority of victims over the same time period were male (87% or 786 victims).

In 2020, South Yorkshire Police received 6,878 calls relating to Domestic Abuse for Rotherham. The satisfaction rate in relation to how Police manage Domestic Abuse has remained at 81% since 2017. The Home Office Reckoner suggest over 27,000 women and girls in the Rotherham area have suffered abuse in their lifetime. The suspected underreporting is something that require further understanding.

SYP 2020	Calls	Crime	High – Referred to MARAC	Medium – Referred to Rotherham Rise	Presented as Homeless	Satisfaction	Enrolled in Perpetrator Programme
	6,878	4,075	556	1,021	150	81%	540

There is a continuing challenge for services to meet demand effectively. There were 556 high risk victims who were referred to the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates, 1,021 medium risk victims who accepted a referral to Rotherham Rise.

During 2019-2020, there were 3,941 contacts for families to the Early Help Service, with 'family relationships' being amongst the top three cited needs. Almost a third (32.5%) of cases are identified by Social Care Services or the Police, suggesting missed opportunities for earlier identification and intervention. Young people are also at risk of suffering or perpetrating Domestic Abuse within teenage relationships; according to a report conducted by the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board, several recommendations are made to support closer working between Domestic Abuse and Younger People Services. In addition, child-to-parent-abuse (CPA) and adolescent-to-parent-abuse (APA) are increasingly serious issues which fit within the definition of domestic abuse, as do instances where a partner or family member becomes a carer and suffers any form of abuse. The presence of these forms of abuse reinforces the importance of working across a wide range of partners to ensure early identification occurs and support is in place across both young, older people and care related services.

Sexual Abuse and Rape also occur as part of the Domestic Abuse in a relationship. The perpetrator can also be an acquaintance – a colleague, a friend, a neighbour – but it is rare that they are complete strangers. For many adults getting support, the abuse may have taken place when they were children. Whether the perpetrator is well known to the victim or not, the violation, shame and stigma will have a terrible impact on health and wellbeing, and feeling able to seek support for the aftereffects may be a process that takes many months or years.

Alongside the statistical data, the partnership is supported by a range of inspections and quality assurance frameworks that provide insight into these services and inform valuable learning for the partnership. This work includes inspections of the Police, such as the PEEL inspection, partnership inspections, Domestic Homicide and Serious Case Reviews alongside themed reviews known as 'Deep-Dive' inspections and inspections by agencies such as Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. In 2018 we conducted a full review of the support in Rotherham led by Bradford Council, following this we have done a full-service overview with recommendations and action plan to move forward to the next stage of a whole service commission.

The reviews alongside our data have told us that there are numerous pathways to support which can be confusing, and early signs have sometimes been missed. Victims and their families can feel lost in the process and may be asked the same thing several times by several agencies. This can lead to families feeling they are not heard. Currently agencies look at the victim and their family to address their safety and break the pattern of behaviour, rather than challenging the perpetrator through multi-agency problem solving and risk management.

The strategic partnership recognises and seeks to further understand the drivers and impact of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. This strategy will focus on the gaps identified by the partnership, through a range of sources, and seek to improve services for the benefit of the people and communities impacted by conflictual relationships, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. The strategic vision is informed by local evidence and has been developed to accelerate change and improve outcomes.

There is a range of commissioned, voluntary, and charity funded services that exist within Rotherham. These services provide a range of functions that are important to supporting delivery of Domestic Abuse Services.

- Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) are commissioned by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and support those affected by Domestic Abuse that are assessed as high risk
- A local charity, Rotherham Rise, is commissioned to deliver a range of services for medium and standard risk victims alongside providing housing support and a refuge. There are a number of outreach, voluntary, and counselling services that support those impacted by Domestic Abuse including some which target support to minority communities and those with protected characteristics. There are currently around 350 victims being supported across this range of services
- The South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (SYCRC) currently runs several perpetrator programmes for those convicted of relevant offences, such as the Accredited Building Better Relationships Programme and non-accredited short duration Respectful Relationships Programme
- The Inspire to Change voluntary perpetrator programme, commissioned by South Yorkshire County Councils and PCC, have worked with approximately 1,680 identified perpetrators of Domestic Abuse within the County from 2018 to June 2020. Cranstoun replaced Inspire to Change in September 2021.
- Independent Sexual Violent Advocates (ISVA) are commissioned by the PCC to support those affected by Sexual Violence and will work with the victims through the court process to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. The ISVA service is currently supporting over 100 victims
- Operation Encompass provides an efficient, confidential channel of communication between Police Forces and Key Adults within schools. This enables the immediate and discrete recognition of the child's situation by the Key Adult, ensuring a secure and sympathetic environment is provided and the broader effects of abuse are addressed
- Homeless Team provide immediate support and housing for victims fleeing Domestic Abuse; from March 2020 to October 2020, we received 120 victims requesting homeless support

2. What Have We Achieved?

- There is a strong involvement from the voluntary sector with the willingness and dedication to addressing the impact of Domestic Abuse on individual lives. They have been involved in the Co-production Domestic Abuse Review and updating of all Domestic Abuse pathways
- There has been some significant progress made by agencies in recent years including higher levels of both generic and specialist training. South Yorkshire Police have invested in specialist training from Safe Lives 2020, and are running the 'DA Matters' training course for all front line police officers
- Ongoing improvements to Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Hub (MADA) including the review of repeat victims
- Implementation of a MARAC protocol, which sets out a standard for the functioning of the MARAC and the MARAC Steering Group
- Reintroduced the Domestic Abuse Managers Forum, which enables open discussions surrounding training or practitioner concerns
- Improvements in target hardening schemes including the introduction of Smart Water and Tesco alarms
- The development and success of perpetrator programmes across South Yorkshire for male female and young perpetrators
- The commissioning of "SAYIT" LGBTQ+ service across South Yorkshire, which has raised awareness through training events and webinar promotions
- The ongoing success of Operation Encompass, now to include 16+ year olds who witness abuse and are in College. RMBC has been pioneering in this collaborative project; there has been a 100% buy-in from schools across Rotherham
- Implementation of a Competency Training Framework for all Rotherham services to ensure their team are up to date with their Domestic Abuse training
- A whole online training package in conjunction with DMBC, available to all Rotherham services and staff members

- Domestic Abuse Practitioners Handbook for Rotherham frontline workers, which ensures a coordinated approach to support for victims and perpetrators
- Promotion of the 'Ask for Angela' and 'Ask for Ani' incentives, with shops, public houses, and safe places within Rotherham engaging in the campaign
- Promotion of the 'Know The Line' campaign, which seeks to raise awareness about Sexual Harassment
- Promotion of '16 Days of DA Awareness', an online platform initiative which informs residents of Domestic Abuse support services in Rotherham and raises awareness the signs of Domestic Abuse
- HARK, a fast track service for A&E, GPs, Dentists, Opticians and Pharmacists, wishing to get support for a victim
- Housing pathway for victims of Domestic Abuse to provide refuge and housing support, including out-reach properties and Domestic Abuse support

3. Vision

To reduce the prevalence of Domestic Abuse. To provide a co-ordinated approach to tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse that enables early identification and improved response that safeguards and supports the victim and any children. Reach out to underrepresented groups and hard-to-reach communities by finding new ways to address this important issue.

Ensure that where Domestic Abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, at the right time. This will include them being able to stay in their own home when it is safe, appropriate and possible to do so.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse are cross-cutting issues, affecting individuals, families, children and young people, workplaces, schools, communities, and impacting on health and wellbeing both immediately and long into the future. These issues are increasingly being recognised as public health challenges that can and should be prevented.

No one should have to live in fear of violence, abuse or controlling behaviour in their relationship or family. No one should think it is acceptable to perpetrate violence against anyone. No child should grow up in a home where violence or abuse is an everyday occurrence. No one should have to put up with sexual harassment in our streets and public places. This vision aligns with the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.

We will continue to use the latest research to develop our approaches to Domestic Abuse, seeking to understand the multifaceted and complex nature of each person's context and experience.

3.1 The Priority: Drive Change Together

We acknowledge that more can be done to promote integrated working across all sectors. The Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board recognise the adverse impact of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence on society, and the need to promote change through joint commitment, leadership and partnership working.

This priority focuses on strengthening our governance processes and improving the way that we work together.

We will promote a more cohesive approach to tackling Domestic Abuse, working together to meet our collective aims.

- All agencies are committed to working together to provide a seamless service, pool resources, take a more strategic and effective response to Domestic Abuse, and actively engage in meeting our collective aims and objectives, working through governance structures at an appropriate level

- We will challenge societal attitudes that allow Domestic Abuse to occur, so it is unacceptable in any form and increase awareness of how to better prevent and respond to Domestic Abuse across all agencies, services and our local communities
- We will work using a 'grass roots upward' approach, involving community assets, social hubs and community leaders, to engage people across diverse and minority groups
- Partners will work collectively to bring together comparable, accurate and consistent data on areas such as commissioning, provision and gap analysis. This information-sharing will work to strengthen our understanding around under-reporting and ensuring we learn lessons and draw out the right narratives from the evidence
- All agencies will ensure they participate in the Domestic Homicide Review process, and that learning from this, Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews are proactively shared with the wider workforce
- Staff and volunteers will have a strong understanding of appropriate responses and pathways including referrals and interventions. Agencies will ensure that they are aware of the links to each different area of business such as Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Integrated Offender Management (IOM), Local Criminal Justice Board, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination meeting (MATAC) and other partnership bodies so that they can work cohesively
- We will continue to make representations for longer term and sustainable funding in respect of Domestic Abuse

3.2 The Priority: Prevention and Early Intervention

This priority aims to increase the focus on early intervention and prevention, which is not only about stopping Domestic Abuse but also preventing the escalation of abuse.

The Aim: Prevention, Diversion, Disruption and Enforcement.

- We will achieve this by identifying Domestic Abuse perpetrators and offering pathways to either therapeutic support or Criminal Justice pathway to prevent further offending

- The offer of therapeutic support will be offered in the first instance. It will offer support through locally commissioned services to address the root causes of perpetrator behaviour. Offenders will be encouraged to engage with the local Perpetrator Programme (Cranstoun), this will contribute to reducing risk posed by offender. Local research into the effectiveness of Inspire to Change demonstrated where offenders engage, in the 6-month follow up period, they had not offended
- To ensure support is available from other commissioned services, e.g. alcohol/substance services, mental health, family/parenting or housing support, thereby reducing risk and changing offending behaviour

3.3 The Priority: Justice and Ongoing Protection

The Aim: Justice, recovery, and ongoing protection.

Provision of effective, engaged, supportive, responsive, and timely protection and justice.

- We will ensure, whenever it is safe, appropriate and possible to do so, that the victim is able to stay in their own home if they choose to, and the perpetrators will be removed and prosecuted when necessary. This will include a clear commitment to widen access to support options such as safe accommodation with Domestic Abuse outreach support services
- To ensure that those who are being supported are not coerced in any way to return to abusive relationships
- For Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic, and Refugee (BAMER) victims being supported within their homes, we need to recognise that there is often an additional pressure to return to abusive relationships, and we need to thus provide appropriate support. This will build their confidence, thereby preventing them from being stuck with the ostracism and isolation they feel, and strengthening them to overcome this and remain strong and safe
- We will provide people with crisis accommodation when it is needed, including refuges via homelessness and specialist Domestic Violence and Abuse commissioned provision. We will ensure everyone in crisis accommodation has support from a Domestic Abuse service and have an allocated support worker
- Support victims and their children and keep them safe, and to challenge the perpetrator and their behaviour

- Increase the number of prosecutions without victim involvement where appropriate. Increase awareness and the appropriate use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders. Serial perpetrators are pursued through the Criminal Justice process and held accountable for their behaviour. Young people who are perpetrators of Domestic Abuse towards parents or partners are identified and offered appropriate interventions

3.4 The Priority: Responding to Changing Need and Demand

We will work towards providing support where help is needed most. We will work together to plan, deliver, and commission appropriate services in response of meeting needs. We will be committed in co-production methods for reform and innovation. We will continue to work with marginalised groups and develop innovative ways of responding to their needs. We will listen to the views of our service user.

- We will be working directly with specialist service providers and users to co-design new service models of Domestic Violence and Abuse – each partner listening to one another in a non-hierarchical way, seeking innovation and new investment together
- Helpline and online support, increase access to information and support available including the use of digital platforms, a whole family approach with one front door to support vulnerable adults and children to get a swift and effective response. To integrate pathways into child safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Services by organisations working together to identify and safeguard vulnerable families at the earliest opportunity
- We will provide support to victims of Domestic Abuse and their children in refuges and safe accommodation
- We will ensure that all eligible homeless victims of Domestic Abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance

3.5 The Priority: Minimising Harm through the Provision of Early Help Support for Children and Families

The Aim: Minimising harm, providing positive outcomes, and promoting equality of access for all survivors of Domestic Abuse. Recognising and reducing barriers to reporting. Supporting a person or family through longer term support needs.

- We will ensure that all staff who work with people who may disclose Domestic Abuse are trained to respond with care. We know that people will choose to ask for help from anyone they trust, which can include family and friends, the voluntary sector, schools, GPs, practice nurses and midwives, Early Help keyworkers, housing officers, and statutory services such as social work and social care if they are already working with the family. Some victims may also call the police. There are many ways to seek support for Domestic Abuse, and the workforce will be trained to respond with care to this. Others may also disclose in learning centres, community colleges and schools
- We will ensure that each agency provides a clear strategic training and workforce development plan for Domestic Abuse
- We will ensure that all staff and volunteers in any service – particularly those under the governance of our safeguarding boards – are trained to respond appropriately to disclosures of Domestic Abuse. They will have the key knowledge of interventions and services to support a person/couple/family in their prevention, safety, and recovery
- We will continue to work in close partnership with specialist services in the voluntary and community sector and specialist academics to offer good quality training and development. This will be fresh, current, and based on sound evidence. Partner agencies must commit to accessing these training resources
- We will offer specialist training, separate from Domestic Abuse Training, for Forced Marriage, so-called 'Honour-Based' Violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). We commit to offering specialist training, advice and support to all professionals for the risk assessments/support/referrals to be successful
- By having such awareness-raising strategies in place, services can go the extra mile to ensure their service is accessible and inclusive to all, which will provide greater outcomes and achievements of the Council's zero-tolerance vision
- We will continue to ensure access to good quality training on a range of levels, including awareness-raising, identification, and response

3.6 The Priority: Providing Safe Accommodation and Appropriate Support

This priority aims to ensure that every victim of Domestic Abuse that present at homeless to RMBC is provided with safe, supported secure accommodation. RMBC aims to find the right home for the right person.

The Aim: Safe Accommodation, Specialist Support.

RMBC has completed a Needs Assessment and a review of the Domestic Abuse support pathway to find where RMBC has capacity to improve support and accommodation for homeless Domestic Abuse victims in preparation for the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020. The gaps in this pathway were subsequently identified and they are utilised to inform our aims.

A victim should never be left without specialist Domestic Abuse Support. On-call weekend support should be made available to anyone presenting as homeless. All victims of Domestic Abuse deserve specialist support and shelter inside a safe environment. Victims of Domestic Abuse in Rotherham on a Leave-to-Remain Visa are eligible for support irrespective of immigrant status. **A ‘priority status’ must be applied to all service users under the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020**, and a specialist Domestic Abuse and Housing Support Officer will be allocated to a victim presenting as homeless.

Service Users deserve a seamless journey through Domestic Abuse support services. Victims of Domestic Abuse should be supported by a single support worker to guide them through the entirety of their journey through the service, regardless of the fluctuations of their risk levels. Homeless victims should have access to support packages of essential items such as food, baby clothes, etc.

Every victim of Domestic Abuse deserves their specific needs to be met. To effectively support service users with Complex Needs, the service should seek to undertake a second assessment alongside the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment form (DASH) at the first point of contact, that would operate as a ‘Chaos Indicator’ to ascertain the level of vulnerability of the service user, and thus what type of additional support needs they may require.

What we have achieved:

- Market engagement event to secure contracts for the recommissioning of the Domestic Abuse services.

- Engagement event with the Domestic Abuse Services Rotherham Rise and the in-house IDVA service to identify gaps in the current service pathway.
- Survivor engagement event, seeking thought from those who have used the Domestic Abuse service.
- Recommissioned Rotherham Refuge
- Commissioned Safer Options; 8 properties with Domestic Abuse support, based within the Community.
- Complex Cases and Chaos Index research and review undertaken, with accompanying briefing report on the findings.

What we aim to achieve:

- Refuge provision to enhance accommodation levels, ensuring more Domestic Abuse victims can be housed.
- Extend the contract to Safer Options, to provide 8 dispersed properties for victims seeking safe accommodation.
- Refurbish and maintain 5 RMBC properties for victims of Domestic Abuse presenting to the council as homeless.
- Victims of Domestic Abuse presenting as homeless to RMBC are to be met with a specialist Domestic Abuse and Housing Support Officer at the first point of contact.
- Ensure safe accommodation is equipped with essential comfort packages for victims of Domestic Abuse fleeing with little/no possessions.
- Provide a secondary assessment, alongside the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment form (DASH) at the first point of contact. This would operate as a 'Chaos Indicator' for complex needs, to ascertain the level of vulnerability of the service user and thus what type of additional support needs they may require.
- The recommissioning of our Domestic Abuse services, to ensure a more seamless pathway through the service.
- Offer temporary financial support for victims where this may be a barrier to access immediate safe accommodation, including those with No Recourse to Public Funds, and those who are unable to finance emergency accommodation themselves.

4 Delivery

Strategy	<p>This strategy has been developed by the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, on behalf of the Safer Rotherham Partnership.</p> <p>In the preparation of this strategy, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council consulted with various stakeholders, professionals from a wide range of disciplines (including community safety, domestic abuse service providers, voluntary and community sector organisations, South Yorkshire Police, NHS Trust, came together to discuss the proposed priority areas of the strategy, identify potential gaps, and suggest how these could be addressed in the strategy. Their thoughts and ideas have been incorporated into this document. Service users, members of the public, and statutory and voluntary stakeholders were also invited to complete surveys to identify the priorities that were most important to them. The purpose of having this strategy is to clearly identify our gaps and areas for improvement and allow us to focus on them together. As highlighted within this document, partnership work is key to our success and this strategy will therefore become the driving force in respect of improvements to Domestic Abuse services.</p>
Performance	Periodic updates in relation to progress will be expected by the SRP Performance and Delivery Group (PAD). Suitable performance indicators will be identified in order to support each aim and again, periodic updates will be provided. Alongside managing performance, the partnership will seek to manage any risks that exist in respect of delivery against the strategy.
Action Plans	A robust action plan will be developed to support this strategy. The action plan will be driven by the aims and objectives contained within this strategy and will identify specific actions needed in order to support each aim and deliver success.
Promote	The promotion and implementation of the strategy will include, training, awareness raising through events, promotional materials, media and specialist training

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PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title		
Title: Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 - 2027		
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety	
Lead person: Sam Barstow	Contact number:	
Is this a:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify		

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

The Domestic Abuse Strategy aims to support the individualised needs of every victim of domestic abuse, to create a more seamless pathway through the council's domestic abuse services by developing an integrated service which allows systemic working and ensuring the delivery of the six key priorities:

- Driving Change Together
- Prevention and Early Intervention

- Justice, Recovery, and Ongoing Protection
- Responding to Changing Need and Demand
- Minimising Harm, Early Help Support & Children
- Homeless Victims are Provided with Safe Accommodation

The strategy aims to raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse, encourage victims to access support, and seeks to harness the energy of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, focussing development towards common goals. As such, it will enable a rigorous and proactive approach to improving the quality of relationships across Rotherham and reducing harm caused by Domestic Abuse.

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)

The strategy will affect every victim of domestic abuse in Rotherham.

The intended outcome of this Strategy is to support the individualised needs of every victim of domestic abuse, to create a more seamless pathway through the council's domestic abuse services by developing an integrated service which allows systemic working and ensuring the delivery of the six key priorities:

- Driving Change Together
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Justice, Recovery, and Ongoing Protection
- Responding to Changing Need and Demand
- Minimising Harm, Early Help Support & Children
- Homeless Victims are Provided with Safe Accommodation

The strategy aims to raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse, encourage victims to access support, and seeks to harness the energy of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, focussing development towards common goals. As such, it will enable a rigorous and proactive approach to improving the quality of relationships across Rotherham and reducing harm caused by Domestic Abuse.

Rotherham Domestic Abuse Services

There are two domestic abuse support services provided by with Rotherham Rise - one of which is a BAME (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic groups) specific commissioned service. The services from Rotherham Rise provide support to victims of domestic abuse who are

assessed at standard to medium level of risk. The short to medium support service helps to keep victims and their dependents safe, develop confidence, and provides emotional and practical support.

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

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

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

The Safer Rotherham Partnership invited City of Bradford Council and partners to conduct a thorough peer review of Domestic Abuse Services in Rotherham, to both provide a health check and inform future delivery. The Safer Rotherham Partnership asked commissioners of both Adult and Children's services to undertake a full review of Domestic Abuse services in Rotherham.

Consultation and engagement activities that have taken place and planned are detailed in Part B

- **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)

The findings of the review indicated that the domestic abuse pathway was fragmented and there was need for a more integrated approach, with easier access to services. The findings also recognised that there should be a more defined specialised area on how support to LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse and issues relating to victims of domestic abuse who have other added factors such as disabilities or caring responsibilities.

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

It was concluded that the Refuge provision is remodelled to provide a diverse offer to meet the needs of a range of all victims. To co-design a new model of domestic abuse support, building on the previous co-production, followed by the commissioning of the new delivery model for domestic support services and refuge in one combined contract. Aligning the councils IDVAs service provision with the commissioned support services to enable victims and their children to remain safe and to live independently in their own home.

- **Actions**

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

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

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	17/9/21
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	17/9/21
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Sam Barstow Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Sam Barstow	Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services	05/11/21

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	17/9/21
Report title and date	Domestic Abuse Strategy to be presented to Cabinet 24 January 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	As above
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	05/11/21

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: Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 - 2027		
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 09/09/2021		
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety and Street Scene - Domestic and Sexual Abuse	
Lead Manager: Sam Barstow	Contact number: 07748143370	
Is this a:		
<input 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)
Amanda Raven	RMBC – Community Safety and Street Scene	Service Specialist – Domestic Abuse Coordinator
Helen Caulfield-Brown	RMBC – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Commissioning Manager
Megan Dyson	RMBC – Community Safety and Street Scene	National Management Trainee

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 strategy will affect every victim of domestic abuse in Rotherham.

The intended outcome of this Strategy is to support the individualised needs of every victim of domestic abuse, to create a more seamless pathway through the council's domestic abuse services by developing an integrated service which allows systemic working.

and ensuring the delivery of the six key priorities:

- Driving Change Together
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Justice, Recovery, and Ongoing Protection
- Responding to Changing Need and Demand
- Minimising Harm, Early Help Support & Children
- Homeless Victims are Provided with Safe Accommodation

The strategy aims to raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse, encourage victims to access support, and seeks to harness the energy of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, focussing development towards common goals. As such, it will enable a rigorous and proactive approach to improving the quality of relationships across Rotherham and reducing harm caused by Domestic Abuse.

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keep victims and their dependents safe, develop confidence, and provides emotional and practical support.

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

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

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

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

It was concluded that it should be proposed that the Refuge provision is remodelled to provide a diverse offer to meet the needs of a range of all victims. To co-design a new model of domestic abuse support, building on the previous co-production, followed by the commissioning of the new delivery model for domestic support services and refuge in one combined contract. Aligning the councils IDVAs service provision with the commissioned support services to enable victims and their children to remain safe and to live independently in their own home.

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

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

There have been a number of engagement events undertaken which contributed towards this strategy. They are listed below:

- Market Engagement (2021)
- IDVA Engagement (2020)
- Rotherham Rise Engagement (2020)

- Victim Engagement (Refuge) (2020) (Victims have protected characteristics)
- Victim Engagement (Rotherham Rise) (2020) and the BMER service
- Key Stakeholders and Voluntary Groups Engagement – Housing, Commissioning, Voluntary Sector, SYP, NHS (2021)

There has also been a rigorous Needs Assessment undertaken, which was provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government, and serves as a useful tool to aid data capture to review the impact of domestic abuse on RMBC's services and helped RMBC understand the needs of homeless domestic abuse victims in Rotherham. This Needs Assessment therefore ensured that RMBC was prepared for the new statutory duties of the National Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

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

No - the Domestic Abuse Services review was undertaken in 2018, concluded January 2019. The Council's intention was to pilot new ways of working, taking any learning before exercising a competitive procurement process. Unfortunately, due to the impact of Covid -19 pandemic this hindered the progress.

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

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

Strengthened contract management will routinely review accessibility of RMBC's domestic abuse services. In addition, the accommodation offer will include accessible properties.

There are also a number of panels set in place that routinely monitor the impact of domestic abuse on all communities and groups in Rotherham. These include the Domestic Abuse Manager's Forum, the MARAC Steering Group, and the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group. Here, individualised needs are discussed, and any issues or concerns are raised and responded to in a prompt manner.

Additionally, RMBC receives weekly statistics from voluntary sector groups and South Yorkshire Police (SYP). Domestic abuse services provide weekly statistics on victim engagement with the services, and SYP provide statistics on both crime and non-crime domestic abuse related incidents. There are also bi-monthly reports from all commissioned and non-commissioned services, plus reports from the Homeless Team. Reports from Remedi, Safer Options, and Sayit.

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

Engagement event with victims inside the refuge and medium-risk victims supported by the commissioned service:

Key findings: There is a disjointed pathway through the domestic abuse service, because victims found that as their risk level fluctuated, they were assigned a new

	<p>support worker via a different service. Many victims asserted that it was difficult to re-tell their experience to many different support workers.</p> <p>Cultural barriers, such as lack of understanding of how to access services, resources, and public funds, were identified by victims as an issue for some Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities. Language barriers were also identified as a barrier to accessing support.</p> <p>Victims also described how shared accommodation can also be a barrier, if there are males (for example, teenage sons) in the accommodation with vulnerable women.</p> <p>Summary of engagement to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim Engagement (Refuge) (2020) (Victims have protected characteristics) • Victim Engagement (Rotherham Rise) (2020) and the BMER service <p>There has also been a rigorous Needs Assessment undertaken, which was provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government, and serves as a useful tool to aid data capture to review the impact of domestic abuse on RMBC's services and helped RMBC understand the needs of homeless domestic abuse victims in Rotherham. This Needs Assessment therefore ensured that RMBC was prepared for the new statutory duties of the National Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p>
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Engagement Event with IDVA Team: 03/03/2021 and Rotherham Rise: 26/02/2021 <p>Key findings: Service staff corroborated the victim's concerns about the disjointed pathway within the service. Staff claimed that it is difficult to build a rapport with the victim if they are having to move between services as their risk level changes rapidly. Moreover, some victims with protected characteristics do not want to move support services due to lack of trust with local authority staff. It is asserted that some of these victims find it difficult to disclose their experiences to staff, therefore making them more reluctant to move between services as their risk level fluctuates. Staff claim that this risks them disengaging from the service altogether.</p>

	<p>There is also an issue with getting some victims of certain cultures to recognise that they are in situation or relationship which is causing them to experience domestic abuse.</p> <p>However, the service staff did not find that 'protected characteristics' was in itself a barrier for the services to support victims – especially due to RMBC's specialist BMER service and refuge.</p> <p>Domestic abuse and Homelessness Pathway Internal Review and Consultation: February 2021</p> <p>Key findings: It was also found that a victim could be left without specialist domestic abuse support over a weekend; for example if a victim presented as homeless due to domestic abuse to RMBC after 5pm on Friday, will have to wait until the following Monday to be referred to any specialist domestic abuse support.</p> <p>In one case, a service user who was in Rotherham on a Leave-to-Remain Visa was not eligible for support due to immigrant status. A 'priority status' must be applied to all service users under the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020.</p> <p>The majority of service users had dependent children in their care; often, more than one child per service user. Where victims are fleeing with little to no personal possessions, the new service will aim to provide safe accommodation properties with comfort packages equipped with essential items.</p> <p>Summary of engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Engagement (2021) • IDVA Engagement (2020) • Rotherham Rise Engagement (2020) • Key Stakeholders and Voluntary Groups Engagement – Housing, Commissioning, Voluntary Sector, SYP, NHS (2021) <p>There has also been a rigorous Needs Assessment undertaken, which was provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government, and serves as a useful tool to aid data capture to review the impact of domestic abuse on RMBC's services and helped RMBC understand the needs of homeless domestic abuse victims in Rotherham. This Needs Assessment therefore ensured that RMBC was</p>
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	prepared for the new statutory duties of the National Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
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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)

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

The strategy seeks to enhance the accommodation offer and ensure an increase in individualised housing, certifying it is accessible for all victims of domestic abuse – pertaining to all genders, sexualities, ethnicities, religious beliefs, and disabilities. Specialist domestic abuse support will also be provided to every homeless victim inside all forms of safe accommodation.

The strategy also seeks to create a one whole commissioned service, enabling a seamless pathway for service users. It also sets out to acknowledge and understand the individualised support needs of each victim and enables their specific needs to be met.

The service set out in this strategy will be inclusive to all of those effected by domestic abuse. Although the service is an adult service of 16+ years, it will make referrals to safeguard children at risk of harm and provide a 'Whole Family Approach' which will benefit children, young people, and families.

The strategy also seeks to deliver training and awareness-raising campaigns in different languages and will spotlight particular issues such as Forced Marriages, 'Honour Based' Abuse, and FGM. It will also provide training sessions for staff dealing with issues LGBTQ+ victims face where domestic abuse is occurring in same-sex relationships.

It also will deliver wider campaigns to raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on everybody in the community, under the ethos that "domestic abuse is everyone's business".

Services will be monitored via statistics, groups, and panels - any gaps will therefore be identified promptly and processes and pathways to support will be reviewed accordingly.

Ultimately, the focus of this strategy is to achieve optimum outcomes which make a real difference to the quality of life and wellbeing of people who have experienced domestic abuse. The domestic abuse services will provide a service for **all** people, including those with protected characteristics.

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

The strategy does not present any problem or barrier to the community. If the strategy is implemented, further awareness raising and training will be employed, and we will continue to work with the voluntary sector and user groups to help address any concerns within the community to ensure every victim's needs are met, no matter what background they are from. As such, this strategy will endeavour to remove any barriers to inclusion, and to provide an accessible service for all.

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

Yes – the strategy seeks to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse in Rotherham receive support to maximise the best outcomes inclusive of all protected characteristics. The service outlined in this strategy will ensure that a victim will have a continuity of support no matter what level of risk, individual support needs, or protected characteristics the victim may have.

Additionally, the strategy seeks to strengthen overall resources that safeguard victims of domestic abuse and their families in Rotherham, alongside diversifying the type of properties available for individuals feeling their home due to domestic abuse.

The strategy will also ensure that homeless victims of domestic abuse are provided with both safe accommodation and a specialist domestic abuse support worker, meaning that their individualised needs are catered for and they are guaranteed a safe journey of recovery.

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)

Further investing in domestic abuse services, which support the most vulnerable residents of Rotherham, is likely to have a positive impact on community relations.

The service model outlined in this strategy will have a positive impact on communities and contribute towards providing a local community support to victims and their families. This will enable people to reach their true potential and contribute towards providing safer neighbourhoods and communities within Rotherham.

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: Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 - 2027
Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment – Community Safety and Street Scene
Lead Manager: Sam Barstow
Summary of findings:
The pathway throughout shows a need for individualised support to every victim's specific needs can be met. It also needs to become more seamless to prevent disengagement from the service.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
N/A		

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Sam Barstow	Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services	05/11/21

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	17/09/2021
Report title and date	Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 - 2027
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

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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?	none				
Emissions from transport?	none				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	none				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	none				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	none				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	none				

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:

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Amanda Raven, Community Safety Unit, Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	None required
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.	Not relevant
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Not required

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 24 January 2022

Report Title

November Financial Monitoring 2021/22

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

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

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out the financial position as at the end of November 2021 and is based on actual costs and income for the first eight months of 2021/22 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and is essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's Policy Agenda. To that end, this is the fourth financial monitoring report of a series of monitoring reports for the current financial year which will continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As at November 2021, the Council currently expects to deliver the overall outturn within budget for the financial year 2021/22. Whilst the Directorates have a forecast year-end overspend of £8.5m on the General Fund, this is mitigated by the government's provision of COVID-19 emergency support grant and Sales, Fees and Charges Income Compensation. However, it should be noted that the longer term impacts of Covid-19, public health measures and the pace at which services can return to normal is unknown. This is further exacerbated by current uncertainties brought about by the Omicron variant that may lead to further financial implications for the Council.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast of a balanced budget.
2. Note that actions will continue to be taken to ensure that a balanced financial outturn is delivered.
3. Note the Capital Programme update.
4. Note the officer delegated decisions taken by the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, as detailed in sections 2.45 to 2.58 of the report.
5. Note Governments base criteria for the new business support scheme, Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant, as detailed in sections 2.59 to 2.65 and that the Council will administer the scheme in line with Government guidance.
6. Note Governments announcement of a further top up to the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), a discretionary grant to provide support packages to businesses impacted by the continuing pandemic, and that schemes will be approved via the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), as detailed in sections 2.66 to 2.68.
7. Note Governments base criteria for the Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF), a discretionary fund to provide business rates relief to businesses impacted by the continuing pandemic, as detailed in sections 2.69 to 2.72 and that proposals for the scheme will be developed and recommended to Cabinet in February.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Budget and Council Tax 2021/22 Report to Council on 3rd March 2021
May 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet on 19th July 2021
July 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet on 20th September 2021
September 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet on 22nd November 2021

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

November Financial Monitoring 2021/22

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of its performance and control framework the Council is required to produce regular and timely reports for the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet to keep them informed of financial performance so that, where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring expenditure in line with the approved budget for the financial year.
- 1.2 Delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme within the parameters agreed by Council is essential if the Council's objectives are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.
- 1.3 This report is the fourth in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2021/22, setting out the projected year-end revenue budget financial position in light of actual costs and income for the first eight months of the financial year.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Table 1 below shows, by Directorate, the summary forecast revenue outturn position.

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn 2021/22 as at November 2021

Directorate	Budget 2020/21	Forecast Outturn 2020/21	Forecast Variance over/ under (-)
	£m	£m	£m
Children and Young People's Services	63.4	70.6	7.2
Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	87.1	84.2	-2.9
Regeneration and Environment Services	45.3	49.4	4.1
Finance and Customer Services	18.8	18.5	-0.3
Assistant Chief Executive	7.2	6.8	-0.4
Central Services	13.9	14.7	0.8
Directorate Forecast Outturn	235.7	244.2	8.5
Covid-19 support grant			-8.1
Sales, Fees and Charges Income Compensation Claims			-0.4
Net Forecast Outturn			0.0
Dedicated Schools Grant			0.8
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			-0.6

2.2 The Council's overspend position (excluding government's COVID-19 support grants) at this point is largely due to three overall issues:

- Financial implications as a result of COVID-19 and the Council's response to the pandemic.
- Delayed delivery of savings plans as a result of COVID-19.
- Placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services

As at November 2021, the Directorate forecast overspend of £8.5m is mitigated by the Government's provision of emergency funding to support the COVID-19 response. Whilst some elements of the current forecast overspend aren't directly linked to Covid-19 pressures (CYPS placements), there are Covid-19 pressures/costs within budgeted services, that the Council can use Covid emergency funding to support.

2.3 Government has provided the Council with £8.3m emergency funding for the financial impacts during 2021/22. The Council also carried forward within the Covid grants reserve £5.3m of emergency support funding from 2020/21, to be used to support the longer-term financial impacts of Covid-19. If needed, this will be used in 2021/22 or held in reserve for financial pressures over the longer term. This allows £13.6m to be used to support financial pressures in relation to Covid 19 during 2021/22. As such the Council is forecasting the use of £8.1m at present, to support the Council's forecast outturn position, leaving £5.5m to mitigate any further pressures that occur during the year. At this point the longer-term financial impact on the Council of Covid-19 remains uncertain. In addition, the new Omicron variant could present the Council with further financial challenges.

2.4 In addition to the emergency funding support, Government has confirmed that the co-payment mechanism for irrecoverable Sales, Fees and Charges income, with the Government covering 75% of losses beyond 5% of planned income, will continue for quarter 1, 2021/22. This scheme will provide the Council with additional grant to support irrecoverable income losses on sales, fees and charges income. The Council has now submitted the claim for SFC quarter 1, 2021/22, a claim of £428k. This funding will be added to the use of £8.1m of emergency funding to enable the Council to deliver a balanced budget position as at the financial outturn 2021/22.

2.5 Within previous financial monitoring reports the Council has provided an update on the Covid-19 grants available for 2021/22. These grants taken together with the specific Covid-19 Grants Reserve carried forward from 2020/21, of £27.4m, place the Council in a constructive position to manage the ongoing financial impacts of Covid-19. However, it should be noted that some of these grants are specific and targeted towards specific costs, such as the Section 31 grant to cover the impact of business rates relief. In addition, the ongoing longer term financial implications of Covid-19 remain uncertain, as government restrictions continue, this uncertainty will remain.

2.6 The forecast position will continue to be monitored closely and mitigations identified to ensure a balanced outturn position can be delivered. As indicated, it is anticipated at present that the Council will be able to deliver a balanced outturn

position, despite the risk of additional cost pressures that may arise as a result of continuing Covid impact.

2.7 The Budget and Council Tax Report 2021/22 noted that £18.1m of agreed budget savings and cost reductions were required to be delivered across the medium term. As per the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) update to Cabinet on 20th December 2021 the Council remains confident that the remaining savings will be achieved, but over a longer timeframe, most of them by the end of 2024/25. A further £2m savings is being delivered in 2021/22 and £11.5m is profiled for delivery from 2022/23 in the updated MTFS. The shortfall is mostly mitigated by additional Corporate savings from Treasury Management.

The following sections provide further information regarding the Councils forecast outturn of £8.5m, before taking account of the COVID grant, the key reasons for forecast under or overspends within Directorates, and the progress of savings delivery.

2.8 **Children and Young People Services Directorate (£7.2m forecast overspend)**

2.9 Children & Young People Services continue to implement the budget recovery plan with budget savings on track for staffing and therapeutic savings, but placement pressures mean only £1.5m of the £3.6m savings are currently forecast to be achieved in 2021/22. CYPS are developing an updated action plan to enable the delivery of the remaining CYPS agreed savings over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), as reflected within the Councils updated MTFS report to Cabinet in December 2021.

2.10 The budget pressure at the end of November is a £7.2m projected overspend. In the main the pressures relate to demands on residential & emergency placement spend that is also impacting the delivery of planned savings for 2021/22. The budget position includes additional cost pressures due to the COVID pandemic which are estimated at £1.8m (£1.5m placements and £300k reduced income) and Stovewood costs linked to CYPS, that are expected to be around £6m for 2021/22.

2.11 The Looked After Children number of 571 is ahead of the budget profile of 576 for this period, a reduction of 5 placements. However, the placement mix is showing higher than projected placements in high costs settings for residential (23), emergency (3), Independent Fostering Agencies (20), offset by in-house fostering (44) Parent & Baby (1), in-house residential (2) and no cost placements (4).

2.12 The direct employee budget is £36.3m and is a combination of general fund, traded and grant funded services. The projected overspend at the end of November is £244k, which includes a general fund projected underspend of £80k and additional spend of £324k against DSG and new grant funding.

2.13 The staffing general fund projected underspend of £80k relates to staffing savings in Early Help offset by pressures in Children's Social Care (due to agency workers), District Wide (mainly Safeguarding) and Commissioning, Performance.

Education staffing pressures relate to DSG and traded services. At the end of November there were 16.4 agency workers across children's social care to support service requirements.

- 2.14 The staffing budget reflects the work undertaken to date on delivery of the Early Help and Social Care Pathways savings proposals and other staff savings across the CYPS directorate.
- 2.15 A significant element of the CYPS non-pay budget relates to placements which has a net budget of £32.7m with a current projected spend of £39.2m, a projected overspend of £6.5m.
- 2.16 The £6.5m adverse projection relates in the main to £4.9m on residential placements, £1.7m in emergency and £0.1m on Mother and Baby placements. In fostering there are £0.6m pressures on IFA placements due to numbers above the budget profile, offset by £0.8m savings in-house fostering due to numbers being lower than budget projections.
- 2.17 The other major budget pressures across the service relate to Transport pressures, £400k, a projected overspend on Section 17 budgets, £200k, and reduced income due to Covid for Crowden, Rockingham & fees which equates to £200k.

Dedicated Schools Grant

- 2.18 The High Needs Block (HNB) is £45.2m (including the £3.0m transfer from the schools block) and demand remains high due to rising numbers of children supported in specialist provision and the rising costs of Education Health Care (EHC) plans.
- 2.19 The Council is working with the DfE as part of the Safety Valve Intervention Programme which is provided to support local authorities which have large DSG deficits. The work with DfE on the Programme aims to achieve a mutually agreeable solution to eliminating the Council's DSG deficit and to secure a sustainable DSG position going forward.
- 2.20 The High Needs Budget is based on the DSG recovery plan and includes anticipated growth on EHC numbers and the implementation of new developments linked to the SEND Sufficiency Strategy. The latest budget position is a £755k projected overspend, with no movement in the overall projection since July. The pressures reflect growth for special school and Independent Sector placements for the new academic year and pressures on Inclusion Services. Both the Early Years and the Schools' Block are also expected to be broadly in line with allocations in 2021/22.
- 2.21 The key areas of focus to reduce High Needs Block spend are:
 - A review of high cost, external education provision to reduce spend and move children back into Rotherham educational provision.
 - Increase SEN provision in Rotherham linked to mainstream schools and academies, with further capacity becoming operational by the end of 2021/22.

- Work with schools and academies to maintain pupils in mainstream settings wherever possible.
- A review of inclusion services provided by the Council

Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (£2.9m forecast underspend)

2.22 The overall Directorate forecast is an underspend of £2.9m on general fund services: Adult Care (£2.4m); Housing (£91k) and Public Health (£460k).

2.23 Included within the forecast is the Covid-19 impact for the service. COVID-19 is estimated to have a net cost impact of £2.3m during 2021/22. This includes: £400k for personal protective equipment; £1.3m due to delays in achieving planned cost reduction and costs of transformation; £0.8m of placement costs due to the extension of the NHS discharge scheme (additional demand) and £600k of staffing and other costs. Forecast additional NHS income for people discharged from hospital £0.8m, to support the hospital discharge process during the pandemic, reduces the net Covid-19 cost.

2.24 Excluding the cost of COVID-19, the cost of care packages is forecast to be a net £3.8m underspend. This is due to savings on transforming care £620k and reductions in the number of older people placements of £3m although Covid related placements are likely to be ongoing once temporary funding ceases. Across Mental Health packages, Physical and Sensory disability services and Learning disability placements there is a net saving of £205k. Care packages have therefore, seen a reduction of just under £1.4m since the last report due to increased Health income for clients being agreed and backdated, as well as lower than anticipated take up of some services restarting following partial closure due to the pandemic (0.9m). In addition, forecast price pressures of £525k are no longer expected this financial year.

2.25 The overall forecast for Adult Care includes anticipated support from the Better Care Fund subject to final agreement with partners.

2.26 Neighbourhood Services' (Housing) is forecast to underspend by £91k. Additional income from furnished homes is offset by £509k of pressures due to the increased cost of temporary accommodation.

2.27 Public Health is forecast to underspend by £460k. The NHS Health Check programme (£250k) has been paused through the pandemic to reduce the risk from face-to-face contact and support the capacity issues in primary care. The remainder is due to underspends on several demand-led services.

Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£4.1m forecast overspend)

2.28 The latest outturn projection for the Directorate remains unchanged from the November Cabinet report forecast pressure of £4.1m for this financial year. However, within this stable position there are variances from the last reported position within individual Services. Income improvements have continued, particularly in Culture Sport and Tourism, following the relaxation of lockdown restrictions in July, however, it is not clear how much further progress will be made to reach the income levels of the past. In addition, it remains to be seen if

the underlying structural pressures will remain after the end of the pandemic e.g. in Waste Services and Parking. The forecast outturn projection includes the following specific budget issues:

- 2.29 Community Safety and Street Scene (CSS) is reporting an overall pressure of £2.5m, a small improvement of £100k from the last reported position. The most significant pressure continues to be in respect of Transport (£1.8m). Pressures continue in Home to School Transport (£1.3m), where at first, social distancing requirements have limited the ability to make savings but also the start of school in September brought increased demand as the number of new eligible passengers, exceeded those no longer requiring support with transport. In addition, fewer contractors in the market have meant that prices have increased. Engagement continues with CYPS to maximise savings opportunities using improved cost data analysis to support plans to implement lower cost routes. Cost pressures amounting to £346k remain forecast in Corporate Transport (Fleet Management and Vehicle Maintenance). Plans are in place to improve the efficiency of the service, but it will take time for arrangements to be reset then embed in.
- 2.30 Waste Management is forecasting an overspend of £492k, an improvement of £0.2m from November's reported position. Household waste tonnages continue to be above trend, however, the Service is seeing an improvement in recycling income, as the market begins to stabilise. Network Management is reporting a pressure of £285k, due to an ongoing pressure in Parking Services. Lockdown restrictions led to a reduction in income, however, the continuing impact on town centre footfall also plays a part in collecting less parking charges. Temporary savings in the Community Safety and Regulation budget have been generated due to staff turnover and the use of COMF funding to support service delivery, this is partly mitigating the pressures within CSS.
- 2.31 Culture Sport and Tourism (CST) has been significantly impacted by Covid restrictions earlier in the year, income earning services saw reduced takings and there has been slow recovery following those restrictions being lifted. As a result, CST is reporting an overall pressure of £537k, an improvement of £278k from the November reported figure. Leisure sites, green spaces and country parks are key income earners for R&E but the rate of recovery in income is slow. The income shortfalls at Rother Valley Country Park, Waleswood Caravan Park and other green spaces are forecast to be £649k this year. The Theatre has a forecast net £69k loss, following the Council decision to keep the facility closed until the Autumn, it is uncertain if sales can improve on this following the Theatre's September re-opening. Libraries costs are forecast to be less than planned, (£212k), which is due to the difficulty in recruiting to vacant posts. In addition, income pressures in the Music Service and Heritage Services, as a result of the restrictions, make up the balance of the pressure in CST.
- 2.32 Planning Regeneration and Transport (PRT) is forecasting an overall pressure of £1.1m, a worsening of £0.4m. The major pressure is in Asset Management, with a forecast overspend of £744k. The pressures include income under recovery in Building Consultancy and Estates. Pressures in Facilities Management include additional repairs and maintenance expenditure, fixtures and fittings and covid

related costs. These pressures are being partly mitigated by utility savings, as the result of the reduced use of buildings.

- 2.33 A pressure of £214k is being reported in respect of Facilities Services, due to Covid response related costs, agency costs, PPE and lost income and inflationary pressures on food prices. A pressure of £114k continues to be forecast on Markets arising from the number of void stalls and the ongoing difficult trading conditions. However, grant income and lower than expected costs in the wider service (-£53k) has helped mitigate the Markets service pressure. The pressure in Transportation is £65k, there are a high number of vacancies due to difficulties recruiting, particularly to high skilled engineering roles, so fewer fee earning staff are in post consequently less than planned income is recovered.
- 2.34 Progress on delivering outstanding revenue budget savings within the Directorate continues into 2021/22. Revenue budget pressures currently reflect that the time taken to deliver Transport savings and demand pressures make delivering savings a challenge. However, £500k has been delivered within Property Services and work continues to progress delivery across the remaining savings.

Finance and Customer Services (£0.345k forecast underspend)

- 2.35 The overall Directorate is reporting a £0.345k forecast underspend. Whilst there are some financial pressures within the directorate, as detailed below, the service will make savings on ICT Contracts and Legal disbursements to mitigate these financial pressures and deliver a £0.345k underspend. The current service forecast suggests potentially a greater underspend than this but there are risks within that forecast position hence a moderate forecast underspend currently being reported. These risks relate in the main to technical adjustments for bad debt provision on Housing Benefits, an area that can fluctuate significantly.
- 2.36 Within Customer, Information and Digital Services (CIDS), following a review of the service provision and the loss-making position it was in, the Schools Connect Trading service was ceased. This improved the financial position through the reduction in staffing. However, the service still holds a budget pressure of £126k reflecting the income that would have been generated when this traded service was viable. CIDS will need to identify savings within the wider service provision, in order to free up budget to remove the Schools Connect budget pressure completely and this consideration is underway in order to ensure an achievable budget is set in 2022/23. The service also has a pressure within the corporate mail and print service following a centralisation of print services, the print service had an income shortfall of £100k. Following the changes to ways of working as a result of the pandemic, the service has seen a significant reduction in print costs that is mitigating this income shortfall. Now the budgets have been centralised the service are better placed to control print usage and implement a strategy to minimise print whilst promoting digitalised service provision. The service has incurred difficulties with recruitment which has further increased the Directorates forecast underspend.

2.37 Legal Services faces continued demand for legal support with child protection hearings and court case costs relating to Looked After Children. However, reduced costs of legal disbursements and difficulties in recruiting to key posts, in particular within Adult Social Care legal support, are currently resulting in a forecast £472k underspend. However, the number of cases during the year remains volatile and will continue to be monitored closely.

Assistant Chief Executive (£0.404k forecast underspend)

2.38 The service is currently able to forecast a £404k underspend, in the main due to carrying a number of vacant posts within the HR service, whilst a review of service requirements was finalised and wider vacancies within the directorate as a result of staff turnover and challenges with recruitment.

Central Services (£757k forecast overspend)

2.39 There are agreed savings to be delivered from Central Services as the £800k customer services saving to be delivered from Regeneration and Environment Services has been budgeted for here. This saving will not be delivered in full this year, with a forecast delivery of £100k, however to date £43k of the saving has been delivered in the current year, with a further £24k secured for 2022/23.

2.40 A number of general efficiencies on centrally managed budgets are anticipated to mitigate the current forecast overspend by the end of the financial year, this position will be kept under review and updated in future Financial Monitoring reports. The Council has £13.6m of emergency support funding available to support the 2021/22 financial outturn. Whilst in the table in section 2.1, an element of this grant is shown below the Directorate position, to net off the overall overspend, at the year end this grant will be applied to Central Services, as was the approach in 2020/21.

2.41 The Central Services budgets are made up of a number of corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Integrated Transport Levy (ITA), PFI Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2021/22, approved at Council 3rd March 2021. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the Directorates and thus held centrally. For example, the cost of levies for 2021/22 was set at £11.8m at the outset of 2021/22.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

2.42 The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory ring-fenced account that the Council has to maintain in respect of the income and expenditure incurred in relation to its council dwellings and associated assets. The HRA is currently forecast to underspend by £592k before transfer from reserves.

2.43 There is a forecast underachievement of income (£204k) which mainly relates to: the closure of Communal Facilities due to COVID-19, reduced garage rents and lower income from interest on balances. There is a forecast overspend within

Supervision and Management (£318k) due to increased ICT and central services costs. Interest on loans is forecast to be £324k underspent and the provision for bad debt is expected to reduce saving £233k. Other small variances total £63k. R&M is forecast to underspend by £620k due to delays to works which will be completed in the new financial year.

2.44 The HRA budget includes a revenue contribution to capital expenditure of £6.5m (which is forecast to budget at this stage) plus a contribution from the HRA reserve of £2.2m to balance the overall budget. The transfer from reserve is forecast at £1.6m to reflect the forecast underspend which will bring the HRA back to a balanced position.

Infection Control, Rapid Testing and Vaccination Fund(s)

2.45 On the 21 October 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced what they are calling Infection Control and Testing Fund, round 3. This includes round 4 of the Rapid Test Fund element and a new Vaccination Fund element. The Fund covers the period 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 and will provide an additional £388 million to support Adult Social Care. The Council has been allocated £117,469 from the Vaccination Fund element and £1,142,976 from the Infection Control Fund.

2.46 The two grants do have some distinctions in how the monies are to be distributed. Both parts of the Fund are time limited, and need to be spent by 31 March 2022, and have clear eligibility criteria.

2.47 An officer decision was taken on the 30th November, by the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to allocate 70% (£82k) of the Vaccination Fund and 70% (£800k) of the Infection Control Fund in accordance with the mandatory grant conditions. The remaining 30% (£35k) of the Vaccination Fund and 30% (£184k) of the Infection Control Fund discretionary elements of these grants are to be distributed as set out below.

2.48 The discretionary amounts will be used to offer a range of organisations the opportunity to bid for grant monies to be spent on either IPC or vaccination measures, as allowed by the grant conditions. These organisations are:

- Day opportunity services (including micro-enterprises) and other providers who are not eligible to access the mandatory element of the grant.
- Care homes and supported living services for people who are under 65.
- Any other CQC registered service who are operating in Rotherham.

2.49 This element will be allocated based on the applications which are received, and if the criteria for the grant will be met. The applications from non-CQC registered services will be considered as a higher priority. The CQC registered providers will be expected to have forecast to have spent their allocation of the mandatory grant. The providers will be asked to certify the expenditure at the end of the reporting period and any unspent allocations returned to the Council.

Rapid Testing Fund

2.50 The Council has been allocated £605,975 from this Rapid Testing Fund Round.

An officer decision was taken on the 30th November, by the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to allocate 70% (£437k) of the Rapid Testing Fund in accordance with the mandatory grant conditions, and to distribute the 30% (£169k) discretionary element as set out below. Additional guidance has been issued indicating that £62k of the 30% discretionary element should be ringfenced for Community Care providers in respect of the associated costs of PCR testing.

2.51 It is proposed to offer a range of organisations the opportunity to bid for a grant from the discretionary fund.

These organisations are:

- Any CQC registered provider of residential care to adults with a registered location in Rotherham. This includes care homes for older people and under 65 provision, including smaller homes to implement lateral flow testing as they may face relatively higher costs compared to larger homes.
- Supported Living Providers.
- Extra Care Housing Providers.

2.52 The above is in line with the conditions of the 30% discretionary grant. In terms of reviewing the applications, these will be considered in this order of priority:

- Supported Living Providers – providers not able to access the 70% mandatory grant.
- Extra Care Housing Providers – providers not able to access the 70% mandatory grant.
- Smaller care homes – as they may face relatively higher costs compared to larger homes.
- Any CQC registered provider of residential care to adults with a registered location in Rotherham. This includes larger care homes for older people and under 65 provision.

2.53 For care homes, the provider will need to have spent (or forecast to have spent due to the timescales of the reporting) their mandatory allocation (70% element). This element will be allocated based on an assessment of the emerging risks, and in line with the wider testing strategy. The providers will be asked to certify actual expenditure at the end of the reporting period and any unspent allocations returned to the Council.

Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund

2.54 On the 3 November 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published details of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund. The Fund covers the period 21 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 and will provide an additional £162.5 million to support Adult Social Care. Rotherham's total

allocation is £910,872 and will be received in two tranches. Therefore, any payments made to providers will also be made in two tranches in December 2021 (60%) and Jan/Feb 2022 (40%).

2.55 The Fund has clear eligibility criteria, is time limited, and all spend, and activity, must be completed by 31 March 2022. There are no mandatory elements to the Fund and Councils are required to determine themselves how the monies are distributed. There is however clear guidance on the type of activity that the money can be spent on. The Council has facilitated the distribution of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund October 2021 in accordance with the grant conditions.

2.56 An officer decision was taken on the 3rd December, by the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to allocate the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund October 2021 in the following three areas:

1. £288,000 to commission a Rapid Response Service Winter Pilot from 3 of the providers. The levels of capacity, capability and interest will be taken into consideration when choosing the providers through the selection process.
2. £553,372 to CQC registered providers, registered in Rotherham, on a per staff number basis - using data from the NHS Capacity Tracker. To be used to deliver measures that address local workforce capacity pressures through recruitment and retention activity.
3. £69,500 to the Council's accommodation based services (these services will be excluded from receiving an allocation from the funds described at 2).

2.57 Any underspend will be reallocated in accordance with grant conditions.

2.58 The allocation will support with staff retention/ recruitment and address the difficult capacity issues in relation to delivery of critical services, in alignment with the Council's specific Provider Services winter planning.

New Covid Business Grants and Business Rate Relief

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant

2.59 On the 21 December the Chancellor announced £1 billion in support for businesses most impacted by Omicron across the UK. Around 200,000 businesses will be eligible for business grants which will be administered by local authorities and will be available in the coming weeks. The Council's allocation is yet to be confirmed.

2.60 Under the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme, Local Authorities will receive funding to be allocated in one-off grants to businesses. Grants of up to £6,000, are to be paid to hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses. This scheme is available to businesses registered for business rates only. Changes to the rating list after the 30 December are to be ignored.

Payment levels (based on Rateable Value (RV) on 30 December 2021):

1. RV exactly £15k or under, £2,667.
2. RV over £15k and less than £51k, £4,000.
3. RV exactly £51k or higher, £6,000.

2.61 The primary principle of the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme is to support businesses that offer in-person services, where the main service and activity takes place in a fixed rate-paying premises, in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors. Government guidance provides a list of examples based on rating listing categories, though it should be noted these are not always as specific as may be preferred.

2.62 Local Authorities are instructed that they must run an application process, to ensure the business:

1. Meets the scheme criteria
2. Was trading as at 30 December and can evidence that
3. Does not breach subsidy rules (replacement for state aid)
4. Provides a business unique identifier, company number, HMRC VAT registration number, NI number (one of these).

2.63 The use of Governments Spotlight tool must be used for due diligence checks on a company's existence. The need for the application process and the use of Spotlight will add to the time it takes to assess claims and make payments, as such, payments will not be issued as quickly as in previous schemes. Applications for the grant must close on the 28th February 2022 and final payments must be made by the 31st March 2022.

2.64 To aid understanding of the scheme, Government have issued the following explanations of Hospitality, Leisure and Accommodation businesses, along with a table of the types of businesses each sector would typically include, as shown below:

- **Hospitality definition:** a business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption and sale of food and drink
- **Leisure definition:** a business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events, days and nights out, betting and gaming
- **Accommodation definition:** a business whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel and other purposes.

2.65 This table sets out types of businesses that are eligible under the sector thresholds for this scheme. This list is not exhaustive, but indicative of the types of businesses that can be supported under this scheme.

Support type	Types of businesses	
Hospitality	Food courts	Roadside restaurants
	Public houses/pub restaurants	Wine bars
	Restaurants	Cafés
Leisure	Casinos and gambling clubs	Arenas
	Cinemas	Concert halls
	Museums and art galleries	Tourist attractions
	Stately homes & historic houses	Theme parks
	Theatres	Amusement arcades
	Zoos & safari parks	Soft play centres or areas
	Amusement parks	Indoor riding centres
	Wedding venues	Clubs & institutions
	Events venues	Village halls & scout huts, cadet huts, etc.
	Night clubs & discotheques	
Accommodation	Caravan parks	Holiday apartments,
	Caravan sites and pitches	Cottages or bungalows
	Chalet parks	Campsites
	Coaching inns	Boarding houses
	Country house hotels	Canal boats or other vessels
	Guest houses	B&Bs
	Hostels	Catered holiday homes
	Hotels	
	Lodge	Holiday homes

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) – further top up

- 2.66 Along with the new Omicron Business Grants, more than £100 million discretionary funding will be made available for local authorities to support other businesses through a further top up to the Additional Restrictions Grant. The Council's allocation is managed through the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and it is yet to be confirmed.
- 2.67 Local Authorities are encouraged to support businesses from all sectors that may have been severely impacted by restrictions, or by the Omicron variant, including those outside of the business rates system. As the ARG funding is discretionary, decisions on how it will be utilised will need to be made locally, via the SYMCA, working together with each member authority.
- 2.68 Previously, the first schemes that the SYMCA have supported, have been to provide business grants to non-rate paying businesses, that are not able to access the main scheme. If this approach is supported again any remaining funds can then be focussed on a more targeted scheme.

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant

- 2.69 On 25 March 2021 the Government announced a new COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) of £1.5 billion. The fund will be available to support those businesses affected by the pandemic but that are ineligible for existing support linked to business rates. However, Government only announced the Council's funding allocation of £4,851,486 and the detailed scheme guidance that the Council must adhere to, in December 2021. Therefore, the timeframe that the

Council has to design and deliver this scheme is very tight. The grant is to be used to provide business rates relief for the financial year 2021/22.

2.70 The Council will be responsible for designing its own scheme for discretionary relief. However, in developing and implementing the scheme local authorities must, if they are funding the relief from the section 31 grant:

1. not award relief to ratepayers who for the same period of the relief either are or would have been eligible for the Extended Retail Discount (covering Retail, Hospitality and Leisure), the Nursery Discount or the Airport and Ground Operations Support Scheme (AGOSS),
2. not award relief to a hereditament for a period when it is unoccupied (other than hereditaments which have become closed temporarily due to the government's advice on COVID-19, which should be treated as occupied for the purposes of this relief), and
3. direct their support towards ratepayers who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact.

2.71 The Council is able to determine the amount of relief that each business is eligible for and the business sectors it supports. The scheme prevents the Council from providing further business rates relief to businesses that have already received relief from the Extended Retail Discount. This reduces the volume of businesses and sectors that the Council can look to support. In addition, the business headings within the Council's Business Rates system are not informative enough to be able to create business sector lists, that can be used to select the sectors the Council plans to support. The Council will also need to give careful consideration as to how much support is provided for any business and how this compares with other schemes such as the Extended Retail Relief. In addition, the Council will need to consider the approaches to assessing claims, for example how to assess Covid impacts on businesses and how to manage a fixed amount of resource without incurring a financial pressure to the Council.

2.72 The complexities outlined above and the complexities of dealing with changes to business rate bills will mean that this scheme will need to be carefully planned ahead of approval and implementation. Once the Council has considered options on who the relief may be awarded to, it will require Cabinet approval to be implemented. This is planned for consideration by Cabinet in February.

Capital Programme Update

2.73 The Capital Programme 2021/22 now totals £171.960m split between the General Fund £117.021m and HRA £54.939m. This is a decrease of £20.618m to the position as at the end of September reported to Cabinet on 22nd November 2021, the majority of which relates to the reprofiling of schemes due to delays caused mainly from COVID-19 and the high volume of capital activity taking place nationally that is straining resources from an internal and external delivery point. The movement is based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, both new and revised grant allocations of £5.077m and slippage and re-profiles of £25.695m.

The overall Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 has increased by £5.077m, as a result of changes to grant funding available, as detailed in the following sections.

	Total Increase £m	2021/22 Impact £m	Post 2021/22 Impact £m
Revised Grant and Funding Estimates	5.077	5.077	0.000
Slippage / reprofiling	0.000	-25.695	25.695
New borrowing	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	5.077	-20.618	25.695

2.74 The main re-profiles are:

- **Parkway Widening**, £2.119m slippage, whilst the scheme is currently on track for delivery of this £45m scheme, the pace of delivery has been slower than anticipated. The main delay relates to challenges in linking up the proposed works on the Council's scheme with the proposed works as part of the new Motorway Service Area.
- **Fleet Management**, £6.470m slippage – there have been significant difficulties in sourcing the appropriate replacement vehicles during the last 12 months, due in part to the supply chain issues caused by the Covid Pandemic. The budget is being carried forward to the new year whilst a review of the Council approach to vehicle replacements is undertaken. This will also allow for greater consideration of the carbon impact linked to this scheme. For example, this will allow for consideration of space for charging points to support the pursuit of electric vehicles.
- **Phase 2 & 3 acquisitions (HRA)** – £7.378m, the proposed scheme and criteria for the acquisitions programme is still in the early stages of development and as such the budget is being re-profiled into 2022/23. Additionally, the pace of private development has slowed, that has limited the ability of the Council to acquire some new homes as intended.
- **Phase 2 Netherfield Eastwood (HRA)** – £5.088m, the proposed scheme development is now proposed to be combined with a further scheme within Eastwood as part of the Towns Deal, that would generate a greater output, with greater strategic and efficiency benefits. The new proposal will create a larger overall Eastwood housing development scheme, this was an outcome from the Towns Fund funded Town Investment Plan which identified both sites as being an 'early intervention' opportunity for the Council as part of longer term regeneration aims for Eastwood.

2.75 New grant funded schemes are added to the Capital Programme on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Grant schemes added or reduced since the November Cabinet report are listed below:

Directorate/Scheme	2021/22 £M	Post 2021/22 £m
Regeneration & Environment		
Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant (PSDG) which will be used to install / upgrade building energy management systems at Riverside House, Town Hall, Aston JSC and Rawmarsh JSC. The building energy management systems will provide remote efficient controls to site heating and hot water systems and will reduce energy consumption.	0.047	0.000
The Council has been received a contribution from South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner for the full cost of new portable CCTV systems. The primary benefits will be to upgrade the CCTV system in areas of the Dearne Valley triangle. Once the project is complete in March 2022, the CCTV equipment will then be available for use in other areas of Rotherham and will become part of the Council's CCTV assets.	0.064	0.000
A further European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) grant has been awarded to the Council to support works on the flood schemes RRFAS Phase 2A (Ickles Lock) and Phase 2C (Canal Barrier).	2.500	0.000
As part of the Council's approved funding from the Levelling Up Fund an allocation of £2.466m has been allocated to the flood scheme RRFAS and Phase 2C (Canal Barrier).	2.466	0.000
Total	5.077	0.000

2.76 **MCA Approvals**

There have been no new MCA approvals since the last report submitted to Cabinet on 22nd November 2021.

2.77 The proposed updated Capital Programme to 2023/24 is shown by Directorate in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Proposed Updated Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

Directorate	2021/22 Budget £m	2022/23 Budget £m	2023/24 Budget £m	Total Budget £m
General Fund Capital				
Children and Young People's Services	12.868	9.442	5.412	27.722
Assistant Chief Executive	0.387	0.210	0.210	0.807
Adult Care & Housing	6.840	6.540	14.226	27.606
Finance and Customer Services	8.056	2.902	9.893	20.852
Regeneration and Environment	86.870	63.876	28.089	178.835
Capitalisation Direction	2.000	1.000	1.000	4.000
Total General Fund Capital	117.021	83.970	58.830	259.822
Total HRA Capital	54.939	63.103	45.834	163.876
Total RMBC Capital Programme	171.960	147.073	104.664	423.697

It should be noted that current spend against this revised profile is still low for this point in the year. The capital programme for 2021/22 is ambitious and a review of the deliverability of the capital programme will therefore be undertaken, with the potential need to delay the delivery of some programmes of work. It is therefore anticipated that the programme will reduce further due to slippage as the year progresses.

Funding position of Capital Programme 2021/22

2.78 The £171.960m of capital expenditure is funded as shown in the Table 4 below.

2.79 **Table 4: Funding of the approved Capital Programme**

Funding Stream	2021/22 Budget £m
Grants and Contributions	62.287
Unsupported Borrowing	51.418
Capital Receipts	1.144
Capital Receipts - Flexible Use & HRA Contribution	2.000
HRA Contribution	0.173
Total Funding - General Fund	117.021
Grants and Contributions	5.787
Unsupported Borrowing	4.303
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	33.261
Capital Receipts	5.070
Revenue Contribution	6.519
Total Funding - HRA	54.939
Total	171.960

Capital Receipts

2.80 The Council is continuing to undertake a comprehensive review of its assets and buildings portfolio with the aim of rationalising both its operational and non-operational asset holdings. This may contribute future capital receipts which are earmarked to support the revenue budget, in accordance with the Council's approved flexible use of capital receipts strategy.

2.81 To date General Fund useable capital receipts of £0.515m have been generated. Although loan repayments will be received during the financial year, these cannot be used to support the revenue budget as only those receipts by the disposal of property, plant and equipment can be used in that way.

Description	Total as at 30th September 2021 £m
11 Russell House	- 0.077
Copeland Lodge	- 0.401
Miscellaneous	- 0.003
Total Capital Receipts (Excluding loan repayments)	- 0.481
Repayment of Loans	- 0.032
Total Capital Receipts	- 0.515

2.82 The detailed disposal programme is currently being updated and so coupled with the COVID19 situation it is very difficult to forecast. Therefore, at this stage the forecast for useable capital receipts is between £0.6m and £1m and includes surplus property disposals which are subject to Cabinet approval. These receipts are made up of a small number of disposals and therefore any changes to these could impact on these forecasts significantly.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget overspend of £8.5m, further management actions continue to be identified with the clear aim of ensuring a balanced budget position can be achieved taking into account the emergency Covid funding. This is in recognition that there are still financial implications that need to be fully understood. However, there are no matters for Members to be concerned about in this regard and a balanced overall outturn is expected. It is nationally recognised best practice to monitor the performance against the agreed revenue budgets and the Capital Programme throughout the year.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Council consulted on the proposed budget for 2021/22, as part of producing the Budget and Council Tax Report 2021/22. Details of the consultation are set out in the Budget and Council Tax 2021/22 report approved by Council on 3rd March 2021.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Strategic Directors, Managers and Budget Holders will ensure ongoing tight management and close scrutiny of spend this financial year.

5.2 Financial Monitoring reports are taken to Cabinet meetings during the year. The Financial Outturn report for 2021/22 will be taken to Cabinet in July 2022.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The Council's overspend position is detailed within the report along with the estimated impact of COVID-19. This position continues to be monitored closely. Control over spending remains critical to both maintaining the robust Reserves Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

6.2 An update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy was provided to Cabinet on the 20th December 2021. This indicated that a balanced budget could be maintained for 2021/22 and made recommendations on reserving funds and savings from 2021/22 in order to support the budget over the medium term. In addition, the MTFS forecasts identified that a balanced budget for 2022/23 can be set, with a small funding gap for the following two years. The position will be reviewed further as part of the process for finalising the Councils Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23, taking account of the impact of the final Financial Settlement for 2022/23.

6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Project specific implications have been addressed in the Key Issues section.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 No direct legal implications.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 No direct implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The report includes reference to the cost pressures on both Children's and Adult Social care budget.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 No direct implications.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 No direct implications.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 At a time of economic difficulty and tight financial constraints, managing spend in line with the Council's budget is paramount. Careful scrutiny of expenditure and income across all services and close budget monitoring therefore remain a top priority if the Council is to deliver both its annual and medium term financial plans while sustaining its overall financial resilience

13. Accountable Officers

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance
This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title:

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

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

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

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

Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital

programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue position.

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

This report is the final financial report in the financial year, it sets out the Council's full revenue outturn position. The report also covers off any other key items to be noted at the time.

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

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

n/a

- **Key findings**

n/a

- **Actions**

n/a

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	n/a
--	-----

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
--	-----

Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a
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5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Judith Badger	Strategic Director – Finance and Customer Services	20/12/21

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	20/12/21
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

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?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from transport?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	<i>no impact</i>				

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:

As this report is a financial update on previous events, updates on levels of funding moving forwards and doesn't approve anything directly to happen, it does not have any carbon implications.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance, Finance and Customer Services.
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
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.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 24 January 2022

Report Title

Modern Slavery Update and Transparency Statement 2022/23

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)

Steve Parry, Community Safety Officer

Steve.Parry@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides the annual update in relation to the activities of the Council and its partners, in seeking to both address and prevent modern slavery. The report focusses on actions following the resolution passed by Council to adopt the Co-operative Party Charter against Modern Slavery on 25 July 2018 and in particular on actions since the last annual report presented to Cabinet on 25 January 2021.

It highlights key achievements, such as work alongside Council suppliers to increase compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which has seen an increase in verified compliance and progress in respect of the Council's ability to identify and respond to modern slavery together with its partners.

The report also introduces a refreshed transparency statement for 2022/23 for Cabinet's approval.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet note the progress against the commitments made in the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement and Action Plan.
2. That Cabinet approve the refreshed Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for publication.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Draft Transparency Statement
- Appendix 2 Modern Slavery Action Plan
- Appendix 3 Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Transparency Statement:

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/community-living/modern-slavery-act-2015-transparency-statement?documentId=781&categoryId=20006>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Modern Slavery Update and Transparency Statement 2022

1. Background

1.1 At a meeting of the Council on 25 July 2018, Council resolved:

- That the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery be adopted to ensure that the Council's practices do not support slavery.
- That the Corporate Procurement Team be trained to understand modern slavery issues through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supplies (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
- That contractors be required to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
- That any abnormally low-cost tenders should be challenged, to ensure that they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
- That suppliers be advised that contracted workers are free to join a Trade Union and should not be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
- That the whistleblowing system, to enable staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery, be publicised.
- That tendered contractors be required to adopt a whistleblowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
- That contractual spending be reviewed regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
- That suppliers be advised of any risk identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
- That any contractor who is identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery be referred for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism.
- That a report on the implementation of this policy be published annually.

1.2 Following this commitment, detailed reports were presented to Cabinet on the 22 October 2018, 10 June 2019 and 25 January 2021. These reports provided updates about the activities of the Council and its partners, in seeking to both address and prevent modern slavery. The reports included a refreshed

transparency statement, which was formally agreed by Cabinet for publication and is available on the Council's website.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Following the commitment made by the Council in 2018, a range of activities were undertaken within an established action plan, focussing on the Modern Slavery Charter requirements. As can be seen in Appendix 2, the Council has achieved full compliance in all areas. Of particular note is compliance in relation to the training of procurement staff, alongside the development of advice and guidance for contract and commissioning officers. The Council's whistleblowing policy has also been updated to include a specific reference to modern slavery.
- 2.2 Through its procurement processes the Council continues to review contractual spend in relation to modern slavery and if appropriate, proactively contacts contractors in order to confirm compliance.
- 2.3 In January 2021 Cabinet approved the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy and reference is made within that policy to the adoption of the Modern Slavery Charter.
- 2.4 In January 2021 the Council also introduced pre-procurement business cases for projects greater than £100k. The purpose of this pre-procurement business case is to establish if there are more specific requirements needed over and above what is already covered in the standard template. A key part of this procurement business case is Ethical Procurement and the requirement to consider any potential modern slavery issues.
- 2.5 A comprehensive Safeguarding and Modern Slavery section is included in the Council's Template Tender Documentation and is applicable to all suppliers who bid for contracts above the regulatory threshold. All suppliers and their staff delivering a contract must adhere to the safeguarding and modern slavery requirements including that:
"They have an up-to-date Modern Slavery Transparency Statement (where required by law) and are registered on the 'Transparency in Supply Chains Platform'"
- 2.6 All awarded contracts now contain a modern slavery statement as follows:

Modern slavery and trafficking

The Provider must comply with all of the following obligations regarding modern slavery and trafficking

<i>Comply with Law</i>	The Provider must comply with relevant Law, including the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
<i>Supply Chain</i>	The Provider must use reasonable endeavours (to the extent it is within

<p>Breaches of item 66.1 by the Provider which are to be a Termination Default Event of the Provider</p>	<p>its reasonable powers to do so) to ensure its supply chain used in connection with the Services complies with the rest of this item 66.1.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any breach of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (or any reasonable equivalent Law applicable to the Provider or its Affiliate at the time) by the Provider and/or its Affiliate. • This applies even if the breach is minor
<p>Keep informed</p>	<p>The Provider must keep the Council informed in a proper and timely manner if the Provider becomes aware of any incident involving slavery and/or trafficking in connection with the Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the Provider's own organisation, and/or • Within the Provider's supply chain.

2.7 The Council has continued to deliver improvements in relation to processes around modern slavery through the raising of awareness and the provision of training. At a strategic level the Council has developed its role within the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery Partnership and operationally as a member of both the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery Practitioners group and the local multi-agency Fortify Bronze Group, which tackles serious and organised crime. The Council jointly chair this Group with South Yorkshire Police.

2.8 Tackling Modern Slavery and Serious and Organised Crime are key priorities for the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) and activity is managed through the Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Serious Organised Crime theme groups with oversight by the SRP Board which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance.

2.9 During 2020 a total of 12 Council employees from across directorates received the necessary training to be successful in becoming modern slavery Single Point of Contact Officers (SPOCs). This significantly improved knowledge and expertise across the Council in respect of the identification and response to modern slavery cases and in the provision of support to the victims of modern slavery. The development of these officers continues through the provision of information from the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery Partnership. It is planned that extra officers will receive this training during 2022. The Modern Slavery Professionals Pocketbook has been updated in conjunction with the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery Partnership and our partners the charity Ashiana (Sheffield), along with access to guidance

booklets published in a number of languages. Quarterly reports to the Safer Rotherham Partnership are also provided by the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery Partnership.

- 2.10 The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive appropriate support. Only designated first responders can refer cases to the NRM. Local Authorities are designated 'first responder organisations and are therefore able to refer cases to the NRM.
- 2.11 Between 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2021 there were 35 referrals from Rotherham into the National Referral Mechanism. All referrals are reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board through its Performance Management framework.
- 2.12 Support from the NRM continues to be provided to potential victims of modern slavery through safe house accommodation and on an outreach basis. Whilst outreach is provided to people across South Yorkshire; outreach clients will live either in council accommodation, National Asylum Support Service (NASS) accommodation, with friends, family or in their own private accommodation. In addition, support outside of the NRM structure is also provided by the Snowdrop Project who provide post NRM support in Barnsley, Rotherham, and Sheffield.

The SRP Board receives a detailed report in respect of the number of referrals to the NRM, the number of people in NRM support in respect of accommodation and outreach work, and support outside of the NRM structure. This information forms part of the SRP Performance Dashboard.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Council is required to produce an annual update in relation to activities associated with modern slavery. The Council is further required to update its published 'Transparency Statement' each year. The report and attached action plan discharge the requirement for an annual update on activity.
- 3.2 Attached as Appendix 1 is a revised draft transparency statement for Cabinet consideration. This has been revised in order to reflect progress made over the previous 12 months and to outline the Council's areas of focus over the coming 12 months in relation to modern slavery.
- 3.3 Whilst many actions are complete, the transparency statement highlights that continued efforts need to be made in relation to tackling modern slavery.
- 3.4 No alternative options have been considered as a result of the clear commitment made by the Council.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Officers in relevant Council services have been engaged in the production of this report and recommendations.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Following the Cabinet approval, the Transparency Statement will be published on the Council's website within 10 days, following the 'call-in' period. The Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services continues to act as the Council's lead for Modern Slavery and is accountable for the implementation of the action plan.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 All costs associated with the delivery of the action plan have been contained within existing approved revenue budgets. These costs have been mainly in respect of training for staff in the Procurement Service. Whilst there are financial risks linked to Termination Default Events, the duty to act to prevent modern slavery overrides the financial consequences and, in any case, processes are in place to re-procure and would avoid potential additional expense of non-compliance.

6.2 The key procurement implications are contained in the main body of the report. The Council's procurement team will continue to support service areas with their procurement activities and identify through pre-procurement activities potential market industries where modern slavery may be prevalent and ensure the tender and resulting contract are robust to address this issue.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 As set out in the body of this report and previous reports about this issue, the Council is required to comply with a number of duties as set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, including the s.52 duty to notify, the duty to cooperate with the Independent Commissioner, section 42, and the requirement to publish a transparency statement, section 54. This report sets out how the Council complies with these duties and the other requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Human Resources implications are contained within the main body of the report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Modern slavery can impact both vulnerable adult and children/young people. Both Adult and Children's safeguarding leads have been involved in both development and delivery of the work programme relating to modern slavery.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Work to prevent and address modern slavery upholds Human Rights and seeks to tackle inequalities, with migrants or minority groups most likely to be victims of modern slavery. An initial equality screening assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 3.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The Carbon impact assessment can be found attached as appendix 4. There are no issues identified associated with the publication of this annual statement.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Modern slavery duties stretch across both the Public and Private sector. Statutory and other partners are actively engaged both locally, regionally and nationally. The Council has worked over the previous year on an intelligence led basis, to increase links with private industry, contractors and suppliers in relation to modern slavery.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 No additional risks have been highlighted as a result of this report.

14. Accountable Officers

Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety, Resilience and Emergency Planning

Tom Smith, Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	10/01/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	24/12/21
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	17/12/21

Report Author: Steve Parry, Community Safety Officer
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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Transparency Statement

INTRODUCTION

This statement sets out the Council's actions to understand and respond to risks relating to modern slavery. The statement has been drafted in broad acknowledgment of the wide-ranging role of the Council; from front line staff regulating business or visiting homes, through to our commissioning and procurement of works, goods or services and management of contracts.

Modern slavery can take many forms and present in many ways. Our approach to this issue is embedded within our safeguarding policy and practice and we will focus throughout the year on continuing to raise awareness through regular briefings and an increase in the number of appropriately trained staff. We will also continue to work with partners to increase the levels of intelligence and information relating to modern slavery and the operational activity that results from such intelligence. Finally, we will continue to strengthen our understanding of the risks relating to modern slavery within supply chains and continue to promote the issues with our contractors and suppliers.

This is the Council's fourth transparency statement in relation to modern slavery and is relevant for 2022/23. An annual progress report will be published on our website, alongside a revised statement for the following year.

OUR COMMITMENT

The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. In order to support this requirement, the Council will ensure all staff are suitably trained to spot the signs and pass on relevant information for referral. The Council will monitor the number of referrals regularly. The Council currently has processes and procedures as a part of its Safeguarding Policy in relation to modern slavery, and work will continue to further raise awareness of these processes.

The Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. This is managed by officers being made aware of the potential for modern slavery risks through awareness raising and appropriate briefings, alongside establishing robust assurance.. They will consider the potential and likelihood of modern slavery and, where these are deemed to be high, they will seek to develop a clear understanding of the supplier's supply chain arrangements:

The Council's clear commitment is as follows:

- That the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery be adopted to ensure that our practices don't support slavery.
- That the Corporate Procurement Team be trained to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supplies (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
- That contractors be required to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
- That any abnormally low-cost tender be challenged to ensure that they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
- That suppliers be advised that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and should not be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
- That the whistleblowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery be publicised.
- That tendered contractors be required to adopt a whistleblowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
- That contractual spending be reviewed regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
- That suppliers be advised of any risk identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
- That any contractor who is identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery be referred for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism.
- That a report on the implementation of this policy be published annually

The Council has publicly committed to adopt the Co-Operative party Charter Against Modern Slavery, details of which can be found on the following link: [Modern Slavery Charter](#)

OUR BUSINESS AND SUPPLY CHAIN

The Council is a large employer with around 6,500 staff who undertake a wide variety of roles and have a variety of interactions with the public and businesses. The Council serves a population of 257,280 residents.

The Council spends over £240m per annum with third party suppliers on a wide range of works, goods and services ranging from catering through to care and construction. In the main these suppliers are based in the UK, with less than 1% of suppliers based outside of the UK. The commissioning and management of contracts occurs across all departments within the Council and contracts can vary significantly in value. The Council's central procurement team will ensure that professional support and advice to the process is available. Whilst the procurement of larger contracts is robust in respect of modern slavery, further work is needed to strengthen work relating to contracts of smaller financial value.

OUR POLICIES

The prevention of modern slavery is clearly embedded within Safeguarding practice at the Council. Copies of the relevant policy relating to adults can be found on the following link: [Modern Slavery – Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults](#). The equivalent Policy in relation to Safeguarding children can be found on the following link: [Modern Slavery - Safeguarding Children](#).

The Council's whistleblowing policy is available on the following link: [RMBC Whistleblowing and Serious Misconduct Policy](#).

OUR GOVERNANCE AND DUE DILIGENCE APPROACH

As a public body the Council works with various statutory and non-statutory agencies around issues of local and national concern such as modern slavery. We will ensure that we engage with our partners locally and regionally to strengthen our collective understanding of, and efforts to combat, Modern Slavery in all its forms.

Internally, our Strategic Leadership Team, led by the Chief Executive, will ensure operational delivery in line with the commitments made within this statement and further scrutiny will be provided by the Council's Political Leadership, through its Cabinet. This issue may be subject to detailed scrutiny at the direction of the Chair of the relevant Select Commission.

Awareness raising, and the strengthening of policies and procedures, alongside detailed training where required, will strengthen the Council's diligence in respect of modern slavery linked to the procurement of goods and services, alongside wider contract management.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Following the public commitment made by the Council, to achieve the standards laid out within the Co-Operative party Charter against Modern Slavery, a significant amount of work has been delivered. This has included specialist training for procurement officers and the production of guidance for commissioners and contract managers, alongside proactive contact with suppliers where compliance with the Modern Slavery Act requirements is not apparent. In many cases this has quickly led to full compliance.

The Council has updated its whistleblowing policy during the previous year to ensure explicit reference to modern slavery. It has also updated its Invitation to Tender documentation in respect of requirements under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and its Safeguarding Policy, that all suppliers and their staff delivering a contract must adhere to. It sets out that they must have an up-to-date Modern Slavery Transparency Statement (where required by law) and that these statements are registered at <https://TISCreport.org>.

To improve awareness and strengthen its ability to identify and respond to cases of modern slavery, during 2020 a total of 12 officers from across council directorates received specialist training to become single points of contact for modern slavery. This increased expertise has resulted in improved working practices and co-ordination between the Council, the Police, South Yorkshire Modern Slavery Partnership and the wider partnership. It is planned that additional officers are to be trained during 2022.

Officers have further developed links with local and regional partners to ensure that intelligence and information is received in the right way and appropriately acted upon, either through responsive or proactive operational activity.

Training and awareness raising material has been made available, with posters displayed around Council premises, an e-learning module available to all staff and specialist training for relevant front-line officers.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

The Council will continue to seek to increase the number of Modern Slavery referrals through the National Referral Mechanism. This is also a priority for the Safer Rotherham Partnership (statutory multi-agency Community Safety Partnership for Rotherham under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998)

The Council will continue to offer both generic and specialist training, and will continue to support this with regular efforts to raise awareness both online, through social media and within its teams. The Council and its partners will also seek to raise

awareness within communities, both about how to spot the signs and where to report them.

We will continue to support contract managers, procurement officers and commissioning staff to develop their awareness and understanding in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking. We will also continue to ensure active scrutiny of tenders that appear to be abnormally low in price and in particular will focus on contracts within high-risk industries.

The Council will continue to monitor contractual spend through the Transparency in Supply Chains organisation (<https://tiscreport.org/>) and work with suppliers who have not yet demonstrated compliance to encourage greater engagement with Modern Slavery issues and responses.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the Modern Slavery Act 2015¹ and the National Referral Mechanism².

Signed

Chief Executive

Leader of the Council

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Appendix 2 - Modern Slavery Charter Action Plan

Action	Detail	Owner	Tracking	Deadline	Progress Note
1	Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply. Understanding of staff who will be able to deliver on this charter is important to its successful implementation. There is already recognised accredited training from the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS). The training is delivered inline in a series of modules, followed by online examinations. The candidate gains a certificate valid for 12 months in 'Ethical Procurement and Supply' and the cost is relatively low at £38 + VAT for 2018	Karen Middlebrook	Complete	28/02/19	<p>09/10/18 - Report prepared for strategic leadership and discussed with Assistant Chief Executive re wider workforce training.</p> <p>31/01/2019 – All relevant staff now have access to the online training and 7 out of the 11 members have completed the course and passed the online exam.</p> <p>01/05/2019 - All relevant officers have now completed the course and passed the exam. Will seek to renew the training on an 3-yearly cycle.</p>
2	Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act is a transparency in supply chains measure that requires businesses who a) carry on a business, or part of a business in the UK; b) supply goods and services; and c) have an annual turnover of £36million or more to produce an annual statement on the steps they are taking to prevent modern slavery in their supply chains and own organisation.	Karen Middlebrook / Legal	Complete	30/06/19	<p>31/01/2019 - For all tenders undertaken above the EU threshold, the Council is mandated to use the Selection Questionnaire (SQ) set by Central Government. One of the sections within this SQ is compliance with the Modern Slavery Act. For these types of tender, anyone failing to comply with the Act will not be shortlisted.</p> <p>The Council has signed up to TISCreport.org to help track suppliers and their compliance with the Act. The use of this tool has identified some suppliers, where direct engagement is now taking place through the Contract Managers within service areas to put them in a compliant manner.</p> <p>Further work is required by Legal to strengthen the Council's Terms and Conditions in this regard.</p> <p>Processes also require development in relation to contracts that are below threshold or where they are a call off from a framework agreement.</p> <p>2020 - The Council is now addressing this as contracts expire. New terms and conditions are drafted by Legal Services and entered into by all parties.</p> <p>2021 - Now complete and in place.</p>
3	Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery. Low cost tenders can be a sign of exploitation and should be challenged. Local Authorities can use Regulation 69 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (Abnormally low tenders) which means they can require tenderers to explain the price or costs proposed in the tender.	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow	Complete	31/05/19	<p>31/01/2019 - If the Council receives an abnormally low tender it would challenge this in accordance with Regulation 69 and this is detailed in the Council's tender template documentation for above threshold tenders.</p> <p>Working relationships within the Council have been strengthened with Procurement and Community Safety to try and tie this link. A list of high risk industries has been gathered and an understanding between the 2 teams that where an abnormally low tender is received in any of these industries, dialogue to take place to determine an agreed course of action. Further guidance to be developed and consistently provided.</p> <p>2022 - In September 2021, Full Council approved new Financial & Procurement Procedure Rules (FPPR's). FPPRs were updated to include specific reference to challenging modern slavery within abnormally low bids.</p> <p><small>The extract of FPPR's 21.6 is:</small></p>

Modern Slavery Charter - Action Plan

4	<p>Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.</p>	<p>Article 11 of the Human Rights Act 1998 means everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests. It is also unlawful for an employer to offer a benefit to leave a trade union, treat you unfairly because you are in a trade union, refuse to employ or dismiss your employment for being part of a trade union.</p> <p>Your procurement and contract processes should ensure that suppliers comply. You may wish to engage local trade unions in raising awareness of the freedom to join a trade union and the benefits of doing so.</p> <p>Trade unions in the workplace help bring about change through negotiation and also offer their members advice, support and representation if they are having a problem with their employer.</p>	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow	Complete	31/01/21	<p>31/01/2019 - Work ongoing to streamline standard wording around Safeguarding within the Councils template tender documentation. Consideration to be given to how we include this detail within this section.</p> <p>2020 - Transparency within supply chains is supported and positively endorsed by Trade Unions and both national and local levels. Work will progress quickly to include a section in the Council's updated tendering document that highlights to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one. Further discussions will need to take place with legal to understand if Contractual Terms and Conditions require update also.</p> <p>2021 - Complete.</p>
5	<p>Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery</p>	<p>Councils have whistle-blowing policies, and these can be modified and publicised to ensure that staff know they can report concerns of modern slavery through this mechanism as well.</p>	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow	Complete	01/10/18	<p>13/09/18 - The Whistleblowing policy has been updated to include explicit reference to modern slavery. The Council's whistleblowing and serious misconduct policy is publicised and available on the internet and clear reference is made within the policy to modern slavery.</p>
6	<p>Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery</p>	<p>In contracts, you can require suppliers to adopt a whistle-blowing policy so there are mechanisms there for staff to raise concerns. Whistleblowers are protected by law and shouldn't be treated unfairly or lose their job because they have raised concerns that are in the public interest.</p>	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow	Complete	30/06/19	<p>31/01/2019 - Work ongoing to streamline standard wording around Safeguarding within the Councils template tender documentation. Consideration to be given to how we include this detail within this section.</p> <p>2020 - The safeguarding section (8) of the Council's 'Invitation to Tender' document has been updated in respect of the policies that tendering organisations have in place. This includes the requirement for a 'Whistleblowing policy that is accessible to staff and volunteers'. (Section 8.2(i))</p> <p>2021 - Complete.</p>
7	<p>Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.</p>	<p>Your Council may already have boards or audit that review spending, and modern slavery should be added to one of the issues for them to be aware of. Are you contracting in high-risk sectors such food processing, fishing, agriculture, construction, domestic and care workers and car washes?</p>	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow	Complete	Nov-18	<p>01/06/18 - The Council has signed up to TISCreport.org to help track suppliers and their compliance with the Act. The use of this tool has identified some suppliers, where direct engagement is now taking place through the Contract Managers within service areas to put them in a compliant manner.</p> <p>The Councils Modern Slavery Lead is a member of the Councils Commissioning Board and guidance has been developed for Commissioning Officers or those with relevant responsibilities.</p> <p>01/11/18 - Non compliant supplier identified - lack of MS statement</p> <p>01/01/19 - Non compliant list reviewed to ensure current contractor targetted of 17, 8 are current suppliers</p> <p>29/01/19 - Draft email for non-compliant companies agreed</p> <p>31/1/19 - sent to relevant contract managers</p> <p>08/02/19 - Various letters issued to supplier</p> <p>11/04/19 - Review of compliant supplier. 7 of the 8 have now demonstrated compliance following contact.</p> <p>27/03/19 - Further chaser to final non-compliant supplier</p> <p>2022 - Through the adoption of robust procedures, suppliers who had previously been unable to demonstrate compliance with the legislation subsequently met compliance status. It is now a requirement that organisations supplying successful tenders have a published Modern Slavery statement.</p>

Modern Slavery Charter - Action Plan

8	Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.	It's important that suppliers also have aware of what modern slavery is, what the signs are and how they can tackle.	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow	Complete	Jan-19	04/03/19 - The Council has made systematic contact with non-compliant companies as identified through TISC-report. In many cases companies are found to be compliant however publications are not linked or verified so work is ongoing to support suppliers. 10/04/19 - Work around initial compliance is nearing completion. Officers will seek to make contact with companies in order to request they link their business with TISC report to ensure stronger compliance within their own supply chains.
9	Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.	This reiterates the duty for local councils to report concerns using the national referral mechanisms, and a public commitment they will do that for their own contractors too.	Sam Barstow	Complete	Sep-18	A system is now in place to support referrals regarding companies of concern.
10	Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually	Whether through the council, committees or scrutiny, agreeing a way to review this charter annually will ensure that the council learns from the action taken and maintains a vigilance against modern slavery	Sam Barstow	Complete	Sep-18	Arrangement have been made for a report in June 2019 and then shifting to April thereafter.
11	Confirm Policy Arrangements both in relation to Childrens and Adult	Ensure that effective Policy is in place which makes clear reference to modern slavery in relation to safeguarding practice/procedure.	Vicky Schofield/Andrew Wells	Complete	31/05/18	Complete
12	Develop an outline plan for compliance against the MS Charter requirements	Ensure that the Procurement service is working toward compliance with the commitments made within the MS Charter	Karen Middlebrook / Legal	Complete	31/05/19	Complete
13	Explore available specialists training with wider Safeguarding Training	Ensure that specialist training, set against wider safeguarding objectives, is available to all relevant frontline staff. Ensuring that Modern Slavery is a key feature	Sharon Clarke	Complete	30/08/18	17/05/19 - Confirmed adults Modern Slavery. All levels of Social Workers have had training and confirming that persons whom have "No recourse to public funds" are covered within the procedures.
14	Ensure basic e-learning is available to front line staff and manager	Where appropriate, front line staff should receive basic awareness raising around identifying modern slavery alongside ensuring referral pathways are understood	Steve Parry	Complete	30/08/19	30/10/18 Complete - E learning is now available on the Directions part Councils website
15	Ensure engagement in wider partnership activity to disrupt, prevent and address modern slavery	Ensure RMBC plays an active role in the Regional Modern Slavery Group and commits to regular attendance	Steve Parry	Complete	01/06/18	01/05/18 Complete Council in regular attendance
16	Establish operational links to support response to intelligence and information	Engage with the Home Office, Gang Master Licensing Authority, SYP and Border Force to ensure that proactive operational links are in place and that Rotherham benefits from operational partnership activity	Sam Barstow	Complete	01/08/18	15/08/18 - proactive visit was made following some intelligence received, whilst the action was coordinated across multiple agencies, it was delivered on the day by the home office ICE (immigration compliance and enforcement) team. There were no issues of servitude identified though some concerns over welfare which will be followed up. 08/10/18 - Two further proactive visits - 1 male was detained for illegal working and further health and safety issues were identified which will be pursued by the council . An adult safeguard form has been submitted. view to prohibition on one of the buildings that is being used for accommodation. 8 welfare questionnaires were completed.
17	Develop a robust Transparency Statement on behalf of the Council	Whilst not a legal requirement for Councils, it is critical that in our capacity as a local leader we work to produce a robust transparency statement about how we intend to tackle modern slavery within our supply chain	Sam Barstow	Complete	01/09/18	18/06/18 - Draft interim transparency statement agreed by Cabinet/SLT 18/10/18 - Final Transparency statement agreed by Cabinet and published on the Councils website
18	Confirm Policy Arrangements both in relation to Children's and Adult	Ensure that effective Policy is in place which makes clear reference to Modern Slavery (MS) in relation to safeguarding practice/procedure.	Vicky Schofield/Andrew Wells	Complete	31/05/18	Complete
19	Develop an outline plan for compliance against the MS Charter requirements	Ensure that the Procurement service is working toward compliance with the commitments made within the MS Charter	Karen Middlebrook / Legal	Complete	31/05/19	Complete
20	Explore available specialist training with wider Safeguarding Training	Ensure that specialist training, set against wider safeguarding objectives, is available to all relevant frontline staff. Ensuring that (MS) is a key feature	Sharon Clarke	Complete	30/08/18	Complete 17/05/19 - Confirmed adults (MS). All levels of Social Workers have had training and confirming that persons who have "No recourse to public funds" are covered within the procedures.

Modern Slavery Charter - Action Plan

21	Ensure basic e-learning is available to front line staff and manager	Where appropriate, front line staff should receive basic awareness raising around identifying (MS) alongside ensuring referral pathways are understood	Steve Parry	Complete	30/08/19	30/10/18 Complete - E learning is now available on the Directions part Councils website
22	Ensure engagement in wider partnership activity to disrupt, prevent and address (MS)	Ensure RMBC plays an active role in the Regional (MS) Group and commits to regular attendance	Steve Parry	Complete	01/06/18	01/05/18 Complete Council in regular attendance
23	Establish operational links to support response to intelligence and information	Engage with the Home Office, Gang Master Licensing Authority, SYP and Border Force to ensure that proactive operational links are in place and that Rotherham benefits from operational partnership activity	Sam Barstow	Complete	01/08/18	Complete - 15/08/18 - proactive visit was made following some intelligence received, whilst the action was coordinated across multiple agencies, it was delivered on the day by the home office ICE (immigration compliance and enforcement) team. There were no issues of servitude identified though some concerns over welfare which will be followed up. Complete - 08/10/18 - Two further proactive visits - 1 male was detained for illegal working and further health and safety issues were identified which will be pursued by the council. An adult safeguard form has been submitted. view to prohibition on one of the buildings that is being used for accommodation. 8 welfare questionnaires were completed.
24	Develop a robust Transparency Statement on behalf f the Council	Whilst not a legal requirement for Councils, it is critical that in our capacity as a local leader we work to produce a robust transparency statement about how we intend to tackle (MS) within our supply chain	Sam Barstow	Complete	01/09/18	Complete - 18/06/18 - Draft interim transparency statement agreed by Cabinet/SLT Complete - 18/10/18 - Final Transparency statement agreed by Cabinet and published on the Councils website
25	Improve the Councils ability to identify and respond to (MS).	Working with partners, seek opportunities to enhance the expertise and ability within the Council to respond to Modern Day Slavery.	Steve Parry	Complete	Mar-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is a member of the South Yorkshire (MS) Partnership with senior officer representation on the Board. It also is represented on the South Yorkshire (MS) Practitioners Group and the county-wide and local Organised Crime Boards. A total of 11 Council officers have now been trained as (MS) Single Points of Contact Officers (SPOC's). This has significantly increased knowledge and expertise within the Council to identify and respond to (MS). Through work with the South Yorkshire (MS) Partnership, a detailed quarterly report is now to be presented to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board to inform its activities in tackling (MS). Work is currently progressing on improving housing and accommodation pathways with the Police and other South Yorkshire local authorities to improve and standardise support for victims of MS. November 2021 - All actions in this section are now complete. Work will continue in this area and will be reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

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: Modern Slavery Update and Revised Transparency Statement	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	Service area: Community Safety & Regulatory Services
Lead person: Sam Barstow	Contact number: 0748143370
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

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

The report provides an update on activity in relation to preventing and addressing modern slavery, which is an annual requirement, and seeks approval for a refreshed Transparency Statement. The transparency statement in itself does not propose any decision or change to policy but reflects work undertaken in various areas.

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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?		X
Could the proposal affect service users?		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

The publication of the statement itself, which is the decision within the report, does not represent any change in Policy or delivery of function but reflects work done across a range of Council services, which are subject to their own decision making processes and therefore equality impact assessment as appropriate.

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,

Appendix 3

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?**

Wherever decisions are taken to amend corporate policy or strategy, this is subject to its own detailed review in relation to equality impact. The statement is a reflection of those individual and separate pieces of work.

- **Key findings**

Locally and nationally the majority of victims of Modern Slavery originate from countries other than the UK although UK citizens are also victims, particularly in respect of forced labour and Child Criminal Exploitation (County Lines) and Child Sexual Exploitation. It was also recognised that improvements needed to be made to supply chains and our interactions with suppliers and contractors. The publication and annual update of the Councils Modern Slavery Transparency Statement reflects significant change to our process in respect of tendering and contracts.

- **Actions**

- Identifying and tackling Modern Slavery is a key priority for the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the Council.
- Performance against the priority will continue to be monitored by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board through its Performance dashboard.
- Significant progress has and will continue to be made in respect of raising the awareness of staff to Modern Slavery. This will continue.
- A number of Council officers have received specialist training in respect of Modern Day Slavery and are qualified Single Points of Contact. The training and development of these officers is ongoing.
- Training programmes for staff have been completed and continue.
- The Council is a member of the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery Partnership and works alongside partners from statutory and non-statutory agencies and registered charities.

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

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Sam Barstow	Head of Community Safety & Regulatory Services.	03/11/21

Appendix 3

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	02/11/21
Report title and date	Modern Slavery Update and Revised Transparency Statement 2022/23 – (24 th Jan 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	Report to be presented to Cabinet on 24 th January 2022.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.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?	No				
Emissions from transport?	No				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No				

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Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No				
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:					
N/A					

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

Supporting information:					
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).		Steve Parry, Community Safety Officer, Community Safety, Regeneration and Environment.			
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].		N/A			
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]					

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 24 January 2022

Report Title

The Towns and Villages Fund

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Ben Mitchell, Projects, Initiatives and Improvement Officer
ben.mitchell@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-wide

Report Summary

The Towns and Villages Fund is a new £4 million capital programme in Rotherham, aiming to improve the borough's local town and village centres. The borough consists of a wide range of individual communities and places, and it is important that the physical environment of these centres receives continuous investment.

Based on projects put forward by Ward Councillors in consultation with their communities, a work programme, and associated processes for delivering projects has been produced, which will ensure a range of projects across the borough are completed in the next three years, delivering on the priorities of residents and wards.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the Towns and Villages programme as detailed in this paper and delegates the delivery of category 1 schemes within the programme to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working.
2. That Cabinet receives a further report to update on the delivery of category 1 schemes and agree to progress to delivery of category 2 and 3 schemes in Summer 2022.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Towns and Villages Fund – Indicative Work Programme
- Appendix 2 Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Budget and Council Tax 2021-22, and Medium Term Financial Strategy Update – 3rd March 2021. <http://modgov-p-db/documents/s129978/0.%20Cabinet%20Report%20-%20Budget%20Report.pdf>

Proposed Rotherham Council Plan 2022-25 - <http://modgov-p-db/documents/s134305/Appendix%201%20-%20Rotherham%20Council%20Plan%202022-25.pdf>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

The Towns and Villages Fund

1. Background

- 1.1 Within the Council's budget setting process for this financial year (2021/22), a Capital allocation of £4 million was allocated to 'Town and Villages Improvement Fund'.
- 1.2 Outside of Rotherham town centre, the borough consists of a wide range of urban centres, townships, and villages, many of which have small commercial centres. The physical infrastructure within these centres has not received consistent investment and therefore, it is critical that improvements across the borough be made.
- 1.3 Attractive town and village centres are important to the wellbeing of communities who live within them, work within them, or use them regularly. They are also key to ensuring that the whole borough is welcoming and provides a variety of commercial offers, supporting businesses and the economic development of communities.
- 1.4 Therefore, it is proposed that this scheme delivers scalable improvement works across local villages and townships. Within the Budget and Council Tax update report, approved by Council on 3rd March 2021, it was recommended that the approach to this funding was further developed, through research and engagement with the relevant officers and Members.
- 1.5 This paper proposes a set of aims, objectives and criteria to create a framework for the scheme, and a key part is for Ward Members to work with their communities to identify initiatives that can be delivered through this funding.
- 1.6 This report sets out the submissions received from Ward Members, and the approach to delivering this programme of work.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Engagement took place with stakeholders to develop the overall aim of the programme and provide a lens to the types of projects that could be completed. This was used as a guide when schemes were being evolved, ensuring that they were relevant to this fund. Based on this work, the overall aim of the scheme is:

To work with neighbourhoods across the borough, to enhance their lived environment, through a variety of improvement projects, focused on town and village centres.

- 2.2 Underneath this overarching aim, five objectives have been proposed to indicate what this programme of work could deliver:

- Improve the lived environment of all residents
- Enhance the visual appeal of town and vilalge centres across the

- borough
- Inspire pride in our neighbourhoods
- Co-produce projects with neighbourhoods to deliver change that is needed
- Deliver on the priorities of wards and/ or wider masterplans.

These objectives have enabled criteria to be developed for project moderation, comparing each project with appropriate outcomes and outputs. This has helped set a framework for the programme as well as the proposals for different categories, detailed in Section 2.5, in order to develop projects relevant to the intended use of the funding.

- 2.3 Based on these objectives, a variety of improvement schemes could be delivered, focusing on improving the environment of local town and village centres, through interventions such as public realm enhancement, creative street lighting, urban green space creation, and building improvements. It is important to note that there is not any additional revenue funding associated with the Towns and Villages Fund, and therefore routine repairs and maintenance, street cleansing and grounds maintenance will be contained within existing approved service revenue budgets.
- 2.4 Central to the aim and objectives of the programme, is the Council's approach to neighbourhood working. This approach encourages Members to act as community champions, engaging with residents, businesses, and stakeholders to create projects which will have a positive impact within their communities. There is a potential for ambitious, co-produced projects being delivered through this scheme, embedding the principles of neighbourhood working into the design and delivery of improved and new public spaces. There is also an opportunity for schemes to link with ward priorities as part of the ward plan process, and this should be considered as these continue to be developed through the municipal year.
- 2.5 The Towns and Villages Fund is a capital scheme where projects will be allocated funds between April 2021 and March 2024. The time taken to deliver all projects is expected to cover the full three-year period.

This programme aims to deliver visible projects across the borough, subject to meeting the aims, objectives, and criteria. To date, wards have submitted schemes for consideration; by late December 2021 those schemes submitted already have been moderated against the aims and objectives of the funding set out in 2.1 and 2.2. These schemes were then separated into four categories, dependent on meeting the objectives of the funding, the complexity of the scheme proposed and the potential cost of the project.



- Least complex to deliver
- Likely to be within the budget envelope
- Meets the objectives of the scheme
- Most complex to deliver
- Budget requirement would be too large
- Objectives of the scheme were not met

Ward members have now been informed of the outcome of their submissions, with those in Categories 1, 2 and 3 moving to the next stage of the programme, with individualised next steps agreed per project. Those wards that fell into Category 4 will be able to resubmit a different proposal, which will be moderated in the same way and added to the work programme if it meets the criteria of the funding, and the budget envelope. The drafted work programme is attached as Appendix 1.

Based on the categorisation above, it is proposed that Category 1 schemes are designed and delivered, subject to any complications within the process, by Autumn 2022, with due diligence and further engagement being carried out on Category 2 schemes in this time. It is then expected that concept design work could be carried out on Category 2 schemes from Summer 2022 with further engagement on Category 3 schemes alongside this, followed by the concept design of Category 3 schemes from Winter 2022.

If following any due diligence and appraisal, a scheme does not meet the minimum criteria or is unviable, it is proposed that officers, in consultation with ward Members and Cabinet Members, could request that alternative proposals are submitted within that ward.

2.6 Within the work programme, six schemes are identified within Category 1. These are:

Ward	Project
Brinsworth	Creation of off-road parking next to Brinsworth Lane shops.
Dalton and Thrybergh	Improvement to the area outside Ridgeway Convenience Store at East Herringthorpe, including green space and the paved area in front of the shop.
Greasbrough	Green link corridor between Greasbrough Park and Greasbrough Recreation Ground
Hellaby and Maltby West	Off street parking at Laburnum Parade shops, utilising and improving existing green space.
Hoober	Improvement to area outside of Masefield Road shops, including highway and green space.
Swinton Rockingham	Refurbishment of Broadway shopping parade, improving accessibility and environment.

Of the submissions received, these schemes were identified as the most likely to be deliverable. This is because the sites are either predominantly within public ownership or have previous feasibility and design works carried out. This means that there is more certainty regarding the viability of the schemes and less feasibility work and due diligence is required to potentially deliver these projects.

2.7 A number of schemes within Category 2 and 3 include land and buildings that are privately owned. These projects will be more complex and require positive working relationships between the Council and the relevant landowner, or owners in some circumstances. Where schemes do include private ownership, the Council will assess what is within its control, whilst working with landowners to agree on a mutually beneficial approach for communities. Any decisions made will be subject to the relevant legal and financial approvals being received. The schemes that are currently within Category 2 are:

Ward	Scheme
Aston and Todwick	The Pastures shopping parade improvements
Boston Castle	Wellgate Public Realm Improvements
Bramley and Ravenfield	Ravenfield Crossroads Public Realm and Parking Improvements
Keppel	St. Johns Green Shop Frontage and Green space
Kilnhurst and Swinton East	Swinton Bridge area gateway enhancement
Maltby East	Maltby High Street
Sitwell	Whiston Village Centre green space and public realm
Thurcroft and Wickersley South	Thurcroft High Street improvements
Wickersley North	Bawtry Road improvements to shopping parade, public realm and street furniture

2.8 Although £4 million is a significant sum of money, it is essential that this funding is prioritised and spent in places that have not benefited from recent investments. Therefore, it is proposed that Dinnington and Wath are not included within the Towns and Villages Fund at this time, as these centres are being included in further rounds of the Levelling Up Fund and have the potential to receive significant investment to carry out impactful regeneration programmes within these centres. This will be reviewed based on the outcomes of any subsequent funding rounds, and not all funding will be allocated at this point in time, so it will be possible to put forward proposals if these bids are not successful.

It should also be noted that the centre of Swinton is currently under consideration for a significant potential private sector-led investment, which would include public realm improvements, housing, and a new library. On this basis, the centre of Swinton has not been considered for inclusion within the Towns and Villages Fund, but elected Members representing the two Swinton

wards have submitted schemes in other areas of the ward, which will be included.

The centre of Maltby has not been included in funding bids to date, and therefore it is proposed that a significant amount of funding should be allocated to this key district centre. To ensure that this funding is as effective as possible, Maltby has been included in the principal centre masterplanning work that is being undertaken by Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO). This, alongside extensive consultation with ward Members and communities, will produce prioritised interventions that could be delivered with the funding available through the Towns and Villages Fund, harnessing this support as a route to potentially unlocking further funding that may become available through alternative routes.

2.9 All projects will follow the same process once submissions have been received, moderated and put forward onto a work programme. This will be:

1. Due diligence and relevant pre-design work

Any actions that are required to confirm whether the project is deliverable will be undertaken, such as engagement with private landowners, topography surveys, and transportation assessments.

2. Concept Design and cost estimate

If all due diligence is completed and the scheme is viable, a concept design will be undertaken, alongside an estimate of cost, based on the approved submission, consultation and engagement with stakeholders, including ward Members.

3. Engagement and approval

The concept design can be used a consultation tool and will be formally approved by ward Members. The project, including the cost estimate, will then be reviewed by the relevant officer or Member, as per the scheme of delegation, to approve the scheme for delivery.

4. Detailed design

A detailed design will then be carried out, which is ultimately used by the delivery team as a work plan.

5. Planning application (if required)

Dependent on the works being proposed, a planning application may be required and if so, this will be submitted alongside the detailed design. This process can take up to twelve weeks.

6. Delivery

Once the detailed design is completed, and necessary approvals are received (e.g., planning), delivery will be scheduled, taking account of any necessary procurement activity, and Members will be informed when works are scheduled to start.

2.10 To ensure that this funding is as far-reaching as possible, only projects that fall within the minimum criteria for the fund will be allocated funding. If any projects

fall within existing funding programmes, these will be referred on to the more appropriate programme of work. For example, a number of sites already have tree-planting scheduled, and other sites will benefit from the litter bin replacement scheme.

Where possible, these pieces of work will be synchronised to increase efficiency of front-line services. This may not always be possible, but where individual pieces of work must be carried out, these will be complimentary to the wider scheme proposed, and will not affect the delivery of any other aspect of the project.

Where there is the possibility of synchronising works being completed under different programmes, this should be encouraged so that projects benefit from other complimentary funding. This may include works such as street lighting replacement, line painting, electric charging points, and road resurfacing.

2.11 The budget granted to the Towns and Villages Fund through the budget setting process is £4 million. It is proposed that of this, £823,000 is identified based on the masterplanning work being delivered by RiDO in Maltby, and the open funding rounds for the Levelling Up Fund. This could also be used for other wards if submissions are deemed to be exceptional and worthy of a more substantial amount of funding. It could also be used to fund a second call for submissions later within the funding period. The overall budget will manage the delivery of the scheme over the period it is operational.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Three main options were developed in relation to the Towns and Villages Fund, which were then assessed with the preferred option being set out within this report. The three shortlisted options were:

3.2 1. Ring-fenced ward budget

This option would have distributed budgets to individual wards, with an allocated sum per ward to be spent, similar to existing ward budgets which are in place. Although this would have given autonomy to communities to spend on their priorities, this may have been less efficient, and led to small amounts of money being unspent at the end of the funding period, or smaller schemes being proposed to use the remaining budget available.

Furthermore, each ward would have needed dedicated support to ensure the governance of the capital fund was correct, which is likely to have required a larger staffing structure, ultimately meaning that less of this funding was spent on the delivery of schemes.

2. Major and minor schemes

Another option considered was to create two submission pathways, for major and minor improvement schemes. This would have given more control over budgets and ensured that funding was spent efficiently but may have caused issues with regards to a decision-making process, understanding what would constitute an acceptable 'major scheme' and a prioritisation surrounding this.

As the number of major schemes would be limited due to the budget available, it was decided that this may not be an equitable or effective option.

3. Ward Submissions

The third option developed was to allow a submission per ward to be put forward, incorporating the priorities of communities through ward Members, and to utilise an existing framework for deciding where larger projects should be focused. This option will focus on maximising the number and scale of projects delivered by the programme, whilst maintaining an appropriate level of management across individual projects, and the overarching programme. This is the recommended option and is explored through Section 2 of this report.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Council's approach to neighbourhood working is at the centre of this delivery model and consultation will take place through the scheme development process.
- 4.2 Elements of consultation should have already taken place with communities and stakeholders through the initial ward submission, where a part of the documentation covered consultation carried out to date. Ward Members have an important role as champions of their communities, understanding the priorities of neighbourhoods and channelling them into an impactful and deliverable scheme.
- 4.3 Consultation will continue to be an important theme of the project process. Concept designs will be informed by wide-ranging stakeholder consultation and engagement, and these designs will then support wider engagement with communities.
- 4.4 Members will be an active part of each project, and as such, it is expected that communities are engaged and involved in the whole project lifecycle.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 If this report is approved, it is expected that the first scheme could be on site in March 2022. Each scheme in Category 1 of the attached work programme should be designed and approved by April 2022, with delivery taking place until approximately September 2022, subject to any complications that may become apparent when schemes are being designed.
- 5.2 When these six projects have been designed in detail with the necessary approvals, it is expected that concept design work will be started on Category 2 schemes. The exact ordering of Category 2 and 3 schemes is not yet known and will be dependent on the due diligence work outlined within the work programme. Category 2 schemes which are found to be viable but more complex may have a longer lead in time than a scheme originally placed in Category 3, which has the required engagement and can therefore progress sooner.
- 5.3 Projects will follow the process outlined at 2.6 on a rolling basis. When one

scheme finishes on site, another scheme will begin concept design. This will ensure that there is a constant work programme for landscape design teams, as well as civil engineering delivery teams.

5.4 It is expected that the last scheme will enter this process in Autumn 2023, with delivery finishing in March 2024.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 The meeting of the Budget Council of March 2021 allocated a sum of £4m to the Towns and Villages Fund with all projects expected to be delivered between 2021 and 2024. The process for allocating the funding as planned is set out in this report. Initial costs for the project have been drawn up using a fair estimation process. Project budget controls, risk management and ongoing monitoring are in place to ensure best value is obtained in delivering the programme.

6.2 All procurement activity associated with these proposals (i.e. the purchase of materials, third party delivery if required etc) must be procured in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

7.2 There are likely to be specific legal implications in respect of each of the individual projects within the Work Programme including property issues, contractual matters, procurement and Traffic Regulation Orders and these will be addressed at the appropriate time within the project delivery.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no direct implications for children, young people or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been carried out on this programme of work, and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 10.2 Town and village centres should be available to all residents, businesses and visitors of the borough. Improvements to these centres through the Towns and Villages Fund will have a positive impact on these centres and improve equal opportunity and access to the proposed centres. The indicative programme of work attached as Appendix 1 includes substantial public realm and pedestrian footway improvements, which will provide visually impaired and wheelchair users more equitable access to improved places.
- 10.3 Within the delivery process for each project, consultation will be carried out with communities through Ward Members and the Neighbourhoods service. Equality and diversity will be a key theme within this consultation, and ensure that the views of local communities are heard and included within subsequent designs. Additional requirements that are requested to meet specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of works will also be accommodated to ensure that access is continuous throughout the delivery process.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 3.
- 11.2 It is envisaged that the impact of this programme of work will be localised. Where an impact on carbon emissions has been highlighted, relevant mitigations will be implemented to reduce, where possible, the Council's impact on the climate.
- 11.3 The largest impact identified will be emissions from construction and development, where heavy machinery is used to deliver material, and construct projects. To mitigate this as far as possible, local suppliers will be engaged where possible as part of the Council's Social Value Framework.
- 11.4 Climate change will also be referenced in the design of each scheme, with priority given to pedestrian access, active travel, and public transport. This will ensure that users of local centres are encouraged to walk, cycle or take public transport as an alternative to driving.
- 11.5 The indicative work programme also includes schemes that will increase the amount of urban green space in the borough, whilst tree planting will be assessed in every project and included as a priority if achievable.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Partners and key stakeholders will be directly involved in the project planning process, through local consultation and engagement. Where a project is in close proximity to private land ownership, businesses, or community groups, these stakeholders will be included within the design process and kept

informed of progress.

The scheme has been designed to align with the approach to Neighbourhood working and engagement with Ward Councillors.

12.2 It is expected that Ward Councillors, as community leaders, alongside the Neighbourhoods Service, will be able to assist in identifying stakeholders and partners for individual projects, which will be in addition to consultation and engagement work which will be planned for each project.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Programme monitoring will take place through the Projects, Initiatives and Improvement Officer within Regeneration and Environment, which will include project management documentation and formal budget monitoring.

13.2 Individual projects will have a variety of internal and external stakeholders, and where necessary, individual project teams will be brought together, which will sit underneath an overall 'strategic group', who will be responsible for tracking progress of the programme.

13.3 Two significant risks have been highlighted, which are the complexity of land ownership issues for individual projects, and the uncertainty of costs and available materials within the current construction market. Both risks will be tracked through a programme risk register alongside actions and mitigations to reduce these risks, which will be regularly reviewed and reported to the strategic group.

14. Accountable Officers

Ben Mitchell, Projects, Initiatives, and Improvement Officer

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	10/01/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	24/12/21
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	24/12/21

*Report Author: Ben Mitchell, Projects, Initiatives and Improvement Officer
ben.mitchell@rotherham.gov.uk*
This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Appendix 1 – Indicative Towns and Villages Work Programme

Category 1

This category is a list of schemes where delivery is most likely, subject to relevant due diligence. The next step is to produce detailed designs and cost estimates for the delivery of schemes.

Ward	Scheme	Next Steps	Partner Service
Brinsworth	Brinsworth Lane Shopping Parade – off road parking	Confirm land ownership, engage with owners, and understand potential for dedication of highway	Transport
Dalton and Thrybergh	Ridgeway Convenience Store - green space improvements	Land surveys to be completed, including structural assessments and tree surveys.	Landscape Design
Greasbrough	Greasbrough green link	Detailed design works to be completed.	Landscape Design
Hellaby and Maltby West	Laburnum Parade	Land surveys and utilities checks to be completed.	Landscape Design
Hoober	Masefield Road	Confirm land ownership and understand adopted and unadopted highways.	Landscape Design
Swinton Rockingham	Broadway Shopping Parade	Land surveys including topography, and utilities checks to be completed.	Landscape Design

Category 2

This phase are those schemes which are relevant to the fund, but there are some complications that will need to be worked through, which are highlighted below.

Ward	Scheme	Risk Assessment	Next Steps
Aston and Todwick	The Pastures shopping parade improvements	Private land ownership	Engagement with landowners. Work up potential options for the site with Members/ Parish Council.
Boston Castle	Wellgate Public Realm Improvements	Scope of project	Define areas to be targeted. Work with RIDO to ensure consistent approach
Bramley and Ravenfield	Ravenfield Crossroads Public Realm and Parking Improvements	Private Land Ownership	Engagement with landowners Transport assessment of junctions etc.
Keppel	St. Johns Green Shop Frontage and Green space	Multi-agency hub	Further work required to explore idea and any potential implications e.g. asset management
Kilnhurst and	Swinton Bridge area	Scope of project/	Approx. 900m of road. Further

Swinton East	gateway enhancement	Network Rail	work to understand where interventions would be most impactful. Engagement with Network Rail regarding maintenance of bridges.
Maltby East	Maltby High Street	Prioritisation of funding	Masterplan to be completed by RiDO, with prioritised action for TVF spend and/ or opportunities for match funding.
Sitwell	Whiston Village Centre green space and public realm	Land Ownership	Engagement with Parish Council to understand scope/ size of aspirations, ongoing maintenance etc.
Thurcroft and Wickersley South	Thurcroft High Street improvements	Scope of scheme Private land ownership	Further work needs to be undertaken with Highways to complete a street furniture audit. Engagement with shops and exploration of unadopted paths etc. outside shops.
Wickersley North	Bawtry Road improvements to shopping parade, public realm and street furniture	Proximity to Bawtry Road and associated highway implications	Scope scheme within its entirety Work with Highways/ Transport to assess any traffic management that may be required to deliver schemes.

Category 3 and 4

Ward	Project (where agreed)
Anston and Woodsetts	Quarry Lane Shopping Parade
Aughton and Swallownest	Project not yet approved
Rawmarsh East	Broad Street, Parkgate
Rawmarsh West	Project not yet approved
Rother Vale	Plough Shops, Catcliffe
Rotherham East	Project not yet approved
Rotherham West	Project not yet approved
Wales	Project not yet approved

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: Towns and Villages Fund					
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: N/A				
Lead person: Ben Mitchell	Contact: Ben.mitchell@rotherham.gov.uk				
Is this a:					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Service / Function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other
If other, please specify					
Capital programme					

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

The Towns and Villages Fund is a new £4 million capital programme in Rotherham, aiming to improve the borough's local town and village centres. The borough consists of a wide range of individual communities and places, and it is important that the physical environment of these centres receives continuous investment.

Based on projects put forward by Ward Councillors, a work programme and associated processes for delivering projects has been produced, which will ensure a range of projects across the borough are completed in the next three years,

delivering on the priorities of residents and communities.

This screening focuses on the overall programme of work, including the aims, objectives and outcomes of the programme. It does not focus on the individual schemes that will be delivered, but the broad parameters that will govern the projects put forward.

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?**

The associated report details a programme of work, and the overall aims and objectives of this capital fund. Where schemes may have an impact on equality and diversity, it is proposed that a further Equality Screening will take place, focused on that individual project to identify and mitigate any potential impacts. Where necessary, a full Equality Impact Assessment will take place.

Where consultation and engagement occurs with communities through the scheme development and design process, equality and diversity will be included as a key theme of consultation, to ensure that a wide range and representative range of opinions and voices are heard and listened to.

Schemes will be designed to meet the requirements of different people and communities, which will consider barriers in relation to protected characteristics.

- Key findings**

This programme of work will focus on improving the centres of towns and villages by delivering projects that are championed by Ward Members, and priorities of communities. Projects within commercial centres will enhance public open space and provide further opportunities for social interaction.

When these projects are being designed, accessibility will be a key part of the process, ensuring that improvements are made to areas to ensure that everybody can access and use new and existing facilities. This is likely to have a positive impact across the borough, as areas that have been highlighted as having access issues have been put forward to be invested within to solve and improve these centres.

Community safety will also be taken into account when designing individual projects, with street lighting and sight lines being considered for all schemes. This will make public centres feel more welcoming and discourage anti-social behaviour, making public spaces more inclusive for all.

- Actions**

The main action considered for the programme of work will be the continuous cycle of consultation, engagement and improvement that will be undertaken for each individual project. All feedback provided, as well as local knowledge from Ward Members, will be taken into account to ensure that the programme of work has a positive impact on equality and diversity.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Winter 2021
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	20/12/21
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Ben Mitchell, Projects, Initiatives and Improvement Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Paul Woodcock	Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment	21/12/2021

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	20/12/21
Report title and date	Towns and Villages Fund, 24 th January 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	Cabinet, 24 th January.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	22/12/21

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?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Impact unknown	Individual projects may create waste where replacement of worn or obsolete street furniture or public realm is identified. This will remain unknown until each project is designed.	The redesign and improvement of public centres may increase footfall and usage, which could in turn increase the volume of waste produced at these sites. This may not be a 'real' impact but instead redistributes waste from other areas.	As standard, litter bins will be inserted, or replaced, on every scheme to ensure that waste can be collected and processed. Where waste is produced from construction, contractors will attempt to recycle and re-use where possible.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increases emissions	Contractors carrying out works will use heavy machinery, and materials will need to be delivered to sites.	Although these activities will produce additional emissions, it is deemed that this is a local impact.	Sustainable materials will be used where possible (e.g. LED lighting), and through the Council's social value framework, it	

			will be attempted to source materials locally, reducing the impact of transportation and delivery of goods.	
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Reduces emissions	Tree planting will be delivered on sites where appropriate and urban green space will be produced through some projects.	Impact likely to be localised.	All projects will be designed around any existing trees or green spaces, and where there is space to carry out tree planting, this will be included within the scheme, working closely with the Tree Service. Furthermore, submission were encouraged to improve and increase urban green space.

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

When each scheme is being designed, pedestrian access and active travel requirements will be assessed and included, to ensure that users are encourage to walk, cycle, or take public transport to public centres as an alternative to driving.

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

The Towns and Villages Fund aims to improve the lived environment of communities across the borough. The projects proposed through this report are likely to have a localised impact on emissions, through construction, delivery and disposal of materials. To minimise these impacts, waste materials will be recycled by the Council's Highway Delivery Team where possible, and materials will be sourced through the Council's Social Value Policy, encouraging spend in the local supply chain.

These improvement projects will encourage people to walk and cycle to local centres, create new urban green spaces alongside tree planting, and introduce more efficient street lighting where appropriate.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Ben Mitchell Projects, Initiatives and Improvement Officer Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	N/A
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]	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 24 January 2022

Report Title

Rotherham Cycling Strategy (2021)

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Nat Porter, Senior Transport Planner

nat.porter@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The draft Rotherham Cycle Strategy 2021 was approved to go to public consultation by Cabinet on the 22 March 2021. This report provides analysis of the consultation responses received, and resulting revisions to the strategy. Promoting the use of cycling to benefit health and well-being, the economy and the environment, the strategy will deliver improvements both in the Council's existing cycle network and also set out its ambitions and objectives for investing in and expanding Rotherham's cycling provision. This report seeks approval for adoption of the draft strategy provided at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

1. To note the consultation responses and subsequent findings
2. To adopt the Rotherham Cycling Strategy.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Rotherham Cycling Strategy (Final Draft)
- Appendix 2 Consultation summary report (presentation)
- Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment
- Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Sheffield City Region (SCR) Transport Strategy
Rotherham Transport Strategy
SCR Active Travel Implementation Plan (ATIP)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Rotherham Cycling Strategy 2021 Consultation Findings

1. Background

- 1.1 Recent years has seen a significant increase in the role of Active Travel to address a range of policy aims from carbon reduction to health & wellbeing outcomes, especially improvements to mental health as well as more recently its role in the recent COVID-19 pandemic. This has brought cycling and provisions to enable active travel into sharp focus at a national, regional and local level.
- 1.2 Key to this has been the provision of external funding which has so far delivered the Fenton Road Cycleway, in Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Round 1. In Round 2 TCF funding was confirmed early in 2020 at £166m for South Yorkshire. As part of this, Rotherham has a number of projects totalling almost £30m being delivered over 3 years to 2023. In addition, the Council has bid for funding from the DfT Active Travel Fund and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) for £1.5m for a new segregated cycle way on Broom Lane together with improvements in the surrounding area and at Clifton Road junction. Approval for this funding is pending.
- 1.3 The condition of existing highway cycle routes in Rotherham is varied with faded lining, overgrowing vegetation, and the collection of debris in a number of locations, potentially discouraging cycling along a number of routes.
- 1.4 In 2020-21 the Council provided additional funding as part of a wider streetscene allocation of £450,000 to improve the maintenance of existing cycle routes to include the Council's cycle lane lining, removal of overgrowing vegetation and weeds, and more regular maintenance. The aim is to provide a well-maintained and attractive cycle network to encourage cycling, which is a high priority within Rotherham and South Yorkshire.
- 1.5 Key to all of this activity is the need to set out a plan to outline the Council's ambition for cycling, provide a clear basis for further growth and investment in the cycle network and promote the use of cycling for a variety of benefits. This includes improving health and mental wellbeing, providing economic and sustainable alternatives to the car for shorter journeys and helping improve the sense of place within communities by removing unnecessary car journeys in village centres and residential areas.
- 1.6 The draft Rotherham Cycling Strategy was produced early in 2021 and approved to go to public consultation by Cabinet on 22 March 2021. This report advises on the results of the consultation and seeks approval for the adoption of the revised draft cycling strategy for Rotherham.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The draft Rotherham Cycling Strategy 2021 consultation opened on 2 July 2021 and closed on 27 August 2021.
- 2.2 The consultation process received 86 responses, including 74 from within

Rotherham. These responses have been analysed, and changes made to the strategy, with the findings reported at Appendix 2 along with a description of the changes made to the document.

2.3 The consultation identified a number of key aspects of cycling in Rotherham at the present time and provided useful insights into peoples' views on the role cycling currently does, and in future could, play in their day to day lives.

Key aspects from the consultation were:-

- There needs to be more engagement with local communities to gain a better understanding of how cycling as a travel choice can be improved, especially in areas with low cycling uptake.
- The greatest scope in increasing cycling is by people already cycling, there is therefore a need to understand more about the needs of non-cyclists.
- Individual benefits such as for enjoyment and especially health motivate more than the wider benefits to society such as environmental or congestion reduction - though these reasons are cited by a minority of people, especially less frequent cyclists.
- Danger from traffic is seen as the biggest barrier to cycling. This suggests the strategy's main focus should be not only on effective measures for actual but also perceived safety.
- Not having a bicycle was the second most cited barrier amongst non-cyclists. A lack of information on existing routes which was seen as a notable barrier for infrequent cyclists, though not for non-cyclists.
- A significant minority of non-cyclists and infrequent cyclists saw trip length, topography, weather and journey time as a barrier to cycling.
- Punitive measures such as higher parking charges were seen as unlikely to encourage more cycling. Instead, more cycle paths are seen as the single most effective intervention with the second being traffic volume reduction which was seen as considerably more important than slower traffic. This reinforces the focus of the proposed Rotherham Cycling Strategy.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1 – The Council could choose not to agree a strategy. Given the role of active travel in the Council's strategic objectives and responsibilities, for instance in promoting mental health, physical wellbeing, carbon reduction and sustainability, and taking account of the widespread public appeal for good-quality active travel options, having no plan may result in inefficient use of resources and missed opportunities for instance for further external funding. This option is not recommended.

3.2 Option 2 – The Council could agree a simple delivery plan, similar to an action plan. However, without recording the context, aims and objectives for such a plan, this option would result in a similar outcome to that in 3.1 by having the risk of inefficient use of resources and missed opportunities arising from more joined-up thinking. This option is not recommended.

3.3 Option 3 – A new cycling strategy document can be used to ensure that all strategic objectives are considered and can act as both an action plan and also an engagement tool with key partners and the public. This is the recommended option.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Public consultation was undertaken between 2 July and 27 August 2021. The results of this consultation are reported in Appendix 2 and an overview in section 2.3 above.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 If the revised strategy is approved by Cabinet, it will be published on the Council's website within four weeks.

5.2 Actions indicated in the strategy will be subject to availability of funding, and separate reports and decisions will be required in respect of those actions.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 The creation and approval of the Cycling Strategy is developed from within existing approved Council budgets and in itself does not commit the Council to further expenditure.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications in this report. However, where any goods, services or works are required from external organisations to support the cycling strategy outcomes these will be procured in compliance with the Council's Finance and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the adoption of the Cycling Strategy as proposed in this report. There will be direct legal implications arising from individual measures taken as a result of the adoption of the Cycling Strategy, such as the requirement for Traffic Regulation Orders, and at that time the appropriate statutory procedure will be followed.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no Human Resources impacts related to the approval of this report's recommendations. Work on the strategy will be contained within the council's Transport Infrastructure Service and within existing or procured consultancy services procured in accordance with the council's contract procedure rules.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Provision of safe and accessible cycle lanes on the highway contribute to the council's objectives for "thriving neighbourhoods" and "better health & wellbeing".

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Monitoring of demographics reported in response to the consultation highlights a low response rate from some groups with protected characteristics. Revised text is included to highlight the need for further, intensive consultation as schemes are developed to ensure the needs of all are taken into account.

10.2 When the strategy is formally adopted it will result in infrastructure schemes being delivered and programmes of activity (education and safety training for example) being commissioned. It is proposed that all schemes will receive an Equality Screening and where deemed necessary will progress to a full Equality Assessment. This will ensure all schemes are designed and constructed to take account of the needs of all road users.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The draft Rotherham Cycling Strategy 2021 provides the authority with a sound basis on which to develop and deliver a safe network of on road and off-road routes to facilitate an uptake in cycling. Were it implemented fully, it is estimated that the strategy could deliver a saving in carbon emissions from cars of up to 4% (based on 2018 levels).

11.2 Achieving those savings will be dependent on regional and national authorities providing the Borough with sufficient funding, and sufficient freedom to deliver on the most proven and successful approaches for cycling infrastructure. It should be noted that the level of carbon saving associated with active travel in the national Transport Decarbonisation Carbon, and statements in respect of length of cycleways to be provided nationally in the Government's Net Zero Strategy, are both around an order of magnitude less than might be expected of the approach taken in the Rotherham Cycling Strategy, suggesting there may be challenges in securing adequate funding.

11.3 Construction of cycling infrastructure will generate additional carbon emissions. Based on the International Energy Authority's analysis, these could be expected to amount to less than 5% of the savings of emissions from cars in the best-case scenario.

11.4 Cycling plays only a small role in reducing car mileage and emissions. It may be able to contribute a wider role if aligned to policies of localisation (i.e. reducing demand for travel) and reduced car ownership (i.e. reducing need or desire for second cars could ease the task of moving to electric powered cars). However, it is important that providing for cycling does not detract from messaging and action on long and medium distance car travel which is

disproportionately responsible for generating emissions - ~90% of car emissions in the Borough are generated on trips longer than 5 miles, and ~72% are generated on trips longer than 10 miles.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 A range of partner organisations exist on the subject of Active Travel such as cycling interest groups and associations, Parish/Town Councils with an interest in improving their local environment, educational establishments, as well as disability groups who wish to see the interests of their members accommodated in schemes affecting the highway and wider public realm.
- 12.2 These groups have been engaged as part of the public consultation process and their responses have been acknowledged as part of the findings contained in the attached report at Appendix 2.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The only risk presented at this stage is the risk of not having a strategy as detailed in section 3 of this report.
- 13.2 Further reports on risks and mitigation will be required as the strategy is delivered across the borough.

14. Accountable Officers

Andrew Moss, Interim Head of Transport Infrastructure

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	10/01/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/12/21
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	17/12/21

Report Author: Nat Porter, Senior Transport Planner
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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

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ROTHERHAM CYCLING STRATEGY

Version for adoption
January 2022

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1.0 Introduction

Cycling has a range of economic, health, wellbeing, traffic management and environmental benefits. It is a high priority within Rotherham and South Yorkshire, where the mayor is putting cycling and walking at the centre of regional transport plans.

Rotherham Council is committed to significantly increasing cycling in the borough. The Council has ambitious plans for a high-quality cycle network and infrastructure and is investing to achieve this through the Transforming Cities Fund and Active Travel Fund.

The Rotherham Cycling Strategy provides the principles, approach and broad design standards required to implement that network and ensure it is comprehensive, safe and accessible for all Rotherham residents, workers and visitors. The strategy also outlines the priorities on which to base related interventions.

In the longer term the focus will be on improving cycling provision on areas of the road network, rather than individual cycle routes, to provide a cycle network that connects with major cycle routes on main roads to facilitate longer journeys. Some roads will have segregated facilities while others will have the road environment improved for cyclists so that dedicated facilities become unnecessary.

The strategy also includes assessing the condition of the existing cycle routes, and the approach to maintaining these to ensure the network already in place is of the best possible condition with the funding available.

Alongside this, promotional measures will be outlined to maximise the uptake in cycling and use of the cycle infrastructure; this will include electric and pedal bike loan, bike checks and repairs, training, campaigns and events.

These combined infrastructure and promotional measures aim to encourage and enable a significant increase in cycling levels for both utility and leisure purposes, with wide ranging benefits for the people of Rotherham.

This Rotherham Cycling Strategy aligns with key national, regional, and local transport strategies to encourage and enable cycling for both utility and leisure purposes.



Cycling UK/Wayne Fox Photography

2.0 Background and strategic context

2.1 Background

Rotherham's existing cycling network measures approximately 75 miles in length – around a tenth of the length of the local highway network. But as with other districts in Sheffield City Region, Rotherham's cycle network is limited. While there has been some good, localised investment in cycle infrastructure and facilities, over a longer period this has been constrained by the funding available from government, which has often been short term and relatively small. Often funding has been for isolated cycle routes of varying standards. This has resulted in a network which has some good facilities but also some large gaps, and limited provision at many junctions.

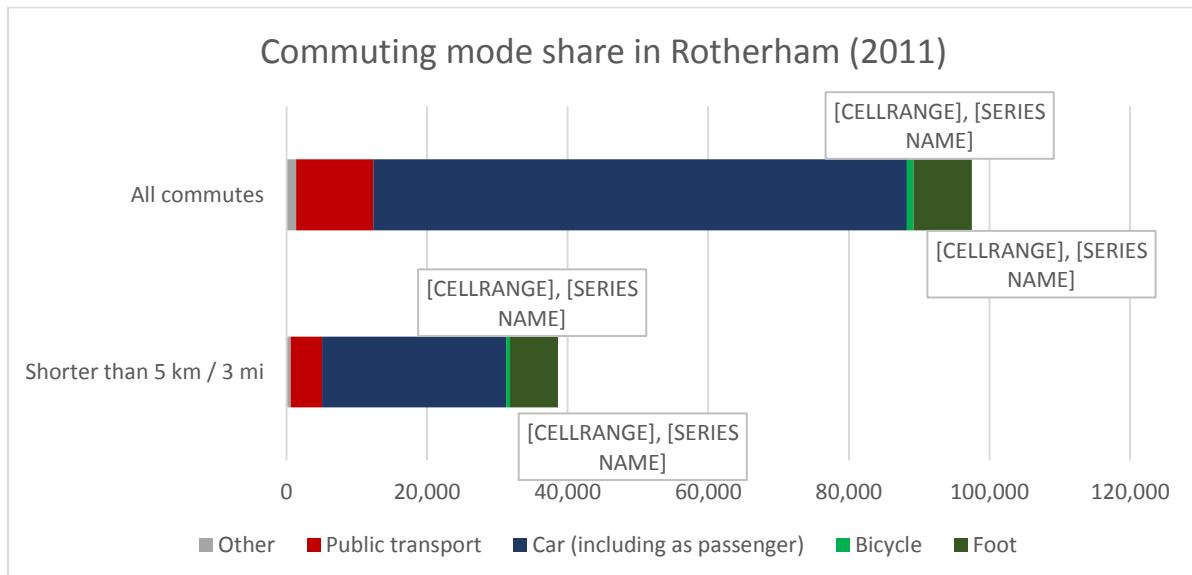
Recent focus during the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that active travel is a viable option and indicated its potential role in post COVID economic recovery. Local evidence, including the response to the cycling strategy consultation, suggests this was not an increase in utility cycling, but in cycling 'for its own sake' (noting the latter was much less restricted than the former during lockdowns). Consultation findings also suggest locally, this was predominantly driven by existing cyclists cycling more, rather than new participants taking up cycling.

However, during this time, it became very clear that Rotherham's cycle network is not at the standard required to encourage and enable a large increase in cycling. Furthermore, until April 2021 funding constraints have limited the maintenance of existing cycle routes, so they suffer with worn markings, accumulation of debris and overgrowing vegetation, affecting approximately 50% of our cycle network.

As a consequence, cycling levels in Rotherham and South Yorkshire are relatively low: our annual cordon counts, and census data indicate around 1% of trips are made by bicycle. Even for commutes shorter than 5 km (about 3 miles, or 20 minutes by bicycle), still only 1% cycle, compared against the 59% who drive¹. This is broadly in line with cycling levels across much of the country.

¹ Census 2011, table DC7701EW1a

Source: 2011 Census



There is, however, significant potential for cycling in Rotherham: 40% of Rotherham residents' journeys to work (accounting for up to 9% of total commuting mileage) are 5 km (3 miles) or below – a comfortable cycling distance for most people. Converting even a small proportion of these trips to be made by bike will have significant benefits, in terms of reduced car traffic and improved health.

Modelling based on 2011 commuting patterns suggests there is realistic potential to increase the share of journeys made by bike to around 12% of commutes which start or end in the borough, and around 20% of commutes wholly within the borough.² Given that some of this increase will be a shift from walking to cycling (associated with longer walks becoming more attractive and expedient to



² Rotherham Council analysis of propensity to cycle, based on 'Go Dutch' scenario

cycle), it is estimated the number of trips made by non-motorised modes can be doubled, resulting in a reduction in circa 10% of car trips, and of circa 2% of car mileage. At this point the Council do not hold estimates for non-commuting trips, but a similar impact is thought possible for these trips. These shifts will be heavily dependent on shifts in attitudes and perceptions by infrequent cyclists and especially non-cyclists, from those presently reported in response to the consultation.

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What can be achieved will also, in no small part, depend on the Government policy and funding position. Recent Government statements in terms of outcomes (carbon savings) and outputs (length of cycle track constructed) suggest the level of funding available will, if applied equally across England, be significantly short of that required to achieve the above benefits before 2050; in addition to highlighting the funding gap, it will therefore additionally be important that money is invested in the places and on the schemes that give the best impact to maximise the benefit.

These shifts in how we travel can have some significant benefits, in terms of contributing to the reduction of traffic congestion and local air pollution. Providing for cycling may also open up new opportunities for people without access to cars, and where public transport is unable to provide adequate connectivity. The largest benefits to society are likely in respect of health and economic productivity, potentially saving around 90 thousand sick days per annum, and bringing savings to society of as much as £40m per annum³. Benefits in the community would be most keenly felt 'in the pocket', with cycling affording a new, low cost option for travel.

One of the most pressing challenges locally, regionally and nationally is that of decarbonisation. Cycling has the potential to ultimately reduce CO₂ emissions in the borough by up to around 13,000 tonnes each year; however this does only amount to around 2% of transport emissions in the borough, or around 4% of car emissions⁴ (although the savings in the national Transport Decarbonisation Plan are considerably less than this, suggesting funding will not be available to achieve all of these savings). This is because car emissions are predominantly from longer distance trips; national travel survey data indicates 85% of car mileage accrued on trip longer than 5 miles⁵, and local data suggesting car trips starting or ending in Rotherham (accounting for around 66% car emissions, and 36% of road transport emissions in the Borough) tend to be longer, with around 90% of car mileage accrued on trips longer than 5 miles⁶.

Cycling can only 'pull its weight' in respect of climate change if aligned with destination shift – that is to say, people can access opportunities, facilities and amenities within their own locality, so reducing the need to travel to other parts of the region or beyond. This will require a wider change in approach to town, economic and transport planning – a focus towards supporting local communities, businesses

³ Rotherham Council analysis of propensity to cycle, based on 'Go Dutch' scenario

⁴ Rotherham Council analysis of propensity to cycle, based on 'Go Dutch' scenario

⁵ National Travel Survey 2019, table NTS0308

⁶ Analysis of Sheffield City Region Transport Model 1

and regeneration, from the bottom up, instead of large-scale infrastructure to facilitate greater or faster movement (including for cyclists). The need for decarbonisation dictates that cycling, and cycling policy, must enable and support thriving neighbourhoods and local regeneration.

Major investment in the cycling infrastructure and a comprehensive network can encourage cycling and support destination shift.

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Alongside infrastructure, there is evidence that promotional measures are needed to encourage and enable people to start cycling, for example bike loans, help with maintaining and repairing bikes and cycle training. Research undertaken by Sheffield Hallam University has determined that a combination of investment in infrastructure alongside promotional measures is most effective in encouraging cycling.

The cycle strategy consultation response suggests relatively limited appetite to start cycling amongst people not cycling at all at present. As noted elsewhere, this strategy recognises the limited benefit of supporting existing and frequent cyclists (in that the benefits of these groups cycling is already largely realised). Therefore, our approach initially will be to initially prioritised measures to encourage and support infrequent cyclists to cycle more; it is hoped in time these measures, and greater visibility of cycling outside the core of frequent cyclists, will improve the appetite of non-cyclists to take up the mode.

2.2 Strategic context and objectives

2.2.1 Government strategies

In 2020 the government released the [Gear Change Strategy](#) which advocates high-quality segregated cycle routes and low-traffic neighbourhoods to make cycling and walking easier, combined with investment in electric bikes, bike maintenance and free cycle training. The government is also encouraging authorities to provide *Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans*.

2.2.2 South Yorkshire/Sheffield City Region (SCR) strategies

Cycling features strongly in the [Sheffield City Region \(SCR\) Transport Strategy](#), which seeks to:

'better connect our major urban and economic centres to enable the better flow of people, goods, businesses and ideas across the city region, as well as promoting our rural and visitor economies, to secure new investment and grow our economy'.

The strategy is underpinned by three main goals:

- Residents and businesses connected to economic opportunity
- A cleaner and greener Sheffield City Region
- Safe, reliable and accessible transport network



The [SCR Active Travel Implementation Plan \(ATIP\)](#) incorporates the region's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans sets out that by 2040:

'a fully connected network of walking and cycling routes will link our region, transforming communities and ensuring that people have the means and the confidence to leave their cars at home, and choose to travel on foot or by bicycle'.

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The plan provides a five-year network map and 2040 network map. The five-year network priorities are mainly funded cycle projects, along with top-priority corridors from the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The 2040 map is a longer-term, more comprehensive network of routes and low traffic neighbourhoods.

The ATIP has been agreed by the Mayoral Combined Authority and is part of a series of implementation plans which sit within and contribute towards the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy. However, as a regional document it does not address connectivity and community needs at a sufficiently local scale to be effective on its own.

The Rotherham Cycle Strategy sets out how national and regional policy will be taken forward within Rotherham, to meet the needs of our communities, and will also contribute towards the proposals within the ATIP.

2.2.3 Rotherham strategies

Rotherham Transport Strategy features proposals to continue to improve the road network and support sustainable and affordable transport by continuing to improve public transport and promoting walking and cycling. Walking and cycling features strongly in Rotherham's Transport Strategy and a high-quality, connected cycling and walking network is a specific action. The Rotherham Cycling Strategy will play a major role in the implementation of this.

The Council's Year Ahead Plan focuses on the immediate post COVID-19 recovery period and under its *Better Health and Wellbeing* theme it outlines the intention to make Rotherham a "place where active travel is accessible, and local people reap the associated health and environmental benefits". Providing online mapping of the borough's cycle routes and agreeing a cycle strategy are identified activities in the plan.

Rotherham's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy provides a framework for partners across the borough to ensure that opportunities for improving health and wellbeing are maximised, across all agendas, policies and strategies. The borough's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment provides evidence that the health of people in Rotherham is poorer than the average for England, with life expectancy being ten years lower for men in Rotherham, and seven years lower for women. Furthermore, residents of the borough are 24% more likely to have a long-term health problem or disability, compared to the national average. The Rotherham Cycle Strategy will play a role in improving health outcomes in the borough, and links directly to Aim 4 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, working towards the ambition that '*All Rotherham people live in healthy, safe and resilient communities*'. Furthermore, the Rotherham Cycling Strategy will help in working towards the underpinning principles of the

Health and Wellbeing Strategy, such as 'reducing health inequality', 'preventing physical and mental ill-health', and helping to 'promote resilience and independence'.

The core strategy of the Rotherham Local Plan 2013-2028 sets out how local jobs and homes are to be provided in the borough, and how transport infrastructure and services should support these. Policy CS14 supports enabling cycling to be used for shorter trips, and for links to public transport interchanges, as a means of managing demand for car travel.

2.2.5 Role of the Rotherham Cycling Strategy

A common theme among the above national, regional and local strategies is the need for a high-quality, comprehensive cycle network to enable a large increase in cycling and in turn provide sustainable, affordable access to employment, training and retail, and by improving safety and the perception of safety.

This in turn will bring many benefits such as supporting economic growth and regeneration, reducing congestion, contributing to improving air quality and improving the health and wellbeing for Rotherham citizens.

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The Rotherham Cycle Strategy details the principles and approach required to implement that network.

Ultimately, the Council aspires to achieving wider outcomes from the cycling work:

- to support the economy and regeneration
- achieve a high level of accessibility
- improve the health and wellbeing of Rotherham's citizens.

That said, in the first instance there is a need to acknowledge the starting position and to increase the number of everyday cyclists in order to increase confidence that cycling is a viable and feasible travel option for a significant proportion of people.

Therefore, in the near term the principle objective of the Rotherham Cycling Strategy is to demonstrate that a significant increase in cycling in Rotherham is achievable, and that this can bring about wider improved outcomes.

To work towards this primary objective, the cycling strategy will also contribute to:

- supporting an integrated, sustainable transport system in Rotherham
- supporting the economy and regeneration by providing high quality access by bike to employment, training and retail
- ensuring the health and wellbeing of all Rotherham residents and workers is supported by enabling active and sustainable travel

These objectives will ensure the implementation of the cycle network provides maximum benefits for the people of Rotherham and aligns to the aspirations and policies in the above strategies to enable a significant increase in.

There is a finite amount of space on the highway and often competing needs from different users, therefore we need to be proportionate when designing the cycle network.

It is important to recognise there may be some costs for some users, and also to appreciate that cycling is not beneficial at any price. In some cases, to ensure cycling provisions can be delivered without causing undue adverse impact for other road users, it may be necessary to provide new or improved infrastructure for other travel modes, especially for public transport.

While this strategy considers cycling alone, our approach will treat cycling as part of, and complementary to, the wider transport system. This will enable greater benefits to be achieved by -

- Improving access to public transport.
- Aligning transport measures to those supporting leisure cycling in the interests Page | 11 of public health, tourism and leisure.
- Complementing and guiding the delivery of other RMBC programmes, such as Neighbourhood Road Safety
- Supporting wider Corporate and Regional priorities.

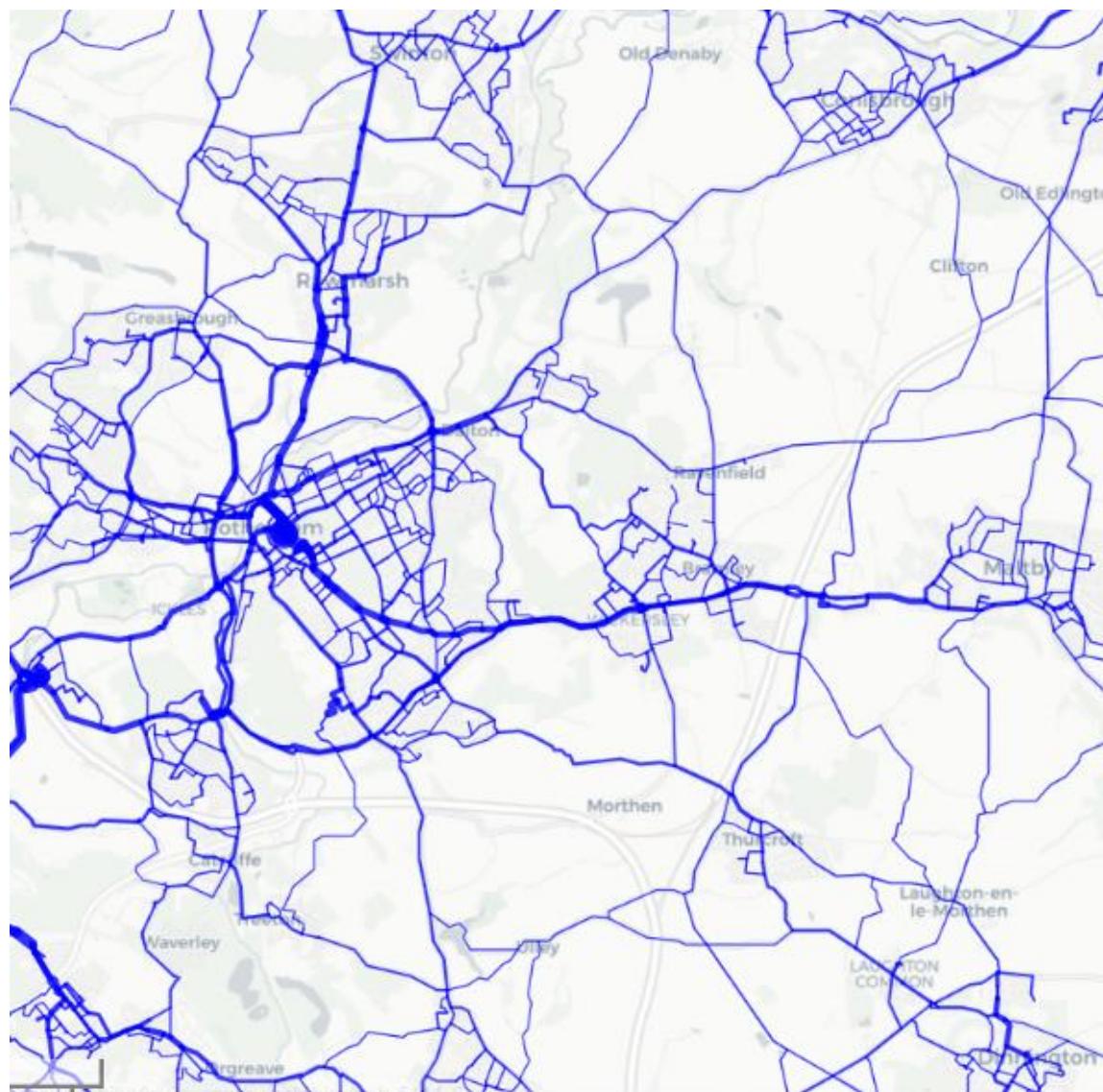
3.0 Implementing comprehensive cycle infrastructure

3.1 Cycle network principles

Even in countries where cycling is common, it is principally a mode of transport used for shorter, local trips of up to around five miles. This is supported by feedback from the consultation, noting existing frequent cyclists are prepared to cycle further while non-cyclists prefer to cycle less distance for these trips. A shorter distance of around 3 miles, is suggested in the Sheffield City Region's ATIP, reflecting the low baseline in and the hilly geography of much of South Yorkshire – this may ultimately be under-ambitious in Rotherham based on the findings of our consultation.

Because of the physical effort involved, cyclists are especially sensitive to diversion, and so cannot generally be expected to travel out of their way to use designated or preferred cycle routes.

This can be demonstrated with modelling, illustrating what a high-cycling scenario could look like in Rotherham (below)⁷. As can be seen, while some routes are busier



⁷ Extract from Propensity to Cycle Tool, 'Go Dutch' Potential cycling demand in Rotherham

than others, demand is spread all the way across the network.

Considering that many of the people using the busier routes will have travelled to them via quieter routes to and from individual premises (a level of detail not considered in the model), the Council's key guiding principle is that:

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The highway network is the cycling network and therefore our approach should be to ensure the comfort, convenience, and safety of cyclists as standard.

Essentially, this means a framework where roads and streets in the borough would fall in to one of two categories:

- **Distributor roads** – accommodating large flows of motorised traffic at speed, with separate cycle tracks to make cycling safe and comfortable.
- **Access streets** – where traffic speeds and volumes are kept low, thus creating comfortable cycling conditions without provision of separate infrastructure.

This is an ambitious approach. It is supported by results from the consultation on this document, which revealed danger from traffic as the greatest barrier to cycling, and revealed more cycle paths and reduced traffic volumes as to two most significant facilitators for cycling. Notably, reduced traffic volumes were cited as something that might enable cycling, around twice as often as reducing vehicle speeds – in light of this we will adjust our approach to Neighbourhood Road Safety to give much greater emphasis on managing the volume of traffic in e.g. residential areas, and shift away from inventions to solely attempting to influence vehicle speeds.

Achieving the maximum potential for cycling in the borough would require expanding the cycle network nearly tenfold, increasing the length of road provided with cycle track in the borough sevenfold (to over 300 km), providing nearly 800 km of traffic-calmed areas, as well as implementing extensive improvements to the existing network. Making this a reality would require significant funding from central government. However, the principles established in this strategy should serve as a base from which we can continue to grow and develop Rotherham's cycling network.

Of course, all interventions will be identified to fit site circumstances, and this may mean variation from these two categories. In particular, the Council may promote schemes of cycle lanes on distributor roads where neither traffic reduction (ie conversion to an access street) nor provision of cycle tracks is feasible; or on access streets which are, for example, relatively busy. And where forming useful routes, the Council will continue to provide and develop cycleways away from roads and streets entirely.

Cycling in town centres will need to consider how or if cycling can be accommodated in pedestrianised areas of town centres. The Council will consider this on a case-by-case basis to balance the need for connectivity and convenience by bicycle with the

needs and safety of pedestrians, and the wider aspirations for the town centre (for example, holding events and markets).

It is intended that further detailed guidance on the implementation of this approach be produced as a supplementary planning document.

Operating in this framework provides three distinct benefits:

- It will help ensure the Council can, over time, build up safe, convenient door-to-door connectivity by bicycle, able to provide for trips even as demand changes over time.
- Rotherham's residents will be able to have increasing confidence that their journey can be made safely by bicycle with only basic knowledge of their route, without referring to maps or journey planners to identify 'safe' routes.
- It gives flexibility to develop options and choices, ensuring support for cycling can be delivered in a way that meets the needs and aspirations of local communities and recognising that streets are not for cyclists alone and schemes need to meet a wide range of needs.

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The last point is particularly important. Emergency cycling infrastructure promoted across England in 2020, and the resulting negative response in some cases, demonstrates that cycling cannot be imposed on the public at any cost.

The borough's cycling aspiration will inevitably require some adverse impacts in some places. Whether this be localised worsened congestion, less parking or narrower footways, the Council will continue to engage and work with local communities, Parish Councils and internal and external key stakeholders openly and transparently to minimise and mitigate adverse impacts, and ensure the authority does not act in a manner that is disproportionate or unduly harmful to other road users.

The Council also acknowledge feedback from the cycling strategy consultation, that punitive measures to deter motoring were seen as least likely to facilitate cycling; whilst some degree of trade-off will be unavoidable in seeking improvement for cycling, the feedback would suggest little cause to believe disadvantaging motorists offers any benefit in promoting cycling in the Rotherham context. As such, the Council will not be promoting measures to promote cycling solely by rendering motoring more difficult or more expensive.

Moreover, the range of respondents to the consultation on the strategy was found to be relatively unrepresentative of Rotherham's population as a whole, including notable under-representation of groups with characteristics protected by the Equality Act. This further demonstrates the need for proper engagement in the local community.

This engagement will be essential to allow the Council to ensure local need is met by developing cycle measures that serves communities, rather than being imposed upon them.

3.2 Supporting infrastructure

3.2.1 Cycle parking

Cycle parking facilities are an essential element of the infrastructure required to encourage and enable cycling and the Council proposes to work with relevant stakeholders to determine where new or upgraded cycle parking is required, in particular to compliment the proposed investment in the cycle network.

While some good quality cycle parking is available, particularly in town centres, there are gaps in the provision and the quality of facilities on offer. There is therefore a need to ensure that high-quality, convenient, and secure cycle parking is available at destinations across Rotherham. Alongside this there is a need to accommodate the increasing number of electric bike users with charging infrastructure incorporated into cycle parking specifically for electric bikes.

It is important that cycle parking facilities are located where they are safe, secure, and convenient to use. Their location should be informed by cycle network proposals, development, and existing destinations as well as by locations of onward travel (such as popular bus stops, bus interchanges and train stations) to ensure cycling and public transport is integrated.

The type of cycle parking will depend upon the required use. Cycle parking facilities will be considered in two main categories:

- **Long stay** - for cycling commuters as well as shoppers, visitors and tourists. The type of facility for long stay spaces will be dependent upon the location and space. Secure parking such as bike lockers may be considered for town and district centres; these provide protection from the weather and are generally more secure than cycle stands. However, because they are larger than cycle stands, they are not suitable for all areas and cycle stands (covered, where possible) may be provided as an alternative.
- **Short stay spaces** - for people only likely to be visiting a destination briefly, for example brief shopping trips. Cycle stands are proposed for these cyclists and such facilities should be provided close to the entrances of buildings for convenience and security.

3.2.2 Other facilities

In many towns cycle hubs provide additional facilities alongside secure parking; these might include changing areas, lockers for clothing/personal belongings and bike repair services. There are currently no such facilities in Rotherham.

The Council proposes to investigate the potential for cycle hubs at key destinations and public transport facilities such as bus interchanges and train stations, and potentially work alongside cycle vendors to expand the services on offer in Rotherham. This would include charging infrastructure for e-bikes.

As part of this strategy the Council will also facilitate provision of supporting facilities such as changing areas and showers at employment sites by working with partners such as the Business Growth Board.

3.3 Infrastructure maintenance

While in the longer term a comprehensive and high-quality cycle network is required in order to significantly increase cycling in Rotherham, in the short term there is a need to improve the maintenance of existing cycle routes. There are approximately 125km of cycle routes in Rotherham of varying standards; a survey in 2020 identified approximately 50% of the network was affected by worn markings, accumulation of debris and overgrowing vegetation – all of which discourages cycling. In order to address this a number of relatively low-cost interventions are proposed. These include:

- Renewing all worn markings, such as advisory and mandatory cycle lanes, and segregation lines on shared use footways. This will improve the visibility of cycle routes and lanes for both cyclists and car drivers.
- Cutting back overgrowing vegetation and removing weeds from on highway cycle routes, maximising their width and usability.
- Sweeping affected on-highway cycle routes to ensure they are free from litter and debris.

These measures will ensure that the existing network, while limited and of variable quality, is brought up to and maintained to a good standard, in order to maximise the attractiveness and usability of cycle routes for both utility and leisure purposes.

There is also a need to ensure cycle parking facilities are maintained to a good standard. The maintenance of cycle parking facilities has historically been limited. As a result, some is unappealing due to the collection of litter (particularly cycle lockers) or unusable due to damage.

It is proposed to include cycle lockers and stands, particularly in our town centres, within regular maintenance programmes, to ensure the cycle parking facilities are well maintained. To address this cycle storage provision will be reviewed and, once completed, a regular inspection and maintenance regime will be introduced to ensure that where units are provided they are fit for purpose.

4.0 Priorities for interventions

At present, cycling as transport is a niche activity in Rotherham; for example, only around 1% of trips to work are made by bicycle. Moreover, national travel survey evidence suggests cycling is an activity currently disproportionately enjoyed, in terms of number of trips and distance cycled, by the most affluent households – a group significantly underrepresented in Rotherham.

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Given this starting point, there will inevitably and understandably be a degree of scepticism as to whether cycling can really be an inclusive and effective means of transport in Rotherham. To address this, the first priority will be to invest in cycling in parts of the borough where there is good evidence that a much wider demographic than existing cyclists could take up regular everyday cycling. This means that there should be a demand for travel, combined with realistic expectations as to how far people may be prepared to cycle given how hilly the areas might be – hills, distance, journey time and weather are reported as material barriers to cycling by respondents to the consultation (2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th most common responses of 15 options), and whilst technical solutions (e.g. electric bicycles) might ease some of these, we must nevertheless be realistic as to the extent to which these barriers can be overcome if we are to achieve a cycling network that is effective and meets the needs of Rotherham's residents overall.

The objective is to demonstrate that cycling can be made more accessible and inclusive in Rotherham, such that a real uplift can be achieved. Once this is demonstrated, prioritisation can then be considered in terms of outcomes such as improved health or reduced car travel.

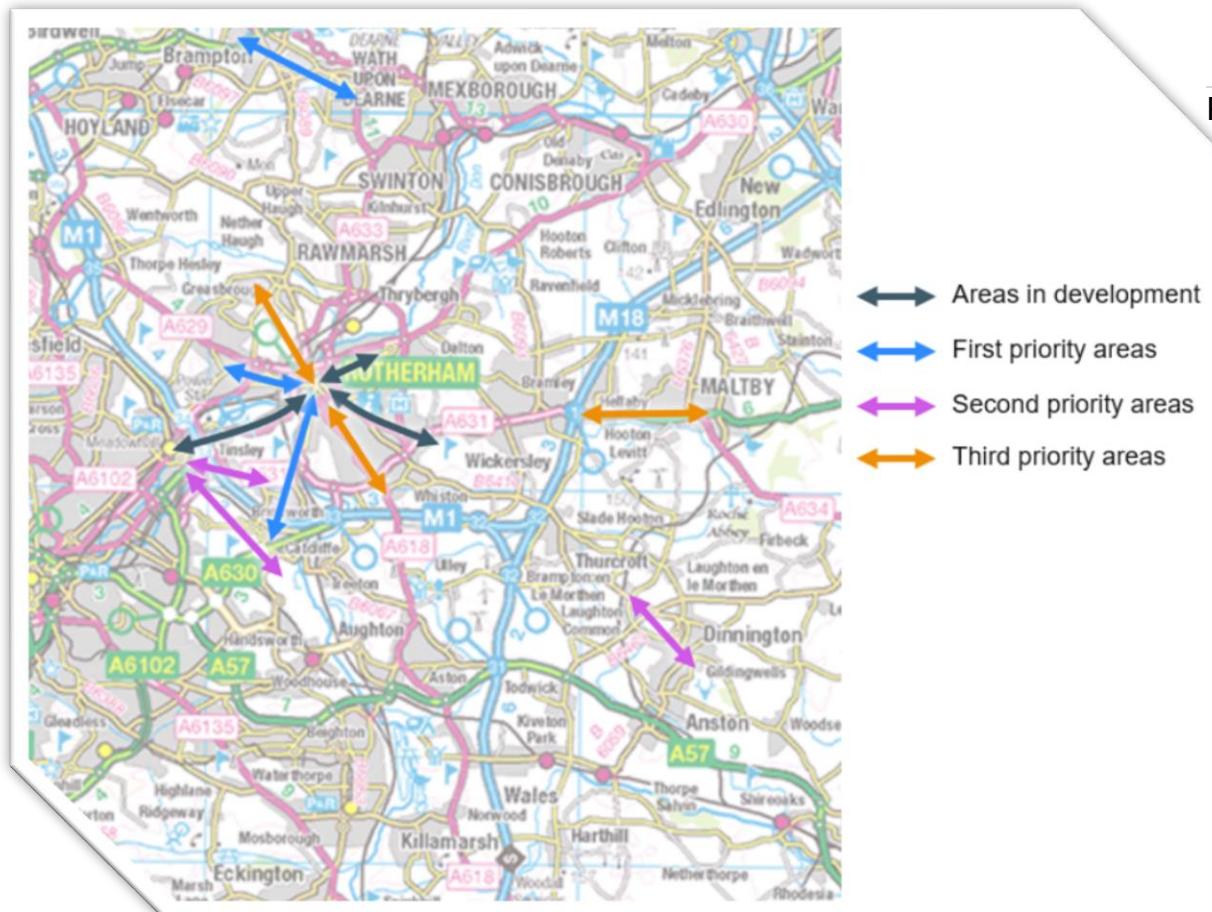
The best evidence for demand for travel is currently based on travel to work⁸. In time, there will be an understanding of other trips, as well as how commuting patterns may change in time, particularly should the increased in remote working seen during the COVID-19 restrictions continue. As such, the priority areas and actions will need to be periodically reviewed. That said, an approach led by travel-to-work data is supported by feedback to the consultation, which suggested commuting and business travel as having by far greatest potential for increased cycling amongst infrequent or non-cyclists in the Borough, relative to other journey purposes.

Whilst transport benefits associated with cycling tend to accrue from utility cycling being able to reduce car use, the consultation exercise indicated much greater public appetite to take up cycling for enjoyment or purely for health or fitness reasons. With the notable exception of commuting, cycling for other purposes or motivations were reported as being of less interest, especially amongst people cycling infrequently or not at all.

The approach will therefore be to support utility cycling, but to prioritise schemes and develop inventions to link into parks, greenspaces, and leisure routes. In light of this, and the approach of prioritising interventions where there is evidence of potential to

⁸ RMBC analysis of Propensity to Cycle Tool, 'Go Dutch' scenario

encourage existing infrequent cyclists to cycle more, we have refined our priority areas for intervention as follows –



Areas in development

- In liaison with Sheffield Council, Rotherham to Tinsley and Meadowhall
- Rotherham to Herringthorpe & Brecks, including links to Clifton Park & Herringthorpe Playing Fields
- Rotherham to Eastwood & East Dene, including links to Clifton Park & Herringthorpe Playing Fields

First priority for pipelining

- Rotherham to Masborough & Bradgate, including links to Bradgate Park and Ferham Park, and to National Cycle Network route 6.
- Brampton, West Melton, Wath and Manvers, including links into Manvers Country Park and to National Cycle Network route 62
- Rotherham to Brinsworth, including links into Canklow Woods

Second priority for pipelining

- In liaison with Sheffield Council, Brinsworth to Tinsley and Meadowhall, with links to National Cycle Route 67

- In Laughton and Dinnington, including links into Dinnington Community Woodland and to National Cycle Route 674
- In liaison with Sheffield Council, Meadowhall to the Advanced Manufacturing Park and Waverley

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Third priority for pipelining

- Rotherham to Greasbrough, including links to Bassingthorpe Farm and Greasborough Park
- Rotherham to Moorgate, including links into Canklow Woods and National Cycle Route 6
- Between Maltby and Hellaby

The above list reflects the highest priorities based on funding known to be available, the strategic priority to maximise cycling uptake, and potential for both utility and leisure cycling highlighted above. However, this should not be read as constraining activities to these areas. We will be agile to respond to local needs and opportunities as they arise, and funding opportunities as these become available. In particular, we will respond to improved understanding public attitudes and aspirations in respect of cycling, especially from people who cycle infrequently or never. These factors may mean work progressing in a different order, or in different areas, than outlined above.

5.0 Promotional measures

To maximise the potential for cycling and use of cycle infrastructure, and get best return on investment, promotional measures are required to. Research from Sheffield Hallam University suggests that promotional measures alongside high quality cycling infrastructure is the most effective combination in encouraging and enabling cycling. Therefore subject to available funding, the Council will continue to invest in, and work with partners to deliver, interventions such as:

- **Rotherham Mobile Cycle Hub** (see below) - visits businesses, organisations, local communities, town centres and events offering:
 - free electric and pedal bike loans
 - free bike check-ups and repairs
 - free cycle training for adults and families.
- **Active travel in schools** - promotes and encourages cycling and walking to school through a range of engaging events and activities.
- **Beat the Street** – which encouraged walking and cycling by targeting local communities and schools to engage children and families in a one-month, game-style challenge.
- **Local cycling events** – to raise awareness of cycling and the benefits.
- **Personalised travel planning** - offering information and advice on how to use public transport and active travel in combination to complete longer journeys.
- **Cycle training in schools** - offered in primary schools across Rotherham.
- **Road Safety in Schools** – highlighting the importance of road safety and encouraging pupils to travel safely and sustainably through a range of activities and campaigns.



PWLC Projects

This package of services has been extremely popular and valuable in supporting Rotherham residents and workers to cycle. The Council will review and focus these measures in light of consultation responses to better meet community need – in particular, to support improved access to cycles amongst people not currently cycling but who may be interested in starting, and to improve knowledge of available routes amongst infrequent cyclists.

Rotherham Council has ambitions and aspirations to expand a number of these projects and extend the programme of promotional measures on offer to fully support the proposed investment in cycle infrastructure. The Council will work with key partners for example in health, sport and leisure among others to maximise the opportunities and benefits of our projects for all residents and workers in Rotherham.

However, this will rely on Rotherham Council, alongside the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority longer-term funding for promotional projects.

The Rotherham Mobile Cycle Hub

The Rotherham Mobile Cycle Hub is a well-established project that has been successfully encouraging and enabling cycling for a number of years.

The hub visits businesses and organisations, local communities, town centres, parks and events offering a range of services including:



- Free electric and pedal bike trials - high-quality bikes are provided to participants for up to three months to try cycling, in particular to work. Long term trials help participants enjoy the full benefits of cycling, and potentially save money on commuting. The service is in high demand and has resulted in 92% of participants continuing to cycle afterwards.
- Free bike check-ups and repairs - Dr Bike sessions are offered at the Hub, allowing people to bring along a bike for a check-up. Minor repairs are undertaken, and participants are referred to local bike shops for more major repairs. This service has proved to be extremely popular and valuable for Rotherham residents and workers.
- Free adult and family cycle training - A range of one-to-one and group cycle training, including off road sessions at parks and on-road sessions. Instructors advise on issues such as positioning in the road and tackling junctions as well as planning routes with participants.

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Wheels for All

Rotherham is working with the charity Cycling Projects to establish a Wheels for All Hub in Rotherham. The Wheels for All initiative is a national project that encourages all children and adults with disabilities to try cycling.



Making cycling accessible to all.

The Wheels for All Hub will offer a range of specially-adapted and accessible bikes for sessions where disabled residents can cycle in a safe and controlled environment and ride leaders are available to support and assist. The hub will welcome all individuals, groups and families.

6.0 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluating of both infrastructure and promotional projects will ensure the Council can accurately determine cycling levels, modal shift and attitudes towards cycling. This in turn will provide a good evidence base from which to determine future projects and to support the case for future funding.

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Some of the interventions may be relatively new to Rotherham, or to the UK; there is a need to understand public response to these so we know what works well, and less well, for people in Rotherham. To ensure the Council can commit to the level of analysis required to achieve this monitoring and evaluation, capabilities will become a requirement of all scheme and programme bids and designs.

A robust monitoring regime will be put in place to evaluate the impact of infrastructure projects and promotional interventions. This regime will align to the Council's priorities in this strategy and for the cycle network. The monitoring of cycling levels will be key and it is proposed that a more extensive network of automatic cycle counters be created, initially targeting those areas and cycle routes which are a high priority for interventions.

Depending on available funding, it is also proposed to invest in the technology to ensure that the data is of the highest quality. The Council will also work alongside Sheffield City Region to ensure a regional monitoring and evaluation plan for the Active Travel Implementation Plan meets the needs of Rotherham our ambitions to create for a comprehensive and high-quality cycle network.

The cycle infrastructure projects being introduced will be evaluated to ensure they meet the aims and objectives of this strategy and are aligned to the goals in the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy. The length and number of cycle routes implemented and the treatment of areas to provide an environment that encourages and enables cycling will also be monitored, as this will be an indicator of the Council's ambitions to provide a high quality, comprehensive, safe and accessible network.

Promotional projects will be monitored to evaluate their effectiveness in encouraging and enabling cycling. The uptake of the services on offer such as bike hire, bike check-up and repairs and cycle training will be monitored alongside the participation in activities and events. The travel habits of those engaged with will also be surveyed to determine the success of projects in encouraging a shift towards cycling.



PWCL Projects



ROTHERHAM CYCLING STRATEGY

Consultation Analysis Report

November 2021

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Executive summary

A public consultation into the proposed Rotherham Cycling Strategy was held on-line between 2nd July, and 27th August 2021. This consultation sought to understand public views, needs and desires in respect of cycling to inform the final draft of the strategy.

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The consultation process received 86 responses, including 74 from within Rotherham. This document provides an analysis of findings, along with an indication of changes made to the strategy document in response to the consultation findings.

The consultation identified a number of key aspects of cycling in Rotherham at the present time and provided useful insights into peoples' views on the role cycling currently does, and in future could, play in their day to day lives.

Key lessons from the consultation are that: -

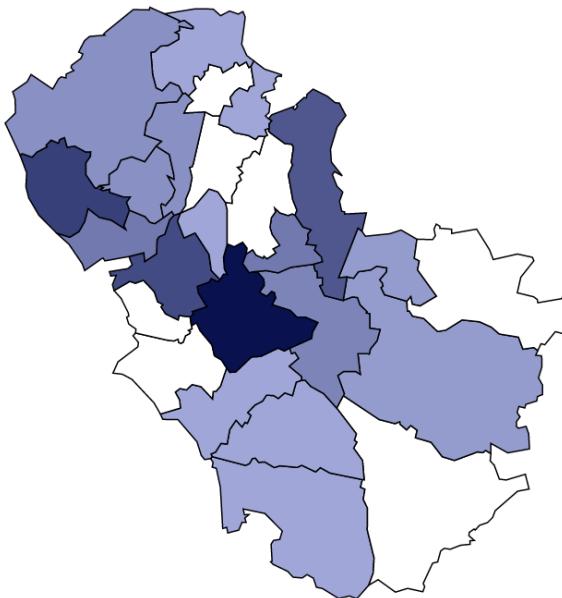
- There needs to be more engagement with local communities to gain a better understanding of how cycling as a travel choice can be improved, especially in areas with low cycling uptake
- The greatest scope in increasing cycling is by people already cycling, there is therefore a need to understand more about the needs of non-cyclists
- Individual benefits such as for enjoyment and especially health motivate more than the wider benefits to society such as environmental or congestion reduction - though these cited by a minority of people, especially less frequent cyclists.
- Danger from traffic is seen as the biggest barrier to cycling. This suggests the strategy's main focus should be not only on effective measures for actual but also perceived safety.
- Not having a bicycle was the second most cited barrier amongst non-cyclists. A lack of information on existing routes which was seen as a notable barrier for infrequent cyclists, though not for non-cyclists.
- A significant minority of non-cyclists and infrequent cyclists saw trip length, topography, weather and journey time as a barrier to cycling.
- Punitive measures such as higher parking charges were seen as unlikely to encourage more cycling. Instead, more cycle paths are seen as the single most effective intervention with the second being traffic volume reduction which was seen as considerably more important than slower traffic. This reinforces the focus of the proposed Rotherham Cycling Strategy.

Profile and representativeness of respondents

Locations of respondents

The consultation provided 86 responses were received. The majority of these, 74, were based in Rotherham, with a further 8 and 4 responses received from Sheffield and Barnsley respectively. The distribution of responses from within Rotherham is shown in the plan below, with darker colours indicating a greater response rate. Wards marked white supplied zero responses to the consultation.

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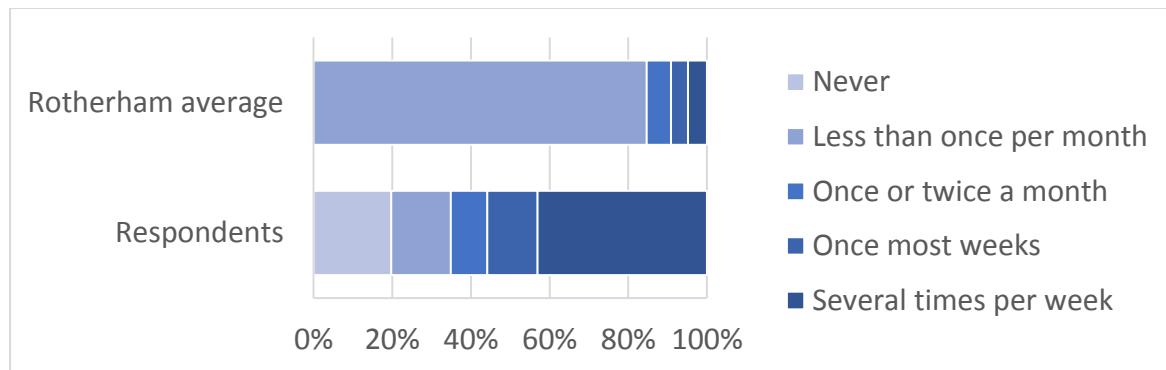
Notably, while there was relatively good response rate from the central Rotherham wards in terms of respondents. Nearby, Brinsworth and Rother Vale wards do not provide any respondents.

Other areas identified as priorities for interventions saw sparser levels of response. There was no feedback from Maltby East and only 2 responses from Maltby West. Similarly, with Dinnington having no responses from Anston and Woodsetts, and only two from Dinnington Ward. Whilst there are 3 responses from nearby Hooper ward, there is only 1 for Wath Ward and none for Swinton Rockingham.

Key point – areas of greatest (modelled) potential for cycling are underrepresented in the consultation feedback.

Existing cycling behaviour of respondents

Respondents' self-reported existing cycling behaviour is illustrated in the chart below. The cycling behaviour reported in Rotherham by the Active Lives Survey is provided as a comparison. Note the Active Lives Survey does not permit respondents to report that they never cycle.



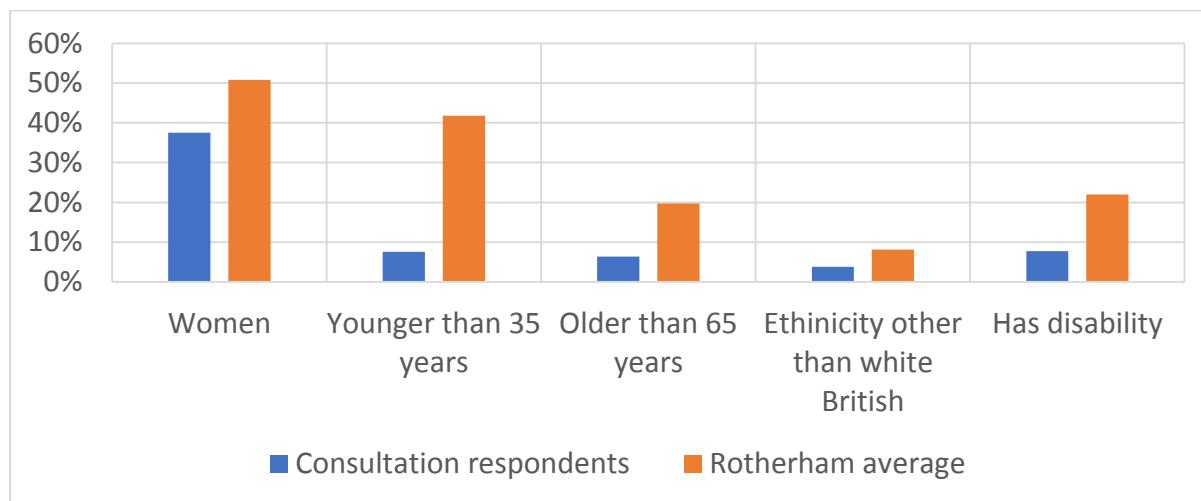
Around half the respondents cycle frequently, compared to just 9% of Rotherham's population. The remainder were split evenly between cycling occasionally (no more than once or twice a month) or never.

Key point – the survey response over-represents the views of existing cyclists, and greatly under-represents the majority of Rotherham's citizens who cycle infrequently.

The above data is used in some of the subsequent analysis to weight responses by existing cycling behaviour, in line with the Rotherham averages. Whilst these weighted averages should be treated with caution given the low response rate, this is intended to provide a more representative insight in terms of feedback to reduce the risk of the cycling strategy being unduly influenced by an enthusiastic minority.

Equalities monitoring

Respondents were asked to provide demographic information. This was then compared with Rotherham's population as a whole, below.



As can be seen, respondents were markedly more likely to be male, middle aged, white British and not disabled, relative to the population in Rotherham as a whole.

Key point – the survey response under-represented minority and/or marginalised groups. This highlights that, without more intensive engagement to understand community needs, work to improve cycling activity risks inadvertently reinforcing inequalities and may, without further engagement, not meet the needs to key and/or large groups of people.

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Conclusions

Caution in interpretation of the findings is required on account of a number of points -

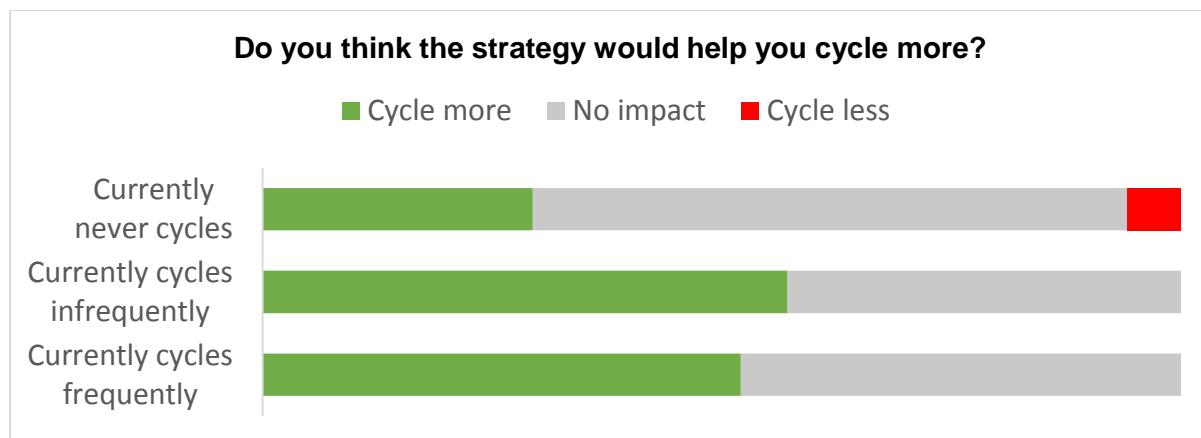
- A low response rate gives a low level of confidence in findings;
- The response does not particularly reflect areas of greatest (modelling) uplift in cycling;
- The response over-represents existing cyclists, and especially frequent cyclists;
- More generally, the response does not reflect Rotherham's population as a whole, and notably under-represents key (and large) groups of people of protected characteristics.

The lack of representative engagement in the consultation raises a challenge in successful delivery of the strategy, both in terms of ensuring the Council's work meets the needs of the whole community and avoids widening inequalities, but crucially in meeting the need to get people who don't cycle frequently to do so more. Recognising this weakness, additional text is included in Section 3.1 of the strategy, to emphasise the need for engagement with local communities to ensure local need is met.

Potential shifts in travel behaviour

Potential for people to cycle more

Respondents were asked whether they felt the cycling strategy will help them cycle more. For existing cyclists, whether cycling frequently or not, around half felt it would enable them to cycle more, with infrequent cyclists identifying greater scope to cycle more. This fell to around a quarter for those never cycling. Leaving aside one implausible response, the remaining respondents considered the strategy would have no impact.



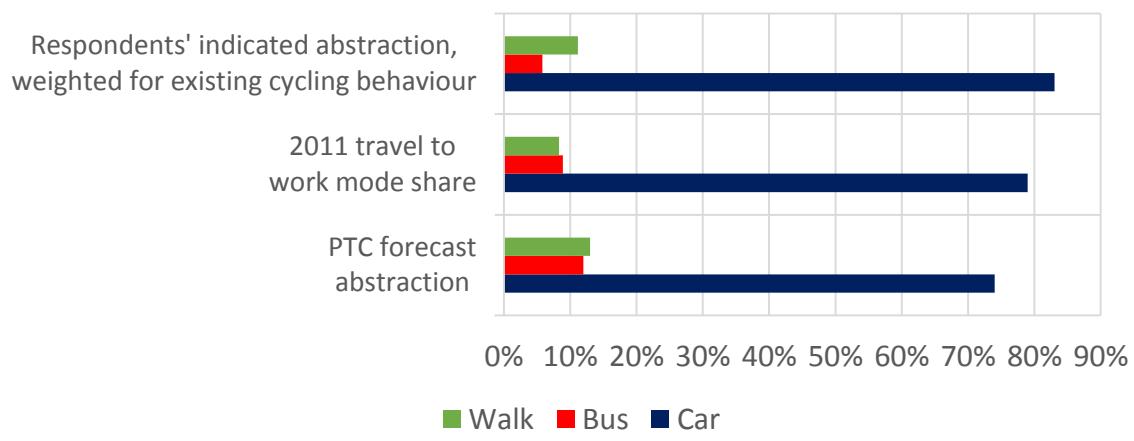
Of people responding that they presently cycle infrequently or not at all, and that the strategy would have no impact on their cycling, analysis of free-text response did not reveal any common threads, except some people commented that the highlighted priority areas were not where they lived.

Potential for mode shift

Respondents were asked, if they did feel they would cycle more, how might they travel in the absence of the strategy. The purpose of the question being to understand the potential for mode shift (change of travel choice to cycling).

Around 12% of respondents indicate they would simply travel more, rather than shift modes. All of these reported they were existing frequent cyclists. When responses are weighted to reflect the proportions of existing cyclists in Rotherham, this falls greatly, with 98% of respondent indicating they would shift modes for existing trips, rather than travel more.

Of people indicating they would shift modes, when adjusted based on reported existing cycling behaviour, a clear majority indicated they would shift from cars, rather than from public transport or walking. The weighted response is compared to the existing travel-to-work mode share in Rotherham, and the abstraction predicted by the 'Propensity to Cycle Tool' Go Dutch scenario, in the table below.



This analysis supports the potential rates of abstraction predicted by modelling, and taken at face value, that there may be potential for greater abstraction (change) from car and less abstraction from bus than forecast.

Conclusions

Based on the response to the consultation, the greatest scope to increasing cycling appears to be to get people already cycling, especially infrequently, cycling more. There appears to be greater scope amongst infrequent cyclists to increase cycling rates, and to do so by in a manner which abstracts (transfers mode) from car use - which is required to deliver on transport benefits.

However, people cycling less than once a month make up 85% of Rotherham's population (it is not known how many of these never cycle). Given this, and that this group is most likely to be in need of (for example) improved levels of activity, benefits may be severely undermined if the needs of non- or particularly infrequent cyclists are not understood and met.

On the flip side, if the needs of non- and infrequent cyclists are more effectively met, a greater abstraction from car trips might be possible than models might suggest.

Reflecting these competing considerations, the strategy has been updated (section 2.1) to reflect the difficulty in encouraging non-cyclists to take up cycling. The approach and prioritisation has been refined to support areas in which there is evidence of both existing and potential increase in cycling, with a view to enabling infrequent cyclists to cycle more and so improve perceptions of cycling beyond the core of frequent cyclists.

Motivations, barriers and facilitators of cycling

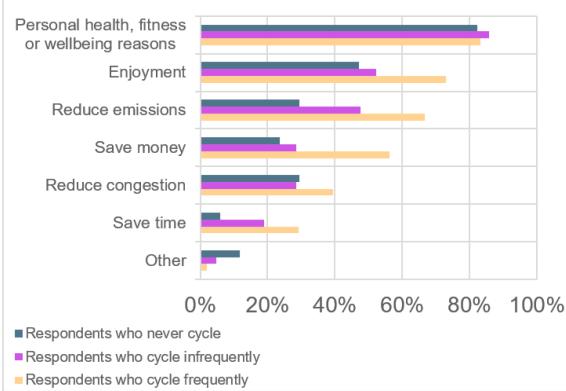
In order to understand how the strategy might be improved to maximise benefits, respondents were asked three questions –

- What do you think are the most important reasons to cycle? (Motivations);
- Which of the following put you off cycling? (Barriers); and,
- What is most likely to encourage you to cycle more? (Facilitators)

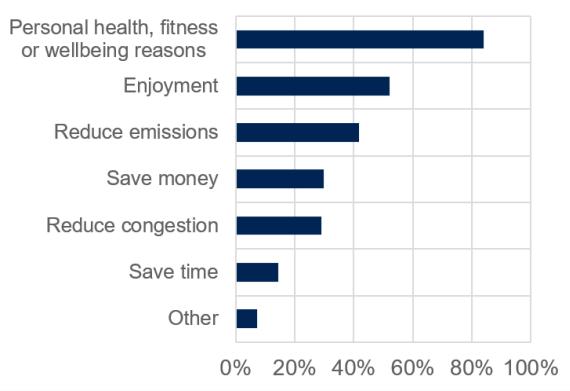
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Motivations

Segmented



Weighted average



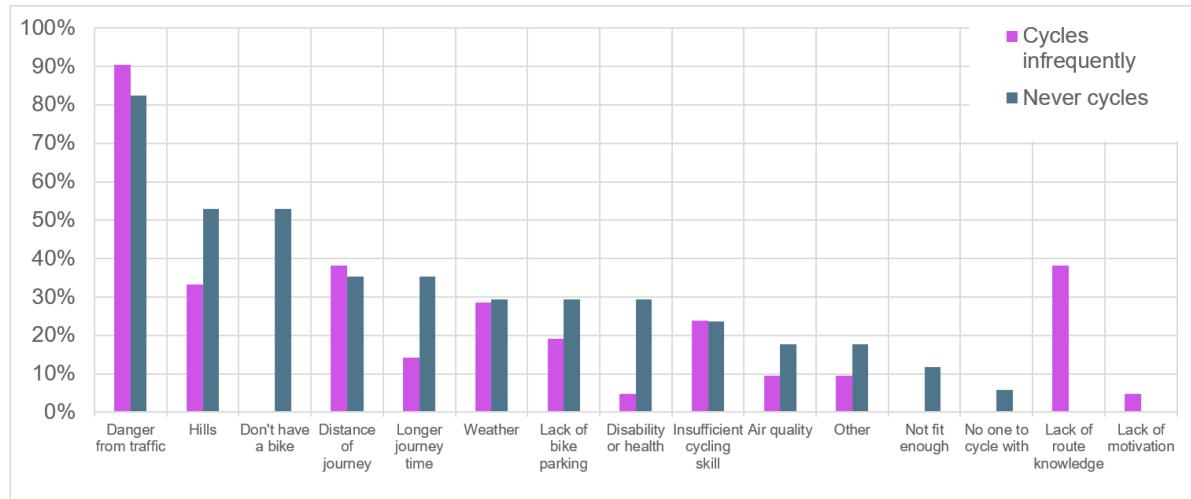
Respondents reported personal benefits around health, fitness and enjoyment motivate people to cycle more, rather than personal transport benefits (saving time or money) or wider social benefits (reducing emissions or congestion). This was particularly the case for people who do not already cycle frequently.

Key point – Personal benefits (enjoyment and especially health) motivate more than societal benefits. If increasing cycling is the aim, a change in focus to health and leisure within the strategy may perform better than a utility-led approach.

Barriers

Those respondents who indicated they cycled infrequently or never were asked which, of a list of factors, put them off cycling. Respondents could tick all which applied. The results are illustrated below.

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Danger from traffic was cited as the most significant barrier.

Lack of access to bikes was cited as a major barrier for non-cyclists – the second most-cited barrier amongst this group. A lack of information regarding available routes presents a more significant barrier for infrequent cyclists.

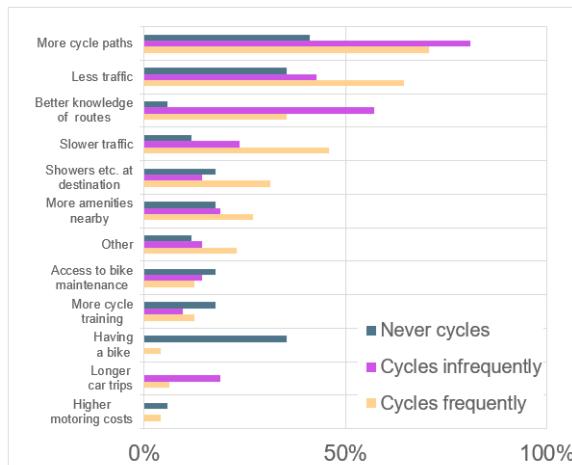
The next most commonly cited barriers, though cited significantly less than danger from traffic and typically less often by infrequent cyclists than non-cyclists, were physical constraints on cycling as a mode of transport such as topography, trip distance or time, or the weather.

Key point – Danger from traffic was cited as the greater barrier to cycling by those not already cycling frequently.

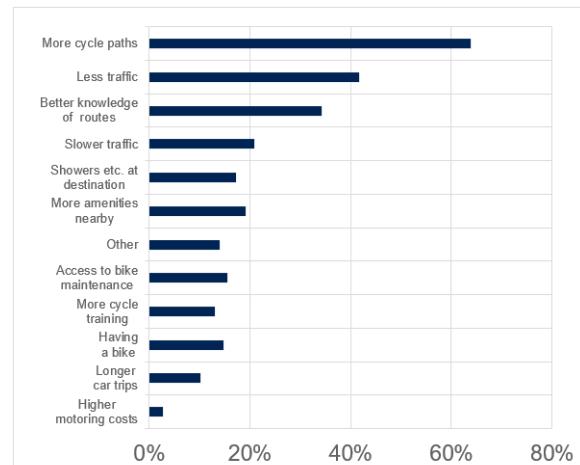
Facilitators

Respondents were asked which of a given list of interventions was most likely to encourage them to cycle more. Responses are illustrated in the table below.

Segmented



Weighted average



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The two most common facilitators of cycling cited were construction of more cycle paths, and reduced traffic volumes.

For people not cycling, the second most common facilitator cited was simply having a bike. For infrequent cyclists, the second most common facilitator cited was better knowledge of routes.

Reduced traffic speeds were only cited as facilitating cycling by around a fifth of the respondents when adjusted to attempt to reflect the balance of existing cycling levels in Rotherham, suggesting a change in emphasis away from managing from speed and towards providing separated cycle paths and/or managing traffic volumes is required to enable cycling.

Introduction of measures to inconvenience or otherwise penalise motorists were the least cited measures in respect of encouraging cycling.

Key point – Construction of cycle paths and traffic volume reduction are reported as being most likely to encourage cycling. Reducing traffic speed is reported as being less significant as might be traditionally thought.

Conclusions

Key conclusions in respect of motivations, barriers and facilitators are -

- Personal benefits (enjoyment and especially health) motivate more than societal benefits.
- Amongst infrequent or non-cyclists, danger from traffic was cited as the most significant barrier.

- For non-cyclists, the second greatest barrier was lack of access to a bike. For infrequent cyclists, this was lack of information or knowledge of available routes.
- Constraints of trip length / time, topography or weather were cited as the next most significant barriers to cycling.
- Construction of cycle paths and reduced traffic volumes were cited as the most important interventions to facilitate cycling, which has good alignment with the proposed strategy.
- Measures to deter motoring are unlikely to be effective in encouraging cycling in and of themselves (though it is noted that measures to e.g. reduced traffic volumes may have or be perceived to have that effect).

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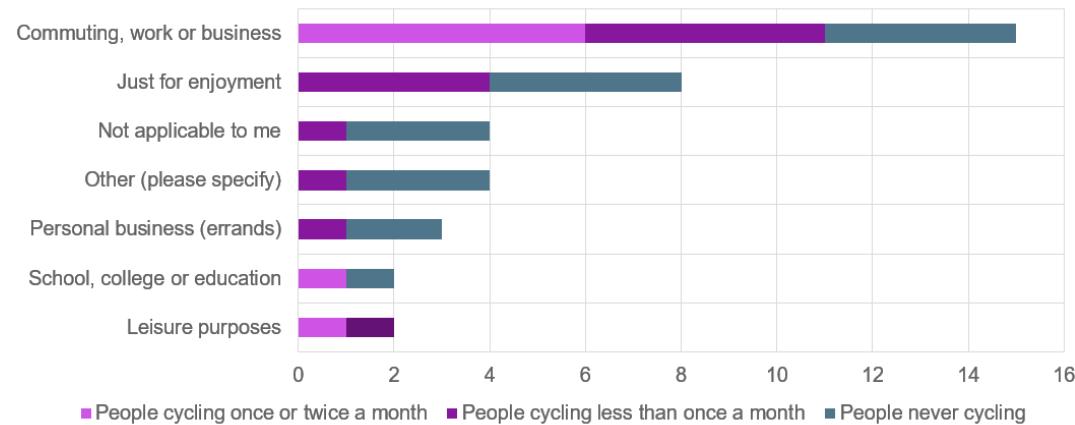
In response to these findings, the following changes have been made to the strategy

- Section 4.0 is updated to reflect strategic need to prioritise utility cycling to deliver transport benefits, but also to prioritise / design schemes to support leisure cycling given this appears to better motivate people to cycle.
- Additional text is also included in the strategy to emphasise the need for focus on measures addressing actual or perceived danger from traffic, especially measures to provide separate cycleways and those to reduce traffic volumes – with management of traffic volumes highlighted as more important than managing traffic speed.
- Additional text has been added to reflect a need to re-prioritise ‘softer measures’ activity in light of findings above, and to highlight that the response indicates measures to deter motoring are unlikely to facilitate cycling in and of themselves.

For what purpose, and over what distance, might people cycle more?

Respondents were asked to indicate for what purpose they thought they might cycle more. The chart below illustrates the response, broken down by exiting cycling behaviours.

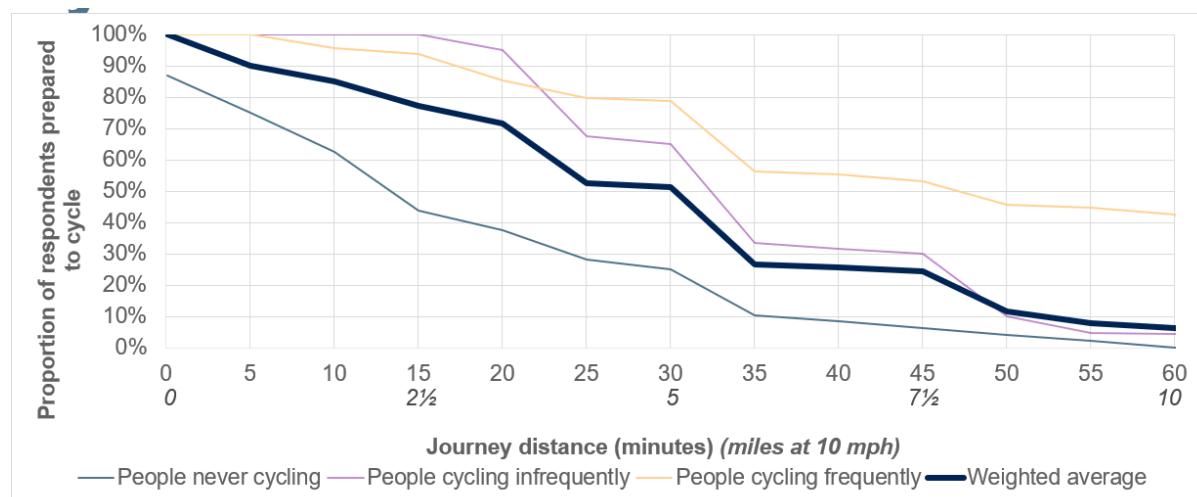
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Commuting & business seen as trip purposes with greatest scope for cycling, with cycling for 'its own sake' the second most significant purpose. Other trip purposes seemingly not seen as viable for cycling – though it should be noted only one purpose could be specified.

How far would you cycle?

Respondents were asked how far they felt it reasonable for them to cycle, in minutes. The results are shown by the chart below – the height of the line representing the proportion of respondents considering the distance on the horizontal axis to be acceptable to cycle.



Taking the weighted average, the median acceptable cycling distance is around half an hour, or around 5 miles at 10mph average. However, there is considerable variation, with existing cyclists considering much greater distances to be reasonable

to cycle, and non-cyclists generally considering an acceptable cycling distance to be much shorter. 13% of non-cyclists considered no distance to be suitable for cycling.

Conclusions

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Commuting and business were cited as trip purposes with greatest scope for cycling. This finding has good alignment with the method of prioritising interventions based on travel to work data

Additional text has been added to reflect this, and the apparently considerable appetite for cycling 'for its own sake' corroborated by other responses. Risks around an apparent lesser appetite for other utility cycling is also covered in the revised text.

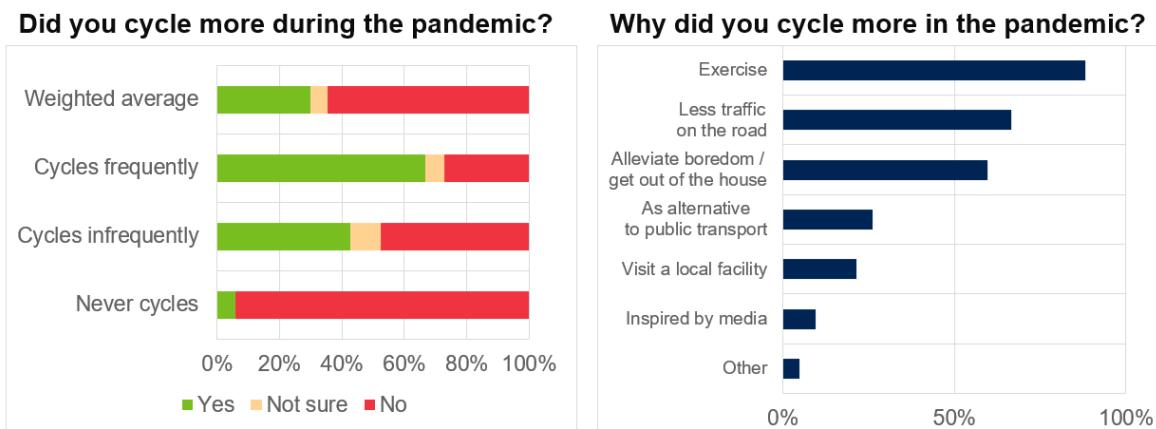
Text has been added to highlight that the response is consistent with observed cycling behaviours in high cycling places such as the Netherlands, but also to emphasise that non-cyclists have lower expectations of reasonable levels of cycling and frequent cyclists have markedly higher expectations relative to the weighted average or to mass cycling behaviours observed elsewhere.

Therefore, additional text has been added to highlight the need for realism in respect of potential for cycling, especially when encouraging non-cyclists – but also more positively to highlight that potential for cycling might be greater than regional policy suggests.

Cycling during the pandemic

RMBC traffic monitoring revealed an increase in cycling during part of the global coronavirus pandemic. To understand what prompted this, and to learn any lessons that might inform strategy development, respondents were asked if they cycled more, and for what purpose. The results are summarised below.

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The response indicates that existing cyclists cycled more during the pandemic, but there appears to be little uptake in cycling by those not cycling. Note that anyone not cycling prior to the pandemic but who has taken it up and had stayed in the habit at the point of consultation would report as being an existing cyclist. The greatest increases were recorded by frequent cyclists.

Exercise and to get out of the house were both cited as significant reasons to cycle more. The second most common reason was cited as reduced traffic levels (resulting from lockdowns). This may in part be reflective of these being amongst the few reasons permitted to leave the house during stricter periods of lockdown. Relatively few cited taking up cycling as an alternative to public transport.

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APPENDIX 1**PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment**

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: ROTHERHAM CYCLING STRATEGY 2021	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Transportation Infrastructure
Lead person: Andrew Moss	Contact number: 01709 822968
Is this a: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

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

The Rotherham Cycling Strategy is a document setting out the Council's aims and objectives to maintain its existing cycling network and to outline how it intends to expand, maintain and operate the cycling network for the benefit of road users.

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?**

The report seeks approval to consult on the Council's draft cycling strategy; arrangements will be made to ensure that key road user groups especially those representing protected characteristics for people experiencing mobility constraints, the elderly and the young will be consulted.

When the strategy is formally adopted at a later stage it will result in infrastructure schemes being delivered and programmes of activity (education and safety training for example) being commissioned. It is proposed that all schemes will receive an Equality Screening and where deemed necessary will progress to a full Equality Assessment. This will ensure all schemes are designed and constructed to take account of the needs of all road users.

The public consultation did not raise issues with adoption of the strategy from an equalities perspective. However, the response to the consultation was relatively small, and relatively unrepresentative of Rotherham's population. Self-reported demographic data suggested significant underrepresentation of groups with protected characteristics including women, the young, the elderly, those with disabilities and people other than white British ethnicity. This does mean there is a level of uncertainty in respect of equality impacts of implementation of the strategy. Therefore, additional text is included in the strategy to be adopted, recognising this weakness and the need for further work as works pursuant to the strategy are developed to ensure these works are designed and constructed to take account of the needs of all road users.

- **Key findings**

Age (older people)

Population forecasts indicate that the number of older people in the Borough is set to increase in the future.

Older people can encounter physical barriers, such as trip hazards from uneven surfaces, crossing busy roads, and difficulties boarding and alighting buses and using steps at railway stations. The report does not focus specifically on this group as a range of ability levels exist within it. The strategy does reflect a background duty on infrastructure scheme designers to ensure all road user needs are accommodated wherever possible. This ensure the type of obstacles older people encounter on the

highway are identified and addressed where feasible to do so.

Age (younger people)

Access to school and appropriate crossing points on busy roads may have a higher impact on younger people. Cycling on the local road network presents very specific risks for young people. The strategy outlines the work the council will be doing to provide education programmes for young people and also cycle training.

Disability

The term 'disabilities' covers a multitude of issues, such as physical mobility and sensory problems, as well as learning difficulties. Therefore the transport needs of people with disabilities are wide-ranging and require numerous solutions when planning and developing accessible road safety schemes.

Both national and local data acknowledges that transport issues have a significant impact on the lives of people with disabilities. Disabled people tend to travel and drive cars less often than the rest of the population. In fact the most common mode of travel for people with disabilities is as a car passenger. People with disabilities can also experience problems in using public transport, with issues such as inaccessible bus stops, stations, and vehicles. The strategy contains a section outlining the Council's current and future engagement with the Wheels for All initiative which aims to improve availability of cycling for disabled people.

Race/Ethnicity

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a general duty on public authorities to actively promote race equality. The Council's own practices recognise that there is a need for equality of access to information and services.

Gender

Evidence from national surveys indicates that women in general have less access to cars than men, and are more likely to use public transport. Women also undertake more supervising journeys than men, whether this is with young children or as a carer.

The Equality Act places a legal duty on local authorities to eliminate unlawful harassment or discrimination, and to promote equality between men and women. In terms of road safety, this includes considering the needs of escort journeys with young children.

Sexual Orientation

There is no evidence available to suggest that there are specific transport access needs with regards to sexual orientation.

• Actions

Undertake Equality Impact Assessments on larger schemes as they are developed.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	10 th February 2021
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	10 th February 2021
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Andy Shearer, Engineer.

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Andrew Moss	Interim Head of Transport Infrastructure	10/02/2021

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	10 th February 2021
Report title and date	Rotherham Cycling Strategy 2021-22
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	24 th January 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	11 th February 2021

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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?	No impact on emissions				
Emissions from transport?	No impact on emissions		The decision to adopt the strategy will not impact emissions in and of itself, but a reduction in transport emissions could be expected upon implementation of actions arising from it. Further detail below.		
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No impact on emissions				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No impact on emissions				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No impact on emissions		The decision to adopt the strategy will not impact emissions in and of itself, but an increase in construction emissions might be expected upon implementation of actions arising from it. Further detail below.		

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No impact on emissions				
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Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

The decision to adopt the strategy will, in and of itself, have negligible impact on carbon emissions. Subsequent delivery of schemes, and realisation of outcomes, can be expected to deliver carbon impacts as set out below, but these are noninherent consequential from adoption of a strategy in and of itself.

Were the strategy hypothetically deliver in full immediately, the Propensity to Cycle Tool[1] forecasts a saving of 2.9 kt CO₂ p.a. from all commutes into, out of or within the Borough, in a scenario where cycling were as common as in the world leading cycling nation (the Netherlands), accounting for commute trips lengths and topography in Rotherham.

Applying factors to account for non-commuting trips based on proportions of cycle miles travelled for differing purposes in England [2] and the Netherlands [3], and assuming this additional cycle travel abstracts from car use at the same proportion as for commutes, gives an estimated saving for all trip purposes of 8.8 – 12.0 kt CO₂ p.a.

This amounts to approximately 1.4-1.9% of transport emissions in Rotherham [4], or an estimated 2.5-3.4% of car emissions in the Borough [5].

A number of caveats should be applied to these numbers –

- There is uncertainty around non-commuting travel patterns, as well as any sustained impacts on travel following the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The commute carbon savings include for carbon saved in adjacent districts on cross boundary trips, including that outside of Rotherham;
- Fixed travel demand is assumed, however there may be second order effects that might impact on demand for travel or use of cars – for example –
 - Reductions in congestion resulting from mode shift to car to cycle may encourage new or longer car trips in the same way provision of new road capacity can be expected to induce demand; and,
 - Mode shift from public transport to cycle may undermine commercial viability of bus services and may result in reduced services; this may result in reduced bus mileage (and a carbon saving) and increased car mileage (and so additional carbon emissions).

- Savings will be eroded over time if / where alternative decarbonisation policies (e.g. shift to electric vehicles, travel demand management) reduce carbon emissions in the counterfactual 'no cycling uplift' scenario (i.e. carbon can only be saved once);
- Uptake of e-bikes and/or e-scooters may enable more and/or longer trips to shift from car to cycle than forecast. The Propensity to Cycle Tool scenario quoted considers e-bike usage as it stood in the Netherlands in 2010-2016. Future impacts of e-bikes are uncertain – the Propensity to Cycle tool includes an 'e-bikes' scenario based on behaviours in the Netherlands in the period 2013-2016. This is thought to overstate likely potential amongst the general population as this is likely to reflect enthusiastic behaviour of early adopters, however, the estimate of approximately a doubling of carbon savings might give a useful if likely optimistic estimation of the additional potential saving;
- Delivery of the strategy will be heavily dependent on Government funding. The national Transport Decarbonisation Plan [6] estimates just 0.1 – 0.5% of surface transport emissions saved by the plan in the period 2020-2050 to result from active travel activity (walking and cycling). Whilst this in part will reflect savings achieved in the 'no active travel policy' counterfactual by (in particular in the context of that plan) electric car deployment, it also appears to relate to a lesser ambition / less of commitment to delivery than would be required to achieve the savings estimated above.

Additional carbon emissions can be expected by construction of cycling infrastructure. No local figure are available for this, but the International Energy Authority estimates, for a scenario in which approximately 5% of car emissions are saved globally by shifts to walking and cycling by 2030, these additional emissions would amount to less than 5% of the emissions savings in the period to 2050 [7].

These impacts will be subject to Carbon Impact Assessment as individual schemes and programmes come forward for approval.

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

Adoption of the strategy will have negligible impact on emissions. Impacts of schemes bought forward in support of the strategy will be subject to their own Carbon Impact Assessments.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Nat Porter Senior Transport Planner Transportation Infrastructure Service Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	<p>[1] Propensity to Cycle Tool https://www.pct.bike/ (accessed Dec 2019)</p> <p>[2] A factor of 3.06 is applied based on National Travel Survey table NTS0409 (2019).</p> <p>[3] A factor of 4.17 is applied based on <i>Fietsfeiten (Kennisinstituut voor Mobiliteitsbelied, 2018)</i> (Figure for 2016).</p> <p>[4] Total territorial transport emissions of 645.7 kt CO₂ in 2019 per BEIS UK local and regional CO₂ emissions: statistical release 2021</p> <p>[5] Based on RMBC and SYSTRA analysis of Sheffield City Region Transport Model 1, with reference to the 2020 BEIS estimation of 2018 emissions.</p> <p>[6] Decarbonising Transport - A Better, Greener Britain (DfT, 2021)</p> <p>[7] Net Zero by 2050 (International Energy Agency, 2021)</p>
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.	Refer to meta data for sources quoted above.
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Sam Blakeborough, Policy Officer, PPI, ACEX

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