

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Date and Time :- Wednesday 20 April 2022 at 11.00 a.m.
Venue:- Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
Membership:- Councillors Clark (Chair), T Collingham (Vice-Chair), Baker-Rogers, Baum-Dixon, Burnett, A Carter, Cooksey, Cowen, Elliott, Pitchley, Wyatt and Yasseen.

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

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

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March (Pages 5 - 14)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 23 March 2022 and to approve them as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

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

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

For Discussion/Decision:-

6. Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations: Update from South Yorkshire Police (Pages 15 - 64)

To consider South Yorkshire Police's progress against recommendations made by the Independent Office of Police Conduct in its report: *Operation Linden – Learning and Recommendations* (November 2021).

Items for Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In accordance with the outcome of the Governance Review in 2016, the following items are submitted for pre-scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 25 April 2022. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

7. Rotherham Climate Emergency Annual Report (Pages 65 - 110)

To note the progress made during 2021/22 against the Climate Change Action Plan.

Cabinet Portfolio: Jobs and the Local Economy

Strategic Directorate: Regeneration and Environment Services

8. Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block Safety Valve Programme (Pages 111 - 154)

To report the outcomes from the Government's National Safety Valve Programme.

Cabinet Portfolio: Children and Young People

Strategic Directorate: Children and Young People's Services

For Information/Monitoring:-

9. Work Programme (Pages 155 - 172)

To consider the Board's Work Programme.

10. Work in Progress - Select Commissions (Pages 173 - 190)

To receive updates from the Chairs of the Select Commission on work undertaken and planned for the future.

11. Forward Plan of Key Decisions - April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022 (Pages 191 - 197)

To review and identify items for pre-decision scrutiny from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions covering the period from April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

12. Call-in Issues

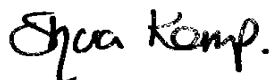
To consider any issues referred for call-in from recent Cabinet meetings.

13. Urgent Business

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

14. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 11.00am at Rotherham Town Hall.



**SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.**

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday 23 March 2022

Present:- Councillor T. Collingham (in the Chair); Councillors Baker-Rogers, A Carter, Cooksey and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Clark, Baum-Dixon, Burnett, Cowen, Elliott, Pitchley and Yasseen.

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

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 9 February 2022 be approved as a true record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

5. COVID RECOVERY FUND

Consideration was given to a report that was submitted for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet Meeting to be held on 28 March 2022. The Cabinet agreed on 19 July 2021, to earmark £2m for a Covid Recovery Fund from the underspend position, with authority delegated to the Cabinet for its use. The Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23, approved at Council on 2 March 2022, set out the first use of the Covid Recovery Fund, allocating £371k of the fund towards three one-off revenue budget investments for 2022/23, these were:

- Women's Euro 2022
- Additional Customer Call Handling
- Customer and Digital Developments

The report set out further proposals for use of the Covid Recovery Fund across the following areas:

- £500k Cash grant scheme to provide support for households with

the rising cost of energy bills.

- £300k additional funding to top up the Councils Discretionary Housing Payments fund. £100k to support cultural recovery events and opportunities that will enable people to reconnect.
- £50k to facilitate the administration of these proposals.

The remaining funding of £679k was to be retained within the Covid Recovery Fund so that further support could be targeted at issues that arise as the course of the borough's recovery from Covid continued.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Chris Read, introduced the item. It was recognised that many residents faced acute financial pressures which had emerged post-pandemic, including rising inflation and energy prices. It was outlined that £500k would be set aside to help those most in need, identifying that approximately 2000 households would be eligible for a one-off payment of £250 to assist with energy bills. Financial advice would also sit alongside this scheme, and it was anticipated that most of those eligible for payment would already be working with advice services.

A further £300k had been allocated to Discretionary Housing Payments, which provided financial support to those in private or social housing who required assistance to pay their rent. It was anticipated that more people would face increasing financial difficulties in rented accommodation and the additional funds gave further resilience to address issues as they arose.

An additional top-up of £100k had been allocated to support events, recognising the importance of encouraging people to socialise and interact in their communities post-pandemic. It was reported anecdotally that levels of participation had fallen, particularly for older people. There were concerns that lower levels of engagement may mean that more vulnerable people were isolated with consequent impacts on health and well-being. The additional funds gave greater capacity to support future events and community engagement, including those organised to celebrate the forthcoming Jubilee.

The remaining £679k would be held to support any future covid-recovery issues and would be subject to on-going monitoring to ensure a flexible response should further cost of living pressures arise.

In respect of assistance with energy costs, it was asked if support would be rolled out during winter months when energy use and bills would be greater. It was outlined that the criteria would focus on those in acute crisis. It was anticipated that the majority of those eligible would be referred by advice services and/or apply online. This process would be "light touch", but evidence of financial hardship would need to be provided. The scheme would be subject to review however, it was important to move swiftly to respond to imminent price rises in April.

Details were asked of the application process and if support would be

given to those who were unable to apply online. It was confirmed that face-to-face and telephone support would be available as well as publicising via voluntary and community sector channels.

Clarification was sought on the eligibility criteria and if homeowners or people who may not claim benefits could apply for assistance as inflation, rising interest rates and energy costs would also have an impact on their living standards. It was explained that assistance with energy costs would be available to eligible households regardless of tenure, however discretionary housing payments were only payable to those in rented accommodation. The wider impact on households, including owner-occupiers would be monitored and proposals brought back if appropriate.

The committee welcomed the proposals outlined in the report. It was explained that the fund was not time limited and was to be used at the discretion of the Council to support the borough's post-covid recovery.

Further details were asked about events to celebrate the Jubilee. It was outlined that there would be a central event arranged in Clifton Park with small-scale events being organised in parishes and neighbourhood. Clarification was sought on the application process for small grants and assurance was given that this would be circulated at the earliest opportunity.

Resolved: -

- 1) That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
- 2) That guidance is issued as soon as is practicable on the application process for community events.

6. SOCIAL VALUE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report that was submitted for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet Meeting to be held on 28 March 2022. This is the second annual report to be submitted since adoption of the Social Value Policy in 2019.

The aim of the Social Value Policy was to maximise the local impact of the Council's spend:

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

The report outlined that the Council had either achieved or made progress against the commitments agreed in February 2021. These included:

- The Social Value Commissioning Toolkit was in the final stages of development and about to be rolled out.
- Accreditation as a “Living Wage Employer” was awarded in September.
- Anchor networks development was underway with key partners building on the commitments from the partnership Social Value Charter.
- The Council was positively engaged in the development of social value policy and practice in the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA).
- A workshop was held to explore further community wealth building opportunities.
- An event has been held to engage with suppliers. This provided real examples of good practice in social value. The event will be repeated on an annual basis.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report with contributions from the Chief Executive and officers. It was outlined that this was the second full year of the commitment with significant progress being made. It was noted that the benefits of this policy may take some time to realise as changes may occur over the course of contracts. The Leader put on record the achievement of “real living wage” accreditation and noted that over 3000 people in Rotherham had directly benefited from this status.

The contribution of the Rotherham Together Partnership to this agenda was ongoing but progress had been hampered by the pandemic. The Leader drew attention to positive developments with the MCA with regards to procurement and business grants which supported social value principles and net zero commitments.

The Chief Executive and Leader noted the contribution of the Head of Procurement to this agenda and her work with partners in developing the Council's approach, including the Social Value Portal.

Since the last annual report, commitment has been secured from local businesses, taking the principles of social value into their organisations. Consideration has been given to how the Council commissions its services and contractual arrangements. Work was also underway the MCA across the sub-region to ensure that a joint approach underpinned commissioning and procurement activities. Work has been undertaken to identify community wealth opportunities to identify with business where there were gaps in types of organisations, products or services. Audits had evidenced that a greater number of contracts were being procured locally.

Further information was provided on the impact of the policy, which

included greater numbers of people in employment and apprenticeships. It was noted that the high-level figures did not reflect fully the positive changes made as a result of the policy. This would be addressed in future annual reports.

Over the next twelve months, the Council would remain fully committed to this agenda and work closely with anchor institutions such as South Yorkshire Police, colleges and the hospital to ensure that a similar approach was taken to maximise local spend and opportunities.

Clarification was sought on how the achievements compared with the original aims of the policy, and how benefits to Rotherham residents was demonstrated. The roll out of the real living wage and number of people accessing employment or training opportunities from local contracts was cited as key performance indicators.

The Council's work with contractors and sub-contractors in achieving real living wage status was supported as were initiatives to engage business. Details were sought of how the Council could influence those local business who it did not contract with. It was explained that events had been organised with local business champions and peer networks showcasing good working standards and practices and the benefits for their business and the wider community. A further question was asked about the influence the Council had with non-local contractors. It was outlined that the expectation that national providers would comply with social value principles was the same as local businesses. The Council and its partners proactively shared information with local businesses about contracts and commissioning to build economies of scale or create opportunities for diversification.

It was noted that many contracts were borough wide, however, it was also noted that some contracts would be provided in specific localities. It was asked if certain areas in greater need were targeted for initiatives which could increase social value. It was noted that particularly with locality-based contracts, businesses had explored how they could add social value locally, particularly jobs and skills and engaging with the voluntary and community sector.

The non-contractual contributions of businesses to local communities was cited, with a question ask how social responsibility and social capital could be captured. It was noted that the social value policy had clear targets to deliver wider benefits through its contractual and commissioning arrangements.

It was noted that key performance data was only available for part year and a request was made for updates to be provided to the committee. It was confirmed that this was available as data is captured on a quarterly basis.

Information was sought if there had been a change in the numbers and

types of businesses seeking contracts and was there evidence of a change in approach in respect of national businesses. With some national providers, it was noted that discussions had taken place to ensure that there was a local social value benefit specific to Rotherham (e.g. apprenticeships or skills training). Early market engagements was also taking place to ensure that businesses understood social value prior to bid submission so businesses were better placed to meet requirements.

It was clarified that the Council was not paying more for contracts through its commitment to social value objectives, rather that it was an expectation on business to engage with this agenda as part of their contractual arrangements. Acknowledging the Leader's opening statement, it was noted that the outcomes from the adoption of a social value policy may take some time to realise and asked that further work be undertaken to demonstrate the benefits.

Resolved: -

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That consideration be given to how the impact of the Social Value strategy is demonstrated in future annual reports.
3. That consideration is given to how businesses and voluntary/community organisations' contribution to 'social responsibility' is captured.
4. That a further report is submitted to OSMB in six months outlining mid-year position.

7. DIGITAL STRATEGY - PROGRESS REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance introduced the item. Consideration was given to a report providing an update on the progress on the delivery of the Digital Strategy. The strategy was first considered by this committee prior to its approval by Cabinet in February 2021. It asked that a progress report be submitted in twelve months.

The report detailed progress against four main strands of the strategy which were as follows:

- Digital Collaboration;
- Digital Customer Services;
- Digital Borough;
- Digital Workforce.

It was noted that the effect of and continued response to the pandemic had impacted on what had achieved. Despite these pressures, the report outlined areas of delivery which included:

- a) Full upgrade of the 'People's Network' which had seen the installation of new public access computers in all libraries.
- b) Establishment of a digital inclusion programme, working alongside the voluntary and community sector and other partners, including Health.
- c) Development of telephony automation to better direct calls made to the general enquiries number.
- d) Facilitated the commercial investment and delivery of full fibre connectivity across the Rotherham district over the next two years.
- e) Extension of Microsoft Teams to support collaborative working with external partners, other local authorities and suppliers.
- f) An agreed installation programme of 'hybrid meeting' technology across the Council's accommodation portfolio.
- g) A complete upgrade to the Council's servers and databases to ensure they were secure, compliant and remain fully supported. It was noted that the Council had been awarded PSN accreditation.

Reference was made to the "People's Network" and how residents could access services particularly if there was no library in their immediate vicinity. The Assistant Director of Customer, Information and Digital Services outlined the work that was taking place to extend digital inclusion across neighbourhoods, including those areas not covered by libraries and with specific communities who may have higher levels of digital exclusion. The programme aimed to better understand what digital inclusion 'looked like' in Rotherham, the reasons why people experienced digital exclusion and tailor services accordingly to meet identified gaps. The Head of Digital Services highlighted that work was underway with Housing Services to connect Neighbourhood Centres and ensure wider coverage, details of which would be circulated to members of this committee.

Clarification was sought on what progress had been made to ensure that disabled people were not excluded digitally. The digital inclusion programme would look specifically at the needs of certain resident groups, including disabled people. The outcomes of the research and consultation with groups and residents would be fed into the strategy and inform future actions.

Further details were sought of how hybrid meeting would be rolled out and if elected members could participate remotely (for example if they could not attend meetings due to illness). The Democratic Services Manager confirmed that the technology for hybrid meetings was to be rolled out. However, clarification was given that elected members could only participate in decision making meetings by attending in person. It was clarified that external agencies would be able to participate in Council meetings through hybrid technology as their physical attendance was not required as part of the decision-making process. The Democratic Services Manager committed to seeking further details.

It was noted that investments had been made to improve call-handlings and customer services and it was asked what this would mean for customers contacting the Council by telephone. It was outlined that customers who were able to access services digitally were being encouraged to do so. However, it was recognised that some customers would still require face-to-face or telephone contact. More services were being moved online but as processes embed, there was still a need for call-handlers to respond to demand. There had been an analysis of the types of call, length of wait etc, with a view to piloting initiatives to improve the customer experience. This included a call-back facility which had been received positively, reducing the number of people in queues. It was noted that call volume had increased as services re-opened following the pandemic.

It was noted that a greater number of services and appointments would be accessed through online forms. However, an example was given that some booking systems were difficult to navigate and resulted in the customer having to call the service directly. Details were sought on whether this issue was widespread and what were the plans for improving the user experience. It was acknowledged that the system in question was out-of-date and was in need of improvement. Examples were given of developments in other services such as booking bulky waste collection it was anticipated that the learning from such initiatives would be applied across the Council.

Options for extending website accessibility were explored including the use of webchat. A major focus of the strategy was supporting those who were unable to access digital services and were reliant on telephone contact. Digital chat would be considered however, the priority was to reduce waiting times for those customers using telephones who were often more vulnerable. A further question was asked about the provision of accessible software (speech-to-text, filters etc) and if this had been considered. Significant work has been undertaken to test the accessibility of the website which had been monitored by external assessors recently, scoring 97% rating on its accessibility scale. Customers with specific access requirements have worked with officers to offer feedback and guidance on website development and it was highlighted that officers were open to receiving suggestions about future improvements and examples of good practice.

Further details were sought on how easy it was to use mobile technologies to access services and if there was a 'casework' system for residents to report issues. It was outlined that there was an equivalent 'casework' system on the website under "Your Account" which was being developed. It was planned that more services would be accessed using this platform. In respect of mobile technology, it was highlighted that over 80% of the Council's website traffic was through mobile phones. Apps were being developed and piloted, including those with voice interaction.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the current progress on the delivery of the Digital Strategy is noted.
- 2) That an update is provided to this committee on the strategy's progress in twelve months.
- 3) That clarification is provided by the Democratic Services Manager on the roll-out of hybrid technology for meetings of the Council.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

The Board considered its work programme and items for future prioritisation.

Resolved: - That the Work Programme be approved.

9. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS

The Chair of Improving Places Select Commission and Vice-Chair of Improving Lives Select Commission provided an update of the work of their commissions.

Resolved: -

That the updates be noted.

10. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 MARCH 2022 - 31 MAY 2022

The Board considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 March 2022 to 31 May 2022.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the Forward Plan be noted.
- 2) That the Annual Housing Development Report 2022-23 and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy be considered for pre-decision scrutiny at the meeting of 20 April 2022.

11. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in issues.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

10D

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held at 11am on Wednesday 20 April 2022 at Rotherham Town Hall.

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 20 April 2022

Report Title

Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations: Update from South Yorkshire Police

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor
01709 822765 or caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

At the meeting held on 12 January 2022, Council considered a motion regarding the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) report *Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations*. It resolved that the progress of South Yorkshire Police against IOPC recommendations published in November 2021 be regularly monitored, with scrutiny arrangements to be determined by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as a matter of urgency. South Yorkshire Police have been invited to this meeting to give an update.

A progress report from South Yorkshire Police with details of actions in response to the recommendations is attached in Appendix 1

Recommendations

1. That the update of South Yorkshire Police in respect of progress to date against the recommendations of the Independent Office for Police Conduct report *Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations* be noted.
2. That consideration is given to future monitoring arrangement in respect of the implementation of the IOPC report.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 - South Yorkshire Police progress report to the IOPC Operation Linden Recommendations
- Appendix 1A Section 10(1)(e) recommendation record
Section 28A recommendation and response record
- Appendix 2 *Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations*, IOPC November 2021

Background Papers

- Motion – Current concerns over the South Yorkshire Police response to Child Sexual Exploitation as agreed by Council on 12 January 2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required.

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations: Update from South Yorkshire Police

1. Background

- 1.1 Operation Linden was the name given to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) investigation of a significant number of complaints and allegations relating to the police response to non-recent child sexual exploitation in the Rotherham area. Operation Linden began in 2014 and included 91 separate independent investigations, involving 265 separate allegations, covering the period from 1997 to 2013. There were 51 complainants, 44 of whom were survivors of abuse.

The report was published in November 2021 and identified areas for learning and made recommendations for improvement to South Yorkshire Police and other key agencies, including the Law Commission and National College of Policing. These are detailed in the IOPC report attached as Appendix 2.

The Operation Linden hearings have recently concluded and a final report from the IOPC on the findings and outcomes of the investigations is expected shortly.

- 1.2 Following a motion to the Council meeting held on 12 January 2022, it was resolved that the progress of South Yorkshire Police against IOPC recommendations published in November 2021 be regularly monitored, with scrutiny arrangements to be determined by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as a matter of urgency.

The meeting has been scheduled at the earliest possible opportunity.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The report from the Deputy Chief Constable outlines South Yorkshire Police's response to IOPC recommendations for improvement and is attached as Appendix 1. The formal record of actions is detailed in Appendix 1A.

- 2.2 In broad terms the recommendations highlight the following themes:

- VICTIMS – the provision of quality victim care and updates in line with the rights of victims laid down in the Victim Code.
- COMMUNITIES - continue to build trust and confidence with local communities.
- PARTNERS - build strong working relationships with Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA) and continue to improve how we collaborate with partners and effectively share information.
- OUR PEOPLE - ensure SYP staff have regular training and their skills are up to date.
- PROCESSES – compliance with Home Office Counting Rules when recording crimes related to CSE.

In addition, the report also highlights next steps and challenges for South Yorkshire Police.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to consider the information herein; scrutinise progress to date and determine any recommendations in relation to the progress of South Yorkshire Police against the recommendations and learning outlined in the IOPC report.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 All papers supporting this item are published on the Council's website.
- 4.2 There is no consultation required in respect of this item.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Any recommendations arising from this item would be forwarded to the Chief Constable and other relevant agencies for consideration and response.

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 financial implications arising from this item,

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

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this item. Any recommendations which may have legal implications will be forwarded to the relevant agency for consideration and response.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Any recommendations emerging from this item which have implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults will be forwarded to the relevant agency for consideration and response.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Any recommendations emerging from this item which have direct equalities and human rights implications will be forwarded to the relevant agency for consideration and response.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Any recommendations emerging from this item which have implications for South Yorkshire Police and other key partners will be forwarded to the relevant agency for consideration and response.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Should this meeting not take place, opportunities to scrutinise areas of learning and improvement may be missed. South Yorkshire Police's co-operation and attendance ensures that these issues can be explored fully.

Accountable Officer(s)

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Report Author: Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor
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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

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ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

DATE 07 APRIL 2022

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE PROGRESS REPORT TO THE IOPC OPERATION LINDEN RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE

Purpose of the report

Operation Linden was the name given to the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IOPC) investigation of a significant number of complaints and allegations relating to the police response to non-recent child sexual exploitation in the Rotherham area between 1997 and 2003. This report is to give an update as to the progress South Yorkshire police has made in relation to the recommendation made by the IOPC Operation Linden.

Linden Recommendations

Several recommendations were made, some of which directly relate to South Yorkshire police and others to other relevant bodies such as the College of Policing and Law Commission.

The recommendations that directly relate to South Yorkshire police and our response to them are included in Appendix A, but in broad terms the recommendations highlight the following themes.

VICTIMS - We provide quality victim care and updates inline with the rights of victims laid down in the Victim Code.

COMMUNITIES - Continue to build trust and confidence with local communities.

PARTNERS - Build strong working relationships with Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA) and continue to improve how we collaborate with partners and effectively share information.

OUR PEOPLE - Ensuring our staff have regular training and their skills are up to date.

PROCESSES - We are compliant with Home Office Counting Rules when recording crimes related to CSE.

VICTIMS

Compliance with the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) has been extensively promoted and is monitored through our performance and governance processes. We routinely audit and map the victim journey from initial contact right through to resolution and finalisation focusing on the quality of interaction with victims.

The QATT reviews (Quality Assurance Thematic Testing) features specific areas for VCOP compliance including regular meaningful victim updates that comply with and exceed the requirements laid down. These reviews are DI and DCI led, report into the Investigations Governance Group and Force Performance Days and are designed to ensure that the force provides a quality service to the public it serves.

To further enhance victim care, SYP are developing a trauma informed approach to victims, placing trauma at the centre of how we deliver a compassionate and engaged service through six key principles:

- Safety – keeping and supporting victims to feel safe
- Trust & Transparency – being clear and transparent with victims to build their trust
- Peer Support – providing victims with access to peers who are best placed to support them through shared similar experiences
- Collaboration – continue working with relevant partners to support the victim
- Empowerment – ensuring the victim is allowed to recover and move on in their life
- Humility & Responsiveness – ensuring we listen and act on feedback when we make mistakes

Some staff have received some focused training which involves developing a greater understanding of trauma and we are in the process of planning how we will educate our entire workforce in the coming months. Whilst we do this the principles of trauma are being used to develop other improvements to our service, with the development of a new victim information and support booklet which we hope to develop further to a dedicated smart phone app.

COMMUNITIES

We have invested heavily in Neighbourhood policing and pride ourselves on our engagement with communities. Dedicated neighbourhood policing posts have risen from 268 in 2017 to 450 now. We make use of a raft of dedicated social media channels, use WhatsApp as well as holding face to face community meetings. These channels are used to post activity, raise awareness of issues and to request the assistance of the community in tackling all crime including CSE.

Districts have Youth Independent Advisory Groups that they run with Youth Services to engage with younger members of the community. All NPTs have monthly webchats where officers and staff can engage directly with the public. NPTs also conduct surveys which feed into local priorities. Each NPT maintains a profile on the community it serves.

Tackling CSE is a high priority for Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) who work with Children's Social Care and investigation teams to proactively tackle CSE and safeguard vulnerable children from exploitation. Intensive problem-solving work is carried out with children who are frequently reported missing and reassurance patrols take place to protect vulnerable women in the night-time economy as part of the force's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) action plan. The force is building on this work and continues to raise awareness of CSE in the community and a new campaign designed to encourage third party reporting of exploitation and suspicious activity is about to be launched.

Led by the Media Team, there will be an internal and external element of this which will have the primary aim of continuing to raise awareness for all forms of exploitation, whilst providing the public and professionals with the right information for them to become more confident in identifying and reporting concerns or incidents to the Police/Partnership. Spotting the signs, using professional curiosity and effectively responding to all reports of CSE will be the focus of the internal campaign, as well as promoting the submission of intelligence for Police and partners.

The SYP Media Team constantly review outcomes, including positive prosecutions with a view to promoting the excellent work conducted by the organisation. Not only does this send out a positive

message about what work is being done, but it is shown that this gives confidence to both victims and survivors to engage with Police and report any abuse or exploitation that has occurred.

Op Makesafe is the national response to raising awareness of child sexual and criminal exploitation to the hotel and leisure industry. It focuses on ensuring that people working within these sectors are aware of the warning signs of CSE/CCE and know to how and when to report concerns to Police. SYP has an Op Makesafe SPOC and is a prominent member of the Op Makesafe National Working Group.

All Districts have plans in place to partake in Op Makesafe activity during 2022. Rotherham District has recently conducted a test purchase operation at local hotels to test compliance and knowledge of the process.

PARTNERS

South Yorkshire Police are working hard to enhance engagement with the ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) service and collaborate with them to improve its service provision to victims. The Rape and Serious Sexual Assault (RASSO) force lead is the single point of contact with the service managers within the ISVA services across all areas of South Yorkshire and regular contact is maintained. The ISVA managers attend the quarterly partnership RASSO Steering Group meeting which is aimed at improving standards and service provision.

South Yorkshire Police have recently established a specialist cadre of front-line officers who have received additional training on the initial response to rape and serious sexual offences reports. Three training events took place in December with further events planned for early 2022. Representatives from the ISVA service were keen to be involved in the training and on each training day, ISVAs delivered an input to attendees. This focussed on what the service could offer, the importance of initial and ongoing victim contact and regular liaison with the ISVA, particularly at key stages of the investigation.

The inputs have been so well received that the long-term plan is to extend the training provision across the force to ensure that all staff understand the ISVA role and how they can assist in providing support to victims. Planned CPD events and supervisor training throughout 2022-23 will also be used to embed the role of the ISVA service.

The RASSO Force lead has recently refreshed the South Yorkshire Police RASSO delivery plan which incorporates planned surveys and victim feedback through ISVAs for the force to continuously improve our service to victims. The first survey has taken place throughout December and January 2022 and we will use this feedback to enhance our service provision through training and CPD events and through scrutiny at local level with district RASSO Champions.

Rotherham have a weekly Child Exploitation Tactical Group (CETG) in place. This is an intelligence led meeting where Police and partners attend to review all new and ongoing intelligence submissions, with a view to identifying and understanding the risks and concerns, along with any safeguarding, evidential or disruption opportunities. Information is shared and actions and plans are identified to mitigate/eliminate risks or create further intelligence development avenues. Missing children deemed to be at risk of exploitation are also considered during this process. Partners who attend the CETG include – Police, Children's Social Care, Health, Youth Offending Services, Barnardo's, Local Authority CSE Teams, Housing, Licensing, ASB Officers.

All four Districts have a monthly Child Exploitation Subgroup Meeting, which falls out of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. In Rotherham this is known as a Child Exploitation Delivery Group. Here strategic decisions are taken with regards to the delivery of child exploitation across the partnership, which are reported back to the LSCPB for sign off.

SYP and our partners have embedded and tested multi-agency processes for any child identified as being subjected to or at risk of exploitation, as per 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'. This can take the form of a multi-agency Section 47 (child at risk of significant harm) Strategy meeting, Child Protection Conference or referral to MACE – Multi-Agency Child Exploitation meeting. All four Local Authorities have Child Exploitation Teams which work closely with Police to identify, safeguard and support victims.

The primary mechanism for multi-agency oversight on cases involving Child Exploitation is the MACE process. This is a national framework and is embedded across all four Districts of South Yorkshire. All Districts hold a weekly MACE which is well attended by multi-agency professionals, including Education, Health, Social Care, Police, Probation, Youth Crime Prevention, Youth Offending Services and Psychological services. Children most at risk of exploitation are referred into the MACE process, which includes children subjected to both CSE and/or CCE. Action relating to safeguarding, diversion, prevention, and additional support are outcomes from MACE, which is a victim focussed process.

OUR PEOPLE

South Yorkshire Police has been continuously working to develop and improve detective skills and training for a number of years. There is a national detective shortage and significant work is ongoing to encourage officers to join the detective career pathway. The force has increased the number of Specialist Child Abuse Investigation Development Programme (SCAIDP) trained and accredited detectives in force. There has also been a real focus on investing in the support available for the development of detective skills through the crime training department.

In 2018 / 2019 a detective training course was developed in conjunction with Sheffield University and delivered to police staff Investigating Officers, many of whom were posted to Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) teams. In addition to SCAIDP, as part of its Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) improvement plan, the force is planning to deliver the College of Policing SSAIDP (Specialist Sexual Assault Investigation Development Programme) training course to detectives involved in the investigation of rape and serious sexual offences.

The force has recently worked with the NSPCC, the College of Policing, and the National Police Chief's Council lead on child protection to develop a bespoke child protection training course called Child Matters. This is being delivered to all front-line police officers and police staff.

Crime training have delivered several Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training events over the last year. These are delivered through Bitesize Training videos and a Wednesday Webinar. Bespoke CPD masterclass events for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) investigators are now scheduled on a 6 monthly basis. The first of these events took place in March 2022 and included presentations from Operation Hydrant on national best practice. Further CSE related CPD events for the wider workforce are in development as part of the forces plans around trauma training and the vulnerability campaign referenced earlier in this report.

PROCESS

Crime Data Accuracy (CDA) is a high priority for the force and performance is monitored through regular meetings chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable (Crime). In the 2018 inspection on CDA, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found that the force performance on the recording of rape was a high 95% compliance rate. The report highlighted this as being a 'credit to the force'. South Yorkshire Police continues to develop and improve its CDA compliance and recent work in this area includes a peer review by the Force Crime Registrar from West Yorkshire Police, significant audit work around PVP teams and Local referral Units and targeted training and internal communications designed to address identified areas for improvement. In the most recent CDA audit on recorded crimes for Protecting Vulnerable People, a 95% compliance rate was achieved which would put the force in the 'good' category. Development work is also ongoing with the Force Control Room and Force Crime Bureau and the CDA Hub to ensure that all crimes (including CSE) are recorded accurately and in a timely manner in accordance with the Home Office Counting rules. Crime Data Accuracy performance is monitored through the CDA Gold Group, Force Performance Days and Quarterly Performance Reviews and forms an integral part of our Qualitative Auditing and Thematic Testing work.

NEXT STEPS

In addition to the findings and recommendations of the Linden Report a number of challenges remain.

The application of CSE keywords continues to be a challenge. This is a national issue, which is mostly due to the subjective nature of the CSE definition. Nationally the NPCC Group Based CSE Offending Group is looking at this issue with a view to producing guidance at a point in the future. In the meantime, audits are taking place along with training delivered by the Force Thematic Lead to reduce the impact if this issue.

Online offending continues to present challenges to Police and Partners. Due to the nature of offending, in that it mostly takes place behind closed bedroom doors and out of the sight of parents/carers, this will inevitably be vastly under reported. Online offending is an intelligence gap for SYP and requires officers to be professionally curious when engaging with children. This is a national issue, and the Home Office are fully aware of the challenges. Legislation around tech companies is currently being reviewed to place a burden on them to reduce this occurring.

The securing of orders (Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) and Sexual Risk Orders (SROs)) continues to be a challenge. Due to the relatively low prosecution rates for CSE offenders, this reduces the prospect of obtaining SHPOs on conviction. Whilst SROs have been obtained, these are relatively low in number, primarily due to the high threshold required for applications to succeed. This is a national issue, not just bespoke to SYP.

Following the recommendations made by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), forces are being asked to collect data on all known or suspected CSE cases involving groups or networks. This creates a challenge for all forces including SYP, as we currently don't have a search facility or keyword that will easily capture this data on our current system. SYP's Strategic Delivery Unit are currently reviewing systems to identify a resolution to this, which is also compounded by the ongoing CSE keyword issue as mentioned, due to the subjective nature of the CSE definition.

SYP continues to promote positive outcomes through successful prosecutions and convictions. This is proven to give victims and survivors more confidence to report their own abuse. In addition to this,

SYP conduct regular victim surveys and receive national updates about how they can improve engagement with victims/survivors. Training and CPD for officers and staff ensure knowledge and awareness and SYP maintains close working relationships with partners to tackle this together. Whilst continual improvement is sought to improve the overall response to CSE, including outcomes, challenges still exist especially with regards to victim engagement for those who are actually going through the exploitation.

In 2021 out of the 336 outcomes applied, there were 30 that resulted in a charge/summons and 1 in a caution (alternative offence). This shows clearly the challenges that exist in SYP and elsewhere in obtaining positive outcomes.

Our CSE Delivery Plan is designed to tackle these ongoing challenges and drive ongoing improvement activity that encapsulates the Linden recommendations and will further strengthen the forces position outlined in this report.

South Yorkshire Police is committed to do everything possible in conjunction with our partners to tackle CSE offending, to identify emerging issues as they arise and to continue to learn and improve our response so that children are safeguarded.

Chief Officer Lead: Deputy Chief Constable Tim Forber

Report Author: Detective Superintendent Pete Thorp

END

Appendix A

- SYP 10 recommendation Operation Linden
- SYP 28A recommendation and response record Operation Linden

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Section 10(1)(e) Recommendation Record

To	Detective Superintendent Delphine Wareing
Copied to	Dr Alan Billings
Date sent	5 November 2021
Case name	Operation Linden
Case type	Independent
Case reference	2014/040112
Recommendation from	Steve Noonan
Police case reference	

We have identified organisational learning for South Yorkshire Police and make the recommendation below.

Reference	Recommendation
2014/040112/013	<p>The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police considers how it can assess and demonstrate the impact of action taken to address issues in handling child sexual exploitation. This should include how they understand whether actions have achieved the intended effect and considering how they inform the community of progress made to help improve public awareness and confidence.</p> <p>South Yorkshire Police Response:</p> <p>The force is constantly looking at ways in which it can improve the trust and confidence the public has in its ability to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), rape and serious sexual offences. The most recent</p>

	<p>HMICFRS independent inspection assessed the force as 'good' at Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP). The current PVP review will deliver improvements in the way the force investigates all serious sexual offences including rape and CSE and the current work ongoing to improve our response to rape has victim engagement and support as one of its key pillars.</p> <p>The success of this work will be measured not only through the successful prosecutions secured through these improvements but will also be assessed through our proactive preventative work and through surveys with victims. These surveys will request feedback on how well victims have been dealt with by the force and the agencies supporting it. Victim feedback will be key to monitoring the success of our improvements and this feedback will be obtained directly and through commissioned services such as Independent Sexual Violence Advisors.</p> <p>The Head of Professional Standards is working collaboratively with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner implementing a process to monitor all public complaints including those relating to CSE. This will ensure that learning is captured, recorded and actioned. This is reported directly into the Organisational Learning Board chaired by The Deputy Chief Constable.</p> <p>The force is held to account via the Public Accountability Board where it is periodically required to report specifically on CSE. This links directly with our delivery plan on Violence Against Women and Girls. The force media team run regular updates on CSE particularly relating to the successful prosecution of CSE perpetrators. Through a campaign called 'Don't be Exposed', the force uses SnapChat to focus on parents of young people, warning them of the signs of exploitation. The force has a public facing web page on CSE:</p>
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	<p>https://www.southyorks.police.uk/find-out/crime-prevention-advice/child-sexual-exploitation/. This is regularly updated with news, advice and guidance for the public. The media team are planning a new campaign this year focussing on vulnerability. A large part of this will be on CSE, highlighting early signs of CSE and CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation) encouraging the public to take action and make reports to police.</p>
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28A recommendation and response record

To	Detective Superintendent Delphine Wareing
Copied to	Dr Alan Billings
Date sent	22 November 2021
Deadline for response	17 January 2022
Case name	Operation Linden
Case type	Independent
Case reference	2014/040112
Recommendation from	Steve Noonan
Police case reference	

We have identified organisational learning for South Yorkshire Police and make the recommendations below under Paragraph 28A of Schedule 3 to the Police Reform Act 2002¹.

¹ In the case of contractors, Regulation 81 of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (Complaints and Misconduct) (Contractors) Regulations 2015 applies

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You are required by law to respond, in writing to us by the deadline specified above (56 days from the date this recommendation has been sent to you) and should do so using this form. Paragraph 28B of Schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act sets out the requirements in relation to the response.

On receipt of your response, we are required to publish it within 21 days and send a copy to any person who was sent the original recommendation (as listed above). If you have any representations why this response should not be published, e.g. if it may prejudice ongoing proceedings, please let us know.

To be completed by IOPC			To be completed by recipient	
Reference	Recommendation	Previously sent as an informal recommendation?	Do you accept?	Details, to include a) action to be taken, b) reason for no action, or c) reason not accepted
		Date sent		

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2014/040112/0 15	The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police ensures knowledge and skills of those involved in CSE work are kept up to date as part of their continuous improvement cycle. This should include: regular training to take into account staff turnover continuing professional development needs any emerging issues and new developments in best practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>South Yorkshire Police has been continuously working to develop and improve detective skills and training for a number of years. There is a national detective shortage and significant work is ongoing to encourage officers to join the detective career pathway.</p> <p>The force has increased the number of SCAIDP (Specialist Child Abuse Investigation Development Programme) trained and accredited detectives in force. There has also been a real focus on investing in the support available for the development of detective skills through the crime training department. In 2018 / 2019 a detective training course was developed in conjunction with Sheffield University and delivered to police staff Investigating Officers, many of whom were posted to Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) teams. In addition to SCAIDP, as part of its Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) improvement plan, the force is planning to deliver the College of Policing SSAIDP (Specialist Sexual Assault Investigation Development Programme) training course to detectives involved in the investigation of rape and serious sexual offences. A detective skills audit has identified training needs going forward and there is also a timeline for the recruitment and training of detectives force wide. Crime Training and Accreditation for PVP teams is regularly monitored via the PVP Performance meeting.</p> <p>The force has recently worked with the NSPCC, the College of Policing and the National Police Chief's Council lead on child protection to develop a bespoke child protection training course called Child Matters. This is being delivered to all front-line police officers and police staff.</p> <p>Crime training have delivered a number of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training events over the last</p>
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					year including ones on RASSO investigation. These are delivered through Bitesize Training videos and a Wednesday Webinar. Bespoke CPD masterclass events for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) investigators are also planned for the first half of this year and will continue every 6 months thereafter. These will include presentations from Operation Hydrant on national best practice.
2014/040112/005	The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police takes steps to ensure that crime recording practice in its public protection departments is compliant with the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Crime Data Accuracy (CDA) is a high priority for the force and performance is monitored through regular Gold group meetings chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable (Crime). In the 2018 inspection on CDA, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found that the force performance on the recording of rape was a high 95% compliance rate. The report highlighted this as being a 'credit to the force'.</p> <p>South Yorkshire Police continues to develop and improve its CDA compliance and recent work in this area includes a peer review by the Force Crime Registrar from West Yorkshire Police, significant audit work around PVP teams and Local referral Units and targeted training and internal communications designed to address identified areas for improvement. In the most recent CDA audit on recorded crimes for Protecting Vulnerable People, a 95% compliance rate was achieved which would put the force in the 'good' category. Development work is also ongoing with the Force Control Room and Force Crime Bureau and the CDA Hub to ensure that all crimes (including CSE) are recorded accurately and in a timely manner in accordance with the Home Office Counting rules. Crime Data Accuracy performance is monitored through the CDA Gold Group, Force Performance Days and Quarterly Performance Reviews and forms an integral part of our Qualitative Auditing and Thematic Testing work.</p>

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2014/040112/006	The IOPC recommends that South Yorkshire Police ensure they have a way of effectively monitoring compliance with the Victims' Code. This should include the quality of interactions between itself and others and not just a 'tick box exercise' of the various entitlements being made available.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	The force has an Assistant Chief Constable executive lead on victim care and a Chief Superintendent thematic lead. Compliance with the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) has been extensively promoted and is monitored by South Yorkshire Police through Force Performance Days and Quarterly Performance Reviews. The thematic lead for victim care chairs a strategic Complete Victim Care meeting with key departments, stakeholders and representatives from districts. This meeting maps the victim journey from initial contact right through to resolution and finalisation. The quality of interaction with victims is key to this meeting rather than merely complying with the requirements of the code. Regular online training events take place to promote and explain the requirements of the code of practice. Through this work the force is confident that it is complying with both the aims and the specific requirements of VCOP.
2014/040112/007	The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police take steps to ensure that victims are regularly updated, and at least once every 28 days, in line with expectations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	The executive lead and thematic lead on victim care ensure that frequent VCOP audits take place and are planned into the Performance and Governance calendar. The QATT reviews (Quality Assurance Thematic Testing) features specific areas for VCOP compliance including regular meaningful victim updates that comply with and exceed the requirements laid down. These reviews are DI and DCI led, report into the Investigations Governance Group and Force Performance Days and are designed to ensure that the force provides a quality service to the public it serves.

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2014/040112/08	<p>The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police continues to work with the local ISVA service to improve their working arrangements. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a named point of contact at South Yorkshire Police for use by the ISVA service • ensuring that SYP representatives who have contact with victims and survivors fully understand the ISVA service's role and can explain this to others when needed • agreement on how updates are provided to victims and survivors • how the ISVA service could be involved in South Yorkshire Police training to help raise awareness about its role and responsibilities and how they can work together 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>South Yorkshire Police are working hard to enhance engagement with the ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) service and collaborate with them to improve its service provision to victims.</p> <p>The Rape and Serious Sexual Assault (RASSO) force lead is the single point of contact with the service managers within the ISVA services across all areas of South Yorkshire and regular contact is maintained. The ISVA managers attend the quarterly partnership RASSO Steering Group meeting which is aimed at improving standards and service provision.</p> <p>South Yorkshire Police have recently established a specialist cadre of front-line officers who have received additional training on the initial response to rape and serious sexual offences reports. Three training events took place in December with further events planned for early 2022. Representatives from the ISVA service were keen to be involved in the training and on each training day, ISVAs delivered an input to attendees. This focussed on what the service could offer, the importance of initial and ongoing victim contact and regular liaison with the ISVA, particularly at key stages of the investigation. The inputs have been so well received that the long-term plan is to extend the training provision across the force to ensure that all staff understand the ISVA role and how they can assist in providing support to victims. Planned CPD events and supervisor training throughout 2022-23 will also be used to embed the role of the ISVA service.</p> <p>The RASSO Force lead has recently refreshed the South Yorkshire Police RASSO delivery plan which incorporates planned surveys and victim feedback through ISVAs in order for the force to continuously improve our service to victims. The first survey has taken place throughout December and January 21 and we will</p>
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					use this feedback to enhance our service provision through training and CPD events and through scrutiny at local level with district RASSO Champions.
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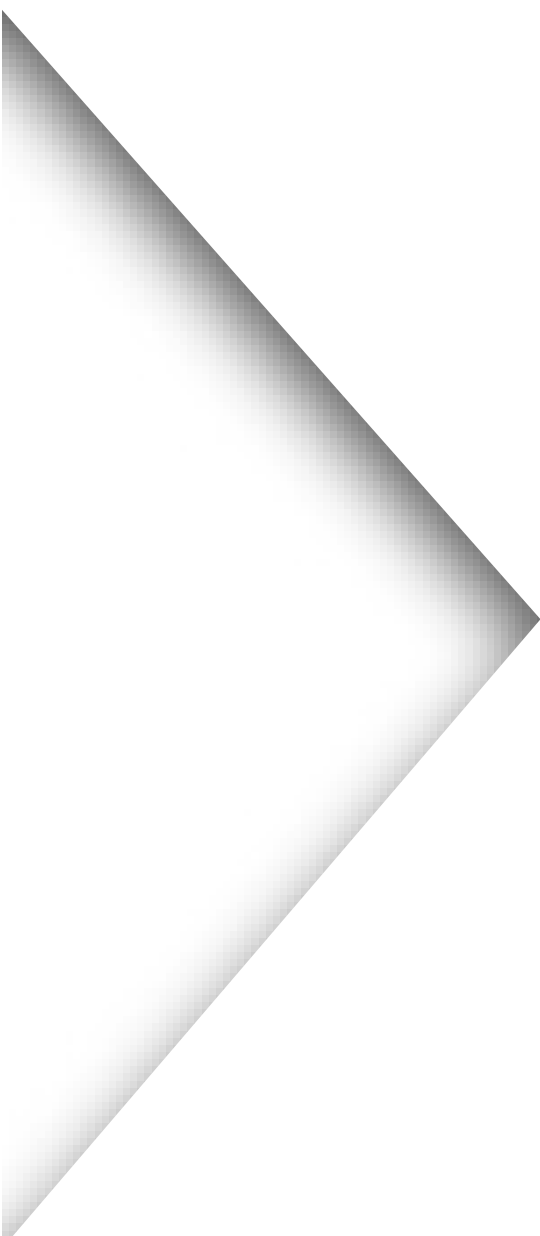
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2014/040112/09	The IOPC recommends that during its mapping exercise South Yorkshire Police continues to engage with communities to strengthen and build trust and confidence in the police service to encourage a willingness to provide information/intelligence to help tackle local issues.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>South Yorkshire Police has invested heavily in Neighbourhood policing and prides itself on its engagement with communities. The number of police officers and Police Community Support Officer posts specifically dedicated to Neighbourhood Policing has risen from 268 in 2017 to 450 now. The force has various means at its disposal to engage with communities with all Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT's) having Facebook accounts, Instagram Twitter and Whatsapp as well as holding face to face community meetings. These sites are used to post activity, raise awareness of issues and to request the assistance of the community in tackling all crime including CSE. Districts have Youth Independent Advisory Groups that they run with Youth Services to engage with younger members of the community. All NPTs have monthly webchats where officers and staff can engage directly with the public. NPTs also conduct surveys which feed into local priorities. Each NPT maintains a profile on the community it serves.</p> <p>Tackling CSE is a high priority for NPTs who work with Children's Social Care and investigation teams to proactively tackle CSE and safeguard vulnerable children from exploitation. Intensive problem solving work is carried out with children who are frequently reported missing and reassurance patrols take place to protect vulnerable women in the night time economy as part of the force's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) action plan.</p> <p>The force will build on this work and continue to raise awareness of CSE in the community conducting media campaigns that will encourage third party reporting of exploitation and suspicious activity.</p>
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Operation Linden – Learning and Recommendations

November 2021

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A report relating to complaints of police conduct during their investigations of non recent child sexual abuse and exploitation in Rotherham between 1997 and 2013.

Introduction

Operation Linden was the name given to the IOPC investigation of a significant number of complaints and allegations relating to the police response to non-recent child sexual exploitation in the Rotherham area.

Our work began in 2014 and continued to grow until 2018, when five new complaints were received. Operation Linden resulted in 91 separate independent investigations started between 2014 and 2018, the last of which concluded in 2020.

The operation investigated 265 separate allegations, covering the period from 1997 to 2013. There were 51 complainants, 44 of whom were survivors of abuse. We are grateful to those complainants and survivors whose bravery in coming forward has enabled us to shine a light on the failings of the past.

Operation Linden investigated the conduct of 47 officers: eight were found to have a case to answer for misconduct and six had a case to answer for gross misconduct. Five have faced sanctions from management action up to a final written warning, while one hearing is still outstanding. A full report on the findings of the investigations and the outcomes will be published following the conclusion of the final misconduct hearing in 2022.

Police understanding of this type of offending has evolved significantly in recent years and we must acknowledge the efforts made to improve the way these cases are dealt with. However, there is still work to do and we have issued these recommendations to South Yorkshire Police, national policing bodies and others so that the bravery of those who came forward and supported our investigations can result in lasting change and that mistakes of the past are not repeated.

Learning and recommendations

Learning identified during our investigations helps improve policing practice, and prevent similar incidents happening again.

We have two legal powers to make recommendations under the Police Reform Act¹ and have outlined these in this learning report, along with other learning we considered but did not make recommendations on.

Our learning looked across the 91 investigations we have completed so far under the umbrella of Operation Linden to identify any recurring themes or issues. We listened to feedback from survivors, and discussed learning with South Yorkshire Police, interested stakeholders and our own staff who worked on these investigations.

Given the lengthy time period over which the events we investigated occurred, we considered whether the learning we identified was still an issue now or whether policing policy and practice had changed since the events under investigation.

A number of inspections and reviews have taken place specifically in relation to child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, numerous recommendations made to South Yorkshire Police and the broader focus on child sexual exploitation across policing and social care, such as the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

We also recognise that understanding and awareness of child sexual exploitation has developed and improved over time.

While the learning we identified relates to investigations of child sexual exploitation, it may have wider relevance to other types of crime. In particular, there is a great deal of crossover between child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation or 'county lines'. Child criminal exploitation was a subject most frontline officers we

¹ Under paragraph 28A, Schedule 3 of the *Police Reform Act* we can make a recommendation in relation to any matter dealt with in an investigation report, appeal or review. These recommendations can be made to police forces (one or a number) or police and crime commissioners. We can also, in certain circumstances, make recommendations for other organisations that are relevant to the investigation, appeal or review. The force or organisation we make a recommendation to must provide us with their response within 56 days unless there are valid reasons not to. They can also request that we extend the time they have to respond. Both the recommendation and the response must be published.

Section 10 of the *Police Reform Act* allows us to make recommendations more broadly about police practice that appear, from the carrying out of our functions, to be necessary or desirable. This does not carry the same legal requirement for the recipient of the recommendation to respond, or for the recommendation or any response to be published.

spoke to raised as an area of concern and they expressed a clear desire to get things right.

Formal learning recommendations

The following recommendations are made under paragraph 28A, Schedule 3 of the *Police Reform Act*. The police force or organisation we make a recommendation to must provide their response to us within 56 days.

Ensuring police officers and staff are equipped to deal with child sexual exploitation

Our investigations found officers and staff without the right skills were often expected to lead on child sexual exploitation investigations, and individuals were given tasks they were not trained to carry out.

There have been many improvements in child sexual exploitation training nationally. South Yorkshire Police advised us they have implemented their own new measures to help ensure officers and staff receive appropriate training to deal with child sexual exploitation. This was acknowledged by HMICFRS in its [2018/19 PEEL report](#) which said South Yorkshire Police “develops its workforce and leaders well and understands the skills and capabilities that it needs now and for the future. The force has good professional and leadership development programmes in place...”.

However, there is more work to be done to build on and maintain the knowledge and skills of South Yorkshire Police officers and staff. Police officers we spoke to said they would welcome more refresher training that also includes more recent, and challenging exploitation cases, to help them consider new issues that they will need to be prepared for.

Recommendation 1 – The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police ensures knowledge and skills of those involved in child sexual exploitation work are kept up to date as part of their continuous improvement cycle. This should include:

- ***regular training to take into account staff turnover***
- ***continuing professional development needs***
- ***any emerging issues and new developments in best practice***

Listening to and understanding survivor experiences can be a powerful way to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation-related issues in training sessions and develop empathy. We are aware that South Yorkshire Police considered an offer from a survivor to participate in its training sessions but did not take this up because it was concerned it would distress the survivor.

While reliving their experience during a number of training sessions could be traumatising, there are other approaches which could incorporate the voices of survivors without causing trauma, allowing survivor experiences to be heard and showing officers the impact of police handling of an investigation. For example, South Yorkshire Police has used contributions from a survivor's parents and have shown a video describing one victim's experience.

Recommendation 2 – The IOPC recommends the College of Policing looks for further opportunities to incorporate the ‘voice of survivors’ in national training about child sexual exploitation and provide guidance on how the ‘voice of survivors’ can be incorporated into local training by forces.

While the issues we examined happened between 1992 and 2013, and there has been a great deal of work in this area by the police service since, we are concerned that some issues still exist today, and there are still lessons to be learnt from this across policing.

Real examples, or case studies based on actual examples, can help bring some of these issues to life and help officers and staff consider what they would have done in that situation.

Recommendation 3 – The IOPC recommends the College of Policing looks for opportunities to use any elements of Operation Linden in future training (for example case studies).

Crime recording

We found many instances where crimes were not recorded when they should have been, including reports of sexual assault or sexual activity with a child. South Yorkshire Police has provided us with detailed information on action to improve crime recording practice. In its [2018 crime data integrity inspection in South Yorkshire Police](#) HMICFRS found that South Yorkshire Police had improved crime-recording processes since the previous report in 2014 and that there was ‘a commitment to crime recording that is victim-focused’. A significant improvement in the recording of sexual offence crimes since 2014 was noted and some good practice in scrutiny and auditing by the force crime bureau and force crime registrar was highlighted. The report also said that vulnerable victims were supported through the force's safeguarding arrangements, even in those cases that had not been recorded.

However, the 2014 inspection highlighted a cause for concern about crimes involving vulnerable adults and children reported directly to South Yorkshire Police's public protection department (mostly through professional third-party reports) were not all

being recorded. We are concerned that HMICFRS' [re-inspection of crime data integrity in South Yorkshire Police](#) (2020) found there had been no discernible improvement to this. In particular, inspectors found significant under-recording of crimes committed against vulnerable children.

Recommendation 4 – The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police takes steps to ensure that crime recording practice in its public protection departments is compliant with the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime.

Working with victims and survivors

Our investigations highlighted many issues with how police officers and staff dealt with child sexual exploitation victims and survivors. South Yorkshire Police has told us about the changes made to improve practice in this area.

The Victims' Code is an important tool to help criminal justice agencies, including the police, ensure they are providing an appropriate level of service. We note that the Victims' Commissioner's national review in 2018/19 found that monitoring of compliance with the Victims' Code had been almost non-existent across all forces.

Recommendation 5 – The IOPC recommends that South Yorkshire Police ensure it has a way of effectively monitoring compliance with the Victims' Code. This should include the quality of interactions between itself and others and not just a 'tick box exercise' of the various entitlements being made available.

South Yorkshire Police told us that IT system changes mean that once a crime is recorded using Connect (the police records management system) the investigating officer is now prompted to keep victims updated regularly, and at least once every 28 days. However, when we spoke to the local independent sexual violence advisor (ISVA) service manager¹⁰, they told us that the updates do not always happen in practice. They said ISVAs regularly receive calls from victims complaining that they have not been updated.

Recommendation 6 – The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police take steps to ensure that victims are regularly updated, and at least once every 28 days, in line with expectations.

South Yorkshire Police provided us with information recognising the importance of working with specialists such as ISVAs and child independent sexual violence advisors to support child sexual exploitation survivors, help police maintain contact with survivors, and help officers gather evidence.

They described the process they follow to make a referral to these services, explaining the need to obtain a victim or survivor's consent or that of a parent/guardian.

However, the local ISVA service manager told us that when an investigating officer does not fully understand or explain the ISVA role, this can directly impact whether or not someone provides consent for their contact details to be passed on. This has the effect of delaying any contact with and support from the ISVA service.

Additionally, ISVAs are not always used as effectively as they could be. Sometimes they are used just to pass on updates instead of there being any direct contact between the officer and the survivor. Sometimes they are not used at all.

Recommendation 7 – The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police continues to work with the local ISVA service to improve its working arrangements. This should include:

- ***a named point of contact at South Yorkshire Police for use by the ISVA service***
- ***ensuring that South Yorkshire Police representatives who have contact with victims and survivors fully understand the ISVA service's role and can explain this to others when needed***
- ***agreement on how updates are provided to victims and survivors***
- ***how the ISVA service could be involved in South Yorkshire Police training to help raise awareness about its role and responsibilities and how they can work together***

Working with the local community

When investigating the handling of child sexual exploitation in South Yorkshire, we found there were missed opportunities to approach community leaders for their views on how to develop community cohesion and/or identify any actions South Yorkshire Police could consider to help tackle child sexual exploitation.

South Yorkshire Police told us it has started a mapping exercise across its four districts to ensure it has contacts in all identified communities to respond more promptly in the future to their needs, understand the potential impact of any national or international incidents on them, and to offer reassurance and support when necessary.

Recommendation 8 – The IOPC recommends that during its mapping exercise South Yorkshire Police continues to engage with communities to strengthen and build trust and confidence in the

police service to encourage a willingness to provide information/intelligence to help tackle local issues.

Areas for further consideration and recommendation

In addition to the recommendations detailed above, we identified further areas we invite forces and policing stakeholders to reflect on and consider whether further action needs to be taken. Recommendations in this section are made under Section 10 of the *Police Reform Act*.¹¹

In light of the public concern about Operation Linden, we would strongly encourage named organisations to provide a written response to the additional recommendations we have made under section 10.

Long-term impact on survivors of exploitation

Many survivors we spoke to during our work on Operation Linden now have criminal records as a result of their actions when they were being exploited. The Crown Prosecution Service recognises in its [Guidelines on Prosecuting Cases of Child Sexual Abuse](#) that:

“victims may sometimes commit what is called ‘survival crime’, i.e. committing crime to find safety or committing crime to ensure justice. An example of this is damaging property belonging to the offender or an associate. Offending might also be a reaction to the abuse which a child or young person is suffering, i.e. externally expressing their internal trauma. The victim may also have committed an offence whilst under the influence of the abuser and this may be used by the abuser as a means of controlling the victim and deterring them from making a complaint about the abuse they are experiencing.”

As a result, survivors’ lives have been adversely impacted and this has affected issues like employment.

The criminalisation of exploited children also crosses over into child criminal exploitation. If a child is viewed as a ‘criminal’ this may affect the way they are dealt with by the police and the likelihood of appropriate safeguarding action being taken.

Looking beyond criminal actions to the underlying reasons behind them is a key part of police officers using their professional curiosity. However, we also recognise that there is a difficult balance to strike in that if the police took no action against children and young people this could make them more vulnerable to exploitation.

Section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 created a non-prosecution principle for victims of trafficking or modern slavery, however this does not apply clearly to child sexual exploitation. The [national protocol on reducing unnecessary criminalisation of looked-after children and care leavers](#), published jointly by the Department for Education, Home Office and Ministry of Justice in 2018 states: *“Every effort should be made to avoid unnecessary criminalisation of looked-after children and care leavers, including through prevention activity. This is in recognition of the fact that looked-after children’s experiences can contribute to behaviours that make them particularly vulnerable to involvement in the youth justice system, potentially affecting their future life prospects.”*

It recognises that looked-after children and care leavers can be particularly vulnerable to exploitation and states that *“any decision to charge and prosecute a young person should take into account whether their actions are due to such exploitation or human trafficking or modern slavery.”*

The same considerations in terms of both prevention and decisions about charging and prosecution could be applied more widely to other children and young people who are at risk of, or victims of, exploitation in addition to those who are looked-after or care leavers.

Recommendation 9 – The IOPC recommends that the Law Commission reviews the legislative framework around offences committed while a child or young person is being groomed or exploited to identify whether any changes to legislation would be appropriate to reduce the impact on their future life prospects. This should include both the availability of substantive defences and the potential to filter convictions which occurred in such circumstances during criminal records disclosure.

Sharing information across force borders

In some of our investigations, girls were found in cars with older men. South Yorkshire Police has provided information about the steps they have taken to equip officers to understand the potential risks to children and young people in this situation and what questions should be asked of the occupants when this happens. We spoke to some roads policing officers who confirmed this is the case.

However, the roads policing officers also said they sometimes encounter incidents of this type where someone had crossed the border from another police force area. They described the threshold for sharing information in this situation as ‘quite high’ and told us that individual police force systems are generally not visible to officers in another area.

Once someone crosses a force border, they are only able to see any information that is on the Police National Computer (PNC). To access any additional information they would need to email a request to the other force and wait for a response, which could take a while and expose vulnerable children and young people to further risk. This is a significant issue as it has the potential to delay any opportunities to protect and safeguard a child who has been taken across a force border.

Recommendation 10 – The IOPC recommends that the Chair and CEO of the Police Digital Service consider whether existing ICT solutions could be used differently or any changes to ICT (and any other supporting systems and protocols) are required to enable frontline officers to have more immediate access to relevant information from other forces to enable them to more effectively protect and safeguard vulnerable people. This should include working with the NPCC to encourage good practice across forces.

Ensuring learning is actioned and embedded

South Yorkshire Police has told us about many changes it has made since the matters we investigated took place. We have not assessed whether these changes have led to improvements in practice but remain worried that despite multiple reports and recommendations, there are still areas of concern.

South Yorkshire Police was the subject of an HMICFRS national child protection inspection in May 2014¹² and a post-investigation review in April 2015. The post-inspection review recommended that South Yorkshire Police continue to work to put into effect the recommendations made in 2014 to ensure that they were fully implemented. No joint targeted areas inspections have been carried out in the South Yorkshire Police area to date.

Additionally, the ISVA service manager told us that although they had seen some improvement in 2015-16, there had been some deterioration since then.

We have shared these recommendations and in due course will share our full report with HMICFRS to inform any future inspection work in relation to South Yorkshire Police.

It is important for public confidence that local communities and stakeholders understand the progress that South Yorkshire Police has made and continues to make in this area since the cases we have investigated. Through its community and stakeholder engagement, South Yorkshire Police can not only provide this reassurance on an ongoing basis but also understand the experiences of those who have had contact with the police and use this to feed into continuous improvement in this area.

Recommendation 11 - The IOPC recommends South Yorkshire Police considers how it can assess and demonstrate the impact of action taken to address issues in handling child sexual exploitation. This should include how it understands whether actions have achieved the intended effect and considering how they inform the community of progress made to help improve public awareness and confidence.

One of the key findings in Operation Linden was that the issues around child sexual exploitation were not recognised quickly enough and officers were not equipped sufficiently with the skills or experience they needed to deal with the problems they were faced with. Training and development activity can play a key role in preventing this happening in future, particularly with new or less common crime types.

We acknowledge that the policing landscape means that police forces, either individually or collectively, receive requests from multiple sources to provide extra training on different priority areas of policing and demand will often outstrip capacity. A more strategic and collaborative approach to identifying and responding to priorities across England and Wales could support police forces, provide more consistency and streamline the work required to develop and deliver resources and training.

Recommendation 12 - The IOPC recommends that the College of Policing and NPCC work together to explore the creation of a forum to identify the major issues for policing, agree priorities for learning and development at a national level and provide leadership, advice and support to police forces. It is anticipated that such a forum would involve as a minimum the College of Policing, NPCC, IOPC and HMICFRS. Such an approach would also need to take into account the need for individual chief officers to make their own decisions about priorities taking into account local context and issues.

Other areas of learning we considered

We are not an inspectorate and South Yorkshire Police's current practice did not form part of our investigations under Operation Linden. However, it was important for us to identify policing practice had changed sufficiently in areas of concern. We sought assurance from South Yorkshire Police, stakeholders and information available from inspections carried out by other bodies and concluded there was little benefit in making additional recommendations.

For transparency, the additional areas we considered are detailed below.

Leadership

An absence of strategic leadership was an issue which was raised across multiple Operation Linden cases. We considered whether to make a recommendation about leadership and specific points of focus for child sexual exploitation at a senior level.

In 2019, HMICFRS published a thematic report on national child protection inspections it had carried out.³⁹

A section about the roles of leaders and leadership states that "in every force we have visited we find senior leaders, PCCs, frontline officers and staff who are committed to keeping vulnerable children safe".

It also says that "Without exception, PCC police and crime plans, and force priorities reflect an unambiguous commitment to the protection of children and other vulnerable people".

While the report recognises some issues still exist including capacity, the ability to develop more preventative approaches and a lack of consistency, it also notes that police leaders are more aware of the need to ensure governance and processes support better outcomes for children, forces know more about the wider context surrounding child abuse and understand the need for plans to tackle all the different features of the abuse and exploitation of children.

Each police force in England and Wales has a member of the Senior Command Team who has responsibility for child protection, often as part of a wider portfolio of protecting vulnerable people or safeguarding. South Yorkshire Police has an Assistant Chief Constable who as part of their responsibilities for Specialist Crime Services, is responsible for Public Protection and Safeguarding. It also has a strategic lead for child abuse at detective chief inspector level.

Professional curiosity

In many of the cases we investigated we found a lack of professional curiosity on the part of officers. Rather than looking at the broader picture and identifying potential safeguarding concerns, officers often focused only on looking at specific crimes. We considered how the approach to professional curiosity had changed in South Yorkshire Police and more widely.

At a national level, the College of Policing developed and began delivering a one-day vulnerability training package in 2018. The package encourages frontline officers and staff to look beyond the obvious and feel empowered to use their professional curiosity when dealing with those who are vulnerable. The training focuses on early intervention by equipping frontline officers and staff to identify signs of vulnerability and take effective action at the earliest possible opportunity.

This training package, among others, is used by South Yorkshire Police to train relevant staff. At the time we spoke to South Yorkshire Police training had been delivered to all Protecting Vulnerable People Officers (160), Uniform Response and Neighbourhoods Officers (1138), PCSOs (143), Investigations Officers (87), Enquiry desk staff, Operational Support Services, Atlas Court Communications staff, Special Constables (70), Custody Staff (106) partners from NHS (149) and the Fire Service (340).

Use of protective orders

We had concerns about South Yorkshire Police's use of Risk of Sexual Harm Orders and Abduction notices. We found that South Yorkshire Police had the option of using these orders during the period we have investigated but found little evidence that it was. Officers in Sheffield appeared to be using them but officers in Rotherham were not. We asked South Yorkshire Police if these orders were used now, by whom, if there were any guidance documents and policies regarding their use, how the Public Protection Unit (PPU) staff use them and whether districts are now working together and communicating regarding the use of orders.

In 2015, Civil Risk of Sexual Harm Orders were replaced by two new civil orders – Sexual Risk Orders (SRO) and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO). A Sexual Risk Order is used to impose restrictions on a person's behaviour where the police consider that they pose a risk of sexual harm to the public. This does not require there to have been a criminal conviction. Sexual Harm Prevention Orders are generally used following a conviction for a sexual or violent or other dangerous offence listed in Schedule 3 or Schedule 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

South Yorkshire Police told us its primary aim would be to secure a criminal conviction and Sexual Harm Prevention Order so there is a larger number of these than Sexual Risk Orders. It advised it is now a routine consideration for investigators within the Protecting Vulnerable People teams to apply for a SHPO as part of a criminal prosecution for relevant offences.

While there is no force policy on the use of SHPOs, South Yorkshire Police told us how it promotes its use through staff development. This includes a training session aimed at all Protecting Vulnerable People investigators including details on how and when to apply for an order, effective SHPO conditions and case studies to demonstrate best practice. The use of SHPOs is measured in force through the senior leadership group and forms part of the performance framework which is currently under development.

South Yorkshire Police also told us how it uses Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN) as a safeguarding tool. It advised that between April 2015 and March 2020 a total of 588 CAWNs were issued across the force area. A review and audit of the use of CAWNs was carried out by the Protecting Vulnerable People Performance and Governance team in 2020 which prompted revision of a force procedural instruction. South Yorkshire Police is currently developing training for frontline officers and staff to highlight these revisions.

The College of Policing has [Authorised Professional Practice](#) which provides guidance on SHPOs, SROs and CAWNs.

The Home Office also provides [statutory guidance on Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003](#) which includes a chapter on civil orders. This covers both SHPOs and SROs and includes what the orders are, applying for them, specific information about gangs, interim orders, the role of the CPS, time limits, procedure in court, legal aid, reporting restrictions and various other topics. When making an application for a SHPO or SRO, officers are obliged to have regard to this guidance.

Earlier identification of children at risk of or victims of child sexual exploitation

Early identification of children who are at risk of or victims of child sexual exploitation can enable appropriate support to be put in place and for them to be diverted from committing offences themselves rather than being criminalised. We considered whether to make a learning recommendation to address this alongside our recommendation about a review of the statutory framework surrounding offences committed while a child is being exploited.

As part of our consideration we consulted with a range of bodies and looked at the work and initiatives that are already ongoing that may contribute to this.

In January 2021 the Government published the [Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy](#). This sets out a whole-system response to all forms of child sexual abuse. It sets out measures for early intervention and prevention, including equipping frontline safeguarding partners with the tools and training to identify CSA, and raising awareness through communications and engagement with parents.

The £13.2 million Trusted Relationships Fund is currently funding 11 local authority-led projects across England working with children and young people, aged 10-17, who have been identified locally as at risk of child sexual exploitation or abuse, child criminal exploitation and peer on peer abuse. The work is aimed at building resilience to harm through fostering health, trusting relationships with responsible adults. It also aims to improve understanding emerging local threats and reduce victimisation of children at risk of exploitation. Evaluation of this will add to the evidence base on what works to protect children and young people from abuse and exploitation and feed into future policy making.

The Home Office is funding a prevention programme, delivered by the Children's Society which works with a range of partners across England and Wales to tackle and prevent CSA, CCE and Modern Slavery Human Trafficking. This involves work at a local and regional level to combat exploitation and deliver tailored interventions, based on police intelligence, to improve collaboration in prevention of exploitation, help identify hot spot locations, priority areas and specific threats in each region. It has helped increase professional understanding of exploitation, leading to increased victim identification and is seeing a shift in local areas responding contextually, holistically, and more proactively to extra-familial threats.

In addition to this, work has been carried out within policing to increase the likelihood of early identification and intervention of those at risk or victims of child sexual exploitation. This includes improved guidance and training as referenced elsewhere in this report and the police-led Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) to improve the strategic policing responses to vulnerability at a local and national level, leading to longer term reductions in threat, harm and risk in all vulnerability threat areas.

Case ownership and supervision

In some of our investigations we found there was a lack of supervision. It was unclear who was responsible for the police investigations, the allocated actions and finalisation of the investigation. We asked South Yorkshire Police how it ensures it is clear who is responsible for a case and any other allocated actions and roles. We

also asked how investigation plans are developed, how line management review cases and what checks are made before a case is finalised.

South Yorkshire Police told us a supervisor (detective sergeant rank) will allocate investigations to individual officers and investigators. The allocated officer is recorded on the Connect computer system and clearly shown on the first page of an investigation report.

A bespoke investigation plan is completed on the Connect system. Cases are reviewed every 28 days by the supervisor and this is documented. These reviews include consideration of both lines of enquiry and welfare.

The supervisor goes through the investigation plan with the allocated officer and looks at what they still need to do. An inspector rank will review any active cases that are over four months old, documenting the progress of the investigation and any outstanding lines of enquiry.

When an investigation is finished, South Yorkshire Police advised a closure report is completed by the allocated officer detailing the action taken against each point of the investigation plan. These closure reports are then reviewed by the supervisor. Dip sampling of cases is carried out to monitor quality.

In 2020 the College of Policing consulted on guidelines for supervisors. These will provide guidance on how to effectively support people across all levels of policing, staff and volunteers. The IOPC provided feedback as part of this consultation based on what we have seen in Operation Linden investigations and other areas of our work.

Multi-agency working

Information about concerns was shared in multi-agency meetings but social workers were often left frustrated at the lack of direction and action from South Yorkshire Police. Roles and relationships between different agencies were not always clear.

We considered various aspects of multi-agency working and whether any recommendations may be beneficial including structural aspects, more collaborative leadership and collective problem solving to address these issues. We asked South Yorkshire Police how it now works with partner agencies to safeguard children.

South Yorkshire Police told us it has Local Referral Units (LRUs) in each of its four districts. The officers and police staff who form the LRU are co-located with partner agencies within the four Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH), one in each local authority area, which operate in accordance with the [Working together to safeguard](#)

[children statutory guidance](#). Each local authority also has individual arrangements to reflect local need and demand.

South Yorkshire Police advised the LRUs receive and research all reports of concern for children and share information with statutory partners. This shared information is used to make a joint risk and safety planning assessment. If it is believed that a child is or may be at risk of significant harm, a strategy meeting will be convened with the required core partners and any other persons able to share relevant information or assist in addressing identified risks. They also said that South Yorkshire Police should encourage its partners to submit intelligence on an ongoing basis and not wait until the next multi-agency meeting.

From the feedback provided by South Yorkshire Police, all partners agree that the hubs are working extremely well. They have facilitated timely and detailed information sharing, enhanced shared assessment of risk and much broader safety planning to protect children.

An Ofsted [focused visit to Rotherham children's services](#) in October 2020 found that *“Effective multi-agency working in the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) and the wider partnership means that children and families receive an appropriate service to identified need”* and that *“Management direction and decision-making in the MASH are timely, appropriate and, in most cases, clearly recorded.”*

Reports of Ofsted to visits to [Sheffield](#) (2019) and [Barnsley](#) (2018) contain similarly positive comments. The report in relation to [Doncaster](#) (2020) said that the response to contacts and referrals was not yet consistently timely but that partnerships are developing and this is contributing to improved information sharing and consideration of thresholds.

South Yorkshire Police also advised its child sexual exploitation officer has developed strong links with all four local authority areas across South Yorkshire and encouraged partner agencies, business and local communities across the region to identify and act upon the signs of child exploitation. This has included work with Barnardo's and Fearless⁴⁰ and raising awareness in hotspot communities across South Yorkshire.

Training and involving other agencies in training

Many officers told us they had no knowledge or understanding of child sexual exploitation at the time of the events we investigated, and they were not informed in briefings about issues in the area.

We asked South Yorkshire Police what improvements in training it had made since 2013, including training jointly with other agencies. They detailed various training programmes that have taken place in relation to child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse.

Detectives working in child protection must attend the accredited Specialist Child Abuse Investigator Course (SCAIDP) to be an accredited child abuse investigator. SCAIDP is jointly trained with police officers and social workers to reflect real life where they would be working together.

The College of Policing [Authorised Professional Practice \(APP\) on Major Investigation and Public Protection](#) sets out expectations for training in relation to investigating child abuse and safeguarding children.

The child sexual exploitation training delivered by South Yorkshire Police was developed with the College of Policing and Barnardo's and incorporated the learning points from the Jay report. Joint training has been carried out with an academic from Sheffield University which helped with looking at how complex models of child sexual exploitation were. The training included the different routes and pathways of child sexual exploitation and some of the situations young people might find themselves in where they are entrenched in the exploitation, unable to get themselves out and unable to tell anyone.

South Yorkshire Police is working on joint training with children and adult services around exploitation, trafficking and modern slavery. It has worked with local councils, the National Police Chiefs' Council and other police forces to identify and share good practice. They also told us they are delivering joint training to vulnerable people, children and organisations to educate others about child sexual exploitation.

Record keeping

Our investigations saw issues where previous versions of South Yorkshire Police operational policing policies, job descriptions or other documents were no longer available and hampered us from looking at the procedures and standards expected of officers and staff at the time.

We were also unable to review older records such as the operational intelligence system and missing persons records as they had been deleted. We asked South Yorkshire Police several questions about record keeping including how it stores previous versions of documents, how long for and how people know which is the current version of a policy.

South Yorkshire Police advised it has a policy which is compliant with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), National Guidance on the Minimum Standards for the Retention and Disposal of Police Records which directs that policies should be kept for 10 years. It told us that previous versions of policy documents are now archived in a central drive with access restricted to members of the policy team.

All policies and procedures are published on the force intranet and only the current version of the document can be accessed. Each time an amendment is made, the system automatically saves the previous version of the document in full. Each document has a date stamp at the bottom of the page which also details who made the amendment.

South Yorkshire Police created a Chief Information Officer role in May 2018. This role is responsible for Management of Police Information (MoPI), data quality, legacy data systems and decommissioning, creating and updating policy on retention and disposal of paperwork, property and electronic data in line with the NPCC National Retention Schedule. The Chief Information Officer is also responsible for creating and building a force archive to store paperwork and property which the force is under a legal duty to retain.

As well as the NPCC documents mentioned above, the College of Policing has published Authorised Professional Practice on the Management of Police Information.

We also reviewed HMICFRS inspections of South Yorkshire Police over the last five years. Record keeping was not noted as an issue.

Tracing individual officers

In one of the cases we investigated, the complainant did not know the name of the traffic officer who had stopped the car she was in with a child sexual exploitation perpetrator but described them as Asian. We were unable to identify the officer because records from the time could not be searched by officers' department or ethnicity. South Yorkshire Police has told us that its systems do now allow for HR systems to be searched by individual characteristics, such as age, rank, location/department and ethnicity. More steps could be taken to identify officers if a complainant was only able to provide limited information.

Authorised Professional Practice

We considered whether any of the issues arising from Operation Linden investigations would require amendments to Authorised Professional Practice (APP).

APP is guidance authorised by the College of Policing as the official source of professional practice on policing. Police officers and staff are expected to have regard to APP in discharging their responsibilities unless there is a clear rationale for deviating from it.

APP is subject to regular review by the College of Policing either on a scheduled basis or as required. At the time of writing, the APP on child sexual exploitation was last updated in January 2020 and the broader major investigation and public protection APP within which it sits was last updated in March 2021.

We did not identify any areas that required updates to APP.

To find out more about our work or to request this report in an alternative format, you can contact us in a number of ways:

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Rydym yn croesawu galwadau ffôn yn y Gymraeg

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 25 April 2022

Report Title

Climate Emergency Annual Report

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Sam Blakeborough, Policy Officer, Policy Performance & Intelligence, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

Arthur King, National Management Trainee, Change & Innovation, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

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

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

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

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

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes progress to date towards NZ30 and NZ40 targets.
2. Notes progress against the actions from the 2021/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan.
3. Agrees the approach laid out for continued development of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, including an updated Action Plan in 2022.
4. Submits the Climate Emergency Annual Report and its decision to the next Council meeting, for information.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Progress Summary Table

Appendix 2 Case Study A: The Lanes Retrofit

Appendix 3 Case Study B: Rotherham to Kilnhurst Flood Alleviation Scheme

Appendix 4 Part A - Initial Equality Screening Analysis

Appendix 5 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

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

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

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

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Climate Emergency Annual Report

1. Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Key Issues

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

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

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

2.3 ***Progress to date***

2.4 ***Theme: Overarching activity***

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

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

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

1. Establish the scale of current carbon emissions across a range of sectors and subsectors.

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

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

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

2.10 NZ30 2018/19 Baseline:

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

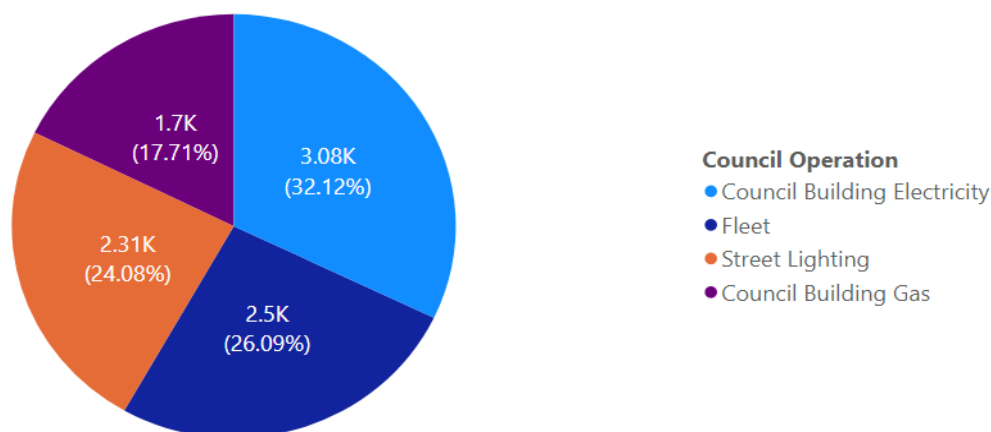
Scope	Definition	Examples	Target
Scope 1	Carbon emissions from sources that directly burn fossil fuels, such as gas boilers and combustion engines.	Heating of RMBC owned and managed assets (e.g. offices and libraries). RMBC's fleet emissions.	NZ30
Scope 2	Carbon Emissions from electricity use.	Electricity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

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

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

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

Scope 1 & 2 Emissions (tCO₂e) by Council Operation



2.11 NZ40 2018/19 Baseline:

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

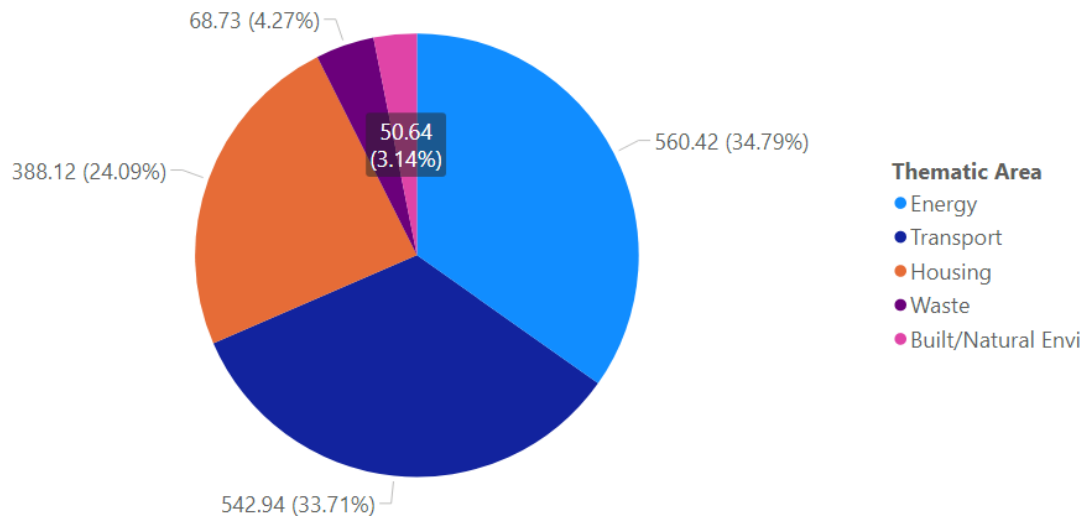
Scope	Definition	Examples	Target
Scope 1	CO ₂ emissions from sources located within the Borough boundary.	Domestic, industrial, commercial and public sector gas Transport within the Borough Emissions from waste treated within the Borough boundary	NZ40

		Emissions from agricultural, other land-use and land-use-change Fugitive Emissions Emissions from industrial process within the Borough	
Scope 2	CO2 emissions occurring because of supplied electricity within the Borough boundary.	Domestic, industrial, commercial and public sector electricity Electric vehicle charging emissions	NZ40
Scope 3	All other CO2 emissions that occur outside the Borough's boundary, due to activities within the boundary.	Transmission and distribution losses from the use of grid supplied energy Emissions from the portion of trans-boundary journeys occurring outside the Borough, and transmission and distribution losses from grid-supplied energy for electric vehicle use Aviation Emissions from waste generated by the Borough but treated outside its boundary Emissions from the production of goods consumed in the Borough but produced elsewhere.	

Regarding the NZ40 target and baseline, Scope 3 emissions are those that relate to Rotherham or its residents but occur outside of Rotherham's geographic boundary. As it is so difficult to accurately measure or meaningfully influence such Scope 3 emissions, they are excluded from the NZ40 target and baseline.

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

Scope 1 & 2 Carbon Emissions (ktCO₂e) by Thematic Area



2.12 Baseline development will continue through the following steps:

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

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

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

improved through climate change awareness training, to ensure emissions considerations are embedded across Council services.

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

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

2.17 **Theme: Energy**

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

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

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

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

2.20 Phase 1 of the Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP), covering 43 of the highest energy consuming operational buildings, has been developed. A capital proposal for £6.4 million has been approved as part of the Council budget setting for 2022/23. Projected carbon emissions reductions from Phase 1 HDP are from 3,716 tCO2e in 2019, to 806 tCO2e in 2030: a reduction of 78%. Work is ongoing to extend the HDP to cover all operational buildings, with more than 40 smaller buildings to be decarbonised in Phase 2. Further technical site-specific decarbonisation reports have been completed or arranged in preparation for future funding opportunities, especially from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

2.21 Additionally, a £1 million proof of concept renewable energy project is underway and officers are assessing sites to identify one suitable for a solar

farm. The system size will be approximately 1000kWp (1000kW peak generating capacity) of photovoltaic panels. For comparison, the system on the roof of Riverside House has a generating capacity of 61kWp: the proof of concept project will be 18 times larger and will cover the area of two and a half football pitches. A facility of this type is expected to have an output of 1,120,000kWh and would save carbon emissions of the order of 240 tCO₂e, compared with using grid electricity.

- 2.22 • **Action: Continue to support the private sector led development of Templeborough biomass heat network**

2.23 The Climate Emergency Annual Report 2021 noted that Government investment amounting to £8.4m had been secured for the heat network development. The report also noted that the owners of the plant had withdrawn their investment of an additional £8 million. Alternative private sector investors ended their involvement with the scheme in July 2021. Engagement has begun with another potential investor, introduced to the Council by BEIS in December 2021.

2.24 **Theme: Housing**

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

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

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

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

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

2.30 A road map to zero carbon for Council housing is being developed this year. It will require an estimated £585m to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Council Housing: the road map will plan and guide future stock investment,

external funding bids, set targets and measure progress. It will also set out a strategic approach, including how best to move away from gas heating and benefit from funding available for carbon emissions reduction. As well as defining a work programme, the action plan will set out how the Council can help the local economy gear up for the work and, in doing so, address supply chain challenges and skill shortages in the local labour market.

- 2.31 • **Action: Establish energy efficiency specifications for new Council homes**
- 2.32 Housing specifications are being developed as part of a scheme to develop a total of 36 properties on two sites in Eastwood, with Local Partnerships. Local Partnerships have provided comparable detailed specifications, to allow the Council to assess the difference between 'zero carbon' and 'zero carbon ready'.
- 2.33 Two sites in Thrybergh will be developed, in partnership with one of the Council's repairs and maintenance contractors. This will deliver four properties as zero-carbon demonstrators, to explore implications of zero carbon delivery. Both these schemes will be used to develop specifications, to inform the forward programme.
- 2.34 • **Action: Development of a Community Energy Support Scheme**
- 2.35 The Community Energy Support Scheme was launched on 1st March 2021. The scheme is intended to provide support for Rotherham residents to reduce energy costs, improve energy efficiency and access future Government grants. Due to the energy price crisis, consumers have been recommended not to switch suppliers. Assistance provided to residents has therefore focussed on energy efficiency, to reduce consumption through direct advice and support and by identifying funding opportunities.
- 2.36 Several other support and advice services exist alongside the Community Energy Support Scheme, including the housing service's Financial Inclusion support offer and the Rotherham Federation's Energy Knowhow scheme. A toolkit was provided to Members in 2021, following a presentation to the Improving Places Select Commission on housing energy efficiency, which explains how these different services can be accessed. Further work is ongoing, to establish how people who are most at risk of fuel poverty can be identified and can receive targeted support.
- 2.37 **Theme: Transport**
- 2.38 • **Action: Delivery of Cycling and Public Transport Infrastructure**
- 2.39 The Cycling Strategy was adopted by Cabinet in January 2022. If delivered in full, the strategy is expected to reduce emissions from transport by ca. 2% of 2019 levels, across the Borough.
- 2.40 Works continue to deliver the Transforming Cities programme. Together with the Active Travel Fund, this is expected to deliver £12 million worth of

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

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

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

2.43 Use of Council-owned EV charging infrastructure in 2021 saved carbon emissions of 5.21 tCO₂e. Excess electricity from solar powered EV charging points was used to power Council buildings, with the effect that EV charging had Net Zero carbon emissions in 2021.

2.44 In partnership with bus operators and SYLTE, electric buses will be procured and operated on two routes in the Borough. Services are expected to go live from the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

2.45 • ***Action: Rollout of Telematics***

2.46 Multiple telematics systems are already in use, with different functions for different fleet users. Telematics helps to improve driver behaviour and fuel efficiency and supports vehicle use monitoring. A new system will be trialled in Spring/Summer 2022 and a fully costed plan to rollout Telematics across the Council fleet by March 2023.

2.47 • ***Action: Timeline for fleet electric vehicle (EV) Conversion***

2.48 An officer working group has been established to phase out petrol and diesel vehicles from the Council Fleet. The working group will consider the full life costs and carbon emissions of Low (LEV's), Ultra Low (ULEV's) and Zero Emissions Vehicles and associated challenges, such as grid capacity for EV charging. Work to develop a timeline for conversion will resume once data has been collected from a trial of electric refuse collection vehicles (RCV's), in March 2022.

2.49 The Council will assess options for electric vehicle conversion and will develop an action plan by March 2023. This will guide further development of the Council's approach to date, which has been to replace fleet vehicles at the end of their service life with an EV or ULEV, wherever possible. The

development of a strategy and timeline for EV conversion will require a full review of infrastructure and charging capacity, to include known limitations of grid capacity at the Hellaby depot.

2.50 **Theme: Waste**

2.51 • **Action: Review the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy**

2.52 The South Yorkshire Waste Partnership is currently reviewing the achievements and progress of the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy covering the period from 2017 – 2021, to help inform a future strategy. Detailed work on the development of a new strategy that will contribute towards Net Zero targets is on hold, pending publication of results from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) Resources and Waste Strategy consultation.

2.53 The Environment Act 2021 sets out specific legislation that is likely to have a significant impact on how waste and recycling are dealt with and how local authorities deliver waste services in future. This includes proposals for:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.59 **Theme: Built and Natural Environment**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Surveying potential woodland sites
- Carrying out land searches and applications to the Forestry Commission
- Making funding applications to Defra and SYMCA, for new woodland creation
- Consulting with Members on an urban tree planting programme

- Contacting local schools, scout groups, ramblers and voluntary sector organisations, to arrange community planting days throughout the winter planting season

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

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

1. *Rotherham Council will dedicate a minimum of 5 hectares of land to woodland creation, either through planting or re-wilding, up to 2030. This will see the Council's woodlands estate increase in size by at least 10%.*
2. *Rotherham Council will plant a minimum of 500 new trees in urban settings per year for the next ten years.*
3. *Rotherham Council will commit to a net gain of 250 new trees in urban settings per year for the next ten years.*
4. *Rotherham Council will plant a minimum of 10,000 new trees in woodland settings per year for the next ten years.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.74 **Theme: Influence and Engagement**

2.75 • **Action: Regional Engagement**

- 2.76 The Council continues to engage with partners regionally and nationally, to develop a shared response to the Climate Emergency.
- 2.77 The Council joined other Local Authorities in its contribution to COP26, where the BDR Waste Treatment Facility at Manvers was featured in a showcase of climate action in local government, led by the Local Government Association (LGA).
- 2.78 Regionally, RMBC has contributed to the development of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan. Collaboration with partners in South Yorkshire, such as the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPT), promises local benefits for public transport and active travel, while the South Yorkshire Woodland Creation Group is expected to deliver improvements for the Borough's natural capital.
- 2.79 Recently, the Council invited members of Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) to 'take over' a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, as part of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge, a national initiative. The young people involved questioned Council officers on the subject of climate change, with several questions relating to plastic pollution, waste and the role of schools in the Climate Emergency.
- 2.80 • ***Action: Develop Emissions Considerations as Part of the Council's Social Value Policy***
- 2.81 Carbon emissions have been developed as a consideration under the Council's Social Value policy. Through this approach, suppliers are invited to make commitments to reduce their carbon emissions. Commitments made in the second year of the Social Value policy amounted to carbon emissions savings of 2554 tCO₂e, or roughly equal to emissions from the Council's fleet transport in 2018/19, the baseline reporting year.
- 2.82 To support further progress, procurement documents have been updated to highlight carbon emissions as a consideration throughout the procurement process. Similarly, questions have been included in the tender process, to gauge market understanding of carbon emissions and progress to Net Zero. Information gathered in this way can support future efforts to decarbonise the Council's supply chains.
- 2.83 • ***Action: Develop a climate emergency communications plan***
- 2.84 A separate communications plan has not been developed, as was anticipated in the 2021/22 Action Plan. Communications activity to date has included the promotion of regional and national partnerships such as the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan and COP26. The Council website has also been updated, with web pages on Tackling Climate Change.
- 2.85 Development of a communications and engagement plan forms part of the Council's commitment to respond to the Climate Emergency in 2022 and is contained within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan.

2.86 Further development of the response to the Climate Emergency

2.87 “A Cleaner, Greener Local Environment” is a key strategic priority in the Council Plan 2022-25. The plan sets out ambitions to protect Rotherham’s natural environment, emphasising sustainability, ensuring that Rotherham is a clean and vibrant place to live and reaffirming the commitment to Net Zero.

2.88 In the Council Plan the environment appears alongside other priorities. These are:

- Every Neighbourhood Thriving
- People Are Safe, Healthy and Live Well
- Every Child Able to Fulfil their Potential
- Expanding Economic Opportunity

2.89 At the Council meeting 2nd March 2022, £155,000 revenue budget was agreed to establish a Climate Emergency Delivery Team. This includes funding for two new posts, Climate Change Lead Officer and Climate Change Project Officer, as well as funding to extend the existing post of Climate Change Data Analysis Officer.

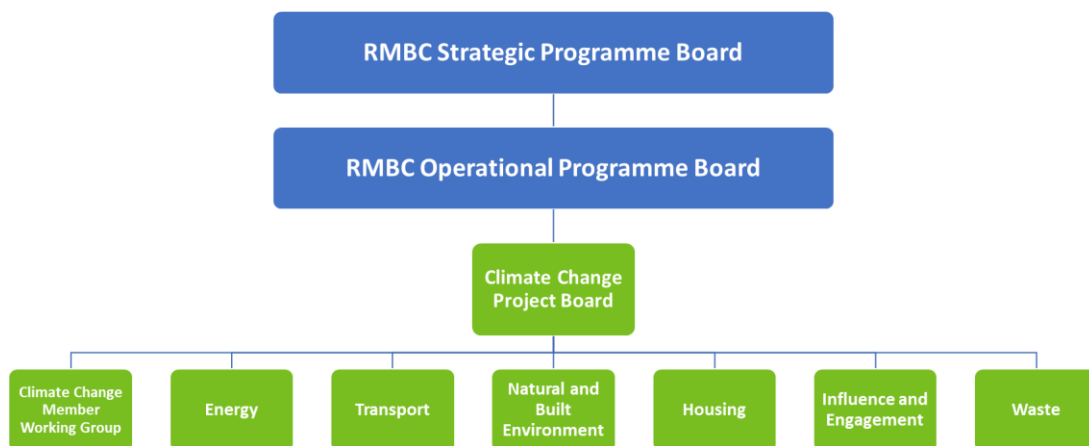
2.90 Decarbonisation will be delivered through capital investment, such as the funding approved at Cabinet on 2nd March 2022 for Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure and decarbonisation of operational buildings.

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

2.92 Governance Structure

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

2.94



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

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

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

3 Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes progress to date towards NZ30 and NZ40 targets.
2. Notes progress against the actions from the 2021/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan.
3. Agrees the approach laid out for continued development of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, including an updated Action Plan in 2022.
4. Submits the Climate Emergency Annual Report and its decision to the Council meeting, for information.

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

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Delivery of the 2021/22 Climate Emergency Action Plan has been a cross-Council effort; service leads have been identified to drive forward the ambition in the Action Plan, meeting regularly to collaborate on delivery of actions, across the Climate Emergency agenda.

- 4.2 As this is a progress report, not implying any changes to policy or services, it has not required public consultation.

5.1 Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

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

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

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

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 No equalities implications arise from this report directly. An Equalities Screening Assessment and Analysis will be completed in the context of a new Climate Emergency Action Plan. Equalities and human rights will be

considered throughout development, consultation and engagement to understand potential impacts, including the need for a “just transition”.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

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

12. Implications for Partners

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

13. Risks and Mitigation

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

14. Accountable Officers

- 14.1 Rob Savage, Acting Head of Change and Innovation, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate
- 14.2 Sam Blakeborough, Policy Officer, Policy Performance & Intelligence, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

15. Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	05/04/22
Assistant Director, Finance (S.151 Officer)	Graham Saxton	04/04/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	04/04/22

Report Author(s):

Sam Blakeborough, Policy Officer, Policy Performance & Intelligence, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

Arthur King, National Management Trainee, Change & Innovation, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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

Climate Emergency Annual Report: Progress Summary

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Published: 2nd November 2021

Innovation Case Study – Rotherham to Kilnhurst Flood Alleviation Scheme

Introduction

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



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

Background

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

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

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

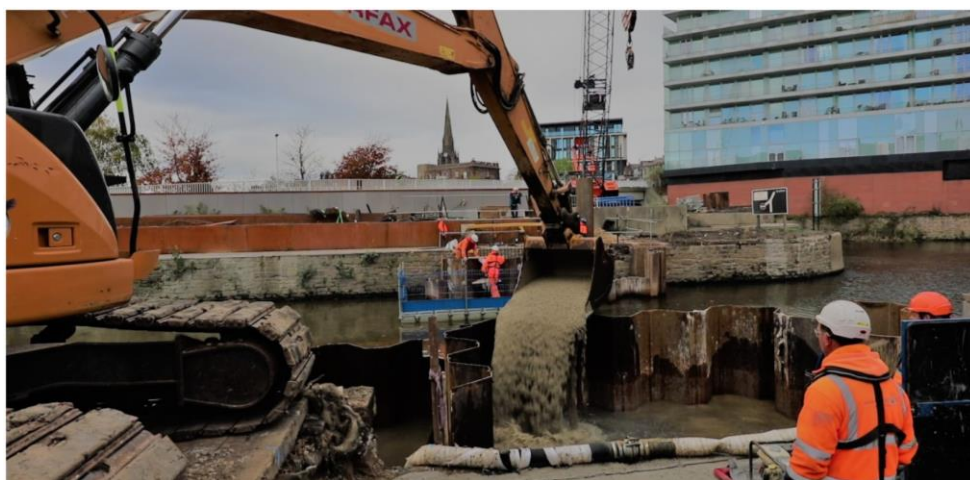
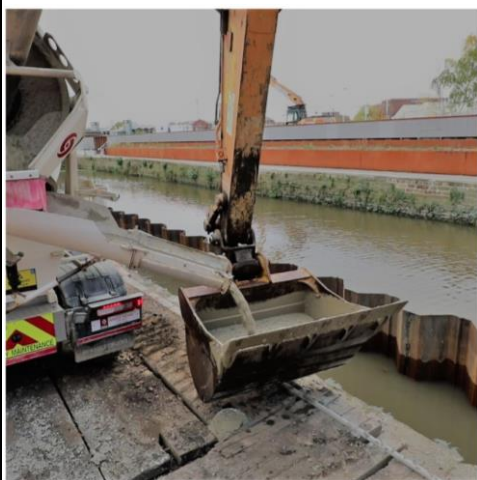
JCE investigated the feasibility of using an alternative low-carbon material in the sub-structure of the development in conjunction with their supply chain partner, Breedon. The EFC product that had recently been trialled between JCE and Breedon looked to be an ideal material to use. Through continuous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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Benefits

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

Key lessons learned

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

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

Where can I get further information?

For further information, see:

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

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

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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: Climate Emergency Annual Report

Directorate:
ACEX

Service area:
Policy, Performance and Intelligence

Lead person:
Sam Blakeborough

Contact:
sam.blakeborough@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy**

 ☐ **Service / Function**

 ☐ **Other**

If other, please specify

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

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

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

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

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

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

6. Publishing

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

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

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

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

User guidance:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 25 April 2022

Report Title

Safety Valve' Intervention Programme – Department for Education (DfE) –
Rotherham final agreement

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)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

As part of the Department of Education work to address long term challenges in the High Needs funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), a small number of identified local authorities including Rotherham were invited to have a financial agreement known as a 'Safety Valve.'

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Note the delegated decision taken by the Strategic Director as agreed by Cabinet in December 2021 to enter into the 'Safety Valve' Intervention Programme Agreement.
2. Agree as part of the involvement in 'Safety Valve' intervention programme to submit a capital request to the DfE to develop SEND provision in the Borough to aid delivery of the programme.

3. Agree that all associated information incorporated in this report and appendices be noted including key risks and areas subject to review within the DfE finalised document.
4. Agree that an annual progress report is presented to Cabinet.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Department for Education case studies -Sustainable High Needs systems.
- Appendix 2 Rotherham Safety Valve Agreement – Department of Education
- Appendix 3a Part A - Initial Equality screening Assessment form
- Appendix 3b Part B - Equality Analysis Form final
- Appendix 4 Carbon impact FINAL Template

Background Papers

[Cabinet Report - December 2021 - Medium Term Financial Strategy](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Safety Valve' Intervention Programme – Department for Education (DfE) – Rotherham final agreement

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of the Department of Education work to address long term challenges in the High Needs funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant, a small number of identified local authorities including Rotherham have been invited to have a financial agreement known as a 'Safety Valve.' Across the Autumn term a series of negotiation meetings have taken place between Senior Leaders from the council and DfE 'Safety Valve' negotiation team to look at the feasibility of Rotherham entering into a 'Safety Valve' arrangement with the DfE. The key emphasis for the Rotherham involvement in this programme is ensuring that more children with special needs can be supported to stay in mainstream education in the borough. Rotherham involvement also allows appropriate SEND provision mapping in the borough to meet the Council's needs to continue to be developed and improve SEND outcomes.
- 1.2 Following these negotiations and significant work to share/develop documentation with the negotiation team from the DfE, Rotherham were invited to participate in the 'Safety Valve' arrangement.
- 1.3 Following the December budget report progress has been made in negotiation with the DfE and following the report in December which included a delegation for officers to progress the Safety Valve agreement with DfE, this report back to Cabinet provides the final agreement reached. (Appendix 2.) This will be the final agreement.
- 1.4 The finalised agreement sets out an investment of £20.528m to be received from the DfE across the lifespan of the agreement (2021/22 to 2025/26), which will remove the DSG deficit based on the Council's revenue assumptions, as outlined in the table below;

Safety Valve Revenue Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26

	2021-22 £,000s	2022-23 £,000s	2023-24 £,000s	2024-25 £,000s	2025-26 £,000s
Mitigated expenditure forecast	£274,031	£282,200	£288,938	£299,155	£305,451
Estimated DSG Funding	-£272,815	-£282,650	-£290,914	-£298,033	-£305,250
Other Income	-£461	-£468	-£476	-£484	-£492
School Block to HNB Transfer	-£3,038	-£3,236	-£3,300	£0	£0
In Year Deficit / Surplus	£756	-£918	-£2,453	£638	-£292
Planned Overall DSG position (surplus)/deficit at Year End (Excludes Delivery Team)	£22,013	£21,095	£18,643	£19,280	£18,988
Safety Valve Delivery Team	£0	£385	£385	£385	£385
Planned Overall DSG position (surplus)/deficit at Year End (Includes Delivery Team)	£22,013	£21,480	£19,413	£20,435	£20,528
Aggregated Safety Valve Funding*	-£8,528	-£11,528	-£14,528	-£17,528	-£20,528
Revised Planned Overall DSG position	£13,485	£9,952	£4,885	£2,907	£0

Note: The council will receive £8.53m of safety valve funding in 2021/22 followed by £3m for the next 4 financial years

- 1.5 At the end of February 2022, the Dedicated Schools Grant is still on target to outturn within the £756k projected overspend for the 2021/22 financial year, which after receipt of the Safety Valve funding is estimated to reduce the overall DSG deficit to £13.5m as outlined above.

- 1.6 The Management Plan is fundamentally based on current Education Health and Care Plans and growth assumptions which reflect previous years trends, adjusted for the estimated impact of the council's strategies. The growth assumptions for future years are outlined below:

Provision Settings	Finance Growth		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Mainstream Growth (Average over Prim/Sec)	11%	9%	9%
Special Schools	2%	3%	3%
ISP's	1%	1%	1%
Alternative Provision	5%	5%	5%
Post 16/FE	2%	2%	2%
Resource Provisions	77%	42%	26%

- 1.7 In agreeing to the financial investment from the DfE, Rotherham is agreeing to implement the following strategies as set out in the Council's DSG management plan. This includes action to:

- (1) Reduce use of independent specialist provision outside of the LA by creating appropriate capacity within Rotherham's high needs system, with a focus on ensuring provision is high quality and value for money.
- (2) Improve Rotherham's early intervention strategy, including through investment in outreach work.
- (3) Ensure appropriate use of provision and avoid escalation of children and young people's needs by, among other things, improving the governance around placement decisions.
- (4) Review support services in Rotherham to ensure value for money is achieved.
- (5) Increase the outreach offer for Social Emotional and Mental Health needs at primary and secondary.
- (6) Increase the outreach offer for specialist SEND.
- (7) Develop local sufficiency arrangements, including for Rotherham's Looked After Children.
- (8) Drive mainstream schools to adopt inclusive practice to enable more children and young people to remain in mainstream settings where appropriate.
- (9) Maintain engagement with stakeholders through strong and collaborative governance arrangements, such as ISOS partnership work, Schools Forum High Needs subgroup, primary and secondary head teachers.

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

- 1.9 The agreement is subject to review at any time, for example as a result of the following events:

- (1) Higher or lower DSG formula funding levels for the authority in future financial years than those the authority has assumed.
- (2) Significant changes to national SEND policy, for example as a result of the government SEND Review, which impact on elements of the plan.

- (3) Insufficient progress being made towards the authority reaching and sustaining an in-year balance on its DSG account as set out in the plan.
- (4) Whether Rotherham is awarded additional capital funding support following the capital plan commissioning process. This will include any impact of the capital funding on Rotherham's ability to carry out its DSG management plan.

- 1.10 Within the Safety Valve important to note as a low level of capital investment would undermine the ability to deliver the plan as set out within the Council's DSG management template.

The below extract from the final Safety Valve agreement outlines this position

8.4. Whether Rotherham is awarded additional capital funding support following the capital application process. This will include any impact of the capital funding on Rotherham's ability to carry out its DSG management plan.

RMBC has been clear in the negotiation with the DfE that the long term plans are dependent on capital investment to deliver the Council's plans, and should the council not receive this investment then we would need to evaluate long term strategy.

- 1.11 Within the DfE 'Safety Valve' agreement the two key strategies, which are supporting pupils to remain in mainstream schools or access SEN resource units that are centred within mainstream provision, are encapsulated across the actions that the council will set out to achieve across the agreement.
- 1.12 Across all areas of the strategy, the council are focusing on creating SEND capacity in mainstream settings or education provision as close to mainstream as possible. This is a key strand within the final Safety Valve agreement, the agreement recognises the need for additional capital investment to support the Council's plans to increase resource base and mainstream SEND capacity (this is lower cost than high-end specialist provision and drives stronger educational outcomes).
- 1.13 As part of the process, the council have also been invited to submit a capital investment plan to support the strategy. This was submitted to DfE on the 18 March 22.
- 1.14 The capital schemes are factored into the DfE application for capital investment as part of the 'Safety Valve' agreement.
- 1.15 The impact of the capital strategies is to reduce the demand for placements in special schools which are currently close to capacity and therefore consequently reduce the demand for high-cost Independent Sector Placements (ISP).
- 1.16 Other key strategies that underpin the DSG management plan are:
- Development of Alternative Education Provision system which supports high quality time-limited interventions that keep children and young people in mainstream education. This will provide triage and support to a graduated approach for children displaying challenging behaviour in mainstream education, placing the emphasis on empowering mainstream schools to have

the skill and capacity to meet the needs of children with social, emotional, and mental health needs and avoiding long term placement in PRUs. This will avoid the need for permanent exclusions and rapid escalation into SEND system due to inability of schools to meet the needs of the most complex cohorts.

- Continue to develop a pro-active outreach model of support across all phases of education and drawing in specialism from special schools to enhance SEND offer in mainstream education. Across the 2021-2022 academic year we will see an outreach model develop from special schools, this will enhance the primary model that is already in place, and from 2022-2023 academic year we will have a secondary outreach model in place. This will provide in school support from specialist practitioners who can support schools to manage complex needs across a range of areas including specialist SEND. This continued development will need High Needs Funding investment to drive a sustainable funding model to support mainstream inclusive practice. The work across the trajectory of the Council's management plan identifies the importance of outreach, this need to grow and this will need appropriate investment to offset trajectory of growth into specialist SEND provision.
- Targeted work to enhance the pathway for Transition to Adulthood including development of the post 16 offer including provision development so that seamless and personalised pathways into employment can be developed. As part of wider resource base and provision mapping this will need further capital investment to enhance local offer and build on current Send sufficiency work that is creating post 16 and post 19 pathways. The need to centre this in a clear Rotherham skills profile and drive strong employability outcomes in this phase which provides realistic opportunity for the 16-25 cohort is essential to long term sustainability of the borough's high needs and the SEND young people.
- Clear investment to align SEND provision mapping and resource to support LAC sufficiency work, which is around a strong Rotherham SEND offer that alleviates the need for children and young people to be educated out of the borough. Reciprocally this will also support the return to the borough for children and young people in out of area education settings currently. To support this strategy, there is a need to invest in enhancement of high-end provision in Rotherham to develop the capacity/knowledge to manage the borough's children and young people. In developing capacity at the highest end of the SEND continuum the council reciprocally need to enhance provision mapping at each stage of graduated approach and support SEND capacity into mainstream education. Across the Council's long-term plan this will need continued review and development of or SEND services to proactively work across areas of developing need. This will also determine a need to review the SEND funding system in the medium term in order that appropriate resource sits across the SEND continuum. A recalibrated funding system means mainstream schools have enhanced SEND capacity through direct access to resource to manage a higher threshold of need.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council's Growth assumptions are appropriate, especially linked to the growth of Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Communication and Interaction cohorts, if growth exceeds estimates this will lead to increased financial pressures which could undermine the plan.
- 2.2 Within the Council's 'Safety Valve' a focus on Capital Funding permeates a number of areas, it will be essential that the council hold a strong line in the capital submission to drive this forward. As this will allow plans to develop to drive the Council's SEND system towards mainstream and support mainstream schools to be best placed to deliver this.
- 2.3 A key factor is a sustainable funding model with High Needs Budget funding assumptions linked to 2% growth on Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Budget funding above the floor, set at 5%,3%,3% for the 3 financial years from 2023/24 to 2025/26.
- 2.4 The bid assumes the funding transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block ceases after 2023/24 to support schools' financial sustainability and aligns with the move to DfE Hard Funding Formula (school funding formula set nationally).
- 2.5 The number of social care residential placements where education is provided in placement continues to reduce linked to development of local children's homes. The return of students into Rotherham education system has direct associated impact due to Social Emotional Mental Health needs of cohort and the cost of Social Emotional Mental Health provision, this reciprocal element of Looked After Children sufficiency work needs to work in tandem with any 'Safety Valve' arrangement and neither can undermine each other.
- 2.6 The DfE have published the agreed 'Safety Valve' agreement in w/c 21 March 2022, and this is the agreed final agreement with the DfE. The decision as agreed by Cabinet in December 2021 was for an officer delegated decision to be made on agreement of Rotherham involvement in the 'Safety Valve' Programme, this also allowed Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to work to the fixed timelines defined by the DfE.
- 2.7 To support delivery of the DSG Management Plan the Safety Valve proposal included funding for the Safety Valve Delivery Team. The bid includes funding of £385k per annum for the four years 2022/ 23 to 2025/26 as outlined in the table in para 1.5. The dedicated team will include professionals from Finance, Commissioning, Performance and Education.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Strategies are closely monitored to ensure expected outcomes are achieved and form part of Children Young People Service transformation work, ongoing quarterly meetings will be held with DfE within the cycle of monitoring of the agreed 'Safety Valve' agreement. All monitoring arrangements sit within DfE process of activity in agreeing a 'Safety Valve' arrangement with a local area.

- 3.2 A comprehensive capital submission was provided to DfE by 18 March to support key areas of delivery of Rotherham DSG management plan. Recruitment of all associated roles to support delivery of the plan will be finalised following approval process for the Rotherham 'Safety Valve'.
- 3.3 Rotherham not moving forward into a 'Safety Valve' arrangement with the DfE was considered. However, due to significant investment from this programme to address long term High Needs budget deficit and the transformational opportunity to create aspirational SEND education provision in the borough, non-involvement was not a viable option. Only a small number of local authorities with both credible financial and SEND strategic plans move forward into 'Safety Valve' agreements.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 All appropriate updates have been provided to Schools Forum, School leaders forums, and associated partners. Due to the closed nature of the negotiations with the DfE, further updates and co-production/consultation will be developed to support all key partners including Schools, Early Years, Post 16 education settings, health, and other key partners with SEND interdependencies as part of the implementation of the 'Safety Valve' programme in the borough.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Following Secretary of State agreement on the Rotherham 'Safety Valve' agreement and DfE publication of the agreement, the first tranche of funding will be received by the council . Subsequent payment schedules have been agreed across the 4 years post the initial agreement. The 'Safety Valve' will start from April 2022 and be subject to quarterly DfE monitoring.
- 5.2 The capital submission that accompanies the Rotherham 'Safety Valve' has been subject to all appropriate approvals and oversights in order to support delivery of the Safety Valve Programme.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The financial implications are outlined in the body of the report and would enable the current estimated overall DSG deficit of £13.5m at the end of the 2021/22 financial year to be reduced to nil by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.
- 6.2 One of the main elements to deliver the achievement of the DSG Management Plan and reducing costs is approval of the High Needs Capital application, to enable the new provisions to be established and accessibility to existing settings to be facilitated as outlined in the report.
- 6.3 To support the delivery of the Safety Valve programme a project team will be established over the duration of the programme and funding will be provided for the team as part of the financial agreement with the DfE.
- 6.4 Whilst there are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report, however where the engagement of third party organisations is required to assist in the delivery of the proposals outlined in

this report, these must be undertaken in accordance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Agreement for the funding the central government has been produced with a collaborative approach in mind. In light of this it is a memorandum of understanding rather than a more formal and legally binding contract.
- 7.2 The partnership approach further reduces and mitigate any potential legal risks in the proposed course of action

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Job Profiles will be drafted and evaluated as per the council procedures as will the recruitment process. As experienced educational staff are likely to be required for these roles then it will be advised that secondment opportunities from within the education sector should also be considered.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The 'Safety Valve' agreement will have a direct impact on SEND strategy, funding, SEND provision development, and all education settings within the borough.
- 9.2 Key considerations are referenced within the report and Appendix 1.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Key considerations are referenced within the report. An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is an appendix to this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 All areas of SEND Sufficiency, Student placed planning (inclusive of circa at least 150+ additional SEND places), and educational placements have a direct environmental impact, consideration of this element is informed in provision development and provision enhancement in the borough due to the direct impact this will have to limiting students travelling outside the borough. This would support reduced emissions of CO₂.
- 11.2 Wider consideration of indirect implications or unintended consequence of work in this area has on CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change is considered across all partners as the council are committed to long term targets to mitigate these areas of concern in the borough. An environmental impact assessment has been completed and is an appendix to this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant is subject to oversight of Schools Forum and the wider education system in the borough, all updates across the 'Safety Valve' development

have been provided to Schools Forum, the high needs subgroup which is part of Schools Forum will have a key role in supporting development and oversight from education system in the borough across the lifespan of this programme.

- 12.2 Ongoing updates are provided to key stakeholders including Parent/carers forum, health leaders, school leaders, Schools Forum, and other associated stakeholders. The SEND Executive and SEND Partnership board involve all Key Stakeholders and SEND is a Place Priority for Rotherham.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The key risk is that trajectory of growth of SEND cohorts within the borough grow outside the trajectories set against the agreement. This would be exaggerated by lack of capital investment from DfE to support Rotherham to deliver its sufficiency planning.
- 13.2 Within the final Safety Agreement between DfE/the council key areas including lack of capital investment and thematic challenges linked to central government policy are addressed with these risks identified and appropriate mitigations identified by DfE.

14. Accountable Officers

Nathan Heath – Assistant Director, Education & Inclusion
Neil Hardwick – Head of Finance CYPS

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	06/04/22
Assistant Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Graham Saxton	04/04/22
Assistant Director Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	04/04/22

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



Department
for Education

Sustainable high needs systems: case studies

July 2021

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1. Strategic planning with education and finance colleagues – Safety Valve LAs

As covered in the commentary, the 'safety valve' local authorities (LAs) ensured that education and finance leadership worked collaboratively on their plans to reach an in-year balance. The Chief Executives of the authorities were fully engaged and up to date with the development of the plans, supporting their Director of Children's Services (DCS), S151 officers and other senior leaders throughout the process.

As a result, the local authorities were able to recognise drivers of their deficit position more quickly, and work to find solutions that were appropriate for the LA and its children and young people. Solutions identified were viable and ambitious, and LAs were able to recognise where they might require additional expertise or focus to deliver. Each LA went about this in its own way, but all plans were reinforced through the creation or strengthening of robust governance structures and project management capability.

2. Strategic planning with education and finance colleagues – Southwark

Southwark has developed a high level, strategic plan that focuses on co-production. Internally the SEND and finance team have worked hand in hand to set realistic goals to make savings and to avoid future costs. Externally, the LA has gained high levels of support for the proposals by creating a high needs sub group of the Schools Forum. This forum has representatives reflecting the make-up of the whole sector, including schools and academies from all phases, Pupil Referral Units, early years, further education providers and special schools. Representatives from the LA include the Head of SEN, director of commissioning and senior SEN/Inclusion advisor as well as the director of education and finance managers.

A budget recovery board was chaired by the council's Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (S151 officer) and membership included: Strategic Director of Children's and Adults Services, Director of Education, Director of Commissioning, Departmental Finance Manager, Legal, Communication, Governance and relevant officers of the council including Public Health and HR. This board provided financial assurance for the Strategic Directors of Finance & Governance and Children's and Adults Services about the budget recovery plans to bring the budget back into a balanced position. External consultants were engaged to provide independent assurance and challenge on the recovery plans and assurance to the Chief Executive and Cabinet on the progress of these plans. The outputs of the meetings were communicated to the Chief Executive and Lead Members on a regular basis. There were regular updates to the Cabinet on the progress of the budget recovery board, as well as sharing with the Schools Forum High Needs sub-group.

The LA has engaged well with colleagues from the department, seeking out challenge and acting upon this quickly to keep up the momentum of the plan within the authority. Colleagues from SEND as well as finance have had regular informal correspondence to discuss proposals and challenge where appropriate.

Southwark works with their various stakeholders on strategy, approach and chosen developments to ensure best possible outcomes. This includes:

- Focused co-production with local parent and carers forum, Southwark Independent Voice (SIV).
 - SIV has a history of positive working relationship with Southwark SEND and the LA in general. SIV is consulted on all the strategic work that is being undertaken, and is fully involved in the boards and project groups set up to address the DSG management plan.
 - SIV provide the parents reference group for any pathway redesign as part of the 16-25 working group, overseen by the 16-25 board.
 - Southwark is holding a review of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) within the borough that is nearing completion. SIV provided the parent groups interviewed as a part of this and they will be involved in the resulting strategy and workplan.
- Work with children and young people, facilitated by the authority's schools, to consult on changes to services or provision. The LA collaborates with school leads to design questions for school-led focus groups to collect pupils' views and feedback.
- Southwark's Information and Advisory Service (SIAS) team facilitates engagement with young people. The team has worked with a number of young people referred to as SEND Champions. This has included conducting a 'mystery shop' exercise during which the young people contacted different services on the LA Local Offer and provided feedback to the LA.

3. Appropriately managing demand for EHCPs – Sunderland

Sunderland launched SEND "ranges" in September 2019, which set out descriptions of types of need and likely required support, such as children and young people's likely education setting. The ranges provide a core framework for all professionals working with children and young people who have SEND. They provide clarity for parents and carers in terms of each child's needs and what support each child is receiving, and ensure all schools are consistent in their approach.

The ranges are a guide to SENCOs and schools to identify the needs of children early and to put in place the appropriate support. Each 'range' provides a description of the child or young person's needs and provides suggestions for interventions and the impact these have through provision-mapping. The provision mapping gives a detailed overview of the interventions set out in the ranges which have been put in place and the impact these have had, as well as the outcomes. The ranges were co-

produced with SEND colleagues in other authorities, incorporating parent and carer views.

The authority provided detailed training to schools and professionals to enhance skills around identifying needs, ensuring that children and young people with SEND are identified more quickly and their needs met within appropriate settings. Schools have also taken part in moderation activity to ensure consistent application. The authority also provided training to parents and carers and the relevant support groups. The SEND ranges are readily available on the authority's website.

4. Appropriately managing demand for EHCPs – Warrington

The characteristics of Warrington's SEND system include a focus on early intervention, a commitment to inclusion and the graduated response, with all developments planned through a co-production approach. In the period 2018-21, the total number of EHCPs in England rose by 34.6%. In Warrington, the rise was just 3.1%¹.

Warrington led a project, focusing on effective decision making around statutory assessments and issuing EHCPs. During this time, the LA was able to demonstrate tangible benefits throughout the trial period. There were 62 fewer requests for statutory assessment and the number of deferred cases also reduced to nil. The EHCP assessment panel's operating costs reduced by £24,779 in the trial period and changes to provision prevented £295,220 of additional spend and saved the council £46,256. Warrington have maintained a strong 20-week assessment rate of 86% in 2020, improving to 91.5% in April 21.

Warrington supported three other LAs in 2018 which then reduced their numbers of initial requests.

In Warrington, Early Years staff and health professionals are co-located in children's centres. The centres also have strong links with the neonatal unit at Warrington Hospital. In addition, an Early Years inclusion panel acts as a single point of entry for all early concerns. This often leads to early identification of children's needs and early support, through a co-ordinated multi-agency approach.

Effective staff training has led to schools and other education settings becoming increasingly adept at identifying whether needs relate to SEND. Warrington's Specialist Teacher Programme has supported 71% of pupils to remain in their current education setting. The area's schools have embraced the operating principle that "every school is a school for pupils with SEND, and every teacher is a teacher of

¹ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england>

SEND pupils”, supported by a clearly articulated graduated response to meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND. The outreach support from their special school and specialist teaching programme supporting children and young people with autism and social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) supports inclusion and the graduated response. Children’s needs are met through the universal offer, maintaining lower levels of requests for statutory assessment. Co-ordinated support from early help who work closely with SEND and early years has also promoted access to early intervention and prevents escalation of need.

The Warrington Parents and Carers group (WARRPAC) is valued by both parents and the LA. It provides a focal point for the local area’s work to co-produce services with parents and carers. The SEND strategy was co-produced by parents, carers and leaders. Parental involvement in decision making and parental satisfaction in Warrington are high, with many parents particularly appreciating the broad variety of support offered by special, mainstream, maintained and independent schools.’

Warrington is one of the department’s Sector Led Improvement Partners- providing help, support and training to other local authorities to provide both SEND and Children’s Social Care services.

5. Appropriately managing demand for EHCPs – Leeds

Leeds has historically tracked data and monitored high needs type, provision and spend. This allows the LA to react to trends much more quickly.

Leeds uses a mechanism called Funding for Inclusion (FFI) to support children and young people with high needs. This uses a set of criteria and provision mapped out in the FFI handbook, and settings are able to apply for this funding whether a child or young person has an EHCP or not. This means not all children and young people will need an EHCP, and the mechanism has had a significant impact in reducing the demand for statutory assessment processes.

A robust graduated approach is key to quality SEND practice. The LA works proactively with its SENCOs, teachers and practitioners to support children and young people within SEND support. SEND teams work in partnership with schools to deliver a core offer which supports and develops quality SEND and inclusive practice. A focus of the new SEND and Inclusion Strategy is to enhance skills and resilience of the workforce to identify needs and plan effectively, ensuring that children and young people are identified accurately and their needs met within appropriate settings.

The LA has a Special Educational Needs Statutory Assessment and Provision Team (SENSAP) who offer a range of services. Within the highly experienced team, the SEN casework advisers carefully monitor and quality assess the requests for EHCPs, ensuring children receive the right level of support to achieve their life aspirations. The SEN caseworkers work closely with schools and practitioners and provide tailored packages of support.

The LA works with SENCOs to keep an open dialogue with parents and carers. This ensures the right level of support is in place for the child or young person. SENCOs regularly review each child's progress with teachers, parents and carers. They make plans tailored to each child's needs, agreeing progress and milestones with extra support in place to measure progress. Plans are reviewed regularly, agreeing next steps, to enable better outcomes.

6. Early intervention focus – Barnsley

Barnsley has developed its SEND Improvement Plan to encourage partners to identify and meet needs of children and young people at the earliest possible stage, improving outcomes and reducing demand for high-cost specialist provision. Barnsley has an established SEND Oversight Board which oversees the delivery of the SEND Improvement plan. Key stakeholders on the board include representatives from mainstream schools, special schools, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and public health. This ensures that the highest level of challenge is applied to each judgement, fostering robust decision making.

Barnsley has worked with Barnsley Schools Alliance, which is a strategic partnership for improving the quality and learning standards of the borough. An Education Improvement Strategy was approved by the council in November 2019 to review and improve both early identification and assessment of needs alongside quality and inclusion within mainstream schools. The work of this partnership has enabled the council to issue fewer EHCPs than predicted.

This plan started with a review of the current procedures and in particular gained feedback from the children, young people and their families that were accessing SEND services.

The strategy sets out a holistic approach, providing opportunities for engagement and participation at all levels, making sure children, young people and their parents and carers are at the heart of discussions and decisions. The strategy has been developed by Barnsley Council and Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group, working with the SEND Youth Forum and SEND parents and carers to ensure their views are reflected.

The Children and Young People's SEND plan centres around increasing inclusion within mainstream and developing early intervention strategies. Both of these aim to properly support children and young people with additional needs within mainstream. The aim of this work is to support children, young people and their families, meeting their needs in mainstream, which will lead to a reduction in the demand for EHCP assessments.

Engagement and participation are achieved through building an alliance, to reach as many children, young people, parents and carers as possible. The process is value and outcome led: where a shared and common purpose, achieving the best for children and young people in the borough, is what drives and unites the partnership.

7. Increase SEN support offer – Cheshire East

Cheshire East created a Toolkit for SEND which is aimed at all educational providers and settings supporting Cheshire East children and young people aged 0-25 years.

It was developed with a number of interested stakeholders, including a team of SENCOs who were seconded into the LA SEND service to ensure that the concerns and issues felt on the ground were reflected and adequately addressed by the Toolkit. Alongside SENCOs, the Toolkit was co-produced with local post-16 representatives, parents and carers, and a wide range of specialist education, health and care services, ensuring a range of views were taken into account.

The Toolkit outlines the provision and support that is expected from all educational settings which support children and young people within the LA. The aim of this is to meet the needs of the child or young person at an earlier stage, ensuring that both the families and educational colleagues providing support are confident in the provision that is being made. This early identification and the strategies provided allow for a consistent graduated approach from Quality First Teaching right through to the more complex and specialist levels.

The Toolkit provides detailed guidance on how educational settings can identify children and young people with different types and levels of need, and information on appropriate steps and strategies to support them. It sets out a graduated response which empowers teachers and SENCOs to deliver best practice at a First Concerns /SEN Support level and beyond. It also gives information about when a request for an Education, Health and Care needs assessment, or specialist services, may be required.

Cheshire East has copywritten this package of support. The LA has sold this to other local authorities and provided support for other LAs to create their own.

8. Increase SEN support offer – The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham is working with its key partners and providers to deliver a strengthened speech, language and communications needs (SLCN) offer with a focus on early intervention and support. This will ensure children and young people get the right support at the right time, and only escalate through the EHCP process if necessary.

The SEN support offer will be strengthened through a range of activity. This will include developing the borough's mainstream school offer through the creation of an in-house team. The team will focus on early identification and intervention through a multi-disciplinary speech, language and communications service as a single 'front door' for children and young people.

By ensuring a consistent and accessible SEN support offer, Hammersmith and Fulham will address inequalities in access to intervention for children and young people with SLCN, as highlighted in its Local Area SEND inspection. The LA expects this work to increase the number of children and young people whose needs can be met and prevented from escalating without the need for an EHCP.

The LA will continue to work with parents and carers, the community and schools to ensure children and young people's needs are identified and can be met in a responsive and flexible service offer across both SEN support and through EHCPs.

9. EHCP assessment processes: plan cessation – The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has undertaken a review of its EHCPs to ensure that plans were relevant and fit for purpose. This review focused on ensuring that children and young people were achieving ambitious outcomes in provision that appropriately met their needs. It enabled the LA, in consultation with families, to cease plans where children and young people's needs could be met without the need for an EHCP. In particular, the LA focused on key transition points for children and young people, such as the transition into adulthood, linking closely with other agencies such as adult social care, the clinical commissioning group and local employers to increase local provision.

The review also identified the need to improve internal systems to strengthen the annual review process. As the legislation sets out, the annual review process for EHCPs will subsequently be used by the LA to ensure that plans are assessed for continued relevance. For many children and young people, effective support should enable their needs to be met and managed so that an EHCP is no longer required. This is reinforced through appropriate investment into the local SEN Support offer, and other work to support children and young people with SEND.

10. Culture change and work with school leaders – Thurrock

Thurrock, working in partnership with all educational providers, has managed to move to a position where the early years, schools, alternative provision provider, post-16 providers and Schools Forum recognise that there is a collective responsibility to meet the needs of the children and young people who require additional provision within the borough. Representatives from schools and colleges are brought in at every opportunity to share knowledge, information, and challenge where appropriate. Some examples of this include:

- Being open and transparent with the Schools Forum including reporting on the financial position and actions to manage the LA's deficit position. The Schools

Forum, chaired by the CEO of a Multi Academy Trust, is fully on board with the LA's plans to appropriately manage cost and provision within the borough.

- Thurrock has worked and continues to work to ensure parents of pupils with SEND feel supported. This includes holding regular meetings and structured opportunities to raise issues, listen to feedback and promote good news stories. Thurrock has a communication and pupil/student engagement strategy which sets out its offer, including both informal and formal feedback routes.
- The LA has invested in training to support schools to better understand and discharge its responsibilities to meet the needs of children at SEND support level. This includes providing training and advice, as well as having challenging conversations.
- A strong emphasis is placed on person-centred planning and ensuring that Thurrock is capturing the strengths of children and young people within their EHCPs.
- Peer-to-peer challenge at inclusion panels ensures robust decision making for children and young people that are being permanently excluded from schools and placed into alternative provision/new schools.

11. Appropriate and thorough provision mapping – Rotherham

In 2017 the Rotherham carried out a mapping exercise to gather a more detailed picture of where the pupils with EHCPs within the borough were being educated. The LA looked at population data to map and understand what type and where new provision was needed. This SEND sufficiency strategy was carried out over three phases.

The SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2017-19 (Phase 1) has resulted in the development of an additional 125 new places within special schools and inclusion units. These developments targeted reducing the numbers of children and young people being placed in expensive out-of-authority placements by meeting needs within the LA.

Phase 1 is now complete and all places are full. This was achieved by providing support to mainstream schools from a range of inclusion services, and from primary and secondary outreach teams specialising in SEMH and supporting children and young people with autistic spectrum conditions.

Phase 2 focused on meeting the needs of children through the creation of inclusion resource units linked to mainstream schools, as well as providing targeted investment to support children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) and increasing the number of post-16 places in the borough. This included 111 places in total across 10 schools. This work will include post-16 provision to ensure that pathways are in place to prepare young people for adulthood, including

independence, employment opportunities and both further and higher education provision. The SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2019 Phase 2 developed the use of SEND inclusion units within mainstream school settings to ensure that vulnerable pupils were able to access a mainstream curriculum but also receive high quality support, care and preparation for adulthood alongside this curriculum. This was specifically added into the plan due to the population data and projected growth over the next 10 years, which indicated a significant increase in the number of children and young people with autism, moderate learning difficulties and SEMH difficulties who will require additional support.

Phase 3 is underway and focuses on creating sufficiency for children with SEMH needs (where planning data shows there is evidence of significant growth).

The creation of additional in borough provision that matches the need of the LA has already led to savings in the high needs block, as in-borough placements cost on average £30k per annum less than out-of-authority placements.

Rotherham has annually reviewed its long-term sufficiency plan to ensure that it still meets the needs of the authority and ensuring that it takes into account the changing picture of demand.

The projected annual cost savings on the high needs budget of developing the SEN units on mainstream school and academy sites is estimated to be in the region of £1.5m (based on a cost saving of £30k per place per annum) through reduction in the number of high-cost placements. The savings have reduced, and will continue to reduce, pressures on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

12. Appropriate and thorough provision mapping – Thurrock

Thurrock has developed key messages for children and young people around key transition points, specifically around years 9, 11 and 13. The LA has provided a range of information brochures and held a series of events and activities to encourage participation at primary, secondary and post-16 levels. This is both to support children and young people to manage key transition points, and for the LA to listen to young people using SEN services about what they need as they prepare for adulthood.

The LA has focused on access to further/higher education and moving towards employment. Initiatives include:

- Working with local businesses and organisations to create voluntary and paid opportunities for young people, ensuring that they have had the opportunity to interact and engage with people in real workplace situations within their local community.
- Working with adult colleges to develop programmes that will enhance the essential

skills, wellbeing and personal development, employability and confidence of the young people. Similarly post-16 providers support SEND young people on tailored programmes.

- The LA has a Preparing for Adulthood team who support learners with SEND to access education, employment or training. These caseworkers provide high-quality career education, information, advice and guidance to young people and their parents and carers – individually and in groups. This enables them to make and implement effective decisions in the areas of learning, employment and personal development. They attend annual reviews for EHCPs and are able to give advice on appropriate pathways for the young people, ensuring the best possible outcomes.



Department
for Education

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Dedicated Schools Grant ‘Safety Valve’ Agreement: Rotherham

1. This agreement is between the Department for Education and Rotherham Local Authority, and covers the financial years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
2. The authority undertakes to reach a positive in-year balance on its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) account by the end of 2022-23 and in each subsequent year, with a minor dip into deficit in 2024-25 only. The authority undertakes to control and reduce the cumulative deficit as follows, not including any contribution made by the department through this agreement:

Year	Forecast DSG Deficit Profile at year end £m
2021-22	£22.0m
2022-23	£21.1m
2023-24	£18.6m
2024-25	£19.3m
2025-26	£18.9m

3. The authority agrees to implement the DSG management plan that it has set out. This includes action to:
 - 3.1. Reduce use of independent specialist provision outside of the LA by creating appropriate capacity within Rotherham’s high needs system, with a focus on ensuring provision is high quality and value for money;
 - 3.2. Improve Rotherham’s early intervention strategy, including through investment in outreach work;

- 3.3. Ensure appropriate use of provision and avoid escalation of children and young people's needs by, among other things, improving the governance around placement decisions;
 - 3.4. Review support services in Rotherham to ensure value for money is achieved;
 - 3.5. Increase the outreach offer for Social Emotional and Mental Health needs at primary and secondary;
 - 3.6. Increase the outreach offer for specialist SEND;
 - 3.7. Develop local sufficiency arrangements, including for Rotherham's Looked After Children;
 - 3.8. Drive mainstream schools to adopt inclusive practice to enable more children and young people to remain in mainstream settings where appropriate;
 - 3.9. Maintain engagement with stakeholders through strong and collaborative governance arrangements, such as ISOS partnership work, Schools Forum High Needs subgroup, primary and secondary head teachers.
4. The authority also agrees to ongoing monitoring of its performance in fulfilling this agreement. The authority will:
- 4.1. Report quarterly (as a minimum) in writing to the Department (Funding Policy Unit) on its progress towards implementing the plan as per the conditions set in paragraphs 2 and 3;
 - 4.2. The monitoring reports should include progress against the conditions of grant and a financial dashboard detailing various metrics relating to demand and cost. DfE will provide a template for this;
 - 4.3. Inform the Department (Funding Policy Unit) of any unforeseen difficulties or impacts of carrying out the agreement, or any significant risks to reaching the agreed financial position as soon as they arise;
 - 4.4. Meet with the Department at any time when the Department deems it necessary to discuss progress towards the agreement.

5. The Department agrees to pay to the authority an additional **£8.53 million** of DSG before the end of the financial year 2021-22. In subsequent financial years, subject to compliance with the conditions set out in paragraph 3, the Department will pay DSG sums as below. This funding will be provided in instalments and subject to continued satisfactory progress. Subject to full compliance, Rotherham should therefore eliminate their cumulative deficit no later than 2025-26.


Year	The Department agrees to pay to the authority an additional £m of DSG by year end
2021-22	£8.53m
2022-23	£3.00m
2023-24	£3.00m
2024-25	£3.00m
2025-26	£3.00m

6. The Department has also sent a commission relating to your local authority's capital plans for the creation of new places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or those requiring alternative provision (AP). It is critical that you are considering your revenue and capital plans holistically – in developing capital proposals, we fully expect local authorities to have a keen eye on the efficiencies that need to be made and how they can invest wisely to secure financially sustainable high needs systems.
7. As such, capital proposals will need to demonstrate how investment is aligned to, or further develops, the reform plans and savings outlined in this agreement. Proposals will need to focus on projects that can be delivered quickly to improve the local provision offer and meet identified gaps in local provision. The Department will assess and review proposals against set criteria which have been outlined in the commission. Subject to that assessment, the Department will consider making a capital contribution to these plans in 2022-23 as a top-up to the local authority's High Needs Provision Allocation (HNPCA), which will be announced in Spring. Progress against delivery of those capital plans should then be integrated into your quarterly reporting to the department as part of the monitoring of your agreement.

8. This agreement is subject to review at any time, for example as a result of the following events:
- 8.1. Higher or lower DSG formula funding levels for the authority in future financial years than those the authority has assumed;
 - 8.2. Significant changes to national SEND policy, for example as a result of the government SEND Review, which impact on elements of the plan;
 - 8.3. Insufficient progress being made towards the authority reaching and sustaining an in-year balance on its DSG account as set out in the plan;
 - 8.4. Whether Rotherham is awarded additional capital funding support following the capital application process. This will include any impact of the capital funding on Rotherham's ability to carry out its DSG management plan.

The review process will include an assessment of the impact of the change in circumstances.

On behalf of Rotherham Local Authority, Signed by:



Sharon Kemp - LA Chief Executive



Judith Badger – Strategic Director Finance & Customer Services (Section 151 Officer)



Suzanne Joyner – Director of Children and Young People's Services

On behalf of the Department for Education, Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'T' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Tom Goldman – Deputy Director, Funding Policy Unit

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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: Safety Valve intervention agreement – DfE / RMBC

Directorate: CYPS

Service area: Education and Inclusion

Lead person: Nathan Heath

Contact:
Nathan.heath@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

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

If other, please specify

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

RMBC application to enter in to a 'Safety Valve' agreement with DfE to provide funding to address Dedicated Schools Grant (High Needs Block) historic deficit budget position.

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?**

Equality and Diversity has been considered as the proposal to enter into a safety valve agreement will provide improved access to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) education provision and access to mainstream education.

- **Key findings**

Equality and Diversity has been kept under review as part of previous SEND sufficiency work linked to SEND sufficiency phases 1, 2 and 3 capital projects. The safety valve agreement will provide a continuation with SEND phases 4 and 5 to create additional capacity and improve access at identified sites.

- **Actions**

Following approval to enter into an agreement there will be a further period of stakeholder consultation aligned to the proposals to create additional SEND capacity and improve access.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	7.2.22
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	8.2.22
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Nathan Heath Assistant Director – Education and Inclusion

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 – Education and Inclusion	8.2.22
Julie Day	Head of Service - SEND	8.2.22
Dean Fenton	Head of Service – Access to Education	8.2.22

6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of all screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	7.2.22
Report title and date	Safety Valve intervention agreement
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	25.4.22 Cabinet
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	9.2.22

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: Safety Valve Intervention – agreement between RMBC and DfE	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 8.2.22	
Directorate: CYPS	Service area: Education and Inclusion
Lead Manager: Nathan Heath – Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion	Contact number:
Is this a: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, please specify	

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

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Nathan Heath	RMBC	Assistant Director – Education and Inclusion
Julie Day	RMBC	Head of Service - SEND
Dean Fenton	RMBC	Head of Service – Access to Education

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.)

Children and Young People with identified SEND needs.

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

Previous Equalities Impact Assessments (EIA) aligned to SEND sufficiency phases 1, 2 and 3 and EIA aligned to individual SEND capital projects and prescribed alterations to maintained schools.

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

None identified

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

Monitoring via CYPS SEND Board which is a multi-agency partnership.

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

Engagement with a range of stakeholders from 2017 to date to inform SEND phase 1, 2 and 3 sufficiency programmes, prescribed alterations to maintained special schools, development of the Written Statement of Action linked to the Ofsted / CQC inspection of SEND across the Rotherham partnership in July 2021 and development of the safety valve intervention submission to DfE.

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

Staff both within RMBC and wider partner agencies have been consulted in all above stated phases.

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)

Meets RMBC priority to ensure 'Every child able to fulfil their potential' by improving accessibility to schools and creating specialist provision aligned to mainstream education with dedicated resources to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

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

No – the proposals aim to improve the offer for children and Young People with identified SEND needs .

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

Yes – the proposals will provide a positive impact by improving accessibility to education and access to specialist educational resources. (inclusive of circa at least 150+ additional SEND places),

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

The proposals will have a positive impact on accessing the education and support offer for children with identified SEND needs by improving accessibility and creating specialist provision aligned to mainstream education.

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: Safety Valve Intervention – agreement between RMBC and DfE
Directorate and service area: CYPS
Lead Manager: Nathan Heath
Summary of findings:
By entering into a Safety Valve Intervention agreement, this will create a funding stream to improve the SEND offer and access to education for children and Young People with identified SEND needs.
There would be no adverse effects on any characteristics or groups of children and Young People as the proposal will enhance support and access for those with identified SEND needs.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Seek approval to enter into a Safety Valve Intervention agreement	A, D	April 2022
Consult stakeholders on proposals brought forward	A,D	April / May 2022
Report on capital investment projects – seeking approvals to commence as appropriate	A,D	July 2022
Commence capital project works programme	A,D	August 2022

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Nathan Heath	Assistant Director – Education and Inclusion	8.3.22
Julie Day	Head of Service – SEND	8.3.22
Dean Fenton	Head of Service – Access to Education	8.3.22
CYPS DLT		

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	8.3.22
Report title and date	
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?	Impact unknown	<p>Part of the Safety Valve agreement will provide capital funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve access and environment for pupils with disabilities across a number of schools create 10 SEND resource bases 	If the children are not able to attend provision in borough then they would have to attend provision elsewhere. However, existing SEND provision in borough is full and some schools have significant access issues. This will potentially increase emissions at the schools but not within the borough overall as the pupils would have to be accommodated elsewhere.	As part of the build programme to establish the additional capacity, energy saving measures will be reviewed.	Emissions and environmental impact will be considered as part of the build programme and monitored accordingly.
Emissions from transport?	Impact unknown	Proposals seek to increase the number of places available locally and improve access to ensure children can access local provision reducing the need for long transport journeys to other schools.	Being able to access education locally will reduce the potential impact of longer journeys to neighbouring schools further afield.	School travel journeys are reviewed and monitored by transport section aligned to the home to school transport policy.	<p>Transport to school arrangements are kept under review by the Corporate Transport Unit.</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring / assessment by Transport Unit.</p>
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Slight increase	There will be a slight increase to the amount of waste generated from the schools, as number of pupils increase in line with the revised capacity of resource units.	Waste at schools will increase slightly aligned to additional pupils on roll and their needs we do not anticipate waste increase across Rotherham as a whole to be significant.	Schools have 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?	Increase during build phase	RMBC Asset Management Service are project managing the build programmes of work which includes oversight of safe systems of work.	Environmental impact is considered as part of the planning and construction process and will be considered at that point. Asset management retain oversight during the build phase.	To be determined as part of the project plan and overseen by Asset Management.	Monitoring by contractor and Asset Management Service throughout the build programme.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No impact	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:					

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. Asset Management will oversee the build projects. Project will raise the emissions mostly for the Council due to rise in pupils attending the school, but overall a very minor increase in emissions from potential transport journey routes as pupils can access provision closer to home as opposed to having to travel further afield.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Dean Fenton Head of Service – 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]	Sam Blakeborough – 8 th March 2022

Work programme – Overview and Scrutiny Management Board UPDATED: 7 April 2022

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
16 June	Year Ahead Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board members are consulted and involved in the development of both the format and the contents of the new medium-term Council Plan. 3. That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board members receive regular updates, at a frequency and in a format to be determined, on performance against the objectives contained in the new medium-term Council Plan.
	Equality Annual Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board members are provided with the training and information to enable them to provide effective scrutiny and oversight of the equalities agenda at the Council in order to ensure the best equalities outcomes are obtained for both residents and Council employees.
	Finance Update	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That a further report be brought to the October 2021 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board regarding the allocation of Covid related business support grants.
	Town Centre Master plan Implementation	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board members are further consulted on the number, location and design of the public seating areas contained in the Town Centre Masterplan.

			3. That in addition to protecting established trees and replacing any unhealthy or dying trees, that consideration be given to increasing the overall number of trees in the Town Centre.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
14 July	Financial Outturn 2020/21	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 19 July.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	May 2021/22 Financial Monitoring	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 19 July.	<p>1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.</p> <p>2. That a report be presented at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that details how the changes that have been made to how the Council operates and provides services as a result of the pandemic have informed budget management procedures, and whether these changes to how the Council operates have highlighted any new opportunities where future budget savings could potentially be made.</p> <p>3. That further information on the budget processes and on the assumptions used to determine staffing budgets across all directorates be circulated to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.</p>
	Local Plan: Adoption of Heritage at Risk Strategy and Register	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 19 July.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
28 July	Grange Landfill	Resolved on 18 March that a further report on the latest situation surrounding the Grange Landfill be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in three months' time.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That a further report on the current situation regarding the Grange Landfill site be brought to the January 2022 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, or sooner if there are any significant changes regarding the issues relating to the sites operation. 3. That the Assistant Director, Community Safety and Streetscene liaises with the Leader of the Council, the Opposition Group Leaders and the Chief Executive on the potential to write a further letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting that they use their discretionary powers to either revoke the planning permission granted in 1958 for the Grange Landfill Site or to make a discontinuance order.
	Adult Care - restructure and pathway development	Resolved December 2020 to request an update in 6 months.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board liaise with the Strategic Director – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Assistant Director - Adult Social Care and Integration on the focus of a future report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on how the Adult Social Care service goes over and above statutory levels of service provision.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
15 September	Year Ahead Plan – Progress Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 September.	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

	July Financial Monitoring 2021/22	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 September.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That a report be circulated to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in order to provide members with information and assurance on the specific activities that are being carried out with, and by directorates in order to ensure the timely delivery of previously agreed budgetary savings.
	Community Infrastructure Levy Spending Protocol	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 September.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That further consideration be given to how all elected members can be consulted and engaged with regarding the allocation and prioritisation of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy funds. 3. That an all-member seminar be delivered in order to provide members with information on the Community Infrastructure Levy, Section106 agreements and on the new processes and protocols for the spending of both Strategic and Local Community Infrastructure Levy funds in their wards.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
13 October	TBC	MEETING CANCELLED	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
3 November 2021	Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report.	Annual item for the Board to receive the Safer Rotherham Annual Report in its role as the Council's Statutory Crime and Disorder Committee, as defined by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report 2020/21 be received and noted. 2. That members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board receive a briefing on the specific data in relation to the information regarding the priority areas for the Safer Rotherham Partnership in order gain further assurance around the activities being carried across the Safer Rotherham Partnership. 3. That the issues of Domestic Abuse and Modern Slavery be added to the Board's Work Programme.
	Covid Business Support Grants	Resolved 16 June that a further report be brought to the October 2021 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board regarding the allocation of Covid related business support grants.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the Strategic Director – Finance and Customer Services, the Assistant Director - Financial Services, the Head of Corporate Finance and all staff who have been involved in the administration of business support grants be thanked and commended for their work in supporting businesses across the Borough during the pandemic.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
17 November	November 2021/22 Financial Monitoring	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 22 November.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Mid-year Housing Development Update Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 22 November.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That members be consulted and invited to feed into the new local design guide with a view to ensuring new developments are better integrated aesthetically into the surrounding community. 3. That newcomers to the housing market be proactively invited to the housing developer summits.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
15 December	HRA Business Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 December	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Housing Rents	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 December	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Medium-Term Financial Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 December	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

	New Council Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 December	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board 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.
	Annual Complaints Report	Annual item	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the report be noted. 2) That officers give consideration to how the processes involved in how the Council deals with complaints and compliments be further improved in order to drive further improvements to the service for both residents and the Council. 3) That officers give consideration to amending the target for the numbers of complaints responded to within the target number of days in order make it more challenging and to drive further improvements to the service that residents receive.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
19 January	November Financial Monitoring	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 24 January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Cycling Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 24 January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That further consideration be given to how all residents across the Borough can be encouraged to start cycling and to cycle safely by providing facilities that enable residents to hire cycling equipment including cycles, cycle helmets and child seats. 3. That further consideration be given to how all residents across the Borough, and in particular families, can better access green spaces

			<p>by cycle in order to enable them to be able to cycle in a safe and traffic free environment.</p> <p>4. That Cabinet be advised that whilst the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supports the draft Cycling Strategy and notes the limitations of the funding that has been accessed that will enable the upgrade and expansion of cycling infrastructure, that consideration be given to how the Cycling Strategy can be developed further in order to make cycling accessible and appealing to all residents across the Borough.</p>
	Town and Villages Fund	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 24 January	<p>1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.</p> <p>2. That an all-member seminar be delivered on the Towns and Villages Fund.</p>
	Health Select Commission Report - -Findings from Spotlight Review on Rotherham Community Hub	To consider the report and recommendations	<p>1. That the report be noted.</p> <p>2. That the following recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and response: -</p> <p>a) That the excellent work of Rotherham Community Hub be commended, especially in respect of the befriending service which helped relieve loneliness and isolation throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>b) That Members be encouraged to add the Community Hub to their ward priorities and e-bulletins to better support vulnerable residents and families.</p> <p>c) Whereas the current Community Hub model is due to end in March 2022, should there be a further evolution of the Community Hub model, that an update be brought in 12 months' time.</p>

	Health Select Commission Report -Findings from Spotlight Review on Young Carers	To consider the report and recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and response: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) That action plans and performance matrix be supplied as part of the next update in 12 months' time. b) That a plan be developed to address the current data gap in respect of young carers who mature into adult carers, with a view to providing the best preparation possible and making this transition as seamless as possible for young carers who may continue to have caring responsibilities into adulthood. c) That consideration be given to how best to provide additional support to young carers seeking to access employment skills, education and training.
	Improving Places Select Commission -Findings from Spotlight Review on External Funding Sources	To consider the report and recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and response: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the ambition of the service in submitting bids be commended. b) That the feedback from the government regarding the Dinnington and Wath bids for Levelling Up Funds be circulated when available.

			<p>c) That the Governance Advisor liaise with the Regeneration Strategy team to coordinate upcoming scrutiny work on markets with a view to feeding into future bids involving markets.</p> <p>d) That efforts to ensure Rotherham receives its fair portion of gainshare or “single pot” funds from the Mayoral Combined Authority be noted.</p>
	<p>Improving Lives Select Commission</p> <p>-Findings from the review of post-CSE support</p>	<p>To consider the report and recommendations</p>	<p>1. That the report be noted, and the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet for consideration: -</p> <p>a) <i>That post-CSE services are transferred to the Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health directorate to enable the greater integration and coordination of support pathways that are available to adult victims of trauma as children.</i></p> <p>b) <i>That further work is undertaken with relevant partners and survivors to improve the ways in which survivors’ voices are captured to inform future reviews of post-abuse services (for example drawing on the research from Sheffield Hallam University, the development of voice and influence groups or other survivor’s forums).</i></p> <p>c) <i>That consideration is given to appropriate governance arrangements to enable elected members to provide a steer on the activity that is taking place within the Borough to stop CSE/CCE and support survivors.</i></p> <p>d) <i>That the Improving Lives Select Commission continue to monitor the provision of post-abuse support to survivors of CSE.</i></p> <p>e) <i>In relation to recommendations c) and d), that consideration is given how survivors’ voices to inform these processes.</i></p> <p>f) <i>To emphasise the shared responsibility of all elected members, that an annual training event/workshop is delivered. This is to ensure that all</i></p>

			<p><i>elected members are kept up to date with the activity within the Borough to protect young people from being at risk of harm from CSE/CCE and support adult survivors to move forwards in their lives.</i></p> <p><i>g) That the relevant Strategic Directors explore options for sharing best practice with other local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.</i></p> <p><i>h) Drawing on the good practice from Durham County Council, that consideration is given is given to the language used in the provision of post-CSE support to ensure that it is positive and inclusive of the needs of those accessing services.</i></p> <p>2 That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations be reported back to Council within two calendar months of its submission.</p>
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
27 January	Grange Landfill	Resolved on 28 July: That a further report on the current situation regarding the Grange Landfill site be brought to the January 2022 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, or sooner if there are any significant changes regarding the issues relating to the sites operation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That further update reports on the Grange Landfill site be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as and when there is a substantial change in the situation regarding the operation of the site or to any related issue. 3. That the Assistant Director, Community Safety and Streetscene liaises with Environment Agency to organise a site visit for all elected members to the Grange Landfill Site. 4. That the Assistant Director, Community Safety and Streetscene liaises with Environment Agency to discuss the possibility of holding a public meeting regarding the operation of the Grange Landfill site.

			<p>5. That the Assistant Director, Community Safety and Streetscene contacts the Environment Agency regarding the potential development of an “Improvement Plan” to be included within the Environmental Permit for the operation of the Grange Landfill Site regarding communication and engagement with local communities.</p>
	Adult Care Service Provision	<p>Resolved 28 July: That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board liaise with the Strategic Director – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Assistant Director - Adult Social Care and Integration on the focus of a future report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on how the Adult Social Care service goes over and above statutory levels of service provision.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the presentation “Adult Social Care – our model of delivery” be circulated to all elected members. 3. That consideration be given by the Acting Strategic Director Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Head of Democratic Services to delivering an all-member seminar on the model of delivery of Adult Social Care delivery in Rotherham.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
9 February	Budget and Council Tax 2022/23	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 14 February.	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	December 2021 Financial Monitoring	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 14 February	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Year Ahead Plan - Final Progress Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 14 February.	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
23 February	CANCELLED		

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
16 March 2022	Children's Commissioner Take Over Challenge	Annual Item	
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
23 March	Covid Recovery Fund	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 28 March.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That guidance is issued as soon as is practicable on the application process for community events.
	Social Value Annual Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 28 March.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That consideration be given to how the impact of the Social Value strategy is demonstrated in future annual reports. 3. That consideration is given to how businesses and voluntary/community organisations' contribution to 'social responsibility' is captured. 4. That a further report is submitted to OSMB in six months outlining mid-year position.
	Digital Strategy	Resolved February 2021 to bring an update in 12 months.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the current progress on the delivery of the Digital Strategy is noted. 2. That an update is provided to this committee on the strategy's progress in twelve months. 3. That clarification is provided by the Democratic Services Manager on the roll-out of hybrid technology for meetings of the Council.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
20 April	Rotherham Climate Emergency Annual Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 25 April.	
	Progress on implementation of IOPC report	To scrutinise South Yorkshire Police's progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Independent Office of Police Conduct in its report: <i>Operation Linden – Learning and Recommendations</i>	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
11 May	TBC	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 16 May.	
	Petition – Improve Road safety on Cumwell Lane	To consider the petition referred from Council 13 April 2022	
	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 25 April.	
	Annual Housing Development Report 2022/23	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 25 April.	

Items pending schedule or removal

Item	Details	Status	Officer
Rothercard		One off briefing to be scheduled	
Finance/Budget Setting	<p>Resolved at the 14 July meeting:</p> <p>That a report be presented at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that details how the changes that have been made to how the Council operates and provides services as a result of the pandemic have informed budget management procedures, and whether these changes to how the Council operates have highlighted any new opportunities where future budget savings could potentially be made.</p>	To request a briefing note	
Domestic Abuse	Resolved at the 3 November meeting to add to Work Programme.	To be scheduled as a one-off session Combined session with Modern Slavery	
Modern Slavery	Resolved at the 3 November meeting to add to Work Programme.	To be scheduled a one-off session Combined session with Domestic Abuse	
CYPS Performance monitoring	Workshop session on CYPS Performance monitoring	To be scheduled – Meetings with CYPS have taken place. To be delivered April 2022. Joint activity with ILSC	

CYPS Invest to Save	To scrutinise the impact of “Invest to Save” initiatives across CYPS	To be scheduled.	
Foodbank Provision	To scrutinise foodbank services across the Borough. Requested at the 9 February meeting.	To be scheduled.	
Adult Care Services Commissioning	To look in further detail the commissioning process for adult care services. Requested at the 9 February meeting.	Scope of work to be considered by Chair and Vice-Chair.	
Social Value -	6 month update. Requested at meeting of 23 March	October 2022	

Work programme – Overview and Scrutiny Management Board UPDATED: 7 April 2022

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
16 June	Year Ahead Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board members are consulted and involved in the development of both the format and the contents of the new medium-term Council Plan. 3. That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board members receive regular updates, at a frequency and in a format to be determined, on performance against the objectives contained in the new medium-term Council Plan.
	Equality Annual Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board members are provided with the training and information to enable them to provide effective scrutiny and oversight of the equalities agenda at the Council in order to ensure the best equalities outcomes are obtained for both residents and Council employees.
	Finance Update	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That a further report be brought to the October 2021 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board regarding the allocation of Covid related business support grants.
	Town Centre Master plan Implementation	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board members are further consulted on the number, location and design of the public seating areas contained in the Town Centre Masterplan.

			3. That in addition to protecting established trees and replacing any unhealthy or dying trees, that consideration be given to increasing the overall number of trees in the Town Centre.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
14 July	Financial Outturn 2020/21	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 19 July.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	May 2021/22 Financial Monitoring	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 19 July.	<p>1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.</p> <p>2. That a report be presented at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that details how the changes that have been made to how the Council operates and provides services as a result of the pandemic have informed budget management procedures, and whether these changes to how the Council operates have highlighted any new opportunities where future budget savings could potentially be made.</p> <p>3. That further information on the budget processes and on the assumptions used to determine staffing budgets across all directorates be circulated to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.</p>
	Local Plan: Adoption of Heritage at Risk Strategy and Register	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 19 July.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
28 July	Grange Landfill	Resolved on 18 March that a further report on the latest situation surrounding the Grange Landfill be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in three months' time.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That a further report on the current situation regarding the Grange Landfill site be brought to the January 2022 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, or sooner if there are any significant changes regarding the issues relating to the sites operation. 3. That the Assistant Director, Community Safety and Streetscene liaises with the Leader of the Council, the Opposition Group Leaders and the Chief Executive on the potential to write a further letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting that they use their discretionary powers to either revoke the planning permission granted in 1958 for the Grange Landfill Site or to make a discontinuance order.
	Adult Care - restructure and pathway development	Resolved December 2020 to request an update in 6 months.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board liaise with the Strategic Director – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Assistant Director - Adult Social Care and Integration on the focus of a future report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on how the Adult Social Care service goes over and above statutory levels of service provision.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
15 September	Year Ahead Plan – Progress Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 September.	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

	July Financial Monitoring 2021/22	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 September.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That a report be circulated to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in order to provide members with information and assurance on the specific activities that are being carried out with, and by directorates in order to ensure the timely delivery of previously agreed budgetary savings.
	Community Infrastructure Levy Spending Protocol	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 September.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That further consideration be given to how all elected members can be consulted and engaged with regarding the allocation and prioritisation of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy funds. 3. That an all-member seminar be delivered in order to provide members with information on the Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 106 agreements and on the new processes and protocols for the spending of both Strategic and Local Community Infrastructure Levy funds in their wards.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
13 October	TBC	MEETING CANCELLED	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
3 November 2021	Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report.	Annual item for the Board to receive the Safer Rotherham Annual Report in its role as the Council's Statutory Crime and Disorder Committee, as defined by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report 2020/21 be received and noted. 2. That members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board receive a briefing on the specific data in relation to the information regarding the priority areas for the Safer Rotherham Partnership in order gain further assurance around the activities being carried across the Safer Rotherham Partnership. 3. That the issues of Domestic Abuse and Modern Slavery be added to the Board's Work Programme.
	Covid Business Support Grants	Resolved 16 June that a further report be brought to the October 2021 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board regarding the allocation of Covid related business support grants.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the Strategic Director – Finance and Customer Services, the Assistant Director - Financial Services, the Head of Corporate Finance and all staff who have been involved in the administration of business support grants be thanked and commended for their work in supporting businesses across the Borough during the pandemic.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
17 November	November 2021/22 Financial Monitoring	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 22 November.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Mid-year Housing Development Update Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 22 November.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That members be consulted and invited to feed into the new local design guide with a view to ensuring new developments are better integrated aesthetically into the surrounding community. 3. That newcomers to the housing market be proactively invited to the housing developer summits.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
15 December	HRA Business Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 December	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Housing Rents	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 December	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Medium-Term Financial Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 December	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

	New Council Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 December	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board 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.
	Annual Complaints Report	Annual item	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the report be noted. 2) That officers give consideration to how the processes involved in how the Council deals with complaints and compliments be further improved in order to drive further improvements to the service for both residents and the Council. 3) That officers give consideration to amending the target for the numbers of complaints responded to within the target number of days in order make it more challenging and to drive further improvements to the service that residents receive.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
19 January	November Financial Monitoring	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 24 January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Cycling Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 24 January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That further consideration be given to how all residents across the Borough can be encouraged to start cycling and to cycle safely by providing facilities that enable residents to hire cycling equipment including cycles, cycle helmets and child seats. 3. That further consideration be given to how all residents across the Borough, and in particular families, can better access green spaces

			<p>by cycle in order to enable them to be able to cycle in a safe and traffic free environment.</p> <p>4. That Cabinet be advised that whilst the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supports the draft Cycling Strategy and notes the limitations of the funding that has been accessed that will enable the upgrade and expansion of cycling infrastructure, that consideration be given to how the Cycling Strategy can be developed further in order to make cycling accessible and appealing to all residents across the Borough.</p>
	Town and Villages Fund	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 24 January	<p>1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.</p> <p>2. That an all-member seminar be delivered on the Towns and Villages Fund.</p>
	Health Select Commission Report - -Findings from Spotlight Review on Rotherham Community Hub	To consider the report and recommendations	<p>1. That the report be noted.</p> <p>2. That the following recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and response: -</p> <p>a) That the excellent work of Rotherham Community Hub be commended, especially in respect of the befriending service which helped relieve loneliness and isolation throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>b) That Members be encouraged to add the Community Hub to their ward priorities and e-bulletins to better support vulnerable residents and families.</p> <p>c) Whereas the current Community Hub model is due to end in March 2022, should there be a further evolution of the Community Hub model, that an update be brought in 12 months' time.</p>

	Health Select Commission Report -Findings from Spotlight Review on Young Carers	To consider the report and recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and response: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) That action plans and performance matrix be supplied as part of the next update in 12 months' time. b) That a plan be developed to address the current data gap in respect of young carers who mature into adult carers, with a view to providing the best preparation possible and making this transition as seamless as possible for young carers who may continue to have caring responsibilities into adulthood. c) That consideration be given to how best to provide additional support to young carers seeking to access employment skills, education and training.
	Improving Places Select Commission -Findings from Spotlight Review on External Funding Sources	To consider the report and recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and response: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the ambition of the service in submitting bids be commended. b) That the feedback from the government regarding the Dinnington and Wath bids for Levelling Up Funds be circulated when available.

			<p>c) That the Governance Advisor liaise with the Regeneration Strategy team to coordinate upcoming scrutiny work on markets with a view to feeding into future bids involving markets.</p> <p>d) That efforts to ensure Rotherham receives its fair portion of gainshare or “single pot” funds from the Mayoral Combined Authority be noted.</p>
	<p>Improving Lives Select Commission</p> <p>-Findings from the review of post-CSE support</p>	<p>To consider the report and recommendations</p>	<p>1. That the report be noted, and the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet for consideration: -</p> <p>a) <i>That post-CSE services are transferred to the Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health directorate to enable the greater integration and coordination of support pathways that are available to adult victims of trauma as children.</i></p> <p>b) <i>That further work is undertaken with relevant partners and survivors to improve the ways in which survivors’ voices are captured to inform future reviews of post-abuse services (for example drawing on the research from Sheffield Hallam University, the development of voice and influence groups or other survivor’s forums).</i></p> <p>c) <i>That consideration is given to appropriate governance arrangements to enable elected members to provide a steer on the activity that is taking place within the Borough to stop CSE/CCE and support survivors.</i></p> <p>d) <i>That the Improving Lives Select Commission continue to monitor the provision of post-abuse support to survivors of CSE.</i></p> <p>e) <i>In relation to recommendations c) and d), that consideration is given how survivors’ voices to inform these processes.</i></p> <p>f) <i>To emphasise the shared responsibility of all elected members, that an annual training event/workshop is delivered. This is to ensure that all</i></p>

			<p><i>elected members are kept up to date with the activity within the Borough to protect young people from being at risk of harm from CSE/CCE and support adult survivors to move forwards in their lives.</i></p> <p><i>g) That the relevant Strategic Directors explore options for sharing best practice with other local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.</i></p> <p><i>h) Drawing on the good practice from Durham County Council, that consideration is given is given to the language used in the provision of post-CSE support to ensure that it is positive and inclusive of the needs of those accessing services.</i></p> <p>2 That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations be reported back to Council within two calendar months of its submission.</p>
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
27 January	Grange Landfill	Resolved on 28 July: That a further report on the current situation regarding the Grange Landfill site be brought to the January 2022 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, or sooner if there are any significant changes regarding the issues relating to the sites operation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That further update reports on the Grange Landfill site be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as and when there is a substantial change in the situation regarding the operation of the site or to any related issue. 3. That the Assistant Director, Community Safety and Streetscene liaises with Environment Agency to organise a site visit for all elected members to the Grange Landfill Site. 4. That the Assistant Director, Community Safety and Streetscene liaises with Environment Agency to discuss the possibility of holding a public meeting regarding the operation of the Grange Landfill site.

			<p>5. That the Assistant Director, Community Safety and Streetscene contacts the Environment Agency regarding the potential development of an “Improvement Plan” to be included within the Environmental Permit for the operation of the Grange Landfill Site regarding communication and engagement with local communities.</p>
	Adult Care Service Provision	<p>Resolved 28 July: That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board liaise with the Strategic Director – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Assistant Director - Adult Social Care and Integration on the focus of a future report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on how the Adult Social Care service goes over and above statutory levels of service provision.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the presentation “Adult Social Care – our model of delivery” be circulated to all elected members. 3. That consideration be given by the Acting Strategic Director Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Head of Democratic Services to delivering an all-member seminar on the model of delivery of Adult Social Care delivery in Rotherham.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
9 February	Budget and Council Tax 2022/23	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 14 February.	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	December 2021 Financial Monitoring	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 14 February	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Year Ahead Plan - Final Progress Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 14 February.	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
23 February	CANCELLED		

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
16 March 2022	Children's Commissioner Take Over Challenge	Annual Item	
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
23 March	Covid Recovery Fund	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 28 March.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That guidance is issued as soon as is practicable on the application process for community events.
	Social Value Annual Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 28 March.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That consideration be given to how the impact of the Social Value strategy is demonstrated in future annual reports. 3. That consideration is given to how businesses and voluntary/community organisations' contribution to 'social responsibility' is captured. 4. That a further report is submitted to OSMB in six months outlining mid-year position.
	Digital Strategy	Resolved February 2021 to bring an update in 12 months.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the current progress on the delivery of the Digital Strategy is noted. 2. That an update is provided to this committee on the strategy's progress in twelve months. 3. That clarification is provided by the Democratic Services Manager on the roll-out of hybrid technology for meetings of the Council.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
20 April	Rotherham Climate Emergency Annual Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 25 April.	
	Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block Safety Valve Programme	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 25 April.	
	Progress on implementation of IOPC report	To scrutinise South Yorkshire Police's progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Independent Office of Police Conduct in its report: <i>Operation Linden – Learning and Recommendations</i>	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
11 May	TBC	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 16 May.	
	Petition – Improve Road safety on Cumwell Lane	To consider the petition referred from Council 13 April 2022	
	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 25 April.	
	Annual Housing Development Report 2022/23	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 25 April.	

Items pending schedule or removal

Item	Details	Status	Officer
Rothercard		One off briefing to be scheduled	
Finance/Budget Setting	<p>Resolved at the 14 July meeting:</p> <p>That a report be presented at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that details how the changes that have been made to how the Council operates and provides services as a result of the pandemic have informed budget management procedures, and whether these changes to how the Council operates have highlighted any new opportunities where future budget savings could potentially be made.</p>	To request a briefing note	
Domestic Abuse	Resolved at the 3 November meeting to add to Work Programme.	To be scheduled as a one-off session Combined session with Modern Slavery	
Modern Slavery	Resolved at the 3 November meeting to add to Work Programme.	To be scheduled a one-off session Combined session with Domestic Abuse	
CYPS Performance monitoring	Workshop session on CYPS Performance monitoring	To be scheduled – Meetings with CYPS have taken place. To be delivered April 2022. Joint activity with ILSC	

CYPS Invest to Save	To scrutinise the impact of “Invest to Save” initiatives across CYPS	To be scheduled.	
Foodbank Provision	To scrutinise foodbank services across the Borough. Requested at the 9 February meeting.	To be scheduled.	
Adult Care Services Commissioning	To look in further detail the commissioning process for adult care services. Requested at the 9 February meeting.	Scope of work to be considered by Chair and Vice-Chair.	
Social Value -	6 month update. Requested at meeting of 23 March	October 2022	

Updated: 8 April 2022

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022

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

Contact Information:-

Democratic Services
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

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

What is the Forward Plan?

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

What is a Key Decision?

A Key Decision is one which is likely to:-

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

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

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The plan gives information about:

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

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Authority's Constitution, Key Decisions are taken by the Cabinet. Key Decisions are taken at public meetings of the Cabinet. The Cabinet meets once a month on a Monday at 10.00am at Rotherham Town Hall. Meeting dates for 2021/22 are:

21 June 2021	20 September 2021	22 November 2021	24 January 2022	28 March 2022	16 May 2022
19 July 2021	18 October 2021	20 December 2021	14 February 2022	25 April 2022	

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

Names of contact officers are included in the Plan.

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

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

Councillor Chris Read	Leader of the Council
Councillor Sarah Allen	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working
Councillor Saghir Alam	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance
Councillor Dominic Beck	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Councillor Amy Brookes	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Victoria Cusworth	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Councillor Denise Lelliott	Cabinet Member for Jobs and Local Economy
Councillor David Roche	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor David Sheppard	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 25 APRIL 2022								
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
First Homes: Interim Planning Statement	February 2022	To approve an Interim Planning Statement that applies local eligibility criteria to First Homes.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and Appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Rotherham Climate Emergency Annual Report	February 2022	To note the progress made during 2021/22 against the Climate Change Action Plan.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Housing Act - Banning Order	March 2022	To agree a new Policy for use of Banning Order Powers contained within the Housing Act.	Cabinet Member for Housing	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and Appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Hackney Carriage Tariff	March 2022	To agree to the requested increase in fares charged by Hackney Carriages licensed by the Council.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and Appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 25 APRIL 2022								
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE								
Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block Safety Valve Programme	March 2022	To report the outcomes from the Government's National Safety Valve Programme.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 16 MAY 2022								
ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH								
Housing Strategy	March 2022	To approve the new Housing Strategy.	Cabinet Member for Housing	Cabinet Member, Members, residents, partners, staff.	Report	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
Public Health, Healthy Lifestyle Services Pathway	March 2022	To agree the future model for healthy lifestyle service delivery and the NHS health checks programme and recommissioning of future service.	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Public and potential service users on the offer and Primary Care and other NHS Providers on the pathway.	Report	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
Annual Housing Development Report 2022-23	March 2022	To approve the 2022/23 annual housing development programme.	Cabinet Member for Housing	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE								
Household Support Fund	March 2022	Allocation of Government grant funding for tackling hardship.	Leader of the Council	Council service providers / partners.	Report	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy	July 2021	Approval of the Council's new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, underpinning the new Council Plan. Also includes approval of new statutory Equality Objectives.	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance	Members, partner organisations, VCS and faith organisations through targeted consultation and the general public through open consultation.	Report and appendix	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
Town Deal and Levelling Up fund approvals	November 2021	Note the successful bids for TF and LUF and the progress made to date; to agree to the implementation of the schemes within the TF and LUF programmes and to note the assurance framework the Council will follow to approve project business cases.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and Exempt Appendices	All Wards	Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Transport Capital Report 2022-23	February 2022	Approval of the Transport Capital Programme for 2022/23.	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and Appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
Strategic Management and Maintenance of Rotherham's Highways 2022/23	April 2022	Approval for the Strategic Management and Maintenance of Rotherham's Highways 2022-23 and to note the programme of works	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report with Exempt Appendices	All Wards	Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 16 MAY 2022								
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE								
Cabinet Response to the Outcomes from the Sub-Group on Post CSE Support Services	April 2022	To approve the Cabinet response to the Outcomes from the Sub-Group on Post CSE Support Services.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 20 JUNE 2022 OR LATER								
NONE.								
NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 20 JUNE 2022 OR LATER								
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE								
First Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan performance/progress report - Q4 Performance	April 2022	To report baseline performance for 2021/22 and progress made against the Year Ahead Delivery Plan since January 2022.	Leader of the Council	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
Appointment of Councillors to serve on Outside Bodies	April 2022	That the Cabinet agrees that Councillors be appointed to serve on Outside Bodies, as detailed on the schedule.	Leader of the Council	Relevant Members.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
Cabinet Response to the Outcomes from the Sub-Group on Rotherham Community Hub	April 2022	To approve the Cabinet response to the Outcomes from the Sub-Group on Rotherham Community Hub.	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES								
Cabinet Response to the Outcomes from the Sub-Group on Support for Young Carers	April 2022	To approve the Cabinet response to the Outcomes from the Sub-Group on Support for Young Carers.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
BT proposal to permanently remove the public phone box at the junction of Wensleydale and Teesdale Road, Rotherham	April 2022	To note the officer delegated decision regarding the request from BT to remove the phone box.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, officers and stakeholders, with public consultation on Council website.	Report	Greasbrough	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Rotherham Local Heritage List	April 2022	To approve the designation of certain buildings and sites in Rotherham as "locally listed", following their identification and assessment in the pilot phase of the South Yorkshire Local Heritage List project.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders, with public consultation via the South Yorkshire Local Heritage List website.	Report	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Cabinet Response to the Outcomes from the Sub-Group on External Funding	April 2022	To approve the Cabinet response to the Outcomes from the Sub-Group on External Funding.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								
New Applications for Business Rates Relief	November 2021	To consider the recommendation for a new application for Business Rates discretionary relief.	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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

PART 2
QUALIFICATIONS: ENGLAND

Paragraphs 1-8 repealed.

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

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

Confidential information means –

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

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