



# Council

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**Wednesday 12 January 2022**  
**2.00 p.m.**

# WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

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## GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## FACILITIES

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

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

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

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

Date of Publication:- **4<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**

# COUNCIL

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Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

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

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sharon Kemp)

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## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

### ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

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

### ASTON AND TODWICK

BACON, Joshua  
BARKER, Aaron

### AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST

PITCHLEY, Lyndsay  
TAYLOR, Robert Paul

### BOSTON CASTLE

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

### BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD

MILLS, Lewis H.M.  
REYNOLDS, Gregory

### BRINSWORTH

CARTER, Adam J.  
CARTER, Charlotte R.

### DALTON AND THRYBERGH

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

### DINNINGTON

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

### GREASBROUGH

ALLEN, Sarah A.  
ELLIOTT, Robert W.

### HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST

ANDREWS, Jenny  
BALL, Simon A.

### HOOBER

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

### KEPPEL

BROWNE, Tony  
CLARK, Maggi  
HAGUE, Paul

### KILNHURST AND SWINTON (EAST)

CUSWORTH, Victoria  
SANSOME, Stuart J.

### MALTBY EAST

HUNTER, Lee J.  
TINSLEY, Adam J.

### RAWMARSH EAST

HUGHES, Rachel E.M.  
SHEPPARD, David

### RAWMARSH WEST

BIRD, Bob  
THOMPSON, Jill

### ROTHER VALE

BROOKES, Amy C.  
MIRO, Firas

### ROTHERHAM EAST

COOKSEY, Wendy  
HALEEM, Rukhsana B.  
KHAN, Tajamal

### ROTHERHAM WEST

AVEYARD, Ben  
JONES, Ian P.  
KEENAN, Eve

### SITWELL

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

### SWINTON ROCKINGHAM

MONK, Gina  
WYATT, Ken

### THURCROFT & WICKERSLEY

COLLINGHAM, Zachary A.  
SINGLETON, Thomas R.

### WALES

BECK, Dominic E.  
HAVARD, Marnie A.

### WATH

ATKIN, Alan  
COWEN, Sheila A.

### WICKERSLEY NORTH

ELLIS, Sue  
HODDINOTT, Emma E.  
READ, Chris

# Council Meeting Agenda

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**Time and Date:-**

Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

**Venue:-**

Magna, Magna Way, Rotherham. S60 1TD

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**1. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 14 - 41)**

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, and to approve the accuracy thereof.

**5. PETITIONS**

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

**6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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



leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

**7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

To receive questions from members of the public who may wish to ask a general question of the Mayor, Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

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

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

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

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

**10. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS (Pages 42 - 59)**

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

**11. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - HRA BUSINESS PLAN 2022-23 (Pages 60 - 84)**

To consider the proposed 2022-23 Base Case Option 1 for the HRA Business Plan.

**12. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RENTS AND SERVICE CHARGES 2022-23 (Pages 85 - 103)**

To consider and approve the Housing Revenue Account Rents and Service Charges 2022-23.

**13. COUNCIL PLAN 2022-2025 AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN (Pages 104 - 222)**

To consider the Council Plan 2022-2025 and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan.

**14. FREEMAN TO THE BOROUGH NOMINATION (Pages 223 - 227)**

To consider a nomination to create an Honorary Freeman to the Borough.

**15. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS (Pages 228 - 234)**

To inform Council of amendments to the nomination of Members to serve on Committees, Boards and Panels.

**16. EXTERNAL AUDIT RE-PROCUREMENT (Pages 235 - 240)**

To consider the recommendation to opt-in to the PSAA re-procurement of the external audit function.

**17. NOTICE OF MOTION - HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

This Council recognises:-

- The significant impact the Coronavirus pandemic has had on the country and the world.
- The excellent work of health and social care workers, especially during these unprecedented times.

This Council notes:-

- The under-funding of the NHS.
- The failure to train enough doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals for future careers in the NHS, and increased pressures pushing large numbers of experienced senior healthcare workers into early retirement.
- That in the context of a pandemic, the latest nationwide wholesale introduction of Integrated Care Systems (ICS) is poorly timed.
- The latest plans revert to a structure that was in place over a decade ago.
- That a postcode lottery on specialised services (such as IVF treatment) has sadly emerged throughout the country.
- That regular reorganisation of NHS services at the whim of the Health Secretary of the day harms good patient care.
- That arbitrary Government target-setting, diktats, and regulatory changes create a culture of instability, which can result in worse outcomes for patients.
- That a progressive reduction in inpatient beds has left the country ill-equipped to deal with current pressures and this has resulted in record waiting times to access essential services, including Emergency Departments across the region.
- That it can make improvements to the commissioning and delivery of high-quality social care.
- The systematic undervaluing and underpaying of social care workers and that there are no new funding proposals for existing pressures.

- That the Government's new health and social care levy proposes no new funding towards existing funding pressures, demographic growth or inflation, with the expectation that these will be funded by council tax, social care precept and efficiencies.
- That the Government has failed to take account of the impact of their social care proposals on employee and provider costs.

Therefore this Council resolves:-

- To review the commissioning of social care services within the Borough at the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Board within three months, placing particular focus on its intermediate care, respite care and locality-based providers of home care.
- To review the working conditions of social care providers in the Borough, with the aspiration that all social care staff in the Borough are paid a fair wage.
- To improve communication and collaboration with health and social care providers and focus on providing a comprehensive community hospital that focuses on rehabilitation and easing hospital bed pressures.

This Council also resolves to request that the Government:-

- Delays the proposed introduction of the ICS by two years, given the current pressures of the pandemic.
- Better addresses existing funding pressures, demographic growth and inflation within the new health and social care levy.
- Remove the punitive tax structures which force experienced health professionals into early retirement, to incentivise these health professionals to remain within the service.
- Removes immigration barriers from healthcare professionals from the European Union.
- Increase the number of healthcare professionals being trained within the country.
- Incentivise those taking healthcare degrees by improving the grant and bursary packages to make studying these courses more affordable.
- Better recognises comparative qualifications from abroad with established healthcare education, such as Australia, Singapore, and Canada.

Mover:- Councillor Miro

Seconder:- Councillor Tarmey

## **18. NOTICE OF MOTION - BETTER BUSES FOR ROTHERHAM**

That this Council:-

- a. Notes that the extent of the South Yorkshire bus network has been cut by over 12 million kilometres since 2014 and understands that Rotherham residents on the lowest incomes have been therefore been deprived of travel opportunities for the purposes of education, employment and social contact with their families.

- b. Notes the regional imbalances in funding for public transport services which prioritise the South of England and believes these to be unacceptable.
- c. Believes that a good public transport system should run where people need it, when people need it and at a price that is affordable.
- d. Understands that the Government's impact assessment of the *Bus Service Act* (2017) highlighted that public control would better address six out of seven Local Transport Authority objectives compared to an enhanced partnership and was the only method likely to deliver a "significant increase in patronage".
- e. Welcomes the outcomes of the *South Yorkshire Bus Review* (2020), including the recommendation to immediately explore the legal and financial aspects of franchising in South Yorkshire.
- f. Believes that the Mayor of South Yorkshire must exercise powers to bring bus services back under local control (via franchising), at the earliest practicable date, and central government must do more to provide significant funding to revitalise local transport in the North.
- g. Acknowledges that the costs of franchising cannot be estimated accurately until a "notice of intent" has been released and the associated statutory powers to access bus operators' commercial data employed.

**Therefore, this Council requests that the Administration:-**

- (i) Inform the South Yorkshire Combined Authority of its support for conducting a statutory assessment of franchising at the earliest possible opportunity in 2022.
- (ii) Request a Combined Authority vote to release a notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment within 6 months.

Mover:- Councillor Tarmey

Seconder:- Councillor A. Carter

**19. NOTICE OF MOTION - CURRENT CONCERNS OVER THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE RESPONSE TO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

This Council notes:-

- On 23rd November 2021, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) published a report titled 'Operation Linden – Learning and Recommendations' in which it compared complaints around South Yorkshire Police's (SYP) handling of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) cases in Rotherham between 1997 and 2013 to current practice, highlighted a number of continuing problems in SYP's handling of CSE investigations, and made a series of recommendations to SYP.

- The IOPC said *“there is more work to be done to build on and maintain the knowledge and skills of South Yorkshire Police officers and staff”* and recommended *“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.”*
- The IOPC also pointed to a 2014 inspection of SYP police which found *“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”* and noted that a 2020 re-inspection found *“significant under-recording of crimes committed against vulnerable children.”* As a result, in its November 2021 report the IOPC recommended that: *“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.”*
- The IOPC report highlighted continuing failings in the way SYP deals with victims of child sexual exploitation, including noting a lack of monitoring of compliance with The Victims’ Code, failing to regularly update victims on progress in contravention of SYP’s own policies, and a lack of understanding of the role of local independent sexual violence advisors (ISVAs) in supporting victims. As a result, the IOPC made a series of recommendations for SYP to:-
  - *“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.”*
  - *“take steps to ensure that victims are regularly updated, and at least once every 28 days, in line with expectations.”*
  - And *“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.”*
- In addition to these recommendations, the IOPC report contained a series of concerning statements, including:-
  - *“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.”*

- *“Additionally, the ISVA service manager told us that although they had seen some improvement in 2015-16, there had been some deterioration since then.”*
- In an article published on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 on the IOPC’s website introducing the ‘Operation Linden – Learning and Recommendations’ report, IOPC Director of Major Investigations, Steve Noonan said: *“Survivors of abuse will no doubt be deeply concerned, as are we, that some of these problems still exist today and we urge the police to act on these recommendations urgently to provide much needed reassurance to the public.”*

This Council also notes:-

- On 30th December 2021, *The Times* published an article titled ‘Rotherham grooming scandal: Priti Patel says police must record ethnicity of child abuse suspects’, containing information taken from SYP’s internal document ‘Child Exploitation Strategic Profile’, from December 2019.
- According to *The Times*, the newspaper had originally requested a copy of the strategic profile in August 2020 under a Freedom of Information request and had been denied. Following appeals to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO), SYP was forced to share the profile.
- *The Times* also reports that: *“The force admitted in internal emails that it was trying to block disclosure, freedom of information requests show. One officer said: “I think we need to stick to our guns as to do anything else would create an unwelcome precedent”.*
- SYP’s own Child Exploitation Strategic Profile contains concerning admissions that SYP:-
  - Failed to record the ethnicity of suspects in 67% of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) non-cyber enabled cases in the Rotherham District in 2019, with this being worse than Doncaster (54%), Sheffield (52%), and Barnsley (47%).
  - Saw a 30% reduction in CSE offences reported despite a rising national trend. The report said: *“It is difficult to ascertain the reason why offending has reduced. However, PVP are dealing with competing demands with CCE, which in turn may have led to a reduction in proactively identifying CSE.”*
  - Did not have access to a series of data/information that may indicate that a child or young person is being exploited. These indicators included: children who have attended sexual health clinics with sexually transmitted infections, children requesting contraception at

an early age, pregnancy or requesting terminations, children absent from school, children excluded from education, and children displaying sexually inappropriate behaviour.

- Identifies children repeatedly missing from home as a possible indicator of CSE, but says that: *"Currently the Missing from Home System is impacting on the Force's ability to deal with missing persons effectively as analytical opportunities are limited."*
- Identified Rotherham as a 'hotspot' for Child Sexual Exploitation in December 2019. The report states: *"Rotherham continues to be a 'hotspot' for CSE offending in South Yorkshire."*

This Council, therefore, resolves to:-

- Regularly monitor South Yorkshire Police's progress against recommendations made by the IOPC in its November 2021 report, with scrutiny arrangements to be determined by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as a matter of urgency.
- Ask the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to give consideration to including scrutiny of the issues raised in South Yorkshire Police's 2019 Child Exploitation Strategic Profile and by *The Times'* investigation in the above scrutiny arrangements.
- Ask the Leader of the Council and other Group Leaders to, individually or collectively, write to South Yorkshire Police Chief Constable Lauren Poultney and South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Dr Alan Billings:-
  - Expressing concerns in line with the IOPC that *"despite multiple reports and recommendations, there are still areas of concern"* in the way South Yorkshire Police handles CSE investigations;
  - Calling for urgent action to fully adopt all of the IOPC's recommendations and for SYP to cooperate with this Council's scrutiny arrangements to monitor progress; and
  - Urging the force to be more transparent with members of the public and press, including readily complying with Freedom of Information requests and establishing a regular publishing schedule of materials related to Child Sexual Exploitation and other matters – including publishing updates to the Child Exploitation Strategic Profile as they are produced internally – in order to avoid a repeat of the circumstances leading up to the article published by *The Times* referenced in this motion.

Mover:- Councillor Barley

Seconder: Councillor Baum-Dixon

**20. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE (Pages 241 - 242)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**21. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 243 - 252)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**22. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (Pages 253 - 259)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**23. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 260 - 266)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**24. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE AND LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 267 - 272)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

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

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




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

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

**27. URGENT ITEMS**

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Kemp." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**SHARON KEMP,**  
Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on  
2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022 at 2.00 p.m.**

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**10th November, 2021**

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

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

**66. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor was sad to learn of the passing of former Consort, Kingsley Jack, last month and would be attending the funeral later this month. Kingsley was Consort between May 2005 and 2006. The Council's condolences go out to his family.

The Mayor also confirmed she was keeping the venue for the next Council meeting under review along with any mitigations required in any return to the Council Chamber. Rotherham Covid case rates continued to be the highest in South Yorkshire and, therefore, it was necessary to continue to monitor the situation ahead of any decision being taken. Apologies were given to Members who felt they were being inconvenienced by the current arrangements for Council, but it was a matter of safety.

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

- Attendance on 30th September for the Queen's Award for Innovation Presentation by the Lord Lieutenant to the Marsden Weighing Machine Group for their revolutionary Patient Transfer Scale. In 2016, Marsden partnered with the NHS to bring the device to market and it was now sold worldwide and helping to improve patient outcomes.
- 5th October saw the installation of the Master Cutler, Mr. James Tear, in Sheffield.
- 9th and 10th October was the re-opening of Rotherham's Cancer Care Unit, which had been closed during the pandemic, on Badsley Moor Lane, and then the Wakefield Mayor's Civic Service and Parade on the Saturday with the Sheffield Lord Mayor's Civic Service on the Sunday.

**COUNCIL MEETING - 10/11/21**

- 14th October involved an evening of music and entertainment courtesy of The Dinnington Operatic Society, who performed a revue show entitled 'It's Time for a Musical'.
- 16th October saw the Mayor's Charity Ball at Magna which was a wonderful evening and a tremendous success and grateful thanks were given to everyone who helped to organise it and to those who came along on the evening.
- Respects were paid at the Yorkshire Miners' Memorial Service in Barnsley on 17th October.
- 20th October saw the Naval Regional Commander's Official Reception and Demonstration evening in Leeds, aimed at promoting the work of regional maritime organisations.
- An update was held with a representative from the Yorkshire Regiment on 21st October and heard about what they had been doing and about their future plans.
- Voluntary Action Rotherham health engagement stall was also visited in the market as part of their Breast Cancer Awareness event.
- Attendance at the Rotherham United versus Milton Keynes football match on 23rd October which Rotherham won 3-0.
- Attendance at the Centenary Dinner hosted by the Dinnington Branch of the Royal British Legion.
- Back to the indoor market again on 28th October for the launch of the poppy appeal handing out awards and admiring the poppy cascade.
- Later saw the live draw for the Women's Euros 2022 followed by the Lord Lieutenant Awards Ceremony at Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, for the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Yorkshire and the Humber.
- This month saw the opening of the recently refurbished activity room at Rush House on 5th November meeting staff and residents.
- Attendance at the Installation of the Dean of Sheffield, Reverend Canon Abigail Thompson, at Sheffield Cathedral on 6th November.
- Attendance at Maltby Miners Memorial Dedication on Maltby High Street. The memorial was planned some years ago to be dedicated to the local miners and its completion had been held up by the pandemic.

- Armistice Day would be on the 11th November joining Reverend Batchford and the Royal British Legion to observe two minutes' silence at 11.00 a.m. in All Saints Square.
- 14th November would be in Clifton Park for Remembrance Sunday where both the parade and service would be held.

**67. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAYOR'S CADETS**

The Mayor formally announced the names of her Cadets for the Municipal and Civic Year 2021/22 to the Council:-

- Sea Cadets - Cadet 1st Class Brooke Matthewman
- Royal Air Force Cadets – Corporal Matthew Burkinshaw
- Army Cadets – Courtney Martin

The Mayor invited each Cadet down in turn to receive their Mayor's Cadet badge and certificate.

**68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Barker, Havard, Hunter, Wilson and Yasseen.

**69. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none to report.

**70. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

Resolved: - That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester declared he was not voting on Minute No. 51 on the basis of involvement of a close relative's construction company.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconded: - Councillor Allen

**71. PETITIONS**

There were no Petitions to report.

**72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest to report.

**73. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

**(1) Mr. D. Smith** asked did this Council believe that Child Sexual Exploitation was still happening in Rotherham?

The Leader explained Rotherham, perhaps more than any other Council, knew there would always be perpetrators who targeted children. As of last week the Council's multi-agency support hub was supporting forty children who may be at risk of child sexual exploitation.

In a supplementary question Mr. Smith asked, during the period covered by the Jay Report, Rotherham's Children Services continued to be inspected by Ofsted and be rated 'good' so what credence could be given to any Ofsted report for Rotherham given the failings.

The Leader pointed out that Ofsted would inspect and over that period of two decades Rotherham had come on a journey with more understanding about the form of abuse and responses.

From the point of view of services in Rotherham, Ofsted had taken a particular interest, but Rotherham's response to potential child sexual abuse cases was strong. In fact the whole country and even the world were on a journey of improving responses to it.

Rotherham would continue to challenge itself, and along with experts outside the Borough, continued to challenge. The response was strong and children were kept as safe as they could be.

**(2) Ms. S. Earnshaw** was unable to attend the Council Meeting so would receive a response in writing.

**(3) Mr. B. Cutts** asked why did the circumstances require the Remembrance Day Parade to be contained within the confines of Clifton Park, with the Parade to march up and down the centre path?

Councillor Sheppard explained last year's parade was held virtually, but was pleased it could go ahead this year. In 2019, the Council was notified by South Yorkshire Police (SYP) that there would be a shift in responsibility for managing parades and it was now for the local Traffic Authority (the Council, not the Police) to decide on the road closure or other legally enforceable traffic management measures it considered any local on-road event to be held. For the Remembrance Day Parade, the Council was both the event organiser and the local Traffic Authority and matters of public safety, security and associated costs rested with RMBC.

When parades were organised, the event organiser assumed liabilities and needed to be satisfied that there was an appropriate plan and resources in place to mitigate risks. This now needed to include use of stewards, volunteers, signs and/or professional traffic management.

On that basis, discussions had been held with the Mayor of Rotherham, Armed Forces Champion, Parade Commander, local Royal British Legion, Vicar of Rotherham Minster and Rotherham MCV who were all supportive of changing the format to this year's Remembrance Civic event which would utilise Clifton Park:-

- Reduces the need to visit three venues for the event (Town Hall, Minster and Cenotaph).
- Introduces a new shorter, flatter route contained within one centralised space off road at Clifton Park helping to eliminate risks and maintaining the highest levels of safety taking into account the audience, environment and weather conditions.
- Removes the need for the Council to hire in transport.
- Provides individuals with the option of attending the Church Service at Rotherham Minster.

In a supplementary question Mr. Cutts asked for clarity and prospects of the parade being outside Clifton Park.

Councillor Sheppard explained the parade would remain within Clifton Park and this decision was taken to ensure everyone could take part in the celebrations safely following meetings with other agencies.

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

There were no matters requiring exclusion of the press or public.

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

The Leader presented his statement and reported on good news with regards to funding. Two of the Council's three Levelling Up Fund bids had been successful for the Town Centre and Leisure and Skills packages totalling an investment of almost £40 million pounds. These were great projects that should generate economic benefits for residents right across the Borough.

Being largely familiar with the town centre proposals, the Leisure and Skills bid was a creative package that would deliver real economic benefits in communities that needed them:-

- Wentworth Woodhouse would transform its Riding School and Stables to create new hospitality and visitor centres as part of its £130m masterplan to bring new life to one of the country's finest and largest historic houses.
- Thrybergh Country Park would embark on the first stage delivery of its masterplan focused on outdoor education and wellbeing and the creation of a new destination waterside café.
- Close to the Town Centre, Magna would create a suite of new exhibitions which would focus on science, nature and natural materials.

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- Rother Valley Country Park would embark on the first stages of a new masterplan focused on physical activity and adventure creating new hospitality and play facilities.
- A new Skills Village at Gullivers Resort focusing on training, development, and accreditation within the hospitality and leisure sector.
- Bridging the gap between school and employment, Maltby Academy Trust would invest in the redevelopment of the former Maltby Grammar School to create an incubator space for training, apprenticeships, and start up support in the leisure and hospitality sectors

Apart from the value to the community, to those that receive training, and the businesses that would be started, it was expected the schemes would deliver more than 100 local jobs. The Council would continue to plug away to secure the investment that communities deserved.

Moreover a bid to National Lottery Heritage Fund had been successful and Rotherham had been awarded £250,000 on behalf of a Northern Consortium which represented a £80,000 return and would fund the cultural programme that would support the celebrations for the Women's Euros next summer.

The UK Community Renewal Fund bid for Children's Capital of Culture was successful providing £1.8m to develop a pilot of the skills and talent development strand of the programme with nine consortium partners, so of course it was great to get Government backing for this exciting and innovative programme to benefit young people.

Everyone who worked on these bids was thanked. If only the Government would fund core services with the enthusiasm it announced grant programmes Rotherham would be in a much better place.

More good news too regarding Rotherham's green spaces. Rother Valley Country Park had collected its first Green Flag Award alongside Clifton, Greasbrough and Ulley Parks that have received one of the coveted awards – the mark of a quality park or green space. This was testament to the hard work and dedication of those who look after the parks.

Finally, Covid had not gone yet and everyone needed to keep well this winter.

The figure as of yesterday was 555.1 per 100,000 and Rotherham was ranked 19<sup>th</sup> worst in England, with Covid patients in hospital rising by 20% in the last week. Those pressures really were showing in Rotherham Hospital and, contrary to the assertions some had made, the country was very far from being normal.

A period of not more than ten minutes was allowed for questions.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester welcomed the recognition for green flags for Rotherham parks, but made reference to those Members who came to today's meeting on public transport and asked if the South Yorkshire Mayoral Authority was looking carefully at bus services to areas like Dinnington and other outlying areas and the potential they had.

The Leader agreed there needed to be a drive towards some improvements around bus services. There was a shortage of drivers putting pressure on bus operators making worse the economic problem. There would always be pressure on services and there were a number of measures coming from the Government about bus service improvement plans which the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority agreed.

This would provide some practical improvements at bus stops and live journey and better webpage information some of which would be funded by ourselves and some funding from Government.

A new customer charter which governed responsibilities would be agreed with bus operators and hopefully improve on poor quality service.

There would also be significant investment for improvements to bus lanes and junctions which would help to tackle some of problems with being stuck in traffic.

In excess of £70 million had been secured to make improvements that could be delivered over the next few years. Further funding had also been sought from Government to cap fares which was a whole raft of packages to make travelling on public transport as easy and reliable as possible.

A decision was still to be made on franchising as this would require a significant amount of investment including research so this was still a live debate. With some funding from Government this would give aspirational regulation for buses driving through quality in the future.

## **76. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS**

**Resolved:-** That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 20<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 be received.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

## **77. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2020/21 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Further to Minute No. 22 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th July, 2021, consideration was given to the report detailing proposals to update the Capital Programme for 2020-21.



The final outturn position was an underspend against budget of £6.1m following the mitigating actions taken to manage the financial impacts of COVID-19. It incorporated the late receipt of £2m of Government support towards costs associated with Operation Stovewood and after a proposed transfer of £2m to create a new Children and Young Peoples Services Social Care Reserve.

The mitigation actions included the application of Government's provision of £18.9m emergency funding to support the COVID-19 response and cost implications of this, the submission of compensation claims totalling £4.8m relating to the adverse impact of COVID-19 on Sales, Fees and Charges income and the use in 2020/21 of £5.2m from the Control Outbreak Management Fund (COMF.) Without the grant funding streams, the Council's financial outturn would have been a £22.8m overspend.

The report suggested a prudent use of the remaining underspend following its transfer to the Council's reserves. From this underspend, an allocation of £2m was to be earmarked for a COVID-19 Recovery Fund in order to support local residents throughout the remainder of the pandemic which was positive.

The Leader and Cabinet Members had worked tirelessly to improve the situation.

The original report providing detail to the proposals considered by the Cabinet was appended in order to provide Members with sufficient knowledge to agree the proposals.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the updated financial position as detailed in the report be noted.

(2) That the updated Capital Programme as set out in paragraphs 2.76 to 2.79 of the report to Cabinet on 19th July, 2021 and Appendices 1 to 4 be approved.

Mover: - Councillor Alam

Seconder: - Councillor Read

**78. APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT (CO-OPTED MEMBER) TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Consideration was given to the report which sought agreement to the proposal to appoint a third independent member to the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel as a necessary means of ensuring constitutionally secured consistency in the membership of the Panel. A third independent (co-opted) member would support the membership of Elected Members from across the four South Yorkshire Districts and three independent (co-opted) members recruited by advertisement.

In addition to an application to the Secretary of State, the proposal for an extra independent (co-opted) member required a change to the Police and Crime Panel's arrangements and these have to be approved by the four District Councils. This decision should be unanimous across all four Districts to proceed.

**Resolved:- That the Police and Crime Panel's decision taken on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to commence the process to appoint a third independent (co-opted) member be approved.**

Mover: - Councillor Haleem

Seconder: - Councillor Alam

**79. AMENDMENTS TO APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND PANELS**

Further to Minute No. 15 to the annual meeting of Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 consideration was given to the report which provided suggestions on amendments to the nomination of Members to serve on Committees, Boards and Panels.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the following amendments be confirmed:-

**Adoption Panel:**

Councillor Pitchley to be appointed.

**Fostering Panel:**

Councillor Pitchley to be appointed.

**Health Select Commission:**

Councillor Hughes to be removed.

Councillor Keenan to be appointed.

**Improving Places Select Commission:**

Councillor Keenan to be removed.

Councillor Hughes to be appointed.

**Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE):**

Councillor Haleem to be removed.

Councillor Keenan to be appointed.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

**80. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board presented a report that provided Council with an update of overview and scrutiny activity and the work programmes of the respective Scrutiny Commissions since the last update had been received in March, 2021.

Mover: - Councillor Clark

Seconder: - Councillor Barley

**81. NOTICE OF MOTION - ONGOING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN ROTHERHAM**

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

This Council notes:-

- For many years Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham was serious and widespread, but largely ignored by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and South Yorkshire Police (SYP).
- Since 2014, progress has been made on many issues related to CSE, including improvements in taxi licensing.
- However, children continue to be sexually exploited in Rotherham, and girls and boys continue to be raped and trafficked by organised gangs. The model used by organised criminals has changed, with CSE linking into Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), and private vehicles being used.
- In the six months since the local elections, Councillors have passed community gathered intelligence to RMBC and SYP regarding possible grooming and CSE in numerous locations in the Borough, including Wath, Rawmarsh, Greasbrough, Clifton, and Eastwood.
- The response to this intelligence has been poor, with slow or no action taken, obstructive and confrontational attitudes from the authorities, and a continual refusal to acknowledge that due to reactive, not proactive, Council and Police approaches to CSE, the true scale of the problem in Rotherham cannot be known at present.
- Lack of community confidence in the Council and the Police continue to be significant barriers to the reporting of CSE, as individuals fear reprisals from alleged perpetrators and that no action will be taken in response to their reports. Potential whistleblowers who work for the Council similarly fear for their jobs should they speak out as they say they have been instructed by managers not to talk about CSE.

- While RMBC has performed well in Ofsted and other inspections, what matters is not that inspections are passed, but that children are protected from some of the most horrific crimes imaginable.
- In addition to these issues with current, active CSE, many survivors feel unsupported in their recoveries and targeted by social services in relation to their own children.

Therefore, we demand that the Council:-

- Acknowledges that the true scale of CSE in Rotherham is not and cannot be known at present due to reactive policies and under-reporting, and that CSE may be occurring on the same scale as in the past.
- Deliver, as a matter of urgency, proper, detailed, in-person training to Council staff and Council contractors who are in regular contact with members of the public or who work out in our communities, so that they can recognise grooming, and suspicious activities that may indicate CSE.
- Launch a comprehensive public information campaign to likewise help members of the public recognise behaviours, activities, and other signs which may indicate CSE.
- Review and improve internal procedures for handling reports and intelligence that may indicate CSE, with clear actions to be taken, deadlines for those actions, designated people responsible for taking them, and a clear escalation procedure.
- Gather and record intelligence that may or does indicate CSE in a joined-up way, including cross referencing reports to build a fuller picture, working with expert partners in the third sector to gather intelligence, and sharing all intelligence with the police.
- Takes a proactive approach to CSE, identifying and supporting children at risk and identifying people who may be perpetrators, whilst recognising that the criminal model used by perpetrators is likely to continue changing as the authorities act.
- Proactively target known and potential CSE hot spots, including but not limited to hotels, the night-time economy, parks, and gangs engaged in Child Criminal Exploitation and county lines drug dealing.
- Develop an 'exit strategy' to support children to leave CSE, and continually review the strategy to ensure that it is effective.

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- Review the Council's whistleblowing policy and give consideration to improving protections for people who believe they are whistleblowing, protecting their jobs and pensions, and providing a specialist independent person to whistleblow to.
- Ensure that RMBC's and SYP's work on CSE is properly scrutinised through the appropriate committees of elected members, including regular, detailed updates and regular reviews of scrutiny arrangements to ensure that they are robust.
- Give a full and unreserved apology to survivors for Council failings that extended their abuse and continue to make their recoveries difficult.
- Look at ways to improve support for survivors of CSE, with the understanding that distrust and animosity towards the Council means that for many survivors, services that are as distant and as independent as possible from the Council would be most helpful, and that due to the life-long challenges many survivors face, support needs to be individualised and long-term.
- Put pressure on South Yorkshire Police to likewise recognise that CSE is a major and continuing problem in Rotherham and elsewhere in South Yorkshire, and likewise improve their response to reports and begin to proactively target known and potential perpetrators, locations, and victims.

At this point it was moved by Councillor Read and seconded by Councillor Keenan that the motion be amended as follows:-

This Council notes:-

- For many years Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham was serious and widespread, but largely ignored by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and South Yorkshire Police (SYP).
- Since 2014, progress has been made on many issues related to CSE, including improvements in taxi licensing.
- However, children continue to be sexually exploited in Rotherham, ***[DELETE:] and girls and boys continue to be raped and trafficked by organised gangs[TO HERE]***. The model used by organised criminals has changed, with CSE linking into Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), and private vehicles being used.

- In the six months since the local elections, Councillors have passed community gathered intelligence to RMBC and SYP regarding possible grooming and CSE in numerous locations in the Borough, including Wath, Rawmarsh, Greasbrough, Clifton, and Eastwood.

**[DELETE:]**

- *The response to this intelligence has been poor, with slow or no action taken, obstructive and confrontational attitudes from the authorities, and a continual refusal to acknowledge that due to reactive, not proactive, Council and Police approaches to CSE, the true scale of the problem in Rotherham cannot be known at present.*
- *Lack of community confidence in the Council and the Police continue to be significant barriers to the reporting of CSE, as individuals fear reprisals from alleged perpetrators and that no action will be taken in response to their reports. Potential whistleblowers who work for the Council similarly fear for their jobs should they speak out, as they say they have been instructed by managers not to talk about CSE.*
- *While RMBC has performed well in Ofsted and other inspections, what matters is not that inspections are passed, but that children are protected from some of the most horrific crimes imaginable.*
- *In addition to these issues with current, active CSE, many survivors feel unsupported in their recoveries and targeted by social services in relation to their own children. [TO HERE]*

**[INSERT]**

- *That many of the actions requested by the Conservative Group are already activities underway under the terms of Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership's Strategy to Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation, which was considered by the Council's Cabinet in October 2019. [TO HERE]*

Therefore, we **[DELETE:] demand that the Council:-[TO HERE]**

**[INSERT]**

*Ask that the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership considers the following proposed actions in light of the current strategy, and any further evidence provided by the Conservative Group or others, and reports back to Councillors within 3 months on any changes, amendments to that strategy or additional activities that may be appropriate in order to maintain the highest quality of services and child protection activity: [TO HERE]*

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- Acknowledges that the true scale of CSE in Rotherham is not and cannot be known at present due to reactive policies and under-reporting, and that CSE may be occurring on the same scale as in the past.
- Deliver, as a matter of urgency, proper, detailed, in-person training to Council staff and Council contractors who are in regular contact with members of the public or who work out in our communities, so that they can recognise grooming, and suspicious activities that may indicate CSE.
- Launch a comprehensive public information campaign to likewise help members of the public recognise behaviours, activities, and other signs which may indicate CSE.
- Review and improve internal procedures for handling reports and intelligence that may indicate CSE, with clear actions to be taken, deadlines for those actions, designated people responsible for taking them, and a clear escalation procedure.
- Gather and record intelligence that may or does indicate CSE in a joined-up way, including cross referencing reports to build a fuller picture, working with expert partners in the third sector to gather intelligence, and sharing all intelligence with the police.
- Takes a proactive approach to CSE, identifying and supporting children at risk and identifying people who may be perpetrators, whilst recognising that the criminal model used by perpetrators is likely to continue changing as the authorities act.
- Proactively target known and potential CSE hot spots, including but not limited to hotels, the night-time economy, parks, and gangs engaged in Child Criminal Exploitation and county lines drug dealing.
- Develop an 'exit strategy' to support children to leave CSE, and continually review the strategy to ensure that it is effective.
- Review the Council's whistleblowing policy and give consideration to improving protections for people who believe they are whistleblowing, protecting their jobs and pensions, and providing a specialist independent person to whistleblow to.
- Ensure that RMBC's and SYP's work on CSE is properly scrutinised through the appropriate committees of elected members, including regular, detailed updates and regular reviews of scrutiny arrangements to ensure that they are robust.



- Give a full and unreserved apology to survivors for Council failings that extended their abuse and continue to make their recoveries difficult.
- Look at ways to improve support for survivors of CSE, with the understanding that distrust and animosity towards the Council means that for many survivors, services that are as distant and as independent as possible from the Council would be most helpful, and that due to the life-long challenges many survivors face, support needs to be individualised and long-term.
- Put pressure on South Yorkshire Police to likewise recognise that CSE is a major and continuing problem in Rotherham and elsewhere in South Yorkshire, and likewise improve their response to reports and begin to proactively target known and potential perpetrators, locations, and victims.

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

A recorded vote was requested.

(Members in favour of the amendment – The Mayor (Councillor Andrews), Councillors Alam, Allen, , Atkin Aveyard, Baker-Rodgers, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Bird, Brookes, Browne, Clark, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth, Ellis, Griffin, Haleem, Hoddinott, Hughes, Keenan, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Monk, Pitchley, Read, Roche, Sansome, Sheppard and Wyatt)

(Members against the amendment – Councillors Bacon, Ball, Barley, Baum-Dixon, Burnett, A. Carter, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Collingham, Elliott, Fisher, Hague, Jones, Mills, Miro, Reynolds, Singleton, Thompson, Tinsley, Whormsley and Wooding)

The substantive motion now read:-

This Council notes:-

- For many years Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham was serious and widespread, but largely ignored by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and South Yorkshire Police (SYP).
- Since 2014, progress has been made on many issues related to CSE, including improvements in taxi licensing.
- However, children continue to be sexually exploited in Rotherham. The model used by organised criminals has changed, with CSE linking into Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), and private vehicles being used.



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- In the six months since the local elections, Councillors have passed community gathered intelligence to RMBC and SYP regarding possible grooming and CSE in numerous locations in the Borough, including Wath, Rawmarsh, Greasbrough, Clifton, and Eastwood.
- That many of the actions requested by the Conservative Group are already activities underway under the terms of Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership's Strategy to Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation, which was considered by the Council's Cabinet in October 2019.

Therefore, we:-

- Ask that the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership considers the following proposed actions in light of the current strategy, and any further evidence provided by the Conservative Group or others, and reports back to councillors within 3 months on any changes, amendments to that strategy or additional activities that may be appropriate in order to maintain the highest quality of services and child protection activity.
- Acknowledges that the true scale of CSE in Rotherham is not and cannot be known at present due to reactive policies and under-reporting, and that CSE may be occurring on the same scale as in the past.
- Deliver, as a matter of urgency, proper, detailed, in-person training to Council staff and Council contractors who are in regular contact with members of the public or who work out in our communities, so that they can recognise grooming, and suspicious activities that may indicate CSE.
- Launch a comprehensive public information campaign to likewise help members of the public recognise behaviours, activities, and other signs which may indicate CSE.
- Review and improve internal procedures for handling reports and intelligence that may indicate CSE, with clear actions to be taken, deadlines for those actions, designated people responsible for taking them, and a clear escalation procedure.
- Gather and record intelligence that may or does indicate CSE in a joined-up way, including cross referencing reports to build a fuller picture, working with expert partners in the third sector to gather intelligence, and sharing all intelligence with the police.

- Takes a proactive approach to CSE, identifying and supporting children at risk and identifying people who may be perpetrators, whilst recognising that the criminal model used by perpetrators is likely to continue changing as the authorities act.
- Proactively target known and potential CSE hot spots, including but not limited to hotels, the night-time economy, parks, and gangs engaged in Child Criminal Exploitation and county lines drug dealing.
- Develop an 'exit strategy' to support children to leave CSE, and continually review the strategy to ensure that it is effective.
- Review the Council's whistleblowing policy and give consideration to improving protections for people who believe they are whistleblowing, protecting their jobs and pensions, and providing a specialist independent person to whistleblow to.
- Ensure that RMBC's and SYP's work on CSE is properly scrutinised through the appropriate committees of Elected Members, including regular, detailed updates and regular reviews of scrutiny arrangements to ensure that they are robust.
- Give a full and unreserved apology to survivors for Council failings that extended their abuse and continue to make their recoveries difficult.
- Look at ways to improve support for survivors of CSE, with the understanding that distrust and animosity towards the Council means that for many survivors, services that are as distant and as independent as possible from the Council would be most helpful, and that due to the life-long challenges many survivors face, support needs to be individualised and long-term.
- Put pressure on South Yorkshire Police to likewise recognise that CSE is a major and continuing problem in Rotherham and elsewhere in South Yorkshire, and likewise improve their response to reports and begin to proactively target known and potential perpetrators, locations, and victims.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

A recorded vote was requested.

(Members in favour of the substantive motion – The Mayor (Councillor Andrews), Councillors Alam, Allen, Atkin Aveyard, Bacon, Baker-Rodgers, Ball, Barley, Baum-Dixon, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Bird, Brookes, Browne, Burnett, A. Carter, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Clark, Collingham, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth, Elliott, Ellis, Fisher, Griffin, Hague, Haleem, Hoddinott, Hughes, Jones, Keenan, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Mills, Miro, Monk, Pitchley, Read, Reynolds, Roche, Sansome, Sheppard, Singleton, Thompson, Tinsley, Whormsley, Wooding and Wyatt)

## 82. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

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

In doing so the Chair pointed out the meeting was on the 16<sup>th</sup> September but Parish Councillor Buckley and Parish Councillor Carroll were not confirmed as members of the Panel until the 29<sup>th</sup> September at Full Council. They were asked to leave before consideration of confidential items.

Mover:- Councillor McNeely

Second:- Councillor Griffin

## 83. AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

Mover:- Councillor Baker-Rodgers

Second:- Councillor Browne

## 84. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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

Mover:- Councillor Roche

Second:- Councillor Cusworth

## 85. PLANNING BOARD

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

Mover:- Councillor Atkin

Second:- Councillor Bird

## 86. STAFFING COMMITTEE

**Resolved:-** That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Staffing Committee be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Alam

Second:- Councillor Allen

**87. LICENSING BOARD AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

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

Mover:- Councillor Ellis

Seconder:- Councillor Hughes

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

**(1) Councillor Hoddinott** asked in the wake of Sarah Everard's awful murder, were the Panel scrutinising South Yorkshire Police's approach to violence against women and girls?

Councillor Haleem responded and confirmed that in the Police and Crime Plan 2021-22, this was a priority under Protecting Vulnerable People.

In 2021 the number of incidents of violence against women and girls was shocking. Rape and sexual offences were amongst some of the most serious and high impact crimes against a person and victims needed to have the confidence to come forward and report to the police. The Government had published a National Strategy aimed at tackling Violence against Women and Girls (published July 2021) which highlighted four key areas namely: Prioritising Prevention, Supporting Victims, Pursuing Perpetrators and Strengthening the System.

The Police and Crime Commissioner convened a round table with partners to ensure that everything was being done. The Police and Crime Commissioner strongly believed that women and girls in South Yorkshire had the right to feel safe in public spaces and in their own homes. Children and young people should also feel safe in schools and educational settings.

The Police and Crime Commissioner wanted the Police and partners to focus their activity in this area on preventative action, education and safety messages to potential victims as well as work with the perpetrators of violence. He had applied for Home Office funding through the Safer Streets Fund to achieve some of these things, but, he also wanted his office and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to lead work with the Police and partners to influence changes in attitudes, especially the attitudes of men and boys in South Yorkshire to women and girls, their notions of masculinity and who they looked to as role models.

Councillor Haleem would be ensuring that the Panel received a copy of the strategy to scrutinise it and ensure that the response was as robust as possible.

In a supplementary question Councillor Hoddinott asked whether the Panel could receive a report into the Police's approach to drink spiking and injections in South Yorkshire.

Councillor Haleem responded the Panel would be asking for the report and confirmed South Yorkshire Police had had reports of drink spiking and also the use of injections in all districts, though principally in Sheffield with its bigger night time economy, but not big numbers.

The reports were mainly from females but some males had also reported. At present it has not been possible to identify any drug used. All were being investigated and victims supported.

South Yorkshire Police were working with partners, including the Violence Reduction Unit, NHS, licensing bodies etc. and venues were being contacted since they also had a role.

The national Police lead was DCC Jason Harwin, former District Commander for Rotherham.

## **89. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS**

**(1) Councillor Ball** withdrew his question.

**(2) Councillor Whormsley** referred to moving into the colder months and residents looking to prepare for winter found it hard to understand where winter grit bins were located so asked would the Council please publish a list of winter grit bins and their locations.

Councillor Beck explained there were over 400 grit bins placed around the Borough and the locations were already published on the Council's website.

The location of grit bins could be found under the "find a grit bin near you" section on the Council's website. An A to Z of records allows Councillors and residents to bring up a full list of locations.

**(3) Councillor Castledine-Dack** explained that in Dinnington people were very disappointed with the outcome of the bid for the Levelling Up Fund, which would have been transformative if successful. As a community, Dinnington needs to regroup whilst keeping up the momentum behind this campaign. She asked would the Council commit to review and resubmit a stronger bid when feedback was received?

Councillor Lelliott explained that the Council welcomed the successful outcome of two of the Levelling Up Fund submissions that had secured almost £40m for schemes across the Borough. The Cabinet Member shared the disappointment that the Principal Areas for Growth application did not secure the much-needed investment for projects in Wath and Dinnington.

At this time the Council was unable to speculate why it did not meet the Government's assessment criteria and further feedback was awaited from Government which would be reviewed whilst waiting details of future Levelling Up Funding rounds.

In a supplementary question Councillor Castledine-Dack asked if the Cabinet Member would commit to working with the Dinnington Community Land Trust and the Town Council whose work was instrumental in delivering this bid.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed she would work within the processes laid down to secure this.

**(4) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester** asked could the Cabinet Member please account for the differences in the percentage of households subscribing to the brown bin tax between our most and least deprived Wards?

Councillor Beck pointed out the Council did not operate a brown bin tax.

There would always be differences in different areas in terms of a Garden Waste Collection Service and this could be for a number of reasons including whether residents had gardens or not. Households without gardens were higher in number in the more deprived Wards so it was expected subscriptions to be lower in those areas.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester had looked at figures for the most deprived Wards of take-up between 15% and 65% taking out almost 30% and asked if a flat rate could be applied. This recharge was discriminative and exclusive against poorer communities and asked if, as part of the Local Government settlement, ways could be considered where communities were excluded and what the impact of a dual rate would be for this Council.

Councillor Beck expressed his sympathies, but pointed out that a review of Rothercard was to take place and Councillor Bennett-Sylvester may wish to raise his concerns in that forum to see what could be done for those most deprived.

**(5) Councillor Reynolds** asked would the Council assure the Council Tax payers of Rotherham that the Forge Island hotel would be a profitable venture by a private company and receive no subsidies or other preferential help from RMBC.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed a long lease had been agreed on market terms with Travelodge for the Forge Island development. Travelodge had no expectation of receiving a subsidy for its operations and there were no provisions in the agreement that would allow such a subsidy to be paid. The hotel would operate as a wholly private venture.

In a supplementary question Councillor Reynolds asked about the long-term future of a hotel which was dependent on its own success and booking rates and, therefore, asked for confirmation that it would not receive a penny in subsidy from the Council.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed there would be no subsidies.

**(6) Councillor Reynolds** asked was MAGNA still in debt to RMBC if so, how long had this situation existed and how much was owed.

Councillor Alam explained that as at the end of October 2021, Magna owed the Council £478,000.

This was made up of the two historic loans and there have been no loans since 2015.

Of the two loans, the Council provided a loan of £300,000 to Magna in November 2006. £110,000 of this loan had been repaid and £190,000 remained outstanding. This loan was secured against Magna's Project Office building on Sheffield Road.

The Council then provided a further loan of £250,000 in April 2015 which remained outstanding. This loan was provided within a rolling annual loan facility in place from November, 2008.

Interest was payable on the loans at Bank of England Base Rate Plus 2%. Currently £38,000 of interest was outstanding.

In a supplementary question Councillor Reynolds asked was it now £190,000 that was owed.

Councillor Alam confirmed it was.

**(7) Councillor Ball** withdrew his question.

**(8) Councillor Baum-Dixon** asked about the Bulky Item Collection Service in the Borough which was currently falling short of its SLA to collect items within ten days. He asked what actions were being taken to improve the Service and did the Cabinet Member think the level of service delivered was value for money for the taxpayer and justified the higher cost than other Bulky Collection services in Sheffield and Bassetlaw?

Councillor Beck confirmed the Bulky Item Collection Service was unfortunately currently working slightly behind target to collect items within ten working days, with items currently being booked for collection within thirteen working days.

During the Covid-19 pandemic demand for the Bulky Item Collection Service had increased significantly. This had been exacerbated by the well-documented shortage of driving staff and a shortage of vehicles

available for hire, due to shortages of components for manufacturing vehicles. This had made it challenging to increase resources to bring the Service back within the ten days target time.

The Council were working hard to get additional resource and were confident that the Service would be back within the ten days target by the end of the year.

In a supplementary question Councillor Baum-Dixon pointed out that according to the Advertiser following an FOI request, comparisons of fly tipping of 450 incidents in two months whereas the Worksop Guardian reported 300 incidents which was 30% less. He compared the incidents and charge in Bassetlaw which was 26% less than Rotherham and asked if the Cabinet Member would look at the amount charged for incidents of fly tipping and do a cost benefit analysis of the bulky waste inspection fee.

Councillor Beck did not believe the charge for residents was prohibitive. He confirmed that residents who had a Rothercard could get 50% discount. The Council would continue to consider charges made by neighbouring authorities.

**(9) Councillor Castledine-Dack** referred to there being several new housing developments under construction in Dinnington, predominately Wentworth Way and Oldcotes Road in Throapham. Residents on both sites report continuing problems with developers not adhering to the conditions of their planning permission and making their lives a misery. She asked what enforcement actions had been taken at these sites?

Councillor Atkin confirmed the Council's Planning Enforcement Officer as well as officers from Environmental Health and Streetscene had made numerous visits to both of these sites when reports of any breaches of conditions had been made. In accordance with the Council's adopted enforcement plan, where a breach of planning control was identified, the developer was made aware of this and the steps required to rectify the situation.

If compliance could not be secured by agreement through these initial processes, the Council would consider taking more formal action.

With regards to both of these developments, verbal warnings had been issued and a Breach of Condition Notice has been served on Taylor Wimpey, developers of the Wentworth Way site, in respect of breaches of construction hours as set out in the Construction Management Plan.

In a supplementary question Councillor Castledine-Dack confirmed, having spoken to residents at these sites, and accepted enforcement action had taken place, but there was still a strong feeling this was not where it needed to be. She asked what could the Council do to bridge the gap between residents and developments.



Councillor Atkin confirmed that with regard to the development at Wentworth Way, additional complaints had been made about mud on the road and positioning of the site cabins. Both issues had been reported to the site manager and further investigation work was being undertaken to determine if further action was required.

With regard to the development at Oldcotes Road, the main issue had been the amount of dust that was generated during dry weather. This matter was investigated and machinery brought onto site to overcome the problem. Both sites would be monitored during the construction phases to ensure continued compliance.

A planning representative attended a meeting with the local residents and Alexander Stafford M.P. on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 specifically about the development at Oldcotes Road.

**(10) Councillor C. Carter** asked what was the Council doing to tackle anti-social behaviour on the path colloquially known as the Black Path (behind Campbell Walk) in Brinsworth?

Councillor Alam explained the Council was aware of the issue of anti-social behaviour from the path colloquially known as the Black Path towards the neighbouring residences.

Police colleagues had organized regular cycle patrols and plain clothes patrols and in addition, work had been done in local schools, with individual children and their families in relation to the throwing of fireworks. Although officers believed issues had reduced slightly, they did continue to work with residents to try and resolve the issues fully.

The issue had also been discussed at the Community Action Partnership with Council officers and colleagues from South Yorkshire Police and a plan was being produced. Officers were considering increased lighting and CCTV to try to address the issue, but both have difficulties in terms of cost and vandalism as the path was secluded in places.

Any ideas or proposals were welcomed to feed into the development of a plan taking into account the physical challenges.

In a supplementary question Councillor C. Carter asked why the cameras previously funded by Brinsworth Ward Councillors had been removed, if there was a plan and what were the timescales associated with this.

Councillor Alam would seek information from officers and would contact Councillor C. Carter after this meeting.

**(11) Councillor Miro** asked did the Council have any extra/additional activities planned in view of the COP 26 Climate Change Summit and did it have in place any mechanisms to implement any relevant recommendations that come out from that conference?

Councillor Lelliott explained COP 26 was a meeting of the World Leaders where hopefully global agreements were developed with individual countries agreeing specific contributions.

The outcomes of the conference this week were awaited as to complete set of commitments being made by the UK Government.

**(12) Councillor Ball** withdrew his question.

**(13) Councillor Reynolds** asked how long would it take to complete the block paving outside the old Burton's Tailoring building, how much did the work cost and how was it an improvement on what was already there.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed the new public realm works in College Street would be complete by the end of November 2021. This was one of three projects within the first phase of Public Realm improvement.

The College Street project was estimated to cost just over £1 million including all design costs.

The works included an entire replacement of all the hardstanding surfaces, as well as the addition of improved and varied seating provision, additional parking spaces in close proximity to the town centre, as well as making a raised area more accessible for users in wheelchairs and those using prams.

In a supplementary question Councillor Reynolds confirmed he regularly passed and had seen several crews working on a Sunday evening so asked why was it so imperative that work took place so late and at what rate on a Sunday evening at nearly midnight.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed that this was a private contract so it was up to the sub-contractor when they worked and how they paid their staff.

**(14) Councillor Castledine-Dack** referred to speeding vehicles becoming more problematic as traffic volumes were increasing post-lockdowns, especially at School Road in Laughton-en-le-Morthen and Outgang Lane in Laughton Common. She asked what steps could the Council take to make these roads safer and would they commit to improving safety along them before anyone was hurt or worse?

Councillor Beck explained that at School Road in Laughton-en-le-Morthen through the Neighbourhood Road Safety Programme, a scheme had been developed to install a central refuge where the speed limit changed (where School Road met Hangsman Lane) to create a 'gateway effect' on the approach to the School. This should help to regulate vehicle speeds in this area and would build on the School's 20 mph signage that was installed in 2017 which indicated to drivers that they should not exceed 20 mph when the lights were flashing.

Whilst there were no other proposals for School Road at this time, concerns about speeding traffic would be noted for consideration for funding should they arise in the near future. In the meantime, School Road would be added to the list of sites for future deployment of a Vehicle Activated Sign.

Regarding Outgang Lane, over recent years a number of road safety improvements have been made such as yellow highlight backing for the 30 mph signage, a gateway feature near Station Way, a zebra crossing, a Vehicle Activated Sign and pedestrian refuges, together with developer improvements such as the roundabout at Knavesmire Avenue.

Recent mobile enforcement by the Safety Camera Partnership detected 39 offences in 1½ hour attendance on site and this stretch of road would remain on their list of sites to target in the future.

**(15) Councillor Miro** asked what was the Council's experience of working with landowners in big housing projects such as Harworth for example?

Councillor Lelliott confirmed the development at Waverley was the largest single residential development dealt with by this Council. The outline planning permission was granted in 2011 for 3,890 houses and lasted for thirty years allowing the developer to submit details of the houses as they came forward for development on each smaller parcel of land. To enable this to happen, the Planning Team had provided a dedicated officer to work alongside Harworth's as a single point of contact and to ensure that the vision and quality that was built into the outline permission was delivered over the lifetime of the scheme.

In a supplementary question Councillor Miro explained over the last few months he had had a variety of communication with Harworth. He was not criticizing them, but found the communication variable. This had been not so good over the last month or two in terms of complaints, especially with the loss of a community organization first shop where those involved had decided to stop progressing a mechanism of improving communication with Harworth.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed she would go back to officers to see if she could arrange a meeting of the community liaison group and contact Councillor Miro by email accordingly.

**(16) Councillor Baum-Dixon** referred to last week when children attending Dinnington High School, who lived in Woodsetts, were stranded on at least two occasions when the 19A bus did not arrive. This left children as young as eleven, in the dark unable to get home. The walk to Woodsetts was rural roads with no footpaths or streetlights. He asked did the Cabinet Member agree that this was totally unacceptable?

Councillor Beck confirmed the Number 19 and 19a bus routes were provided by Stagecoach Services. The service failures have been attributed to the current market conditions - shortage of bus drivers due to the current pressure on supply chains for HGV drivers and warehouse staff, creating a migration of workers to better paid professions.

The Council was also seeking to understand what planning the bus operators had done to mitigate the problems, along with what efforts they had made to ensure school services were protected during periods of driver shortages. The Council would work with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority on these matters and hoped that market conditions improved.

In a supplementary question Councillor Baum-Dixon referred to a text issued by the School only last week to parents about the dedicated bus from Woodsetts. He asked if this was a matter for RMBC and as Cabinet Member could there be a guarantee to get the dedicated service reinstated.

Councillor Beck was not sure whose responsibility this was, but would investigate this further and liaise with the School.

**(17) Councillor Reynolds** asked did RMBC negotiate a rent reduction with the Landlord during lockdown in Riverside and if not why not?

Councillor Lelliott explained the Council had not negotiated a rent reduction for Riverside House during the pandemic because the building remained operational throughout, though with significantly reduced staff use and the public areas closed.

During lockdown the Community Hub operated a food bank from the building and a number of key worker staff required continued access such the multi-agency safeguarding hub, Registrars and IT.

Since the lifting of restrictions, the public areas of Riverside House had re-opened and more staff were attending as part of the new Hybrid working arrangements.

In a supplementary question Councilor Reynolds referred to the whole country negotiating with landlords and mortgage providers during the pandemic. This was a new era with new attitudes so why, if the building was not fully occupied, had the Council not negotiated a reduction for Riverside House in an attempt or at least tried to get hard earned council tax back.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed the building was operational throughout the pandemic and had been the Council's headquarters with 1,925 food parcels being delivered and 550 people asking for loneliness services. It was morally right the building was open to support them.

**COUNCIL MEETING - 10/11/21**

**90. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items for consideration.

**THE CABINET**  
**22nd November, 2021**

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

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

**64.           DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest to report.

**64.           DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest to report.

**65.           QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting and no questions submitted in writing.

**66.           MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

**67.           EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair advised that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

**68.           HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND AND FUNDING FOR VULNERABLE RENTERS**

Consideration was given to the report detailed how the Government had announced two new funding packages in October 2021 to help households struggling to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; namely the Household Support Grant and the Funding for Vulnerable Renters Grant.

The Household Support Grant was expected to be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. In exceptional cases it could be used to support housing costs if existing housing support schemes did not meet the exceptional need. The eligibility criteria for use of the grant included that at least 50% of the total funding would be ring-fenced to support households with children.

It was proposed that the grant be split: £1.1m for food vouchers for those eligible for Free School Meals through to Easter 2022; £1.3m to reduce Council Tax liability for working age households eligible for Council Tax Support. This was originally expressed in the report to be for those in active receipt of support in the current financial year as of 31st October, 2021, however, for clarity this support was for working age households who have received Council Tax Support in the current financial year, as at 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021, not only those eligible for Council Tax Support on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021; £30k to support local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas; £30k for eligible households not passported through means and £29,029 as a contingency to be used for the active management of the programme.

The Funding for Vulnerable Renters Grant was also designed to support low-income earners in rent arrears and prevent homelessness for these people. The eligibility was for the funding to be used to minimise evictions from the private rented sector for single people as well as families.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the Household Support Grant of £2,489,029.87 be allocated as follows:-

- a. £1.1m for food vouchers to children eligible for Free School Meals for school holidays through to Easter 2022.
- b. £1.3m to reduce Council Tax liability for working age households eligible for Council Tax Support on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. [For the purpose of clarity, this support is for working age households who have received Council Tax Support in the current financial year, as at 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021, not only those eligible for Council Tax Support on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021]
- c. £30k to support local VCS organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas/New Year as a supplement to the Crisis Support SLA.
- d. £30,000 to be available to meet eligible need for households not passported through means.
- e. £29,029, would be held as contingency to be used as part of active management of the grant programme.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, to determine revised and final allocations for the Household Support Grant including provision to include new claimants of Council Tax Support who were not eligible on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2021; the delegation to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of Household Support Fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the approved options.

(3) That the £116,416 new Funding for Vulnerable Renters be allocated to increase prevention activity and make payments to reduce rent arrears where there is a risk of homelessness.

(4) That authority be delegated to the Acting Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to agree the final scheme based on the engagement with Government.

**69. PUBLIC HEALTH PROPOSALS FOR RE-COMMISSIONING ROTHERHAM'S ALCOHOL AND DRUGS SERVICE**

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the proposals for the recommissioning of an "all age" model for the Alcohol and Drugs Service with a contract start date of 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023.

There were currently two services: one for the needs of the adult population in Rotherham and the 'DIVERT' service for children and young people. Both of these Services had been awarded to Change Grow Live under separate tender exercises.

The adult Drug and Alcohol Service provided support to 1,284 Rotherham residents and offered a range of interventions, advice and support such as needle and syringe exchange, naloxone provision and substitute medication.

The children and young person's Service provided advice and education to under 18's with an average of one hundred referrals per year.

Both contracts were due to expire on 31st March, 2023 and it was seen as an opportune time to introduce an "all age" model as opposed to the two separate services. The type of procurement required for the contract was subject to potential reform as a result of the Dame Carol Black review which was attached to the report at Appendix 4.

It was, therefore, proposed that the contract be awarded for a period of five years with annual extension options after that on a year-by-year basis for up to a further five years. The contract length in total would, therefore, be ten years. The reason for this is that it would provide greater stability and acknowledged that this type of Service needed sufficient time to embed and deliver.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the recommissioning of an 'all age' Alcohol and Drug Service and the key change to the service model be approved, which is the move to a specialist pathway covering all ages and procured from one lead provider. This is to enable seamless transition between the services and to enhance the offer for younger service users. Within one pathway, there will be an expectation of separate service offers for young people, alcohol misuse prevention and treatment, drug treatment and recovery from all substance misuse.



(2) That there is recognition that this will take place on the outlined timetable subject to any major update from the forthcoming White Paper - Integration and Innovation: Working together to improve health and social care for all; specifically, in relation the proposals regarding supplier selection.

#### **70. 0-19 PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES COMMISSIONING**

Consideration was given to the report which provided an agreed update on the recommissioning of Public Health Children's Nursing Services, including an update on procurement options and the specification.

In March, 2021, Cabinet agreed to extend the current contract to March, 2023 with the tender for the new contract due to be published in April, 2022. Since March, 2021 a project group had been established, a needs assessment had been completed, two drafts of the specification had been completed and there had been a period of public consultation.

The specification briefing was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and reflected changes to the guidance in relation to Health Visiting and School Nursing.

A market engagement event held in September, 2021 indicated a reasonable market interest and engagements from a variety of Providers. There were proposed reforms to Provider selection for NHS Services and these would form part of the consideration if implemented prior to the publication of the tender.

The final decision on how to procure the service would be delegated to the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the relevant Cabinet Member.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the good progress made on the recommissioning process against the timeline agreed in March 2021 be noted.

(2) That the parallel timeline of the Health and Care Bill, and its implications in respect of the proposed removal of the current rules for NHS and Public Health Service commissioners when arranging clinical healthcare services be noted.

#### **71. SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL MONITORING 2021/22**

Consideration was given to the report which set out in detail the financial position as at the end of September, 2021 and was based on the actual costs and income for the first six months of 2021/22 and forecasted for the remainder of the financial year.

Members noted that financial performance was a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and was essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's Policy agenda. The report was the third in a series of monitoring reports for the 2021/22 financial year which would continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As at September 2021, the Council expected to deliver the overall outturn within budget for the financial year 2021/22. However, it was noted that the Directorates had a forecast year-end overspend of £9.8m on the General Fund. This was mitigated by the Government's provision of the COVID-19 emergency support grant and Sales, Fees and Charges Income Compensation. However it was noted that the longer-term impacts of COVID-19, Public Health measures and the pace at which services would return to normal was unknown.

The Capital Programme for 2021/22 totalled £192.578m split between the General Fund (£123.578m) and the Housing Revenue Account (£69.000m.) This was a decrease of £1.111m from the position reported at the end of July 2021. The decrease mainly related to the reprofiling of schemes due to delays caused by COVID-19 and the high volume of capital activity taking place nationally that was straining resources.

The report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process and they noted and agreed with the recommendations, subject to a further condition relating to the cancellation of the HS2 leg and the need to press for increased investment.

Cabinet welcomed and endorsed the recommendation.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast of a balanced budget be noted.

(2) That actions continuing to be taken to ensure that a balanced financial outturn is delivered be noted.

(3) That the Capital Programme update be noted.

(4) That the updated position of the Government's Test and Trace Support Payments and Council's Local Scheme for Self-Isolation Support Payments, as per section 2.46 to 2.48 be noted.

(5) That, in light of the cancellation of the HS2 leg, the matter be raised with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, the need to press for increased investment in respect of connectivity for the north, specifically looking at transport improvements and connectivity. This will ensure that this area benefits from Government funding, including access to mainline services for the town of Rotherham.

**72. MID-YEAR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UPDATE REPORT - 2021/22**

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the 2021/22 Housing Development Programme which listed a range of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) sites to be developed for housing, along with potential strategic acquisitions.

Good progress had been made on all projects despite the unprecedented challenges caused by COVID-19 and Appendix 2 outlined the progress against the previous recommendations in the September 2020, January 2021 and March 2021 Cabinet reports on the Housing Development Programme.

Paragraphs 1.9 to 1.12 of the report outlined the recommendations approved by Cabinet in March 2021 and the progress made on those recommendations to date such as an indicative bid submitted to Sheffield City Region Brownfield Housing Fund in relation to the Eastwood Housing Development and Kiveton Park, Thurcroft and West Melton small site assemblies.

Other highlights included progress with town centre housing schemes; commencement of works at Chesterhill Avenue and Whinney Hill; completion of Broom Hayes development; completion of ten bungalows across sites in Wickersley and Bramley; approval to sell the Eldertree Road garage site for private development and a successful virtual Housing Developer Summit.

Appendix 1 to the report provided a photographic summary of the progress.

The report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process and the progress made was noted. It was also suggested that Members be consulted and invited to feed into the new local design guide with a view to ensuring new developments were better integrated aesthetically into their surrounding community and that new developers be proactively invited to the housing developer summits.

**Resolved:-** (1) That progress made with the 2021/22 Housing Development Programme be noted.

(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 new developers to the housing market be proactively invited to the housing developer summits.

**73. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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

**74. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday 20th December, 2021, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

**THE CABINET**  
**20th December, 2021**

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

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

**75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**76. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **77. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### **Resolved:**

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

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

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

#### **79. PROPOSALS FOR THE REACH SERVICE**

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

As part of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme that had been agreed by Cabinet in May 2018, the Council had agreed to continue to provide a Complex Needs Day Service offer and this was currently delivered by the REACH service at the Elliott Centre in Rotherham Town Centre and Maple Avenue at Maltby.

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

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

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

#### **Resolved:**

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

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

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

During October 2020 there was a significant COVID-19 outbreak at the Lodge rendering the Service unsafe. The decision was taken to move the residents to an empty pavilion at Lord Hardy Court in order to prevent the

spread of infection. The Service continued to be supported by the same staff. The initial stay was due to end in December 2020, however, the continuing pandemic meant that a decision was taken to extend the stay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Resolved:**

1. That Cabinet note the views of residents and their families expressed in the consultation and the responses provided by officers to ensure residents' care and support needs are met in Lord Hardy Court;
2. That Cabinet approve the Parkhill Lodge residential service being provided from Lord Hardy Court on an interim basis;
3. That Cabinet approve the proposal to close the Parkhill Lodge building;



4. That Cabinet agree to a consultation from May 2022 on options for new Council accommodation with support from people with Autism and learning disabilities and that the investment proposals return to Cabinet in November 2022 following the conclusion on the consultation.

## **81. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rotherham MBC had been invited to work with the Department for Education as part of the Safety Valve Intervention Programme which provided support to local authorities with large DSG deficits. The aim of the work was to achieve a mutually agreeable solution to eliminating the

Council's DSG deficit and to secure a more sustainable DSG position going forward. A proposal had to be submitted to the DfE by 7th December, 2022, however, an agreement with the DfE would need to be signed in early 2022 so that any additional grant payments could be made by Government in March 2022. The authority to complete the agreement would be delegated to the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member, Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

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

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

**Resolved:**

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

**82. HRA BUSINESS PLAN 2022-23**

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

It was reported that by the end of March 2022, 194 new Council homes would have been built since the start of the Housing Growth Programme.

A further £92.3m would be invested to deliver the Council's ambition to create 1,000 homes between 2018 and 2025-26. It was also reported that over the short to medium term forecast, the Business Plan was operating at or around the minimum balance. However, over the longer term, there was a significant squeeze on resources due to inflationary pressures even before the costs of achieving net zero carbon were factored in.

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

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

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

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

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet recommend to Council that:

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

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

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

The average rent in 2021/22 was £75.45 when aggregated over 52 weeks. The 2022/23 average weekly rent based on the Government policy of CPI (3.1% as at September 2021) plus 1% would be £78.54 totalling in an average increase of £3.09 per week. Rent increases in respect of shared ownership properties were subject to a different formula of RPI (4.9% as at September 2021) plus 0.5%. 51 shared ownership properties would be affected with rents increasing by £2.29 per week on average, from £42.41 to £44.70.

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

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

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

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

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet note the report and recommend to Council that:

1. Dwelling rents are increased by 4.1% in 2022/23 (Option 1) in line with the Government policy on rents for social housing which allows rents to increase by Consumer Price Index (CPI) (3.1% as at September 2021) plus 1%;
2. Shared ownership rents are increased by 5.4% in 2022/23 (Option 1) in line with the Government policy on rents for social housing which allows rents to increase by Retail Price Index (RPI) (4.9% as at September 2021) plus 0.5%;
3. There is a 2% increase in charges for garages and parking spaces, communal facilities, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities, in line with the Council's policy on fees and charges;

4. The charging model for District Heating (as agreed by Full Council in December 2017) is revised to allow for a planned deficit should energy price increases exceed scheme income;
5. The unit charge per KWH and weekly prepayment charges for District Heating Schemes be increased by 15% in 2022/23 (Option 1) to limit the impact of anticipated market increases in the prices of energy and fuel costs; and
6. That the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23, attached at Appendix 2, be agreed.

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

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

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

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

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

**Resolved:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet:

1. Recommend to Council that the Council Plan 2022-2025 be approved.
2. Recommend to Council that the Year Ahead Delivery Plan be approved.
3. Recommend that the first quarterly progress update is provided by the Cabinet in June 2022.
4. Agree that that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board should continue to monitor performance against the objectives contained in the new Council Plan by receiving the quarterly performance reports produced for Cabinet as part of its pre-decision scrutiny role.

**86. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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

**87. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-**

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

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 12 January 2022

**Report Title**

Recommendation from Cabinet – HRA Business Plan 2022-23

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

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Anne Marie Lubanski, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**Report Author(s)**

Paul Elliott, Interim Head of Housing Operational Services  
01709 822494

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide – all wards

**Report Summary**

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) records all expenditure and income relating to the provision of council housing and related services, and the Council is required to produce an HRA Business Plan setting out its investment priorities over a 30-year period.

Following the introduction in 2012 of HRA self-financing, the Council was awarded control over its HRA in return for taking on a proportion of national housing debt.

The current business plan takes account of known costs for housing growth, housing management and repairs & maintenance. By the end of March 2022 194 new Council homes will have been built since the start of the housing growth programme. It is proposed a further £92.3m will be invested to deliver the Council's ambition to create 1,000 new homes between 2018 and 2025-26. Over the short to medium term forecast, the Business Plan is operating at or around the minimum balance; however, over the longer term there is a significant squeeze on resources due to inflationary pressures even before the costs of achieving net zero carbon are factored in.

This report provides a detailed technical overview of the current position and the reason for changes to the Business Plan. This report is to be considered alongside the proposed 2022-23 rents, service charges and budgets.



## **Recommendations**

That Council:-

1. Approve the proposed 2022-23 Base Case Option 1 for the HRA Business Plan.
2. Review the plan annually to provide an updated financial position.

## **List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 HRA Operating Statement  
Appendix 2 Summary of Modelled Business Plan Scenarios  
Appendix 3 Equalities Assessment  
Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

## **Background Papers**

HRA Business Plan 2021-22  
DCLG Guidance on Rents for Social Housing  
Annual Housing Development Report to Cabinet, 22 November 2021

## **Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 15 December 2021  
Cabinet – 20 December 2021

## **Council Approval Required**

Yes

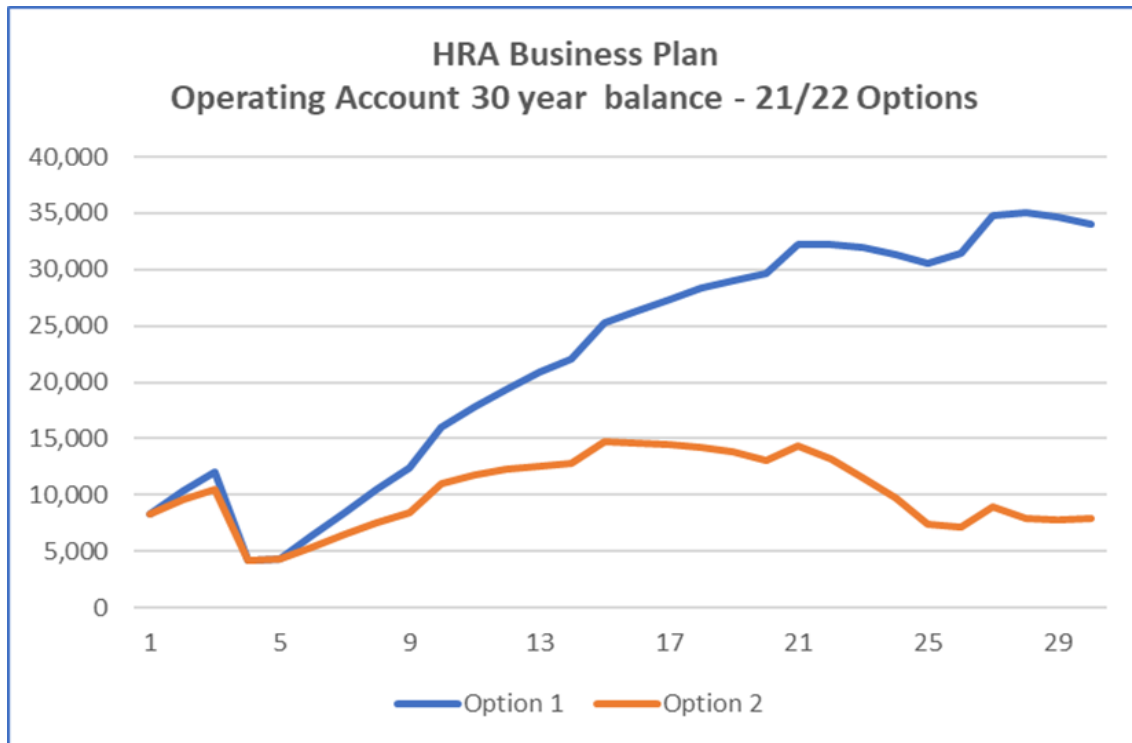
## **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Appendix 1 – 30 Year Operating Statement – Option 1

| <div>Rotherham MBC</div> <div>HRA Business Plan</div> <div>Operating Account</div> <div>(expressed in money terms)</div> <div>HRA Business Plan 2021 v2 3 03NOV21.xl...</div> |         |              |           |          |              |             |            |           |           |           |            |                 |           |          |             |             |           |            |            |          |            |
|---|---------|--------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| Income  |         |              |           |          |              | Expenditure |            |           |           |           |            |                 |           |          |             |             |           |            |            |          |            |
| Year  | Year    | Net rent Inc | Other inc | Misc Inc | Total Income | Managt.     | Depreciati | Responsiv | Other Rev | Misc expe | Total expe | Capital Charges | Net Opera | Repaymen | Transfer to | Transfer fr | CCO       | Surplus (D | Surplus (D | Interest | Surplus (D |
|   |         | £,000        | £,000     | £,000    | £,000        | £,000       | £,000      | £,000     | £,000     | £,000     | £,000      | £,000           | £,000     | £,000    | £,000       | £,000       | £,000     | £,000      | £,000      | £,000    | £,000      |
| 1   | 2021.22 | 77,388       | 0         | 6,834    | 84,222       | (25,492)    | (21,311)   | (19,147)  | 0         | (347)     | (66,297)   | (13,805)        | 4,121     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (6,519)   | (2,398)    | 10,598     | 63       | 8,264      |
| 2   | 2022.23 | 80,638       | 0         | 7,257    | 87,895       | (26,703)    | (22,266)   | (20,099)  | 0         | (364)     | (69,432)   | (13,752)        | 4,711     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (2,726)   | 1,985      | 8,264      | 57       | 10,306     |
| 3   | 2023.24 | 84,383       | 0         | 7,652    | 92,035       | (27,761)    | (23,286)   | (20,914)  | 0         | (379)     | (72,340)   | (13,496)        | 6,199     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (4,527)   | 1,672      | 10,306     | 36       | 12,013     |
| 4   | 2024.25 | 88,454       | 0         | 7,935    | 96,389       | (28,356)    | (23,860)   | (21,355)  | 0         | (389)     | (73,960)   | (13,330)        | 9,099     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (16,939)  | (7,840)    | 12,013     | 13       | 4,186      |
| 5   | 2025.26 | 88,420       | 0         | 8,219    | 96,640       | (28,997)    | (24,334)   | (22,948)  | 0         | (399)     | (76,678)   | (13,826)        | 6,135     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (6,044)   | 91         | 4,186      | 7        | 4,284      |
| 6   | 2026.27 | 90,193       | 0         | 8,512    | 98,705       | (29,704)    | (24,959)   | (23,499)  | 0         | (409)     | (78,571)   | (13,910)        | 6,225     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (4,137)   | 2,087      | 4,284      | 9        | 6,380      |
| 7   | 2027.28 | 91,895       | 0         | 8,805    | 100,700      | (30,427)    | (25,551)   | (24,064)  | 0         | (419)     | (80,461)   | (13,910)        | 6,329     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (4,286)   | 2,043      | 6,380      | 12       | 8,435      |
| 8   | 2028.29 | 93,629       | 0         | 9,099    | 102,728      | (31,168)    | (26,157)   | (24,643)  | 0         | (429)     | (82,398)   | (13,910)        | 6,421     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (4,438)   | 1,983      | 8,435      | 15       | 10,433     |
| 9   | 2029.30 | 95,396       | 0         | 9,401    | 104,797      | (31,928)    | (26,778)   | (25,235)  | 0         | (440)     | (84,380)   | (13,910)        | 6,507     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (4,592)   | 1,914      | 10,433     | 18       | 12,366     |
| 10  | 2030.31 | 99,066       | 0         | 9,702    | 108,768      | (32,705)    | (27,413)   | (25,841)  | 0         | (451)     | (86,411)   | (13,910)        | 8,447     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (4,750)   | 3,697      | 12,366     | 23       | 16,085     |
| 11  | 2031.32 | 99,031       | 0         | 9,999    | 109,030      | (33,502)    | (28,063)   | (26,463)  | 0         | (462)     | (88,490)   | (13,937)        | 6,603     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (4,911)   | 1,692      | 16,085     | 27       | 17,804     |
| 12  | 2032.33 | 100,900      | 0         | 10,295   | 111,194      | (34,318)    | (28,729)   | (27,098)  | 0         | (474)     | (90,619)   | (13,937)        | 6,639     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (5,075)   | 1,563      | 17,804     | 30       | 19,398     |
| 13  | 2033.34 | 102,804      | 0         | 10,594   | 113,398      | (35,154)    | (29,410)   | (27,750)  | 0         | (486)     | (92,799)   | (13,937)        | 6,662     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (5,243)   | 1,419      | 19,398     | 32       | 20,849     |
| 14  | 2034.35 | 104,744      | 0         | 10,901   | 115,645      | (36,010)    | (30,108)   | (28,417)  | 0         | (498)     | (95,032)   | (13,958)        | 6,655     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (5,413)   | 1,242      | 20,849     | 34       | 22,125     |
| 15  | 2035.36 | 108,773      | 0         | 11,217   | 119,990      | (36,887)    | (30,822)   | (29,099)  | 0         | (510)     | (97,318)   | (13,958)        | 8,714     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (5,588)   | 3,126      | 22,125     | 38       | 25,289     |
| 16  | 2036.37 | 108,735      | 0         | 11,541   | 120,276      | (37,785)    | (31,552)   | (29,696)  | 0         | (523)     | (99,557)   | (13,958)        | 6,761     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (5,766)   | 995        | 25,289     | 41       | 26,325     |
| 17  | 2037.38 | 110,787      | 0         | 11,874   | 122,661      | (38,705)    | (32,301)   | (30,410)  | 0         | (536)     | (101,952)  | (13,809)        | 6,900     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (5,947)   | 953        | 26,325     | 43       | 27,321     |
| 18  | 2038.39 | 112,878      | 0         | 12,216   | 125,094      | (39,648)    | (33,066)   | (31,140)  | 0         | (549)     | (104,404)  | (13,618)        | 7,072     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (6,133)   | 939        | 27,321     | 44       | 28,305     |
| 19  | 2039.40 | 115,008      | 0         | 12,562   | 127,570      | (40,613)    | (33,850)   | (31,888)  | 0         | (563)     | (106,915)  | (13,616)        | 7,039     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (6,322)   | 717        | 28,305     | 46       | 29,068     |
| 20  | 2040.41 | 117,179      | 0         | 12,917   | 130,096      | (41,603)    | (34,653)   | (32,654)  | 0         | (577)     | (109,487)  | (13,616)        | 6,993     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (6,515)   | 477        | 29,068     | 47       | 29,592     |
| 21  | 2041.42 | 121,686      | 0         | 13,287   | 134,973      | (42,616)    | (35,474)   | (33,439)  | 0         | (592)     | (112,120)  | (13,616)        | 9,237     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (6,713)   | 2,524      | 29,592     | 49       | 32,165     |
| 22  | 2042.43 | 121,643      | 0         | 13,667   | 135,310      | (43,653)    | (36,315)   | (34,242)  | 0         | (607)     | (114,817)  | (13,616)        | 6,877     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (6,914)   | (37)       | 32,165     | 51       | 32,180     |
| 23  | 2043.44 | 123,939      | 0         | 14,057   | 137,996      | (44,716)    | (37,176)   | (35,064)  | 0         | (622)     | (117,578)  | (13,608)        | 6,810     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (7,120)   | (310)      | 32,180     | 51       | 31,921     |
| 24  | 2044.45 | 126,279      | 0         | 14,457   | 140,736      | (45,805)    | (38,057)   | (35,907)  | 0         | (637)     | (120,406)  | (13,597)        | 6,733     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (7,330)   | (598)      | 31,921     | 51       | 31,374     |
| 25  | 2045.46 | 128,662      | 0         | 14,862   | 143,524      | (46,921)    | (38,958)   | (36,769)  | 0         | (653)     | (123,301)  | (13,597)        | 6,626     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (7,545)   | (919)      | 31,374     | 49       | 30,504     |
| 26  | 2046.47 | 131,090      | 0         | 15,272   | 146,362      | (48,063)    | (39,882)   | (37,652)  | 0         | (669)     | (126,266)  | (13,597)        | 6,499     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (5,560)   | 938        | 30,504     | 50       | 31,492     |
| 27  | 2047.48 | 136,133      | 0         | 15,693   | 151,826      | (49,234)    | (40,826)   | (38,556)  | 0         | (686)     | (129,303)  | (13,597)        | 8,926     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (5,732)   | 3,194      | 31,492     | 53       | 34,740     |
| 28  | 2048.49 | 136,086      | 0         | 16,124   | 152,210      | (50,432)    | (41,794)   | (39,482)  | 0         | (703)     | (132,412)  | (13,597)        | 6,201     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (5,907)   | 295        | 34,740     | 56       | 35,090     |
| 29  | 2049.50 | 138,654      | 0         | 16,567   | 155,222      | (51,660)    | (42,784)   | (40,430)  | 0         | (721)     | (135,596)  | (13,597)        | 6,029     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (6,459)   | (430)      | 35,090     | 56       | 34,716     |
| 30  | 2050.51 | 141,272      | 0         | 17,022   | 158,293      | (52,918)    | (43,797)   | (41,401)  | 0         | (739)     | (138,856)  | (13,597)        | 5,841     | 0        | 0           | 0           | (6,651)   | (810)      | 34,716     | 55       | 33,960     |
|   |         | 3,275,744    |           | 348,540  |              |             |            |           |           |           | (412,121)  |                 |           |          |             |             | (181,802) |            |            |          |            |

Appendix 2 – Summary of modelled Business Plan Scenarios



## 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   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Title: HRA Business Plan 2022-23</b>  |  |
| <b>Directorate: ACH &amp; PH</b>   | <b>Service area: Housing</b>                       |
| <b>Lead person: Paul Elliott</b>   | <b>Contact number: 822494</b>                      |
| Is this a:   |  |
| <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>  |  |
| <b>If other, please specify</b>  |  |
| 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening  |  |
| <p>The annual HRA Business Plan which sets out all proposed income and expenditure for the HRA for the next 30 years as required by HRA self financing.</p> <p>Strategic allocation of resources within the HRA for period of 30 years.</p> <p>Specifically responding to changes in government policy, macro-economic environment and gearing towards housing growth.</p> <p>HRA Business Plan for 2022-23 provides information on the positioning of the HRA Business Plan as a driver of Housing Growth to assist in meeting the Council's housing objectives. In essence the overall approach is to make savings where it is feasible to do so these can be invested in future housing growth and to position the housing service so it is best placed to respond to future challenges that arise.</p> |  |

Proposals are designed to ensure:

- There is a significant contribution to housing growth and support to the Council Plan.
- Whilst savings are made no action is taken that will undermine the Council's longer-term ability to react to changes.
- Provision is made to ensure there are sufficient resources available to invest in services where there is an identified need.
- The longer-term viability of the HRA business plan is maintained.
- Budgets remain flexible to react to any significant changes in property numbers currently expected or further government policy changes.
- No early repayment of debt is made.
- Commence delivery of work towards achieving net zero carbon.

### 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?<br><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?<br><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?<br><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?<br><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?<br><i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>                    | x   |    |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?</p> <p><i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i></p> | x |  |
| <p>If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason</p>   |   |  |
|  |   |  |

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

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

#### 4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

- How have you considered equality and diversity?**

The HRA Business plan reviews the proposed income and expenditure for the HRA over the next 30 years it therefore indirectly influences what services can be delivered for Council tenants.

The HRA Business Plan responds to some of the above concerns by maintaining investment in Tenant Involvement Services and the housing management teams to deal with issues of ASB, financial inclusion and engaging with under-represented groups.

The Business plan maintains investment in housing stock which allows investment in properties to install insulation, new heating systems etc. which tackle fuel poverty agenda.

The Business plan responds to the needs of communities for affordable housing through gearing funds towards building up to 1000 new properties over the next 6 years. The tenure, size and type of accommodation (including Disabled person units) has been informed by the Strategic Housing Market assessment.

The plan continues to invest over £1m in additional resources per year into front line housing services to support the most vulnerable tenants. These tenants will have equality

characteristics. The Business plan itself does not commission services but details how the housing service will be funded and each service area has policies and strategies detailing how service will be delivered which will each have an Equality analysis.

- **Key findings**

The Council currently owns circa 20,000 homes, 544 leasehold homes and 3,375 garages with a turnover from rents and other sources approaching £84m per annum.

Circa 264,000 people live in Rotherham Borough, about half living in and around the main urban area of Rotherham. The remainder live in smaller towns such as Wath, Dinnington and Maltby, and in numerous large villages and rural communities, all of which have their own distinct identities.

120,600 Rotherham residents are in employment whilst 106,000 people have workplaces in the Borough, giving a net outflow of 14,700 workers. One in five workers who live in Rotherham are employed in Sheffield and another one in five work elsewhere outside Rotherham.

45,259 children attend 117 Rotherham schools.

Rotherham has a similar age profile to the national average and in common with the national trends, the population is ageing. Central Rotherham has a younger population than average whilst the more suburban and rural areas, mainly in the south of the borough, have older age profiles.

One in four residents (25.2%) are aged 60 years or over and 22,500 people (8.5%) are aged 75 years or over. Rotherham has 56,900 children aged 0-17 (21.6% of the population).

Rotherham's Black and minority ethnic (BME) population was 8.1% in 2011 and is now estimated at around 11%. The central area of Rotherham is far more ethnically diverse than the rest of the Borough. The largest minority ethnic group is Pakistani & Kashmiri (4% of the population), followed by the Slovak & Czech Roma (1.5% of the population). Rotherham also has smaller Black African, Indian, Chinese, Irish and Arab communities, all with between 500 and 2,000 people.

The 2011 Census showed that 56,588 (22%) of Rotherham's population had a long term health problem or disability and 11.3% said their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long term conditions (8.3% nationally). In November 2016, 30,306 Rotherham residents (11.6%) claimed Disability Living Allowance (16,680), Personal Independence Payment (6,100) or Attendance Allowance (7,516).

One in six homes is rented from the council and although house prices have risen over the years, they are about half the national average.

Rotherham Borough has 63 councillors representing 21 wards. 43% of councillors are women and 5% are BME.

There are 30 parish councils in Rotherham covering half the population.

Most neighbourhoods in Rotherham offer a good living environment and 78% of adults are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.

Despite improvements overall, some areas of Rotherham are affected by high economic and social deprivation. Rotherham is the 52nd most deprived district in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, which showed 19.5% of residents living in the 10% most deprived areas nationally.

Central Rotherham forms the main area of high deprivation although there are also pockets in Maltby, Rawmarsh, Dinnington, Thurgroft, Wath, Swinton and Aston. The main forms of deprivation affecting Rotherham are low levels of qualification, poor health, high rates of disability and high worklessness, notably long term sickness.

Adult qualification levels in Rotherham are below average, including the proportion of the population with higher qualifications which reflects Rotherham's industrial legacy. However, most pupils attending Rotherham's schools have attainment slightly above the national average. Rotherham colleges provide good quality further education and the new University Centre offer higher education courses.

The Housing Service undertook a survey of tenants' views in 2019, referred to as the Star (Standard Tenant Assessment Response) Survey which supports how resources are targeted and allows the Council to benchmark satisfaction with other social housing providers. The most recent survey found:

- 80% of tenants are satisfied with the overall service provided.
- 80% of tenants are satisfied with the quality of their home.
- 78% of tenants believe their rent provides value for money.
- 48% of tenants were satisfied that their views were listened to and acted upon.
- Satisfaction with grounds maintenance and estate services were varied across the borough.

The HRA Business Plan responds to the above concerns by continuing to invest in Tenant Involvement Services and capacity in the housing management teams.

Members have been consulted on various aspects of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. Seminars and Workshops have been held on Housing Growth, Repairs and Maintenance, Universal Credit and Housing Policy updates. This has helped inform the proposed Business Plan.

#### • **Actions**

Monitor the demographics of tenants in rent arrears on a bi-annual basis  
 Monitor the impact of the new build houses by analysing the number of lettings according to the tenants protected characteristic.  
 Monitor attendance of tenant engagement events.  
 Respond to consultation feedback through Planning Applications.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

4/10/21



|   |   |             |
|---|---|-------------|
| Date to complete your Equality Analysis:  | 11/10/21  |             |
| Lead person for your Equality Analysis<br>(Include name and job title):   | Paul Elliott<br>Interim Head of Housing<br>Operational Services |             |
| <b>5. Governance, ownership and approval</b>  |   |             |
| Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:   |   |             |
| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Job title</b>  | <b>Date</b> |
| Paul Walsh  | Interim Assistant Director<br>of Housing                        | 25/11/2021  |
|   |   |             |
| <b>6. Publishing</b>  |   |             |
| <p>This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.</p> <p>If this screening relates to a <b>Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision</b> a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.</p> <p>A copy of <b>all</b> screenings should also be sent to <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a> For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.</p> |   |             |
| <b>Date screening completed</b>   | 28 September 2021   |             |
| <b>Report title and date</b>  | HRA Business Plan 2022-23                                       |             |
| <b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>  | 13 December 2021  |             |
| <b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b><br><a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>   | 8 November 2021   |             |

## PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

| 1. Title   |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Equality Analysis title: HRA Business Plan 2022-23</b>  |                                       |
| <b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 28/09/21</b>  |                                       |
| <b>Directorate: ACH &amp; PH</b>   | <b>Service area: Housing Services</b> |
| <b>Lead Manager:<br/>Paul Elliott, Interim Head of Housing<br/>Operational Services</b>  | <b>Contact number: 01709 822494</b>   |
| <b>Is this a:</b><br><input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b><br><b>If other, please specify</b> |                                       |

**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<br>(eg service user, managers, service specialist) |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| Paul Elliott | RMBC         | Manager   |
| Kath Andrews | RMBC         | Finance Manager   |
| Asim Munir   | RMBC         | Tenant Involvement Co-ordinator                         |

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

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

The annual HRA Business Plan which sets out all proposed income and expenditure for the HRA for the next 30 years as required by HRA Self-financing.

Strategic allocation of resources within the HRA for period of 30 years.

Specifically responding to changes in government policy, macro-economic environment and gearing towards housing growth.

HRA Business Plan for 2022-23 provides information on the positioning of the HRA Business Plan as a driver of housing growth to assist in meeting the Council's housing objectives. In essence the overall approach is to make savings where it is feasible to do so these can be invested in future housing growth and to position the housing service so it is best placed to respond to future challenges that arise.

Proposals are designed to ensure:

There is a significant contribution to housing growth and support to the Council Plan.

Whilst savings are made no action is taken that will undermine the Council's longer term ability to react to changes.

Provision is made to ensure there are sufficient resources available to invest in services where there is an identified need .

The longer term viability of the HRA Business Plan is maintained.

Budgets remain flexible to react to any significant changes in property numbers currently expected or further government policy changes.

No early repayment of debt is made.

Commence delivery toward achieving net zero carbon

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

The Council currently owns circa 20,000 homes, 544 leasehold homes and 3,375 garages with a turnover from rents and other sources approaching £84m per annum.

Circa 264,000 people live in Rotherham Borough, about half living in and around the main urban area of Rotherham. The remainder live in smaller towns such as Wath, Dinnington and Maltby, and in numerous large villages and rural communities, all of which have their own distinct identities.

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One in four residents (25.2%) are aged 60 years or over and 22,500 people (8.5%) are aged 75 years or over. Rotherham has 56,900 children aged 0-17 (21.6% of the population).

Rotherham's Black and minority ethnic (BME) population was 8.1% in 2011 and is now estimated at around 11%. The central area of Rotherham is far more ethnically diverse than the rest of the Borough. The largest minority ethnic group is Pakistani & Kashmiri (4% of the population), followed by the Slovak & Czech Roma (1.5% of the population). Rotherham also has smaller Black African, Indian, Chinese, Irish and Arab communities, all with between 500 and 2,000 people.

The 2011 Census showed that 56,588 (22%) of Rotherham's population had a long term health problem or disability and 11.3% said their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long term conditions (8.3% nationally). In November 2016, 30,306 Rotherham residents (11.6%) claimed Disability Living Allowance (16,680), Personal Independence Payment (6,100) or Attendance Allowance (7,516).

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Despite improvements overall, some areas of Rotherham are affected by high economic and social deprivation. Rotherham is the 52nd most deprived district in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, which showed 19.5% of residents living in the 10% most deprived areas nationally.

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Adult qualification levels in Rotherham are below average, including the proportion of the population with higher qualifications which reflects Rotherham's industrial legacy. However, most pupils attending Rotherham's schools have attainment slightly above the national average. Rotherham colleges provide good quality further education and the new University Centre offer higher education courses

The Housing Service undertook a survey of tenants' views in 2019, referred to as the Star (Standard Tenant Assessment Response) Survey which supports how resources are targeted and allows the Council to benchmark satisfaction with other social housing providers. The most recent survey found:

- 80% of tenants are satisfied with the overall service provided
- 80% of tenants are satisfied with the quality of their home
- 78% of tenants believe their rent provides value for money
- 48% of tenants were satisfied that their views were listened to and acted upon
- Satisfaction with grounds maintenance and estate services were varied across the borough

The HRA Business Plan responds to the above concerns by continuing to invest in Tenant Involvement Services and capacity in the housing management teams.

Members have been consulted on various aspects of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. Seminars and Workshops have been held on Housing Growth, Repairs and Maintenance, Universal Credit and Housing Policy updates. This has helped inform the proposed Business Plan.

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

Do not collect data on gender reassignment or religion and belief at sign up.

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

Allocation of properties are monitored by protected characteristics.  
Rent arrears are monitored by age, gender, disability.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b> | <p>A meeting will take place with the Housing Involvement Panel on 24 November 2021 (Housing Involvement Panel) to seek support for proposals to focus on housing growth so improving housing options available to vulnerable groups in need of housing.</p>   |
| <b>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b>      | <p>Meeting with M3 managers and email seeking feedback into the business plan throughout August to November 2021.</p> <p>The plan has been developed with support from Council Officers and input from the Strategic Leadership Team.</p> <p>Councillors, staff and partners play a vital role in the review of the business plan.</p> <p>Following approval the will be effectively communicated to staff and members and training will be undertaken in-house.</p> |

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

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

The HRA Business Plan responds to some of the above concerns by increasing investment in Supervision and management allowing the service to increase capacity in the housing management teams to deal with issues of ASB, financial inclusion and engaging with under-represented groups.

The Business plan maintains investment in housing stock which ensures investment in properties to install insulation, new heating systems etc. which tackle fuel poverty agenda.

The Business plan responds to the needs of communities for affordable housing through gearing funds towards building circa 1000 new properties over the next 6 years. The tenure, size and type of accommodation (including Disabled person units) has been informed by the Strategic Housing Market assessment.

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

The proposed rent increase of 4.1% may affect low income groups in or out of work as both pay and benefits have increased at or below CPI inflation. This is most likely to be the disabled.

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

Vulnerable people are offered and provided with tenancy support which is tailored to individual needs to help them sustain their tenancy and live in the community. Support available in Rotherham includes:

- RMBC Tenancy Support Service – provides practical support on all tenancy related issues including debt and budgeting. The team have access to funds to support people in crisis i.e. no gas/electric. Tenants must be actively working with the team to receive financial benefit
- Age UK Age Related Benefit Advisory Service – provide support and guidance to residents age 65 and over to claim all age related benefits to maximise income. They all provide holistic support in other areas of concern i.e. fuel poverty/home insulation etc
- RMBC DHP Fund- residents with rent arrears can apply to the RMBC Discretionary Housing Payment Fund for assistance to clear or reduce their debt subject to criteria
- ESF/RMBC Pathways and Inspire Employment Projects – provide support and assistance to people looking to access training and employment in order to better their financial situation. The team also have access to funding to help people in crisis i.e. no food/heating. Participants must be actively working with the team to receive financial benefit
- RMBC Household Support Fund – still in development it is believed the fund will be used to support vulnerable people through the provision of food vouchers, help with energy costs and financial support to buy essential items such as cookers/fridge freezers etc.
- RMBC Advocacy and Appeals Team – providing people with practical support to maximise their income by claiming any benefits they are entitled too. The Team can assist with application and also with mandatory reconsideration and appeals/tribunals.
- Foodbanks – provided through Liberty Church, the Trussell Trust and Rotherham Foodbank. Vulnerable tenants can be supported through the provision of free food parcels in times of crisis. Referrals have historically been made through the RMBC Community Hub

- Social Supermarket – Rotherham Minster and VAR supporting residents through the provision of a social supermarket that allows members to pay £3 a week for a maximum of 3 months to allow them to shop in their store. This service transitions people from foodbank dependency and promotes empowerment through teaching budgeting skills
- Rotherfed ‘Making your money go further’ project – This project works with communities to deliver bespoke advice on how tenants and residents can save money and survive on a limited income.
- Citizens Advice Rotherham – providing advice and guidance to all residents on money management and debt solutions enabling clients to resolve the cycle of debt. They also provide support to residents with energy issues through seasonal funded projects such as energy best deal. Historically they have been able to support vulnerable residents through the provision of fuel vouchers. This year’s energy campaign is yet to be announced however the **Winter Energy Fund** will provide up to £10 million which will be distributed through eligible charities this winter. It is dedicated to pre-payment meter customers who are at risk of self-disconnection.

The increase in funding for new build housing will assist vulnerable groups on the housing register as it will increase the supply of new council housing so reducing the use of temporary accommodation for such groups when they are homeless. It will also increase the number of Disable person units so meeting the needs of disabled tenants.

**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)

It is not envisaged that the HRA Business Plan will negatively impact on community relations.

The Council will closely monitor the viability of the HRA Business Plan; by building a HRA Business Plan monitoring report to monitor key variables such as:

- Number of homes
- Rental income
- Rent arrears and bad debts
- Voids and void rent loss
- Debt levels and repayment
- Reserve levels, and
- Maintenance backlog

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

|  |
|--|
| <b>Title of analysis: HRA Business Plan 2022-23</b>  |
| <b>Directorate and service area: ACH &amp; PH – Housing Services</b>   |
| <b>Lead Manager: Paul Elliott, Interim Head of Housing Operational Services</b>  |
| <b>Summary of findings:</b>  |
| <p>The HRA Business Plan responds to some of the above concerns by increasing investment in Supervision and management allowing the service to increase capacity in the housing management teams to deal with issues of ASB, financial inclusion and engaging with under-represented groups.</p> <p>The Business plan maintains investment in housing stock which ensures investment in properties to install insulation, new heating systems etc. which tackle fuel poverty agenda.</p> <p>The Business plan responds to the needs of communities for affordable housing through gearing funds towards building circa 1000 new properties over the next 6 years. The tenure, size and type of accommodation (including Disabled person units) has been informed by the Strategic Housing Market assessment.</p> <p>The proposes rent increase of 4.1% may affect low income groups in or out of work as both pay and benefits have increased at or below CPI inflation. This is most likely to be the disabled.</p> |

| Action/Target   | State Protected Characteristics as listed below | Target date (MM/YY) |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Monitor the demographics of tenants in rent arrears on a bi-annual basis  | A,D,S,GR,RE,SO,RoB                              | 30.06.22            |
| Monitor the impact of the build houses by analysis the number of lettings according to the tenants protected characteristic | A,D,S,GR,RE,SO,RoB                              | 31.03.23            |
| Collect protected characteristics at tenancy sign up  | A,D,S,GR,RE,SO,RoB                              | 30.06.22            |

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

#### 6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name       | Job title                             | Date       |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Paul Walsh | Interim Assistant Director of Housing | 25/11/2021 |
|            |                                       |            |

#### 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](mailto: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.   |                           |
| <b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>   | 29/10/21                  |
| <b>Report title and date</b>  | HRA Business Plan 2022-23 |
| <b>Date report sent for publication</b>   |                           |
| <b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b><br><a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a> |                           |

## Appendix 4 – Carbon Impact 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                       | Schemes to upgrade District Heating Boiler houses will be funded through the HRA Business Plan and will look to alternate fuels such as biomass.   | The introduction of biomass boilers or other net zero carbon district heating schemes will result in net zero carbon emissions for the heating of the buildings heated by the scheme and a reduction in emissions across the Borough.   | N / A   | This will be monitored through the procurement process for the replacement boilers and the supply of biomass fuel.                      |
| Emissions from transport?              | Increased emissions / impact unknown | For new residential developments and works on existing council stock vehicle movements to and from the site will generated during demolition and construction will create emissions. Through the movement of building and waste materials and personnel. | While it is possible that new households will increase vehicle movements, they may also reduce them. Depending where new residents work and access services. We do not know before a development is built where new residents will move from and whether this move will increase or decrease vehicle movements. Some new properties included in the programme, i.e. the homes the Council purchases as strategic acquisitions will be built regardless of whether | Prospective contractors will be required to demonstrate how they will minimise and mitigate emissions from vehicle movements as part of the construction, during the tendering process. All new housing developments are subject to planning controls and the planning process at the plan and policy development and planning application stages takes into account vehicle movements. | Assessment of whether the new households increase or decrease carbon emissions through vehicle movements is not monitored at this time. |

|  |                     |   |  |   |   |
|--|---------------------|---|--|---|---|
|  |                     |   | the Council purchases them or not.   |   |   |
| Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself? | Increased emissions | Construction and works on existing Council stock will generate waste materials through demolition, exporting of materials from groundworks and waste construction materials.  | Although new households may not necessarily mean more people living in the Borough, they are likely to create a small increase in the overall volume of waste created and in the distance travelled by waste collection vehicles.  | Prospective contractors will be required to demonstrate how they will minimise and mitigate vehicle emissions from the movement of waste, during the tendering process. This will include the recycling / re use of materials on site where possible.   | Unknown.  |
| Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?         | Impact unknown      | <p>Housing refurbishment and new build schemes that may be funded from resources within the HRA Business Plan may contribute to reducing emissions.</p> <p>Council will result in no direct emissions increase for the council.</p> | <p>Housing refurbishment and new build schemes that may be funded from resources within the HRA Business Plan may contribute to reducing emissions.</p> <p>Equally new build housing built as part of the programme will increase emissions from the heating and lighting of the new properties.</p> | <p>In designing refurbishment schemes and new build property the Housing service will use technologies that have lower carbon emissions where cost effective and practicable.</p> <p>Refurbishment which focus on retrofitting for carbon emissions reduction will generally aim to achieve at least EPC level "C"</p> <p>The Council will ensure that the new homes are high quality, energy efficient and able to meet the challenge of climate change, irrespective of</p> | <p>The Housing Service monitor the Energy Performance rating for all its housing stock.</p> <p>The energy performance of new buildings will be monitored once occupied to ensure that the stated performance standards are met.</p> |

|   |                       |  |  |   |  |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|--|
|   |                       |  |  | <p>tenure. This means aiming to build to net zero standards where economically viable and at least to the Governments proposed 2025 “New Homes Standard” (75% - 80% reduction compared to 2020 standards.</p> <p>The use of modern methods of construction will be considered for all new schemes, where value for money can be demonstrated as well as carbon reduction.</p>   |  |
| Emissions from construction and/or development? | Increase in emissions | <p>There would be some emissions from the construction of new build housing and refurbishment works, although the environmental impact of schemes would be monitored through the procurement process and site waste management plans.</p> <p>It is possible that some mature trees will be removed as part of the development of new sites</p> | <p>Some of the building materials will be manufactured within the Borough.</p> <p>Removal of trees without replacement could, depending how they are disposed of, increase carbon emissions.</p> | <p>In designing schemes, the Council service would seek to reduce emissions via contractors using electric vehicles and specific components that have a lower carbon emissions than previous items.</p> <p>For refurbishment schemes, emissions from the construction and refurbishment of properties could be offset by the reduction in carbon emissions from newly installed components having lower or zero carbon emissions.</p> | <p>This will be monitored through the procurement process and site waste management plans.</p> |

|   |                  |   |   |  |  |
|---|------------------|---|---|--|--|
|   |                  |   |   | <p>For new build schemes the use of modern methods of construction will be considered for all new schemes, where value for money can be demonstrated as well as carbon reduction.</p> <p>Where trees are present on a development site they will be retained where possible. The planning process deals with protection of trees on development sites and where it allows their removal usually requires equivalent or better replacement.</p> |  |
| Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?  | Reduce emissions | The HRA Business plan identifies funding for environmental schemes which may include tree planting that would capture carbon emissions. | Emissions could be reduced by more tree planting across HRA land. | In designing schemes, the Council service would seek to reduce emissions   | Ongoing air quality monitoring by highways |
| <p>Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:</p> <p>N/A</p> |                  |   |   |  |  |

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

The HRA Business Plan sets out the proposed value of investment in the housing service for the next 30 years. Given the government's commitment for the UK to be achieve net zero carbon by 2050 this will require substantial investment in the Council's housing stock over the life of the business plan. Initial estimates put the cost of this at circa £585m which represents a formidable challenge to the HRA. It is acknowledged that the Housing Service must now develop a Green Investment Strategy. This will detail how the Housing Service will meet this ambition over the life of the business plan and reduce carbon emissions from the Council's housing stock to net zero by 2050. This will be developed over the next year and investment proposals fed into the 2023-24 HRA Business Plan.

Supporting information:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Completed by:<br>(Name, title, and service area/directorate). | Paul Elliott, Interim Head of Housing Operations, Housing Services |
|---|--|

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form]. | N/A |
|---|-----|

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts. | N/A |
|---|-----|

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions] | Comment included in document. |
|--|-------------------------------|



**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 12 January 2022

**Report Title**

Recommendation from Cabinet – Housing Revenue Account Rents and Service Charges 2022/23

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

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Anne Marie Lubanski, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**Report Author(s)**

Mark Scarrott, Finance Manager (Adult Care, Housing and Public Health)  
mark.scarrott@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the proposed values of the housing rents, non-dwelling rents, District Heating and service charges and the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2022/23.

**Recommendations**

That Council approve:-

1. That dwelling rents are increased by 4.1% in 2022/23 (Option 1) in line with the Government policy on rents for social housing which allows rents to increase by Consumer Price Index (CPI) (as at September 2021) plus 1%.
2. That shared ownership rents are increased by 5.4% in 2022/23 (Option 1) in line with the Government policy on rents for social housing which allows rents to increase by Retail Price Index (RPI) (as at September 2021) plus 0.5%.
3. That there is a 2% increase in charges for garages and parking spaces, communal facilities, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities, in line with the Council's policy on fees and charges.
4. The charging model for District Heating (as agreed by Full Council, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017) is revised to allow for a planned deficit should energy price increases exceed scheme income.

5. The unit charge per Kwh and weekly prepayment charges for District Heating Schemes is increased by 15% in 2022/23 (Option 1) to limit the impact of anticipated market increases in the prices of energy and fuel costs.
6. Agree the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2022/23.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 - Non Dwelling Rent, Service Charges and Furnished Homes Charges 2022/23

Appendix 2 - Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23

Appendix 3 - Part A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment form

Appendix 4 - Part B – Equality Analysis form

Appendix 5 - Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 15 December 2021

Cabinet – 20 December 2021

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

**Appendix 1 : Non Dwelling Rents, Service Charges and Furnished Homes Charges**

| Description of Charge  | Current Charge 2021/22 | Basis of charge | (+ 2%)                  | Increase | CPI + 1% (+ 4.1%)       | Increase | Other                   | Increase | Additional Comments                             |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|---|
|  |                        |                 | Proposed Charge 2022/23 |          | Proposed Charge 2022/23 |          | Proposed Charge 2022/23 |          |   |
| <b>Non Dwelling Rents and Service Charges</b>  |                        |                 |                         |          |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Garage rent / Car Parking space - Council Tenant   | £5.20                  | per week        | £5.30                   | £0.10    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Garage rent / Car Parking space - Non Council Tenant or Council tenant with more than one garage | £6.24                  | per week        | £6.36                   | £0.12    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Garage Plots   | £62.70                 | per annum       | £63.95                  | £1.25    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Unsurfaced Garage Plots  | £56.43                 | per annum       | £57.56                  | £1.13    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Wharnccliffe Flats Parking Space   | £6.83                  | per week        | £6.97                   | £0.14    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Hot Water Supply   | £2.03                  | per week        | £2.07                   | £0.04    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Cooking Gas  | £0.93                  | per week        | £0.95                   | £0.02    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Communal Facility  | £4.95                  | per week        | £5.05                   | £0.10    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Communal Block - additional bedroom charge   | £21.26                 | per week        | £21.69                  | £0.43    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Laundry  | £1.66                  | per week        | £1.69                   | £0.03    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Contents Insurance (average)   | £1.28                  | per week        | £1.31                   | £0.03    |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Acquired Ground Rent   | £5.71                  | per week        |                         |          |                         |          | £6.28                   | £0.57    | Annual increase of 10% as per tenancy agreement |
| Acquired Estate Fee  | £3.34                  | per week        |                         |          |                         |          | £3.50                   | £0.16    | Annual increase by RPI (as at September = 4.9%) |
|  |                        |                 |                         |          |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| <b>Furnished Homes Charges</b>   |                        |                 |                         |          |                         |          |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Carpets only  | £9.64                  | per week        |                         |          | £10.04                  | £0.40    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Washer only   | £2.75                  | per week        |                         |          | £2.86                   | £0.11    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Dryer only  | £2.03                  | per week        |                         |          | £2.11                   | £0.08    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Washer and Dryer  | £4.78                  | per week        |                         |          | £4.98                   | £0.20    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Combi Washer/Dryer  | £5.44                  | per week        |                         |          | £5.66                   | £0.22    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Bronze only   | £8.94                  | per week        |                         |          | £9.31                   | £0.37    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Bronze + carpets  | £18.59                 | per week        |                         |          | £19.35                  | £0.76    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Silver only   | £14.13                 | per week        |                         |          | £14.71                  | £0.58    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Silver + carpets  | £23.78                 | per week        |                         |          | £24.75                  | £0.97    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Gold only   | £22.87                 | per week        |                         |          | £23.81                  | £0.94    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Gold + carpets  | £32.51                 | per week        |                         |          | £33.84                  | £1.33    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Platinum only   | £32.27                 | per week        |                         |          | £33.59                  | £1.32    |                         |          |   |
| Furnished Homes: Platinum + carpets  | £41.92                 | per week        |                         |          | £43.64                  | £1.72    |                         |          |   |
|  |                        |                 |                         |          |                         |          |                         |          |   |

All the above charges include VAT where applicable

## APPENDIX 2

## HRA - Draft Budget Operating Statement 2022/23

Option 1 : Increased by 4.1%

| Narrative                                | Full-year<br>Budget<br>2021/22<br>£ | Full-year<br>Budget<br>2022/23<br>£ | Year on<br>Year<br>Change<br>£ |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Contributions to Housing Repairs Account | 19,102,140                          | 20,099,170                          | 997,030                        |
| Supervision and Management               | 25,464,950                          | 26,702,960                          | 1,238,010                      |
| Rents, Rates, Taxes etc.                 | 347,100                             | 447,520                             | 100,420                        |
| Provision for Bad Debts                  | 940,800                             | 980,100                             | 39,300                         |
| Cost of Capital Charge                   | 13,606,160                          | 13,773,430                          | 167,270                        |
| Depreciation of Fixed Assets             | 21,311,260                          | 21,982,030                          | 670,770                        |
| Debt Management Costs                    | 225,000                             | 200,000                             | -25,000                        |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                       | <b>80,997,410</b>                   | <b>84,185,210</b>                   | <b>3,187,800</b>               |
| Dwelling Rents                           | -78,396,670                         | -81,674,840                         | -3,278,170                     |
| Non-dwelling Rents                       | -780,800                            | -716,080                            | 64,720                         |
| Charges for Services and Facilities      | -5,265,520                          | -5,913,580                          | -648,060                       |
| Other Fees and Charges                   | -574,600                            | -559,990                            | 14,610                         |
| Leaseholder Income                       | -171,760                            | -247,110                            | -75,350                        |
| <b>Income</b>                            | <b>-85,189,350</b>                  | <b>-89,111,600</b>                  | <b>-3,922,250</b>              |
| <b>Net Cost of Services</b>              | <b>-4,191,940</b>                   | <b>-4,926,390</b>                   | <b>-734,450</b>                |
| Interest Received                        | -100,000                            | -7,060                              | 92,940                         |
| <b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>         | <b>-4,291,940</b>                   | <b>-4,933,450</b>                   | <b>-641,510</b>                |
| <b>Appropriations:</b>                   |                                     |                                     |                                |
| Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay  | 6,518,680                           | 2,896,000                           | -3,622,680                     |
| Transfer to (+)/From (-) Reserves        | -2,226,740                          | 2,037,450                           | 4,264,190                      |
| <b>Surplus/Deficit for the Year</b>      | <b>0</b>                            | <b>0</b>                            | <b>0</b>                       |

## 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: Housing Revenue Account Rents and Services Charges Report 2022-23**

**Directorate: Finance & Customer Services**

**Service area: Finance Business Partnering – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health**

**Lead person: Mark Scarrott**

**Contact number: Extn 22007**

Is this a:

☒

**Strategy / Policy**

☐

**Service / Function**

☐

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

The impact on existing and future council tenants of increasing housing rents and service charges from April 2022. The proposed increase in housing rents is 4.1% from April 2022, an increase in services charges of 2% in line with the Council's policy on fees and charges and increases to District Heating Charges of 15% in 2022/23. This is a result of the significant rise in energy prices which is expected to

## APPENDIX 3

|   |
|---|
| impact significantly on the direct operating costs of the district heating schemes. |
|---|

### 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?                               |     | √  |
| Could the proposal affect service users?  | √   |    |
| Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?                                 | √   |    |
| Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?   | √   |    |
| Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? | √   |    |
| Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?  |     | √  |

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.

## APPENDIX 3

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

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

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

The Council currently owns circa 20,019 homes, 572 leasehold homes and 3,335 garages with a turnover from rents and other income sources approaching £85m per annum (excluding the sale of new properties). This includes approx. 1,270 properties in the Council's District Heating Scheme.

Some of the key elements of the Housing Strategy are to support housing growth, achieve and maintain properties to the decent homes standard, keeping all tenants safe, tackling fuel poverty, providing a customer focus and efficient housing repairs service and provide an effective support service for all neighbourhoods within the borough.

Under Government rent setting rules all social housing providers have had an enforced rent reduction of -1% over 4 years to the end of 2019/20. The Rent Standard is published by Government to ensure all social housing is affordable and follows the same rules and regulations in terms of setting rent. The latest advice published enables Social Housing providers to increase rent by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for inflation + 1% and that this formula is confirmed for the next 5 years. This enables the Council to increase rents for council tenants by up to 4.1% for 2022-23. There are also a number of properties under shared ownership where rents can be increased by up to 5.4% in line with the agreed formula of Retail Price Index (RPI) + 0.5%.

When re-letting a void property the Council policy to date has been to increase the rent to formula rent (as a result we now have 7,651 homes that are paying rent at the Government's standard).

- **Key findings**

Circa 264,000 people live in Rotherham Borough, about half living in and around the main urban area of Rotherham. Rotherham has a similar age profile to the national average and in common with the national trends, the population is ageing.

Central Rotherham has a younger population than average whilst the more suburban and rural areas, mainly in the south of the borough, have older age profiles. One in four residents (25.2%) are aged 60 years or over and 22,500 people (8.5%) are aged 75 years or over. Rotherham has 56,900 children aged 0-17 (21.6% of the population). Rotherham's Black and minority ethnic (BME) population was 8.1% in 2011 and is now estimated at around 11%. The central area of Rotherham is far more ethnically diverse than the rest of the Borough.

The 2011 Census showed that 56,588 (22%) of Rotherham's population had a long-term

## APPENDIX 3

health problem or disability and 11.3% said their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long term conditions (8.3% nationally). In November 2016, 30,296 Rotherham residents (11.6%) claimed Disability Living Allowance (16,680), Personal Independence Payment (6,100) or Attendance Allowance (7,516).

Despite improvements overall, some areas of Rotherham are affected by high economic and social deprivation. Rotherham is the 44<sup>th</sup> most deprived district in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, which showed 21.6% of residents living in the 10% most deprived areas nationally.

The Housing Service undertake an annual survey of tenants' views, referred to as the Star (Standard Tenant Assessment Response) Survey which supports how resources are targeted and allows the Council to benchmark satisfaction with other social housing providers. The most recent survey found:

- 80% of tenants are satisfied with the overall service provided.
- 80% of tenants are satisfied with the quality of their home.
- 78% of tenants believe their rent provides value for money.
- 48% of tenants were satisfied that their views were listened to and acted upon.
- Satisfaction with grounds maintenance and estate services were varied across the borough.

One in six homes is rented from the council and although house prices have risen over the years, they are about half the national average.

The Council currently owns circa 20,019 homes, 572 leasehold homes and 3,335 garages with a turnover from rents and other income sources approaching £85m per annum.

There are 14,262 Council tenancies in receipt of Housing benefit/Universal Credit who would not be directly affected by an increase in rent and 5,455 tenancies that would be directly affected by a rent increase as they would pay from their household income. The tenants in receipt of benefit (housing benefit or UC) which would see their benefit entitlement adjusted to meet an increase in rent are:

- 6070 are on Universal Credit
- 4913 tenants are on full HB
- 3279 tenants on part HB

#### • **Actions**

A key priority is the ongoing work mitigating the impact of welfare reform and general financial pressures tenants face. The Council is committed to minimising any effects of welfare reform on tenants and to do this through continuing early intervention and arrears prevention. Our efforts will continue to be in supporting tenants to continue to pay their rent; by offering additional support to vulnerable tenants to help with money, benefits and debt advice; this is being done through our Financial Inclusion team. The past year has seen the Advocacy and Appeals service transfer into the Financial Inclusion team and as such funding for Money Advice Officers to support tenants in rent arrears manage priority debts.



## APPENDIX 3

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Over the last few years the Housing Service has invested more into front line and general fund services, an additional £1m per year into the front line to provide more support for our most vulnerable tenants and £1.6m per year into housing support services. |  |
| Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:  | 27/10/2021   |
| Date to complete your Equality Analysis:  | 03/11/2021   |
| Lead person for your Equality Analysis<br>(Include name and job title):   | Mark Scarrott – Finance Manager<br>– Adult Care, Housing and Public Health |

### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name          | Job title   | Date     |
|---------------|---|----------|
| Owen Campbell | Head of Finance – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | 25.11.21 |

### 6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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  | 03/11/2021   |
| Report title and date   | Housing Revenue Account Rent and Service Charges 2022/23 |
| If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication | 20 December 2021   |
| Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement<br><a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>                        |  |

## 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   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Equality Analysis title: Housing Revenue Account Rents and Services Charges Report 2021-22</b>  |  |
| <b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 3 November 2021</b>   |  |
| <b>Directorate: Finance &amp; Customer Services</b>  | <b>Service area: Finance Business Partnering – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health</b> |
| <b>Lead Manager: Mark Scarrott</b>   | <b>Contact number: Extn 22007</b>  |
| <b>Is this a:</b><br><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> </div> </div><br><b>If other, please specify</b> |  |

## APPENDIX 4

| 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<br>(e.g. service user, managers, service specialist) |
| Mark Scarrott   | RMBC         | Manager   |
| Paul Elliott  | RMBC         | Manager   |
| Owen Campbell   | RMBC         | Manager   |

### 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.)

Section 23 of The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 implemented the Government's policy on social housing rents which requires providers of social housing to reduce rents by 1% per year for four years with effect from April 2016 to March 2020.

The policy applied to all registered providers of social housing including local authority landlords, who have a statutory obligation to implement the policy.

This has now been replaced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) – Policy Statement on rents for social housing (February 2019) allowing Councils to increase rents by Consumer Price Index (CPI) (as at September) plus 1% from April 2020 and in respect of shared ownership properties increase rents by Retail Price Index (RPI) (as at September) plus 0.5%.

The report also considers the non-dwelling rent charges for garages, garage plot sites, cooking gas and communal facilities including laundry services where provided recommending an increase of 2% in line with the proposed increase in fees and charges across the Council. Also included are proposals to increase District Heating charges in 2022/23 and the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2022/23.

#### **The report recommends the following proposals: -**

1. That dwelling rents are increased by 4.1% in 2022/23 (Option 1) in line with the Government policy on rents for social housing which allows rents to increase by Consumer Price Index (CPI) (as at September 2021) plus 1%.
2. That shared ownership rents are increased by 5.4% in 2022/23 (Option 1) in line with the Government policy on rents for social housing which allows rents to increase by Retail Price Index (RPI) (as at September 2021) plus 0.5%.
3. That there is a 2% increase in charges for garages and parking spaces, communal facilities, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities, in line with the Council's policy on

## APPENDIX 4

fees and charges.

4. The charging model for District Heating (as agreed by Full Council, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017) is revised to allow for a planned deficit should energy price increases exceed scheme income.
5. The unit charge per Kwh and weekly prepayment charges for District Heating Schemes is increased by 15% in 2022/23 (Option 1) to limit the impact of anticipated market increases in the prices of energy and fuel costs.
6. Agree the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2022/23.

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

The Council currently owns circa 20,019 homes, 572 leasehold homes and 3,335 garages with a turnover from rents and other sources approaching £85m per annum (excluding the sale of new properties). This includes approx.1270 properties in the council's district heating scheme.

Circa 264,000 people live in Rotherham Borough, about half living in and around the main urban area of Rotherham. Rotherham has a similar age profile to the national average and in common with the national trends, the population is ageing.

Central Rotherham has a younger population than average whilst the more suburban and rural areas, mainly in the south of the borough, have older age profiles. One in four residents (25.2%) are aged 60 years or over and 22,500 people (8.5%) are aged 75 years or over. Rotherham has 56,900 children aged 0-17 (21.6% of the population).

Rotherham's Black and minority ethnic (BME) population was 8.1% in 2011 and is now estimated at around 11%. The central area of Rotherham is far more ethnically diverse than the rest of the Borough.

The 2011 Census showed that 56,588 (22%) of Rotherham's population had a long-term health problem or disability and 11.3% said their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long term conditions (8.3% nationally). In November 2016, 30,296 Rotherham residents (11.6%) claimed Disability Living Allowance (16,680), Personal Independence Payment (6,100) or Attendance Allowance (7,516).

Despite improvements overall, some areas of Rotherham are affected by high economic and social deprivation. Rotherham is the 44th most deprived district in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, which showed 21.6% of residents living in the 10% most deprived areas nationally.

The Housing Service undertook a survey of tenants' views referred to as the Star (Standard Tenant Assessment Response) Survey which supports how resources are targeted and allows the Council to benchmark satisfaction with other social housing providers. The most recent survey found:

## APPENDIX 4

- 80% of tenants are satisfied with the overall service provided
- 80% of tenants are satisfied with the quality of their home
- 78% of tenants believe their rent provides value for money
- 48% of tenants were satisfied that their views were listened to and acted upon
- Satisfaction with grounds maintenance and estate services were varied across the borough

The HRA Budget has responded to some of the above concerns by increasing investment in Tenant Involvement Services and increasing capacity in the housing management teams.

One in six homes is rented from the council and although house prices have risen over the years, they are about half the national average.

The Housing Rents report complies with Government policy on social housing to increase rents by CPI plus 1% from April 2020. The implementation will be monitored as part of monthly budget monitoring and the collection of rent income from Council tenants; this will include any rent arrears.

Members have been consulted on the proposals for housing rents as part of the review of the HRA Business Plan.

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

No data is collected in respect of gender reassignment and religion and belief protected characteristics.

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

The allocation of Council properties is monitored by protected characteristics and rent arrears are monitored by age, gender and disability.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b> | 24 November 2021 (Housing Involvement Panel) – supported proposals to focus on housing growth so improving housing options available to vulnerable groups in need of housing. |
| <b>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b>      | Engagement has been undertaken with Members and managers within Housing Services in respect of formulating the recommendations within this report.                            |

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

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

As part of the HRA budget there is increasing investment in Tenant Involvement Services and increasing capacity in the housing management teams to deal with issues of Anti-Social Behaviour, financial inclusion and engaging with under-represented groups through increasing staffing numbers.

The Housing Business plan responds to the needs of communities for affordable housing through identifying funding towards building new properties of different tenure, size and type of accommodation (including Disabled person units) which has been informed by the Strategic Housing Market assessment.

Within the draft HRA budget for 2022/23 there is a contribution to the Housing Capital Programme of £2.896m towards investment in increasing and maintaining existing housing stock.

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

The proposed increase in Council Rents and Services Charges may impact on tenants on low income not receiving housing benefit or Universal Credit towards their housing rent.

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

Vulnerable people are offered and provided with tenancy support which is tailored to individual needs to help them sustain their tenancy and live in the community.

A key priority is the ongoing work mitigating the impact of welfare reform and general financial pressures tenants face. The Council is committed to minimising any effects of welfare reform on tenants and to do this through continuing early intervention and arrears prevention.

Our efforts will continue to be in supporting tenants to continue to pay their rent; by offering additional support to vulnerable tenants to help with money, benefits and debt advice; this is being done through our Financial Inclusion team. The Advocacy and Appeals service is now part of the Financial Inclusion team and as such provides Money Advice Officers to support tenants in rent arrears manage debts.

The increase in funding identified within the Business Plan to increase the supply of new council properties will assist vulnerable groups on the council house register, including reducing the number of temporary accommodation and increasing the support for accommodation for the disabled.

**What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to**

APPENDIX 4

consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

It is not envisaged that the HRA Rents and Services Charges report will have any negative impact on community relations.

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

### **5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan**

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

|   |
|---|
| <b>Title of analysis: Housing Revenue Account Rents and Services Charges Report 2022-23</b>   |
| <b>Directorate and service area: Finance and Customer Services – Finance Business Partnering (Adult Care, Housing and Public Health)</b>  |
| <b>Lead Manager: Mark Scarrott</b>  |
| <b>Summary of findings:</b>   |
| The proposed increase in Council Rents and Services Charges may impact on tenants on low income not receiving housing benefit or Universal Credit towards their housing rent. Vulnerable people are offered and provided with tenancy support which is tailored to individual needs to help them sustain their tenancy and live in the community. |

| Action/Target   | State Protected Characteristics as listed below | Target date (MM/YY) |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Monitor the demographics of tenants in rent arrears on a bi-annual basis  | A,D,S,GR,RE,SO,RoB                              | 06/2022             |
| Monitor the impact of the 4.1% rent increase, 2% increase in service charges and impact of the increase in District Heating (including fluctuating energy prices) on the HRA budget | A,D,S,GR,RE,SO,RoB                              | 03/2023             |

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



## 6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name       | Job title                     | Date |
|------------|-------------------------------|------|
| Paul Walsh | Assistant Director of Housing |      |
|            |                               |      |

## 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](mailto: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.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>   | 05/11/2021  |
| <b>Report title and date</b>  | Housing Revenue Account Rents and Services Charges Report 2022-23 |
| <b>Date report sent for publication</b>   | 10/12/2021  |
| <b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b><br><a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a> |   |

## Appendix 5 : Carbon Impact Assessment

| Will the decision/proposal impact...                   | Impact         | If an impact or potential impacts are identified  |  |   |   |
|--|----------------|---|--|---|---|
|  |                | Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.  | Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole. | Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts  | Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out |
| Emissions from non-domestic buildings?                 | No Impact      |   |  |   |   |
| Emissions from transport?                              | No Impact      |   |  |   |   |
| Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself? | No Impact      |   |  |   |   |
| Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?         | Impact unknown | <p>Potential increase in emissions from new Council properties to be funded by the resources to be approved under the recommendations.</p> <p>Increases in district heating charges may potentially reduce emissions by encouraging tenants to be more efficient in their energy usage.</p> | N/A  | <p>Increase the use of bio-fuel on Council district heating schemes.</p> <p>Community Energy Support scheme launched in March 2021.</p> | N/A   |

|   |           |  |  |  |  |
|---|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| Emissions from construction and/or development? | No Impact |  |  |  |  |
| Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?            | No Impact |  |  |  |  |

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

The report focuses on the proposed increases in charges for rents and service charges but also covers the charges for tenants who are part of the Council's District Heating schemes. There are 18 separate District Heating Schemes throughout the borough, 2 of which are currently operate partly with bio-fuel which generates Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) income depending on the amount of heat generated.

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

See impact table

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Supporting information:   |  |
| Completed by:<br>(Name, title, and service area/directorate).   | Mark Scarrott<br>Finance Manager – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health |
| 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]  |  |

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 12 January 2022

**Report Title**

Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan

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

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

Simon Dennis, Acting Head of Policy, Performance, and Intelligence

[simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-wide

**Summary**

At its meeting on 20 December 2021, the Cabinet considered a report detailing proposals to refresh the Council Plan for the period 2022 to 2025, alongside the Year Ahead Delivery Plan.

The original report providing detail to the proposals is appended to provide Members with sufficient knowledge to agree the proposals.

In order to give effect to the recommendations from Cabinet, consideration and approval by Council must be given to the recommendation set out below.

**Recommendations**

1. That the Council Plan 2022-2025 is adopted.
2. That the Year Ahead Delivery Plan is adopted.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix A Report to Cabinet (20 December 2021) – Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan

Appendix 1 – Council Plan 2022 - 25

Appendix 2 – Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2022

Appendix 3 – Our Rotherham, Our Borough consultation

Appendix 4 – Equality Analysis

Appendix 5 – Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

Council Plan 2019-20

The Year Ahead Plan 2020-21

Extended Year Ahead Plan up to November 2021

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Cabinet – 20 December 2021

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 15 December 2021

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 20 December 2021

**Report Title**

Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan

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

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

Simon Dennis, Acting Head of Policy, Performance, and Intelligence  
[simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

In September 2020, the Council adopted a Year Ahead Plan as the Council Plan for operating within the Covid-19 pandemic. The aim was to support residents, communities and businesses through the challenges and uncertainty of the pandemic, helping to build resilience whilst also continuing to drive ambitious plans for Rotherham. The plan was extended in March 2021 and it finished at the end of November 2021.

Informed by public consultation, a new Council Plan has been developed for 2022-25 (see Appendix 1). The plan is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. This plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery. The plan includes a suite of performance measures and targets for monitoring purposes.

To enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve the commitments, a Year Ahead Delivery Plan (see Appendix 2) has been developed, setting out the key activities to be delivered over the next year (January 2022 – March 2023).

**Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

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

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 – Council Plan 2022 - 25

Appendix 2 – Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2022

Appendix 3 – Our Rotherham, Our Borough consultation

Appendix 4 – Equality Analysis

Appendix 5 – Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

Council Plan 2019-20

The Year Ahead Plan 2020-21

Extended Year Ahead Plan up to November 2021

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Council Plan is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. This plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.
- 1.2 In September 2020, the Council adopted a Year Ahead Plan as the Council Plan for operating within the Covid-19 pandemic. The aim was to support residents, communities and businesses through the challenges and uncertainty of the pandemic, helping to build resilience whilst also continuing to drive forward ambitious plans for Rotherham.
- 1.3 The Year Ahead Plan originally ran from September 2020 to June 2021. In March 2021, it was agreed that the Year Ahead Plan would be extended until November 2021 to allow time to engage with members and the public post-election on the development of a new, longer-term Council Plan. It was agreed that the new Council Plan would run from 2022, with the recommendation for the plan to be adopted at the full Council meeting in January 2022.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Throughout August and September 2021, a programme of public consultation and engagement (Our Rotherham, Our Borough) took place to support the development of the Council Plan. This included online and postal surveys, focus groups, a series of short interactions and engagement at the Rotherham Show. There were 350 online and postal surveys returned and over 1,000 other interactions in total across all methods of engagement. A summary of the consultation and key findings is attached (see Appendix 3) and is available on the Council website.
- 2.2 In addition to the public consultation, engagement took place with key stakeholders, including work with Cabinet members and officers across all directorates, a session with Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and a session that was open to all elected members.
- 2.3 Informed by this programme of public and stakeholder engagement, the new Council Plan sets out medium-term priorities and actions, building on and taking forward commitments made by members to the Rotherham community. The plan is framed around five themes:
  - Every neighbourhood thriving
  - People are safe, healthy, and live well
  - Every child able to fulfil their potential
  - Expanding economic opportunity
  - A cleaner, greener local environment.



These five themes are underpinned by a cross-cutting strand - 'One Council' - which sets out how the Council will operate to achieve the vision.

- 2.4 The Council Plan is a high-level document which sets out the outcomes that the Council will work towards over the next three years. There are 26 outcomes and 47 commitments in total. To ensure delivery against these, an annual Year Ahead Delivery Plan has been produced, which includes 91 priority actions/milestones (see Appendix 2). This initial Year Ahead Delivery Plan will run until March 2023 and will be reviewed and updated each year thereafter.
- 2.5 The Council Plan will be monitored through both the delivery of the milestones and activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and a suite of performance measures (as outlined in the Council Plan document). The performance measures include a mixture of output measures and longer-term outcome measures.
- 2.6 To ensure that the Council Plan is managed effectively, quarterly progress reports will be produced for Cabinet and made publicly available. The reports will include progress in relation to the actions in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, performance data relating to associated performance measures, and case studies. It is proposed that the first Council Plan progress report, covering the period January 2022 to March 2022, is reported to Cabinet in June 2022.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 The Council Plan 2022-25 has been developed in consultation with Cabinet members and officers across all directorates, as well as being informed by public consultation.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Council Plan for 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan are referred by Cabinet to Council for approval. Progress reports will continue to be presented on a quarterly basis to the public Cabinet meetings, with the first report in June 2022.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 A programme of public consultation and engagement to support the development of the Council Plan took place throughout August and September 2021. This included online and postal surveys, focus groups, a series of short interactions and engagement at the Rotherham Show. There were 350 online and postal surveys returned and over 1,000 other interactions in total across all methods of engagement.
- 4.2 In addition to the public consultation, engagement took place with key stakeholders, including work with Cabinet members and officers across all directorates, a session with OSMB and a session that was open to all elected members.

The consultation is part of an ongoing dialog between the Council and

- 4.3 members of the public. Feedback will continue to be sought to feed into the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, Rotherham Partnership Plan, equalities review and the refresh of the Equalities Strategy.

- 4.4 A summary of the consultation and key findings is attached (see Appendix 3) and is available on the Council website.

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 It is proposed in paragraph 2.6 above that the first quarterly progress report is presented to Cabinet in June 2022.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 The Council Plan is designed to help steer the use of Council finances, balanced against the wider funding backdrop for the Council and the broader context of national local government finance and policy. There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report and the delivery of the Council Plan will be managed within the Councils available budgets.
- 6.2 The Council operates in a constantly changing environment. It will be important to ensure that ambitions and performance targets remain realistic in the context of central government policy, forthcoming legislation, and the financial position of the authority.
- 6.3 Whilst there are no direct procurement implications in this report the Year Ahead Delivery Plan includes some activities which will require the need to procure goods, services or works to achieve the Council Plan outcomes. All projects will need be procured in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules, giving clear consideration and application of social value, the real Living Wage and other ethical factors.
- 6.4 The Council Plan progress/performance reports will include information regarding the Council's financial position and, where possible, will be aligned to the financial reporting timelines.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 Whilst there is no specific statutory requirement for the Council to have a Performance Management Framework and Council Plan, being clear about the Council's ambitions gives staff, partners, residents, and central Government a clear understanding of what it seeks to achieve and how it will prioritise its spending decisions.
- 7.2 An effective and embedded Council Plan is also a key part of the Council's ongoing improvement journey.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct Human Resources (HR) implications as a result of this

report, though the contribution HR makes to an engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customers is set out within the 'One Council' theme.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The Council Plan has a core focus on the needs of children and young people and vulnerable adults and this is embedded throughout all themes of the plan, particularly in theme three (Every child able to fulfil their potential).

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 Equalities is cross cutting throughout the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan.
- 10.2 Of the five guiding principles, two in particular aim to meet residents' and communities' differentiated needs:
- Expanding opportunities for all
  - Working with our communities
- 10.3 'Expanding opportunities for all' encompasses the Council's essential priority to tackle inequality, striving to ensure that the health and life chances of the most disadvantaged communities are improving the fastest. To complement this approach, 'working with our communities' ensures that to achieve the best outcomes for local people, residents are involved in the things that matter to them and services are designed based on input from those who use them.
- 10.4 There is also an outcome focussed on addressing inequalities and leaving no one behind within the 'people are safe, healthy and live well' theme. This will involve providing support to our communities at a level that is proportionate to the degree of need – taking a universal approach where appropriate whilst also providing targeted support to those who most need it.
- 10.5 In addition, the underlying 'One Council' theme encompasses two specific areas which ensure different needs are met:
- Effective customer services
  - Engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customer
- 10.6 The Council's commitment to place all customers at the heart of service delivery includes a strengthened approach to equalities and being inclusive. The commitment to an engaged, diverse and skilled workforce is expected to improve the council's response to diverse customer needs, by bringing a more differentiated understanding of equality and diversity considerations and barriers.

10.7 A detailed Equality Analysis is attached (see Appendix 4).

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 A cleaner, greener local environment is a theme within the plan, focused around reducing harmful levels of carbon emissions to limit the impacts on communities and the environment. Actions within this theme encompass plans for the reduction of emissions in housing, through a Green Housing Strategy, and transport, such as through cycleway improvements, and public transports improvements, as well as improving data on waste and single-use plastic.

11.2 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been produced based on the Year Ahead Delivery Plan (see Appendix 5). The impact assessment will continue to be reviewed and updated each quarter.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1. Working with partners across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors will be integral to the delivery of the Council Plan, and partners have been consulted as part of its development. All the themes will require multi-agency approaches to some degree and the Council will continue to show effective leadership, operating through a range of strategic partnership bodies.

12.2 The Rotherham Plan 2017-25, the overarching partnership plan for the borough, will be refreshed in 2022. The Rotherham Plan will align with and complement the Council Plan, setting out partners' joint ambitions to improve outcomes for local people.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 The Corporate Strategic Risk Register will be realigned to the new Council Plan themes and the process of updating and identifying strategic risks is already designed to manage risks connected to the plan.

13.2 The new quarterly progress reports will flag risks associated to actions at risk of not being delivered or those that have missed the deadline, as well as performance measures which have not progressed in accordance with the target set.

13.3 Directorates are also responsible for ensuring that any significant risks are addressed via directorate and corporate risk registers.

## **14. Accountable Officers**

Simon Dennis, Acting Head of Policy, Performance & Intelligence  
Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate  
[Simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk)

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:

|  | <b>Named Officer</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Chief Executive  | Sharon Kemp          | 10/12/21    |
| Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services<br>(S.151 Officer) | Judith Badger        | 01/12/21    |
| Head of Legal Services<br>(Monitoring Officer)                       | Phil Horsfield       | 02/12/21    |

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

# ROTHERHAM COUNCIL PLAN

## 2022 / 2025



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# I FOREWORD

## **Rotherham is a borough with its sights set on the future.**

We've come through the global pandemic in the best Rotherham traditions; working hard, looking out for each other, protecting those who need it the most. And as we face up to the coming years, the Council's role in our community should live up to that ethic.

We've come a long way in reforming our social care services, investing in bricks and mortar, staff and provision, to ensure we keep each other safe and secure.

We've started a huge programme of physical regeneration, investing in our roads, libraries, and town and village centres - but we need to see it through to ensure we secure the full benefits in every community.

We've begun to put a floor under low wages as a Living Wage Employer and we're attracting new businesses and higher paid jobs. We're building homes that people can afford to live in, in communities people will aspire to live in.

Everyone benefits from an improving local environment, from better transport, the chance to lower home energy bills or for our young people activities in the community. But because we look out for each other, we also know that some members of our community need more support

than others; with the cost of living, or their personal care needs, or help to stand on their own two feet and get into work.

So our plan is clear about the benefit we will bring to every resident in every corner of the borough, but also that we will focus extra attention where we need to, ensuring that everyone has a platform on which to stand and realise their ambitions.

The Council can't do everything, but working with our partners and our communities, we can and we are delivering real change and improvement. This Council Plan marks the next stage in that journey.

Rotherham is our home, and together we will build a future we can all share.



**Chris Read,**  
Leader of Rotherham Council



# 2 INTRODUCTION

**The Council Plan 2022/25 ('the Plan') builds on the foundations that have been laid in recent years, setting out an ambitious programme to improve the lives of people in Rotherham.**

Covid-19 has had a huge impact, but through it all we have worked with our partners and residents to provide support where it is most needed. At the same time, we have not allowed the pandemic to derail our plans:

- We have established local teams that are working with councillors and communities to deliver on local priorities, helping neighbourhoods to thrive;
- We have continued to develop new residential homes for looked after children, meaning that, where appropriate, more children can be supported closer to home;
- Significant regeneration schemes are underway, helping our economy to grow and increasing opportunities for everyone;
- We are providing support to those in crisis, but also trying to build resilience and prevent problems from occurring, helping people to feel safe and live independently;
- And we are taking action to address climate change issues and reduce carbon emissions, helping to create a healthier environment for all of us and for future generations.

The Plan has been shaped by the consultation we carried out during 2021. It reflects the things that people have told us are important to them and it contains clear goals that we will work towards over the next few years.

**We know we cannot achieve them alone.**

The response to Covid-19, through the Rotherham Heroes volunteer programme and countless acts of kindness and charity across our communities, has been overwhelming. At the same time, the coordinated approach of the Council and our partners across health, the police, education, the voluntary and community sector and local businesses, has emphasised how much we can do when we combine all our resources.

This shows us the way forward. With a joint commitment to reaching shared goals, we can continue to make strides towards building a fairer, stronger and better borough.



# 3 ROTHERHAM CONTEXT

Rotherham is **one of four metropolitan boroughs** in South Yorkshire with good transport connections including the nearby Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

**25 wards** covering a wide range of urban, suburban, and rural areas. 70 % of Rotherham is open countryside.

Rotherham's population of **265,000** mostly live in urban areas.

Population is ageing, with over **52,400** people aged **65 years or over**.



Diverse community which includes **20,000** people from **minority ethnic groups** (8.1 % of the population). The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group after White British.

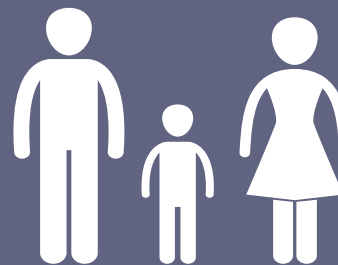
**22% of residents live within the 10% most deprived areas** of England. 12,667 children were living in "absolute poverty" in 2018/19.

Many local people made an unprecedented offer of support to their communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the **Rotherham Heroes programme**.



**The Council's children's services have been transformed** and are now 'Good' with 'Outstanding' features.

**Life expectancy in the most deprived areas of Rotherham is 9.9 years lower for men and 9.5 years lower for women** than in the least deprived. There are significant gaps in healthy life expectancy, meaning those from more deprived communities can expect to live for more years in poor health.



**Economic impact of Covid-19 on the national and local economy.**

Evidence that young people have been disproportionately affected, due to education disruption and lack of access to jobs.

Since 2010, the Council has **made savings in excess of £200 million** in response to the significant reductions in government funding. Uncertainty over future funding levels, due to a single year financial settlement for 2021/22

The Council has secured significant funding (**over £80 million**) and is seeking more to deliver regeneration schemes in the town centre and across the borough.

**High-quality green spaces and assets**, including the award-winning Clifton Park, as well as a number of country parks, woodlands and nature reserves.

**Adult skills are comparatively low**, particularly at degree level, and educational attainment is also low in comparison to our nearest demographically similar neighbours.

# 4 THE COUNCIL

Rotherham Council is a metropolitan borough council and is responsible for providing a range of services including social care, planning, housing, revenue and benefits support, licensing, business regulation and enforcement, electoral registration, refuse and recycling, leisure, culture, parks and green spaces, economic growth, highways maintenance, education and skills, community safety and public health.

It also has an important role in working with other providers of public services across Rotherham.

The Council's constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that this is efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

The Council has 59 councillors, representing 25 wards inside the Rotherham Borough geographical boundary. The Council is currently led by a Labour Cabinet of nine Members.

## Cabinet



**Councillor Chris Read**  
Leader of the Council



**Councillor Sarah Allen**  
Deputy Leader of the Council  
and Cabinet Member for  
Neighbourhood Working



**Councillor Saghir Alam**  
Cabinet Member for  
Corporate Services, Community Safety  
and Finance



**Councillor Domimic 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 the Local Economy



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



**Councillor David Sheppard**  
Cabinet Member  
for Social Inclusion

# 4 THE COUNCIL

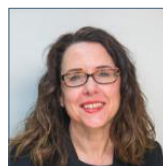
A number of committees and panels are responsible for decision making within the Council, including Council, Cabinet, Audit Committee, Standards and Ethics Committee and Scrutiny.

Details of all these, as well as copies of agendas, papers and official minutes of proceedings can be found on the Council's website at:

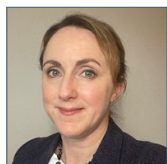
[moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk](http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk)

The Council is split into five directorates and the day-to-day management of the Council and its services is overseen by the Strategic Leadership Team and led by the Chief Executive, Sharon Kemp.

## Strategic Leadership Team



**Sharon Kemp**  
Chief Executive



**Jo Brown**  
Assistant  
Chief Executive



**Judith Badger**  
Strategic Director  
Finance and  
Customer Services



**Paul Woodcock**  
Strategic Director  
Regeneration and  
Environment



**Suzanne Joyner**  
Strategic Director  
Children and Young  
People's Services



**Ian Spicer**  
Interim Strategic Director  
Adult Care, Housing and  
Public Health



**Ben Anderson**  
Director of  
Public Health

# 5 OUR APPROACH

Four guiding principles run through the plan, informing our way of working and helping us to achieve better outcomes.

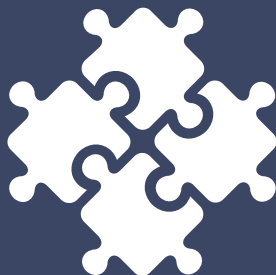
## Expanding opportunities for all

As we open up new opportunities we will target the most help at those who need it, so no one is left behind.



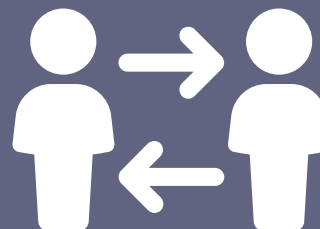
## Recognising and building on our strengths to make positive change

This will involve making the best use of local assets, including buildings, parks and public spaces, as well as harnessing the knowledge and skills of community groups and local residents.



## Working with our communities

To achieve the best outcomes for local people, we recognise the importance of putting them at the heart of everything we do. That means involving local residents in the things that matter to them and making sure we design our services based on input from those who use them.



## Focussing on prevention

We know that prevention is better than cure in achieving positive outcomes for our residents. For this reason, we will focus on reducing the risk of problems arising in the first place, and when they do, we will intervene early to prevent them from worsening.



# 6 OUR THEMES

Our vision is:

“Rotherham is our home, where we come together as a community, where we seek to draw on our proud history to build a future we can all share.

We value decency and dignity and seek to build a town where opportunity is extended to everyone, where people can grow, flourish and prosper, and where no one is left behind.

To achieve this as a council we must work in a modern, efficient way, to deliver sustainable services in partnership with our local neighbourhoods, looking outwards, yet focussed relentlessly on the needs of our residents.”





# 7 DELIVERING ON OUR THEMES

The Council's focus is on delivering its priorities whilst also meeting agreed budget savings. This is set against the additional financial pressures of the National Living Wage, inflation and increasing demand for services due to a growing population and changing demographics in Rotherham.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy submitted to Cabinet in December 2021 provides a four-year outlook of the Council's anticipated resources and budget requirement and sets out our approach to delivering a sustainable budget position up to 2025/26.

The Council is also focusing on its leadership role across the borough and particularly where it can have greater influence.

Partnership working is recognised across all services as being essential to the future of the borough; combining knowledge, ideas, expertise and resources to deliver tangible improvements, deliver efficiencies and economies of scale, and helping to strengthen our communities.

All directorates will continue to work together over the next three years to achieve the commitments set out within each of the themes:

## Children and Young People's Services

In this directorate we are committed to working with children and their families in a restorative way.

This is done by supporting them at the earliest opportunity to reduce the need for social care intervention, also ensuring that children and young people are in education.

We will do this by refreshing our Early Help strategy and work with partners to ensure that children and young people and their families get the right support at the right time.

We are developing our approach to ensuring that all children and young people get the best possible start by working with families to increase the number of children accessing early education. We are also working with young people that are disengaged to reconnect them to training, further education and employment.

We work with our partners to provide better access to mental health and wellbeing support programmes for young people and working with our schools to reduce the number of children who are excluded.

## Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health

Here the focus is on creating a Rotherham where everyone can live independently, safely and healthily in their community for as long as possible.

We work with health and community partners, to provide accessible, high quality services for adults with care and support needs, including those with disabilities, older people and their carers. Our housing services continue to work with public and private sector partners to deliver improvements in the choice of housing in Rotherham. We are enabling people to access and live in high-quality accommodation which meets their needs, whether in the social rented, private rented or home ownership sector.

In the Public Health service we aim to improve the health and wellbeing of Rotherham residents, reduce health inequalities and protect the population from health harms, including leadership of the pandemic response.

We work with Health and Wellbeing Board partners to prevent ill health and to commission services to support active healthy lifestyles.

## Regeneration and Environment

In Regeneration and Environment, our aim is to develop and promote Rotherham as a great place to live, work and visit.

This means more jobs, a vibrant cultural sector, good quality green spaces, and clean, safe, welcoming neighbourhoods.

It is also about working with other council services and, crucially, with partner organisations, including local businesses, to drive forward ambitious plans for regeneration, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, community safety, and culture.

Regeneration and Environment includes vital services such as waste management, transport & highways, licensing, libraries, planning, parks and environmental health.

We are committed to a culture of innovation, exploring new technologies and playing a key role in pursuing net zero goals by reducing emissions from Council buildings and vehicles.

## Finance and Customer Services

In this directorate we provide support to the whole organisation and deliver a range of professional support services focussed on financial systems

and controls, ensuring legal duties and responsibilities are being met and supporting the Council in delivering high quality customer services.

The services we provide range from procurement, which focuses on achieving the best possible value when buying goods and services, to customer and digital services, where technology is being utilised to offer customers greater choice whilst increasing efficiency. We also provide revenue and benefit services to households and businesses across the borough. Together with legal, electoral and audit functions, these services ensure that the Council is providing good value for local residents within a sound framework.

## Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

In the Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate we work across the council to deliver high-quality 'enabling' services, ensuring that there is a corporate approach to tackling national and local policy agendas, informed by data and intelligence.

We also lead on implementing and monitoring the delivery of the Council Plan and the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy.

Here we also play a central role in strengthening communication and connections with residents and partners, making sure local communities have a voice and are able to shape priorities and influence services.

In addition, we offer comprehensive support and advice to elected members, enabling them to carry out their roles effectively.

Finally, our HR and Organisational Development service helps to develop a skilled, empowered and motivated workforce that is equipped to meet the needs of our customers and residents.



# 8 OUR THEMES

## 8.1 EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

**Our vision for Rotherham is for every neighbourhood to be a thriving neighbourhood, where people are able to work together to achieve a good quality of life.**

We want to work with local people to find solutions to local issues and to build on our heritage and assets. We will help create vibrant communities in which people feel happy, safe and proud. To do this, we will make it easier to get involved in the local community, work closely with our partners and local voluntary and community groups, enhance our town and village centres, green spaces and libraries, and effectively tackle community issues.

### Where we are now

Councillors engage with and work with local people and community groups to produce plans for Rotherham's 25 wards. These ward plans are reviewed annually, and identify priorities at a neighbourhood level, providing a focus for local activity.

Harnessing the community spirit shown during the pandemic response, where a significant number of people offered to volunteer with the Rotherham Community Hub and help those affected, we are providing further opportunities for people to get involved in their local area such as community litter picks and resident speedwatch sessions in partnership with the police

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*“My wish would be that the community spirit and neighbourliness that was evident during the pandemic continues in the future, and that willingness to look out for each other that little bit more doesn't go away”  
(consultation response)*

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We are also making sure that every community has a dedicated team that works alongside local councillors to get the best outcomes for local people. Our street cleansing, grounds maintenance and enforcement staff are being reorganised on a locality basis, working closely with multi-agency partners such as local policing teams.

We know from conversations with residents that feeling safe in the area where they live is important to them, that roads are kept in good condition, and that they value having accessible green spaces that are litter-free. Recognising this, we have:

- Developed a seven-day out of hours response service to tackle anti-social behaviour
- Improved roads and repaired potholes as part of our “£24 million to 2024” roads programme
- Committed £4 million to improve local towns and villages, building on investments in street cleansing and our three-year litter bin programme to keep streets tidy
- Started work to develop masterplans for our three country parks

People also tell us how much they value libraries, which often act as vital hubs of local activity. We are continuing to invest in our library facilities through a programme of refurbishments and upgrades, making sure that they are accessible, welcoming and able to meet the needs of all our communities.

#### Consultation headlines:

- 36 % of survey respondents do not feel safer in their local neighbourhood compared to 12 months ago (52 % stated no change)
- The most important crime and community safety issue was tackling anti-social behaviour (74 % identified this as a priority)
- Many people stressed the need to feel safe, with safe streets and safe places for families, women, and children to go to

## Where we want to be

The community response to the Covid-19, with residents stepping forward to help their friends, families and neighbours, demonstrated the importance of the Council and other agencies working in genuine partnership with local people and organisations.

We will continue to put communities at the heart of everything we do, developing local networks and seeking innovative ways to involve people in the things that matter to them: increasingly ‘doing with’ rather than ‘doing to’.

It will be particularly important to consider how every community is given the chance to have a say on issues that affect them and to influence decisions.

We recognise that everyone has a role in ensuring neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe, clean and green.

Community organisations and local “friends of” groups already make a huge contribution and our aim is to facilitate, nurture and encourage this and other forms of local participation.

This will mean focussing on the following outcomes:

- Work with communities on the things that matter to them
- Residents, organisations and businesses use their skills and resources to help others
- Neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe
- Local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces
- Local towns and villages are improved

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*“Spent more time in my local area, discovering local footpaths and trails. I realised how lucky I was to be able to walk from my doorstep” (consultation response)*

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## How we will get there

- Continue to drive local priority setting and activity through ward plans and devolved budgets, with councillors, residents and partner organisations working together
- Work with Rotherham’s voluntary and community sector to support and facilitate local networks and groups
- Further expand and promote a range of volunteering opportunities
- Invest in and develop our library services as neighbourhood hubs, promoting access to books, computers and community events
- Work alongside our partners to ensure Rotherham is a safe, inclusive and welcoming place for local people, including responding effectively to community safety issues such as anti-social behaviour and hate crime
- Deliver improvements to local towns and villages
- Bring our communities together through a range of enjoyable activities, cultural and social events, which inspire hope and pride in Rotherham



# 8 OUR THEMES

## 8.2 PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY, AND LIVE WELL

**Everyone deserves to feel happy, healthy, and secure. We want to empower everyone to lead fulfilling lives, whilst also keeping them safe from harm.**

To do this, we will focus on prevention, working with partners to ensure that local people live in good physical and mental health for as long as possible.

### Where we are now

Investing in modern social care services has been a major priority for the Council over the past several years. As part of our improvement journey, children's services have been transformed and are now providing good quality services and improved outcomes for children. At the same time, we have focussed on reforming adult social care, strengthening our focus on supporting older people and adults with learning disabilities to have more control over their lives. This has involved working closely with our health partners.

Strong partnership working has also been central in our response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has enabled us to take quick action to protect our residents and to support our most vulnerable children and their families. This has included setting up testing sites, contacting local people to support them to self-isolate when necessary, establishing a befriending service for those experiencing loneliness, and ensuring that our most vulnerable children and young people were in school and being supported to keep them safe.

During this time, the Council has also stepped up to support the most disadvantaged members of our community, which has meant funding free school meal vouchers, during the school holidays, providing uniforms for

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*“Need to support to age well, have a good, happy later life”  
(consultation response)*

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families who needed them, and running activities for children and young people. Working with partners we provided food parcels during 2020/21. We also formed the rough sleeper initiative team to provide support to the homeless community.

It is proposed over £92.3 million will be invested in housing growth by 2025-26, delivering approximately 668 new homes.

The Council has a range of CCTV assets to promote community safety across the borough however as many of the assets are old, capital investment has been prioritised with £420,000 to bring these up to date.

Noise nuisance has been an increasing issue during the pandemic with more people required to stay at home and large scale events having an impact on a number of residents.

Developing seamless domestic abuse services is underway, to ensure that support offered to victims across partners is easy to access and works to address offenders.

#### Consultation headlines:

- 52 % of respondents stated that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their mental health, citing weight gain, being less active and worrying about the virus
- The most positive effects on mental health (in relation to the pandemic) were having a better work/life balance (25 %) and being more physically active (18 %)
- The key aspiration for most people was the desire for a happy, healthy society or community
- Environmental improvements (21 %) and financial security (20 %) were considered by respondents to be the things that would have the biggest positive impact on their wellbeing and quality of life

## Where we want to be

We want people to lead happy and healthy lives. Focussing on preventing problems from arising in the first place and intervening early will not only lead to better outcomes for our residents, but is also vital to ensure a sustainable future for our services. A preventative approach will therefore underpin everything we do – whether that's promoting positive health and wellbeing, empowering social care users to lead independent and fulfilling lives or preventing people from reaching the point of financial crisis. This will involve drawing on people's strengths, thinking about what matters to them and the life they want to lead, rather than focussing only on their problems and challenges.

In the issues and challenges that do arise, tackling inequalities across our communities will be central to our approach, in order to improve outcomes for



all. According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation, the gap between Rotherham and the national average is widening, but there are also significant inequalities within the borough itself. As part of our commitment to address inequality, we will provide support to our communities at a level that is proportionate to the degree of need – taking a universal approach where appropriate whilst also providing targeted support to those who most need it.

The Council wants a modern and efficient CCTV system with wider coverage, increased feelings of safety and more capacity to catch and prosecute offenders.

Where residents suffer noise nuisance, the Council wants to ensure that they have access to the right service, including out of hours response, and that enforcement actions are taken where required.

We want a single pathway for domestic abuse victims which provides joined-up services to protect victims and their families alongside changing behaviour or bringing offenders to justice.

**This will mean focussing on the following outcomes:**

- People have good mental health and physical wellbeing
- People feel empowered, safe, and live independently for as long as possible
- People can access affordable, decent housing
- Inequalities are addressed and nobody is left behind

## How we will get there

- Focus on minimising/tackling the leading risk factors for death and disability in Rotherham, such as tobacco, unhealthy weight, and alcohol

- Promote the best possible mental health for all, building on existing campaigns such as the Five Ways to Wellbeing, the Great Big Rotherham To-do list and Be the One
- Work with people to build on their strengths and resilience, reducing reliance on social care interventions
- Deliver the ‘My Front Door’ programme, providing adults with learning disabilities and autism with increased choice and opportunities for greater independence
- Tackle poverty and financial crisis, including development of a ‘social supermarket’ which will help people to move on from food banks, a new Rothercard that will provide discounts on Council services for those who most need them, and our Community Energy Scheme, which will enable households to reduce their energy bills
- Work with partners to deliver our domestic abuse strategy, taking a coordinated approach to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence
- Invest in affordable housing and support those at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- CCTV improvements will be realised through the Capital investment currently agreed (£420,000) alongside improving corporate management of CCTV purchases and assets
- Continuing to focus on promoting access to services, including out of hours alongside a robust performance management framework within enforcement services
- Transformation within Domestic Abuse Services is being delivered through strong partnership working, increased investment and the re-design of both internal and commissioned services

## 8 OUR THEMES

### 8.3 EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

**We want Rotherham to be a great place to grow up, where all children and young people are safe, valued, able to enjoy their lives and achieve their aspirations.**

This means children getting the best possible start in life, being safe, receiving a good education, and having access to fun things to do. As a Council, we are also committed to actively involving children and young people in the things that matter to them, ensuring that their voices are driving the way that we deliver our services.

#### Where we are now

We have 'good' children's and young people's services and have an ambition to have services that ensure outstanding outcomes for children and young people in Rotherham. This means first and foremost that children are kept safe from harm and are supported to be cared for within their family wherever possible.

Children's Social Care colleagues have continued to offer high levels of support throughout the pandemic, working closely with Council staff and multiagency professionals to ensure we appropriately identify where children need help and where children are at risk of harm. We have taken the learning from the specialist child sexual exploitation service Evolve and invested in additional resource to address the growing challenges of child criminal exploitation and do all we can to prevent this. This will enable a strong multiagency response to the risks of Child Exploitation.

The Early Help offer has continued to provide support to families through parenting support programmes, our children's centre offer, youth offer and working with our looked after children council and young inspectors amongst other activities.

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*"Encourage children and young people to design services for themselves and their friends and families"*  
(consultation response)

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Throughout the pandemic our Early Help workers continued to use innovative and imaginative methods to engage and support our children and families including the Holiday activities programme. We have also expanded the Youth Offer to provide 'Places to go and things to do' for young people in Rotherham.

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted education and routes into the job market for children and young people, so the Council has worked closely with partners to mitigate the impacts locally. Most of Rotherham's secondary and special schools held either a summer school or an extended

#### Consultation headlines:

- Only 29 % of respondents felt optimistic about economic opportunities for young people in Rotherham and South Yorkshire
- 63 % thought that more local training opportunities or apprenticeships would make the most difference to improve job prospects and economic opportunities for young people leaving school over the next few years
- Young people often have great aspirations for Rotherham and want to stay here, but generally feel that there is a need for more appropriate and better job opportunities, more apprenticeships at degree level and a better public transport system
- The improvements that respondents most wanted to see for children and young people in their area were better play areas, and cheaper access to sports or activities
- The top priority for encouraging children to feel safer and more resilient was 'access to specific groups and activities for young people'
- Many responses emphasised the need for more safe places and youth clubs or projects, as well as making the town centre more child and young person friendly

programme over the summer of 2021, as part of efforts to help pupils catch up after Covid disruptions. Ongoing direct support has been provided to early years, school, and further education leaders to support the continuing challenges of the pandemic including enhanced school leaders' forums, education recovery work focused on disadvantaged students and an Early Years project to increase take up of available early years places to support long term educational outcomes. The Council has offered 89 'Kickstart' job opportunities for young people, paying all placements at the Real Living Wage.

Children and young people have told us that having fun things to do is important to them and this is shaping our approach to regeneration. We have secured a cinema operator to open at Forge Island, the Gulliver's Valley theme resort has opened its doors and building on successful events in recent years, North Star Science School with Professor Brian Cox now happens annually. We have also committed to work with children and young people to deliver the first Children's Capital of Culture, preparing for a year-long festival in 2025 to celebrate our young people.

## Where we want to be

We want Rotherham to be a great place to grow up, where children and young people have the best chance to reach their full potential. This will mean that children grow up happily, safe, in good health and develop the skills and qualifications they need to be successful. This is not only important for our children and young people, but for the future of our borough. Evidence shows that experiences in childhood have a major influence on outcomes across an individual's life. By supporting children and young people to have the best possible start in life and to develop, flourish and thrive we can prevent future challenges and address inequalities.



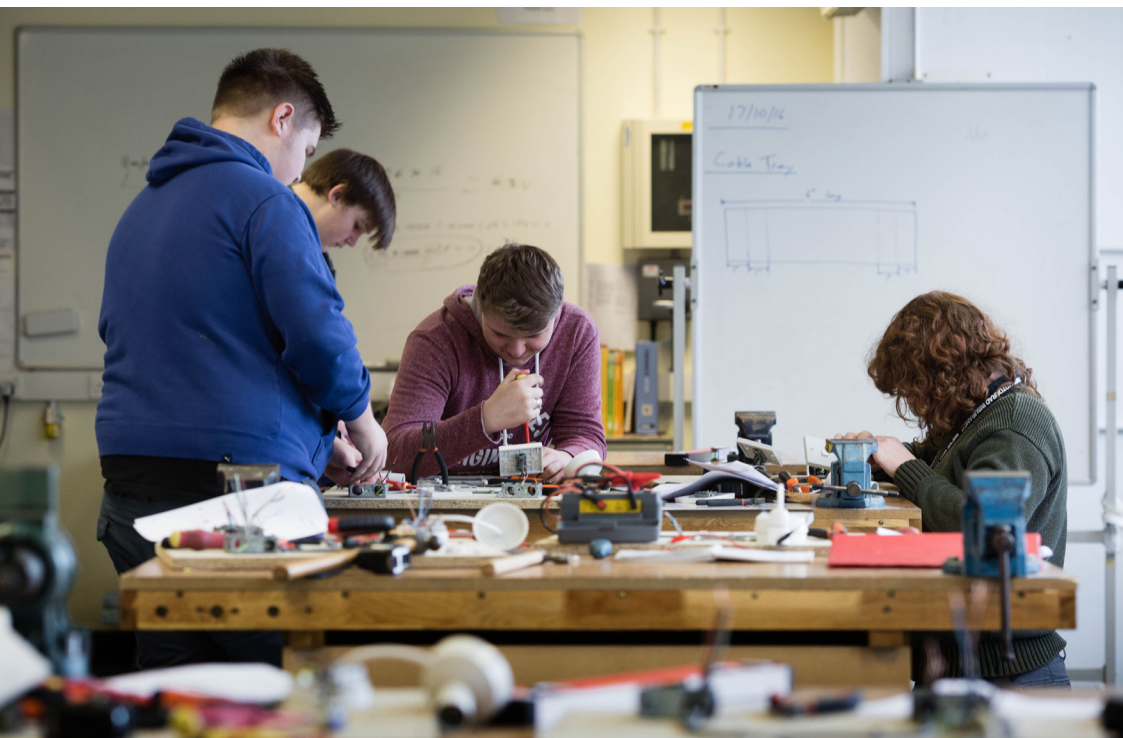
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*“We need stronger links between institutions – libraries, schools, colleges and community services”*  
*(consultation response)*

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We want to continue to support our children, young people, and their families to wherever possible remain safely together. We want to work with our partners to ensure a shared approach to offer help and support at the earliest stage, and to prevent harm.

We want to support looked after children to be closer to home, as we recognise that this improves their lifelong links to immediate, wider family and friends and we can work through local agencies to get the best support in a timelier way. Local Placement sufficiency continues to be a key area of focus.



We want to build on existing strengths that are found within the wider family network and ensure that community solutions are fully explored and utilised, to sustain long-term positive wellbeing for children and families in Rotherham. We want to develop the notion of the ‘Family Hub’ and have a strong ambition to ensure that the hubs are multi-faceted and have an interface with all aspects of the community as well as the public and voluntary sector. We want to improve the Youth Offending Team (YOT) Inspection judgement from Requires Improvement to Good. We also want to improve the outcomes for children, young people and adults with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We want to continue engaging in dialogue with our children, families, schools, and communities to consistently provide the right support at the right time. We want to refresh our Early Help Strategy in 2022.

We know that working with children and young people, listening to what matters most to them and acting on what they tell us, is vital to achieving positive outcomes. We want children and young people to be engaged in our service delivery across the whole Council, so that they are actively involved in decisions that affect them. Young People will take part in engaging and enriching and accredited activities that will feel safe, prevent isolation and this Youth Offer will be published on a regular basis.

We want all children and young people to have the strongest educational opportunity post the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, and in working in partnership with the education sector in Rotherham, we can support a strong recovery from the pandemic and enhance opportunity for the long term. Collective projects like the 2022 Year of Reading across all areas of education, focus on work to improve early years’ education, and take up in targeted areas of the borough. This collaboration with our secondary education phase to continue to develop a collective drive to improve education outcomes across Maths and English, has a direct impact on shaping the opportunities for our children and young people in the borough.

In addition the Council has secured £19.9 million through the Levelling Up Fund for the leisure economy and skills and from this we will provide £1m for the creation of a new Skills Village at Gulliver's Resort which will provide training, development and accreditation within the hospitality and leisure sector. A further £4.5 million will be invested in the redevelopment of the former Maltby Grammar School bridging the gap between school and employment to create an incubator space for training, apprenticeships and start up support in the leisure and hospitality sectors. These significant investments will directly contribute every child fulfilling their potential.

This will mean focussing on the following outcomes:

- Children get the best start in life
- Children and young people safe from harm
- Young people feel empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations
- Children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go

## How we will get there

- Further develop our partnership approach to ensuring that all children and young people get the best possible start in life and are ready to attend school and learn
- Continue with the development of residential homes for our looked after children and work with local providers in residential and foster care to access the best local placements
- We will work to improve our YOT inspection judgement through the delivery of our improvement plan
- With our partners, we will address the variability of Education, Health and Care Plans and the quality of provision for children and young people



- Collaborate with partners to embed a multi-agency Family Hub Approach for our children, families, and communities
- Ensure that they Early Help workforce are equipped with the right, most up to date knowledge and tools to effect outstanding outcomes for children and families
- Work with young people that are disengaged to reconnect them to training, further education and employment
- Focus on raising the achievement of KS1 and 2 pupils in reading through the reading fluency project and will support pupils who are currently below the expected standard in reading and/or who may have difficulty accessing reading required in the wider curriculum
- Work in collaboration with schools to narrow the persistent attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils and raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils
- Deliver on our commitment to become the first Children's Capital of Culture holding a year-long festival in 2025

# 8 OUR THEMES

## 8.4 EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

**Our vision is for a fair and prosperous economy that provides chances for everyone to get a good job, or start and grow a business, and plan confidently for the future.**

Working with partner organisations and employers, we will ensure that people can develop their skills and realise their ambitions. This includes tailored support, where required, for those who are disadvantaged in the jobs market.

We will deliver regeneration throughout Rotherham, creating a legacy of high-quality, well-connected places and neighbourhoods. And we will get the most out of the ‘Rotherham pound’ – generating additional value from the money we spend to create opportunities, raise living standards and benefit local communities.

### Where we are now

Having channelled over £85 million of grant support to local businesses to help them through the pandemic, we are investing significantly in the borough’s business centres, including the new Century centre at Manvers. The centres provide workspace, enabling start-up and small businesses to develop and grow.

A number of employment schemes are delivering tangible benefits for local people. Pathways Rotherham, for example, targets those who are out of work, offering tailored one-to-one support that helps people to build confidence and tackle specific issues that are preventing them from finding employment. The Advance project, meanwhile, assists those already in employment to progress or retrain.

University Centre Rotherham, a state-of-the-art higher education campus in the heart of Rotherham, is now up and running providing additional learning opportunities for people of all ages.

In addition, we have now been formally accredited as a Real Living Wage employer, reflecting the commitment to pay our staff the national living wage and requiring all companies we work with to do the same.

Significant government funding has been secured to take forward our ambitious regeneration plans. The £31.6 million Town Deal comprises a number of schemes that will complement and enhance the ongoing transformation

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*“Prevent people from having to travel further away. We need to build a stronger workforce and create more jobs for families and individuals” (consultation response)*

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#### Consultation headlines:

- The main barriers to people accessing jobs were: 1. Skills/ education 2. Household circumstances (e.g. childcare) 3. Personal wellbeing
- Job satisfaction (21 %) rated slightly higher than income (20 %) as the most important factor in a job
- Need to invest in the town centre, small businesses, and a need for more jobs to retain skills and reduce commuting to other areas
- 47 % of respondents wanted investment in local centres as a way to improve the number and quality of jobs in the borough (compared to 39 % wanting investment in the town centre)
- People held very strong views on the need for Rotherham town centre to flourish and be vibrant and for it to be “great again!”

#### Other points:

- “Improve the cultural offer so that the aspirations of all are raised and investors see this as an attractive place to relocate their family to”
- “More apprenticeships [degree level] so people don’t move away - more job opportunities for local people”

of the town centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, as well as supporting development of a new mainline station. The redevelopment of the markets complex will help retain it as a cornerstone of the town centre retail offer.

Outside of Rotherham town centre, £4 million has been allocated to a ‘Towns and Villages Fund’ to deliver improvement works across local villages and townships which align to ward priorities.

Our successful bid to the government’s Levelling Up Fund will see £40 million of additional investment in Rotherham town centre, the leisure economy across the borough and enhancing skills.

Although online transactions have become the norm for many people, there are others who are likely to be disadvantaged. These residents are potentially missing out on opportunities to find jobs, learn new skills, save money and socially engage. To address this, a digital inclusion programme has been established for which funding has been secured.

## Where we want to be

Rotherham's economy was growing quickly before the pandemic hit, with investment from the likes of Boeing and McLaren propelling the area to the forefront of the new manufacturing economy.

As we support those in our community who have not felt the benefits of this growth, as well as others who have been particularly hit by Covid-19, we need to ensure that the upwards trajectory continues.

We want to remain ambitious and deliver on our package of regeneration across the borough, working with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

The support we provide - with our local and regional partners - to boost skills and overcome barriers, must effectively target those who are in danger of being left behind.

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*“The retailing element needs to become more localised, smaller businesses...repurpose the space in the town centre, make it about social interactions” (consultation response)*

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We must also involve our communities in the decisions that affect them and in the development that is taking shape.

For example, we want to work with residents to consider how our new leisure attractions, such as the cinema and hotel at Forge Island, can be made accessible to everyone; how communities can continue to influence the regeneration that takes place in their area; and how we can showcase all the great things that we have to offer.

To successfully deliver a digital inclusion programme, we will work with partners to understand the level and nature of digital exclusion across the borough, identify the barriers that stop people accessing online services and deliver a range of projects in response.





We will work towards the following outcomes:

- A growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress
- Delivering regeneration schemes that bring investment and opportunity, both in Rotherham town centre and in our towns and villages
- Working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs, paid at the Real Living Wage or above, and apprenticeships
- People having opportunities to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential
- Strengthening digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all

## How we will get there

- Support people to improve their skills and secure decent work through a range of schemes and initiatives
- Provide a package of support and advice that enables businesses to start up and thrive, including targeted support to those most affected by the pandemic
- Deliver improvements and opportunities for local communities through major regeneration programmes
- Create a vibrant town centre, accessible to everyone, through a range of complementary schemes and major projects, including the flagship leisure development at Forge Island
- Secure further commitments through our social value policy and work with partners to maximise the impact of our collective spending power
- Connect people to economic opportunities through a range of transport schemes and improvements that also offer more environmentally-friendly travel options



## 8 OUR THEMES

### 8.5 A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

**Our vision is to create a clean and welcoming environment across our borough, and in turn secure our natural environment for the next generation.**

We will do this by supporting more environmentally friendly initiatives such as active travel, and by playing our part in cutting carbon emissions.

#### Where we are now

We have and will continue to commit significant resources to make the Borough a clean and welcoming environment. In the past two years, we have invested £2.7 million into street cleansing which is providing more operatives, replacing over 600 bins (including 110 solar bins) across the borough and supplying additional cleansing equipment such as three new bulky waste collection vehicles, and six quad bikes to enhance weed spraying activity. As well as this, we are investing in equipment that supports the environment such as smart solar bins, electric handheld trimmers and leaf blowers. This is alongside increasing the number of successful outcomes from fly-tipping investigations and non-payment of fixed penalty notices and publicising this more widely as a deterrent.

Our volunteers who lead the Love Where You Live Campaign are a great asset, devoting their time and energy to litter picking in their local neighbourhoods. Groups are supported by street cleaning teams and operate in all wards of the borough. Not only does this improve the environment for all of our residents, it also creates greater ownership and pride within our neighbourhoods, improving and sustaining high quality environments over time.

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*“We need to be investing more money into green spaces, not only to maintain a but to create more! We are currently in a biodiversity and climate change crisis and we need to be doing more to protect and promote wildlife!” (consultation response)*

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We are supporting the efforts of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to secure additional investments into public transport. We want to see new investments that make it easier for all of us to have viable public transport options. The innovative tram-train pilot is continuing to improve public transport options in the borough, providing a sustainable and convenient travel option between Sheffield Rotherham Central and Parkgate.

A cycling strategy has been developed with key projects underway such as the Sheffield Road Scheme which will create dedicated cycle lanes on a main route between Rotherham and Sheffield. We are improving active travel infrastructure across the borough, and have also installed and currently operate 62 Electric Vehicle charging points, of which 50 are powered by renewable energy.

We are also supporting our residents to insulate their homes to improve energy efficiency and reduce the impact of fuel poverty. In 2021, 2,178 households have benefited from insulation projects within the borough.

Following the devastating floods in 2019, work has been taking place to secure funding for the development of six priority flood prevention schemes with initial construction taking place along the River Don corridor in and around Rotherham Town Centre. To date over £5 million has been spent, with a further £5.8 million committed to additional schemes, which includes Kilnhurst, Parkgate, Rawmarsh, Whiston, Laughton Common and Catcliffe, alongside a gully renewal programme across the borough.

The above actions all contribute to our targets of net zero Council emissions by 2030 and net zero across the borough by 2040. We have reduced energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in operational buildings by 54 % and in streetlighting by 73 % (against 2014/15 baseline). We are also delivering a range of projects such as increased tree planting, and pollinator friendly wildflower verges to improve the biodiversity of the borough.

### Consultation headlines:

- Climate change, pollution and the state of woodlands were recognised by respondents as the most important environmental issues for the next generation.
- Agreement on the importance of tackling climate change but a feeling that 'net zero' is not yet a well understood idea.
- The importance of access to reliable and frequent public transport across the borough - especially in the south.
- Almost half (42 %) of survey respondents were attempting to drive less as an action to reduce their environmental impact; 12 % mentioned switching to a hybrid or electric vehicle, although the prohibitive cost was referenced.
- Respondents considered fly-tipping, littering and potholes to be important issues in their local area
- 89 % of respondents consider local parks and green spaces to be very important, particularly for their health and wellbeing

## Where we want to be

We want to see the investment in people and equipment improving the cleanliness of the borough and the continued success of 'Love Where You Live', increasing pride and ownership within neighbourhoods across the borough, whilst reduce littering and improving the environment for all.

We want our borough to have well-functioning and well-connected cycling and public transport infrastructures, for our residents to enjoy the environmental and health benefits that come with this. We will enhance and extend cycling routes across Rotherham, based on our new cycling strategy, and invest in public transport infrastructure, working through South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to create a more integrated network. The Transforming



Cities programme, together with the Active Travel Fund, will deliver £12 million worth of improvements for public transport, walking and cycling by March 2023.

We will continue to support the development of a new mainline station in Rotherham, improving connectivity in and across the region and we are working with key stakeholders to progress this ambition. We are also continuing to campaign for a new railway station at Waverley and the Advanced Manufacturing Park, a new tram-train station at Magna, and are working with partners on the concept of further extensions to the successful tram-train network.

To reduce the risk of flooding to our communities, we will continue to work with partners to secure the necessary funding to deliver the six major schemes to prevent floods and reduce their impact in the borough. Through the South Yorkshire Catchment Plan, we will also engage with communities at risk of flooding to help build their resilience and ensure that the impact of flooding is reduced as much as possible.

We will explore the options to deliver a renewable energy generation project, allowing the Council to produce its own clean, renewable energy that will further contribute to the borough's net zero targets.

This will mean focussing on the following outcomes:

- Increasing satisfaction with the cleanliness of the borough
- Creating better transport systems for future generations
- Reducing the risk and impact of flooding and other environmental emergencies.
- Contributing to reducing carbon emissions across the borough

## How we will get there

- Ensure our streets are clean by providing an effective response to fly-tipping and littering, and continually improving our approach to street cleaning
- To continue to invest in our urban green spaces and country parks,



maintaining our four Green Flag accredited parks, whilst aiming for additional accreditations

- Complete masterplans for the borough's three country parks, with an ambition to enhance services provided at these parks, whilst improving the appearance, cleanliness and welcome of our green spaces
- Work with regional partners to deliver public transport improvements such as a new Tram-train stop at Magna, as well as longer term aims a railway station at Waverley and a new mainline station for Rotherham
- Develop a new Cycling Strategy and invest in new cycleways across Rotherham
- Continue the roll out of public charging points to make electric vehicles a more viable option for residents and visitors
- Deliver flood alleviation projects and work with communities and businesses to develop flood resilience measures in the worst-affected areas.
- Deliver a renewable energy generation project by 2025
- Plant a minimum of 500 new trees every year
- Encourage our suppliers to reduce their emissions through implementation of the Council's Social Value Policy
- Support residents to access nationally available insulation grants to improve energy efficiency

# 9 ONE COUNCIL

**As a Council we have an important part to play in addressing the challenges faced and achieving better outcomes for the people of Rotherham.**

Our vision is to work with communities to deliver responsive and modern services that are easily accessible to all.

## Where are we now

In recent years, the Council has been focused on rebuilding public trust and delivering high quality services whilst effectively responding to the challenges faced by residents, partners and businesses across the borough. This has been achieved against a backdrop of growing demand and an unprecedented period of budget reductions for local government.

Many of our services have been redesigned to focus on asset-based working, early intervention, and prevention to give communities and citizens more control over the issues that are most important to them. Digital processes have been improved or introduced, making it easier for people to access the services they need.

Since the pandemic, the Council has provided the tools and flexibility to enable staff to work from home and continue to deliver services in a safe way. Staff have embraced new technology and ways of working, allowing us to transition to a new 'hybrid working' model.

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*"To listen to residents more and not assume things"*  
*(consultation response)*

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## Key stats:

- **52% of respondents** in June 2021 were 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied' with the way the Council runs things
- **40% of respondents** would 'tend to agree' or 'strongly agree' that Rotherham MBC provides value for money in June 2021
- **48% of respondents** in Rotherham answered positively when asked about the extent to which the Council acts on the concerns of residents ('a great deal' or 'a fair amount') in June 2021
- **50% Rotherham respondents** in June 2021 said that Rotherham Council keeps residents 'very well' or 'fairly well' informed about the services and benefits it provides
- **51% of respondents** said they trusted the Council 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount' in June 2021.
- **47% of respondents** in June 2021 stated that they have confidence in the Council (either 'to a great extent' or 'to a moderate extent')
- **79% of respondents** said that the Council had responded very or quite well to the covid crisis in June 2021

The Council has created over 400 online forms since October 2019 to enable customers to self-serve a wide range of services

When a service is made available online an average of 80% of customers digitally self-serve

## Where we want to be

Our focus remains on Rotherham residents, building relationships based on trust, and working with people and communities to solve problems and make the most of opportunities.

We will continue to deliver value for money services to the people of Rotherham within the financial resources available to us, whilst continually seeking to improve our approach with more innovative ways of working.

A new programme will ensure that customers receive a consistent, high quality and efficient service from all areas of the Council. This will involve agreeing a new set of customer service standards with Rotherham residents to deliver an excellent customer experience, by improving the quality of our customer contacts.

Our workforce is critical to delivering the Council's priorities and a new workforce strategy will help us to ensure that staff feel valued, supported and empowered as they continue to deliver the best possible services for local people.

This will mean focussing on the following outcomes:

- Effective customer services – residents know we mean what we say, are kept informed and can access the services they need in the way that suits them
- Engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customers
- Sound financial management and governance arrangements
- Effective leadership, working with our partners to achieve better outcomes across the whole borough

## How we will get there:

- Work with services, partners and communities to promote equality, celebrate diversity and ensure fairness for everyone
- Communicate and engage with residents so that they feel informed about council services and how to access these
- Work in an efficient, open, transparent and accountable way, in partnership with key stakeholders
- Work to improve customer satisfaction, including by developing and implementing a new set of customer service standards



# 10 MEASURING SUCCESS

**The Year Ahead Delivery Plan sets out the key actions required to help us achieve the outcomes and commitments in this plan.**

Quarterly reports will be produced to track progress and will be reported to Cabinet. The reports will include progress on the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities, performance against key measures (see page 32 onwards) which are critical to the success of the plan, and a range of case studies.

Each year, directorates will produce service plans which will demonstrate how they contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan and outline wider priorities and responsibilities, which in turn will inform team plans and individual performance and development reviews.

## 11 GET INVOLVED

**We want residents to be at the heart of everything we do. There are lots of different ways for people to get involved, providing views on our services, helping to shape plans and priorities, and keeping up to date on news and views. This includes ward plans, neighbourhood newsletters, social media and consultations.**

For further information visit the Council website at [www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

If you would like this information in another language or format, please ask us.

# 12 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

These measures and targets will be reviewed annually.

| EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING |   |  |                                |
|------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Outcomes                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with communities on the things that matter to them</li> <li>• Residents, organisations and businesses use their skills and resources to help others</li> <li>• Neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces</li> <li>• Improved local towns and villages are improved</li> </ul> |                                |
| Ref                          | Key Performance Indicators  | Good is  | Target 2022/23                 |
| NE01a                        | Satisfaction with the borough and local area:<br>a) Proportion of public satisfied with Rotherham Borough as a place to live  | High   | Greater than 62 %              |
| NE01b                        | b) Proportion of the public satisfied with their local area as a place to live  | High   | Equal to or greater than 80 %  |
| NE02a                        | Volunteering:<br>a) Number of staff involved in the council employee volunteer scheme to support local communities  | High   | Baseline to be determined      |
| NE02b                        | b) Number of volunteering opportunities for local people via the voluntary and community sector   | High   | 80 new volunteering placements |
| NE03a                        | Anti-social behaviour<br>a) Number of community protection notices issued (anti-social behaviour, waste and noise)  | High   | Greater than 350               |
| NE03b                        | b) Public perception of anti-social behavior (via the 'Your Voice Counts' quality survey)   | Low  | Less than 43 %                 |
| NE04a                        | Hate crime:<br>a) Number of hate crime incidents  | Measure for information  | No target                      |



## EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with communities on the things that matter to them</li><li>• Residents, organisations and businesses use their skills and resources to help others</li><li>• Neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces</li><li>• Improved local towns and villages are improved</li></ul> |   |
|----------|---|---|---|
| Ref      | Key Performance Indicators  | Good is   | Target 2022/23  |
| NE04b    | b) Proportion of positive outcomes to hate crime investigations   | High  | 20 %  |
| NE05     | Proportion of the local road network classed as ‘green status’ (do not require repair)  | High  | a) 81 % classified<br>b) 79 % non-principal<br>c) 60 % unclassified |
| NE06a    | Perceptions of feeling safe:<br>a) Proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area during the day  | High  | Greater than 90 %   |
| NE06b    | b) Proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area after dark  | High  | Greater than 56 %   |
| NE07a    | Number of visits to culture, sport and tourism facilities (all population)  | High  | 3,500,000 cumulative annual target                                  |
| NE07b    | Customer satisfaction with culture, sport and tourism services  | High  | Greater than 90 % across all services                               |

| PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL |   |  |                |
|--|---|--|----------------|
| Outcomes                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People have good mental health and physical wellbeing</li> <li>• People feel empowered, safe and live independently for as long as possible</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People can access affordable, decent housing</li> <li>• Inequalities are addressed and nobody is left behind</li> </ul> |                |
| Ref                                    | Key Performance Indicators  | Good is  | Target 2022/23 |
| PE01                                   | Number of people attending the Make Every Contact Count (MECC) training relating to health and wellbeing issues   | High   | 150            |
| PE02                                   | The proportion of adults involved in a safeguarding enquiry who felt their personal outcomes were at least partially met  | High   | 97 %           |
| PE03                                   | Proportion of new clients who receive short term (reablement) service in year with an outcome of no further requests made for support   | High   | 90 %           |
| PE04                                   | Manage the number of new older adult admissions to long term residential care (aged 64+)  | Measure for information  | No target      |
| PE05                                   | Proportion of council housing repairs completed 'Right 1st time'  | High   | 97 %           |
| PE06                                   | Number of new homes delivered with Council support, including affordable homes  | High   | 225            |
| PE07                                   | Proportion of council housing stock that meets the "Decent Homes" standard  | High   | 100 %          |
| PE08                                   | Proportion of households prevented or relieved from homelessness  | High   | 85 %           |
| PE09                                   | Number of households in temporary accommodation   | Low  | 95             |
| PE10                                   | Total number of referrals to domestic abuse support services  | Measure for information  | No target      |
| PE11                                   | Engagement rate with Domestic Abuse support services (all services)   | High   | 60 %           |
| PE12                                   | Processing time of new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support  | Low  | 24 days        |

## EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

|          |  |  |                              |
|----------|--|--|------------------------------|
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Children get the best start in life</li><li>Children and young people safe from harm</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Young people feel empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations</li><li>Children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go</li></ul> |                              |
| Ref      | Key Performance Indicators   | Good is  | Target 2022/23               |
| CH01     | Percentage of eligible children accessing their 2-2.5yr health visitor checks  | High   | 93 %                         |
| CH02     | Number of Children in Need (rate per 10K population 0-17 as per DfE population)  | Low  | 375.5                        |
| CH03     | The number of children with a Child Protection plan (rate per 10K population 0-17)   | Low  | Fewer than 85                |
| CH04     | The number of Looked After Children (rate per 10k population 0-17)   | Low  | 95.2                         |
| CH05     | Open Early Help cases at the end of the reporting period (children)  | Measure for information  | No target                    |
| CH06     | Proportion of social care re-referrals in 12 months - in current month   | Low  | Less than 22 %               |
| CH07     | Number of children and young people who are currently assessed as having a medium to high risk of CSE (CSE cohort)                   | Measure for information  | No target                    |
| CH08     | Proportion of two-year olds taking up an early education place   | High   | 80.0 %                       |
| CH09     | Proportion of pupils passing the phonics screening check in year 1   | High   | Above Stat Neighbour Average |
| CH10     | Number of children with Education, Health and Care Plan  | Measure for information  | No target                    |
| CH11     | Number of universal youth work sessions delivered  | High   | Additional 800               |



| EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Outcomes                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress</li> <li>Delivering regeneration schemes that bring investment and opportunity, both in Rotherham town centre and in our towns and villages</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs, paid at the Real Living Wage or above, and apprenticeships</li> <li>People having opportunities to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential</li> <li>Strengthening digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all</li> </ul> |  |
| Ref                            | Key Performance Indicators  | Good is   | Target 2022/23   |
| EC01                           | Proportion of working age population who are in work (or actively looking for work) in Rotherham  | High  | Achieve national average   |
| EC02a                          | Optimistic about the future:<br>a) Proportion optimistic about the future of Rotherham as a place to live   | High  | Greater than 57 %  |
| EC02b                          | b) Proportion optimistic about the future of Rotherham town centre  | High  | Greater than 24 %  |
| EC03                           | Number of new businesses started with help from the Council   | High  | 60   |
| EC04a                          | Actions taken in Rotherham to promote progressive and sustainable Economic Development:<br>a) Survival rate of new businesses supported in RiDO Business Centres over the first three trading years   | High  | 81 %   |
| EC04b                          | b) Provide advice and support to local businesses to help them recover and grow.  | High  | 300 plus   |
| EC05                           | Number of engagements with libraries' services which help people learn, acquire new skills or get a job   | High  | 75,000 plus  |
| EC06                           | Proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council  | High  | 1.5 % of workforce   |
| EC07                           | Number of online customer transactions (digital inclusion measure)  | High  | 3 % increase year on year (2021/22 185,400 for the year (46,350 per quarter) |

## A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing satisfaction with the cleanliness of the borough</li> <li>Creating better transport systems for future generations</li> <li>Reducing the risk and impact of flooding and other environmental emergencies</li> <li>Contributing to reducing carbon emissions across the borough</li> </ul> |   |  |
|----------|---|---|--|
|          | Ref   | Key Performance Indicators  | Good is Target 2022/23   |
| EN01a    |   | Fly tipping and enviromental crime:<br>a) Effective enforcement actions; fly-tipping                                    | High<br>37 plus  |
| EN01b    |   | b) Effective enforcement actions; other environmental crime   | High<br>2,000 (cumulative)   |
| EN02     |   | Proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting)   | High<br>45 %   |
| EN03     |   | Number of street cleaning, grounds maintenance and waste official complaints and service requests                       | Low<br>190 cumulative for year in the number of official complaints received |
| EN04     |   | Carbon dioxide emission levels for the Council (for specific areas, for example operational buildings, street lighting) | Low<br>18 % reduction by 2023  |
| EN05     |   | Number of trees planted by the Council  | High<br>a) 5 Hectares<br>b) 500 Trees  |
| EN06     |   | Proportion of council housing with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated C and above                            | High<br>New  |

| ONE COUNCIL |   |   |                                       |
|-------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Outcomes    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective customer services – residents know we mean what we say, are kept informed and can access the services they need in the way that suits them</li> <li>Engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sound financial management and governance arrangements</li> <li>Effective leadership, working with our partners to achieve better outcomes across the whole borough</li> </ul> |                                       |
| Ref         | Key Performance Indicators  | Good is   | Target 2022/23                        |
| OC01        | Proportion of complaints closed within timescales   | High  | 85 %                                  |
| OC02a       | Satisfaction:<br>a) The proportion of residents who feel that the Council keeps them informed   | High  | Greater than 50 %                     |
| OC02b       | b) To what extent do you think that the Council acts on the concerns of local residents   | High  | Greater than 48 %                     |
| OC03        | Average customer wait time to corporate contact centre  | Low   | 6 minutes                             |
| OC03        | Number of council working days lost to sickness per full time equivalent post   | Low   | 10.3 days                             |
| OC04        | The proportion of completed annual staff performance development reviews  | High  | 95 %                                  |
| OC05a       | Diverse workforce:<br>a) Overall proportion of disabled employees   | Representative of the borough   | Maintain 9 % or above                 |
| OC05b       | b) Overall proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic employees   | Representative of the borough   | 6.3 %                                 |
| OC05c       | c) Proportion of workforce under 25   | Representative of the borough   | 4.6 %                                 |
| OC06a       | Council tax and business rates collected:<br>a) Proportion of Council Tax collected in the current financial year compared with other Met Councils  | High  | Top quartile metropolitan authorities |
| OC06b       | b) Proportion of business rates collected in the current financial year compared with other Met Councils  | High  | Top quartile metropolitan authorities |

## Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2022

### Every neighbourhood thriving

| Ref | Outcome   | Activity   | Lead officer   | Lead directorate            | Timescales for delivery (from and to)                                      | Lead Cabinet Member |
|-----|---|--|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1.1 | Work with communities on the things that matter to them                               | Produce ward plans with ward priorities informed by local communities.                                     | Martin Hughes<br><i>Head of Neighbourhoods</i>   | Assistant Chief Executive's | June 2022  | Cllr Allen          |
| 1.2 |   | Increase the number of subscribers for the ward bulletins to 9,000 (25% increase).                         | Chris Burton<br><i>Head of Communications and Marketing</i>  | Assistant Chief Executive's | Ongoing - March 2023   | Leader              |
| 1.3 |   | Increase the number of subscribers for the new 'Rotherham Round up' borough wide email to 9,000.           | Chris Burton<br><i>Head of Communications and Marketing</i>  | Assistant Chief Executive's | Ongoing – March 2023   | Leader              |
| 1.4 |   | Evaluate the Controlling Migration Fund programme.   | Simon Dennis<br><i>Acting Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence</i>   | Assistant Chief Executive's | November 2022  | Leader              |
| 1.5 | Residents, organisations and businesses use their skills and resources to help others | Work with VAR to establish 80 new volunteering opportunities across voluntary and community organisations. | Martin Hughes<br><i>Head of Neighbourhoods</i><br><br>Simon Dennis<br><i>Acting Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence</i> | Assistant Chief Executive's | March 2022<br><br>SLA in place until March 2024, targets reviewed annually | Cllr Sheppard       |
| 1.6 | Neighbourhoods are  | Improve enforcement  | Tom Smith,   | Regeneration                | August 2022  | Cllr Alam           |

|      |  |  |   |                              |                      |               |
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|      | welcoming and safe   | outcomes by making greater use of legal powers. This means issuing more than 350 community protection notices.   | <i>Assistant Director<br/>Community Safety and Street Scene</i>                     | and Environment              |                      |               |
| 1.7  |  | Develop interventions that seek to reduce hate crime and improve community safety by tackling harmful narratives, including via the 'Who is your neighbour' and Remedi projects. | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director<br/>Community Safety and Street Scene</i>        | Regeneration and Environment | May 2022             | Cllr Alam     |
| 1.8  |  | Design and implement new neighbourhood road safety measures, including 20mph zones.  | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director<br/>Planning<br/>Regeneration and Transport</i> | Regeneration and Environment | March 2023           | Cllr Beck     |
| 1.9  |  | Repair an estimated 595 estate roads (137.7km) (between April 2020- March 23) through the 2024 roads programme.  | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director<br/>Community Safety and Street Scene</i>        | Regeneration and Environment | Ongoing - March 2023 | Cllr Beck     |
| 1.10 |  | Work with Councillors to identify hot-spot areas for nuisance pavement parking and develop plans to prevent nuisance pavement parking, including parking restrictions.           | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director<br/>Community Safety and Street Scene</i>        | Regeneration and Environment | March 2023           | Cllr Beck     |
| 1.11 | Local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces | Complete the new library at Thurgroft.   | Zoe Oxley<br><i>Head of Service<br/>Operations and Business Transformation</i>      | Regeneration and Environment | December 2022        | Cllr Sheppard |
| 1.12 |  | Hold cultural and sporting events across Rotherham to  | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service</i>   | Regeneration and             |                      | Cllr Sheppard |

|      |                                       |  |  |                              |   |                             |
|------|---------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|      |                                       | appeal to a range of ages and backgrounds, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's Euro 2022</li> <li>• Rotherham Show</li> <li>• Rotherham 10k</li> <li>• Summer reading challenge</li> <li>• Fun palaces.</li> </ul> | <i>Creative Programming and Engagement</i><br><br>Zoe Oxley<br><i>Head of Service Operations and Business Transformation</i> | Environment                  | Jan-Jul 2022<br>Sept 2022<br>May 2022<br>September 2022<br><br>October 2022 |                             |
| 1.13 |                                       | Complete restoration of the grade II listed site Keppels Column.   | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service Creative Programming and Engagement</i>  | Regeneration and Environment | October 2021 – May 2022   | Cllr Sheppard               |
| 1.14 |                                       | Complete feasibility study for a new Rotherham Theatre.  | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service Creative Programming and Engagement</i>  | Regeneration and Environment | October 2021 – April 2022   | Cllr Sheppard               |
| 1.15 | Local towns and villages are improved | Create a plan of developments across the borough to maximise the impact of the Towns and Villages fund.  | Paul Woodcock<br><i>Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment</i>  | Regeneration and Environment | October 2021 – April 2022   | Cllr Allen<br>Cllr Lelliott |

## People are safe, healthy and live well

| Ref | Outcome   | Activity   | Lead officer   | Lead directorate                      | Timescales for delivery (from and to) | Lead Cabinet Member |
|-----|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2.1 | People have good mental health and physical wellbeing | Work with partners to develop a prevention and health inequalities strategy and action plan.   | Ben Anderson<br><i>Director Public Health</i>  | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | October 2021-April 2022               | Cllr Roche          |
| 2.2 |   | Refresh the partnership Loneliness Action plan and ensure the delivery of Council owned actions.   | Ben Anderson<br><i>Director Public Health</i>  | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | September 2022                        | Cllr Roche          |
| 2.3 |   | Produce suicide prevention guidance for staff and Members.   | Anne Marie Lubanski<br><i>Strategic Director Adult Care, Housing and Public Health</i> | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | May 2022                              | Cllr Roche          |
| 2.4 |   | Create a cultural programme including events, theatre, libraries, music and museums for residents aged 55+ to help with grief, mental wellbeing and physical conditioning. | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service Creative Programming and Engagement</i>            | Regeneration and Environment          | October 2021 - March 2022             | Cllr Sheppard       |
| 2.5 |   | Deliver £250k investment works in Herringthorpe Stadium, including completion of flood lighting, refurbishment of internal and external pavilion.                          | Chris Siddall<br><i>Acting Head of Strategic Projects and Partnerships</i>             | Regeneration and Environment          | March 2022                            | Cllr Sheppard       |

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| 2.6 |   | Meet national contact tracing weekly target of 89% contacts completed successfully.   | Nathan Atkinson<br><i>Assistant Director Strategic Commissioning</i><br><br>Ben Anderson<br><i>Director of Public Health</i> | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | March 2022 | Cllr Roche |
| 2.7 |   | Regular and timely review of all clusters of cases in complex settings (care, schools and workplaces) for requirements to hold an Incident Management Team meeting (IMT).   | Nathan Atkinson<br><i>Assistant Director Strategic Commissioning</i><br><br>Ben Anderson<br><i>Director of Public Health</i> | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | March 2022 | Cllr Roche |
| 2.8 |   | Targeted engagement with communities to promote vaccination take up and dispel myths and fake news.   | Nathan Atkinson<br><i>Assistant Director Strategic Commissioning</i><br><br>Ben Anderson<br><i>Director of Public Health</i> | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | June 2022  | Cllr Roche |
| 2.9 | People feel empowered, safe and live independently for as long as possible. | Develop new day opportunities for people with learning disabilities, autism and complex needs:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete 'day opportunities' consultation regarding REACH services.</li><li>• Commence building</li></ul> | Ian Spicer<br><i>Assistant Director Independent Living and Support</i>   | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | May 2022   | Cllr Roche |



|      |  |   |   |   |                              |                               |
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|      |  | works to improve day facilities.  |   |   | March 2023                   |                               |
| 2.10 |  | Develop and deliver a programme of consultation and engagement on the future supported accommodation offer for those with learning disabilities and autism. | Ian Spicer<br><i>Assistant Director Independent Living and Support</i><br><br>Scott Matthewman<br><i>Interim Assistant Director of Commissioning Strategic Adult Care</i> | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health                                     | January 2022 – October 2022  | Cllr Roche                    |
| 2.11 |  | Deliver and launch the new Carers Strategy.   | Ian Spicer<br><i>Assistant Director Independent Living and Support</i>  | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health                                     | June 2022                    | Cllr Roche                    |
| 2.12 |  | Recommission domestic abuse services.   | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director Community Safety and Street Scene</i>  | Regeneration and Environment  | October 2022                 | Cllr Cusworth                 |
| 2.13 | People can access affordable, decent housing | Refresh the Housing Strategy.   | Paul Walsh<br><i>Interim Assistant Director of Housing</i>  | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health                                     | May 2022                     | Cllr Brookes                  |
| 2.14 |  | Deliver the Council's Housing Growth Programme, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Centre housing programme</li> </ul>                  | Paul Walsh<br><i>Interim Assistant Director of Housing</i>  | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health<br><br>Regeneration and Environment | February 2020 - October 2022 | Cllr Brookes<br>Cllr Lelliott |

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|      |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chesterhill Avenue and Whinney Hill</li> <li>Delivery of Council bungalows on sites in Treeton and Ravenfield</li> </ul> |   |                                       | First homes by March 2022, completion by 2023<br><br>March 2021 - April 2022 |                               |
| 2.15 | Inequalities are addressed and nobody is left behind | Commission new services to prevent financial exploitation.  | Paul Walsh<br><i>Interim Assistant Director of Housing</i>                  | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | March 2023   | Cllr Brookes                  |
| 2.16 |  | Complete a review of Rother Card.   | Luke Sayers<br><i>Assistant Director Customer, Information and Digital</i>  | Finance and Customer Services         | June 2022  | Cllr Sheppard                 |
| 2.17 |  | Develop three social supermarkets and other measures as part of a preventative approach to help people avoid food crisis.                                       | Simon Dennis<br><i>Acting Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence</i>  | Assistant Chief Executive's           | December 2022  | Cllr Sheppard                 |
| 2.18 |  | Reduce the number of homeless people housed in temporary accommodation.   | Paul Walsh<br><i>Interim Assistant Director of Housing</i>                  | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | April 2022 onwards   | Cllr Sheppard<br>Cllr Brookes |
| 2.19 |  | Provide food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals for school holidays through to Easter 2022.  | Nathan Heath<br><i>Interim Assistant Director Education and Skills</i>      | Children and Young People's Services  | To April 2022  | Cllr Cusworth                 |
| 2.20 |  | Provide up to £100 reduction in Council Tax liability for working age households eligible for Local Council Tax Support during 2021/22.                         | Judith Badger<br><i>Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services</i> | Finance and Customer Services         | March 2022   | Cllr Alam                     |

## Every child able to fulfil their potential

| Ref | Outcome  | Activity   | Lead officer   | Lead directorate  | Timescales for delivery (from and to) | Lead Cabinet Member         |
|-----|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3.1 | Children get the best start in life                                  | Carry out targeted engagement with families to increase take up of early education.  | Nathan Heath<br><i>Interim Assistant Director Education and Skills</i>                   | Children and Young People's Services  | March 2023                            | Cllr Cusworth               |
| 3.2 |  | Work with Health and Wellbeing Board partners to develop a 'Best Start and Beyond' strategy.                                     | Ben Anderson<br><i>Director Public Health</i>  | Adult Care, Housing and Public Health<br><br>Children and Young People's Services | April 2023                            | Cllr Roche<br>Cllr Cusworth |
| 3.3 | Children and young people are safe from harm                         | Develop and launch the refreshed Early Help Strategy.  | David McWilliams<br><i>Assistant Director Early Help and Family Engagement</i>           | Children's and Young People's services  | October 2021 - February 2022          | Cllr Cusworth               |
| 3.4 |  | Implement KOOTH, the online mental health and wellbeing tool and monitor usage by young people.                                  | Helen Sweaton,<br><i>Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Quality and Performance</i> | Children's and Young People's services  | November 2021 - October 2022          | Cllr Cusworth               |
| 3.5 | Young people feel empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations | Implement the Rotherham inclusion Pathway (a school-led, multi-agency approach to supporting young people at risk of exclusion). | Nathan Heath<br><i>Interim Assistant Director Education and Skills</i>                   | Children and Young People's Services  | October 2021 - July 2022              | Cllr Cusworth               |
|     |  | Evaluate the current 'team   | Nathan Heath   | Children's and  | January 2022 - July                   | Cllr Cusworth               |

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|     |  | around the school' project to establish the impact on the sample schools and their pupils.   | <i>Interim Assistant Director Education and Skills</i>                         | Young People's services<br><br>Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | 2022                    |               |
| 3.6 |  | Implement the 'Year of Reading' programme and evaluate its success.  | Nathan Heath<br><i>Interim Assistant Director Education and Skills</i>         | Children and Young People's Services                                 | January 2022- July 2023 | Cllr Cusworth |
| 3.7 |  | Deliver the Enterprise Adviser Network programme, ensuring 75% of schools and colleges are matched to an adviser from a local business and are demonstrating progress towards achieving the eight Gatsby benchmarks for good quality careers education information, advice and guidance. | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport</i>    | Regeneration and Environment   | March 2023              | Cllr Lelliott |
| 3.8 |  | Deliver the Business Education Alliance programme, with 33 SMEs engaging with schools and colleges to help raise aspirations through meaningful employer encounters.   | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport</i>    | Regeneration and Environment   | December 2023           | Cllr Lelliott |
| 3.9 |  | Maximise Kickstart placements to provide employment opportunities for local, unemployed, young people'.  | Lee Mann<br>Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development | Assistant Chief Executive's  | September 2022          | Cllr Alam     |

|      |   |   |  |                                      |                        |               |
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| 3.10 | Children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go | Work with children and young people across the borough to co-design the Children's Capital of Culture 2025 programme. | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service<br/>Creative<br/>Programming and<br/>Engagement</i>    | Regeneration and Environment         | August 2021 – May 2022 | Cllr Sheppard |
| 3.11 |   | Agree a new universal Youth offer including the contributions of both the Council and voluntary sector partners.      | David McWilliams<br><i>Assistant Director<br/>Early Help and<br/>Family<br/>Engagement</i> | Children and Young People's Services | January 2023           | Cllr Cusworth |
| 3.12 |   | Complete delivery of the £100k Play Equipment replacement programme.  | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service<br/>Creative<br/>Programming and<br/>Engagement</i>    | Regeneration and Environment         | March 2023             | Cllr Sheppard |

## Expanding economic opportunity

| Ref | Outcome  | Activity  | Lead officer  | Lead directorate             | Timescales for delivery (from and to)         | Lead Cabinet Member            |
|-----|--|---|---|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 4.1 | A growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress  | Delivery of new Century business centre at Manvers.   | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport</i>   | Regeneration and Environment | January 2022 – July 2023                      | Cllr Lelliott                  |
| 4.2 |  | Deliver 'Reload Programme' of sector support for culture and creative industries, including providing 20 microgrants for event organisers and 21 new commissions.     | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service Creative Programming and Engagement</i>   | Regeneration and Environment | October 2021 – March 2022                     | Cllr Sheppard                  |
| 4.3 | Delivering regeneration schemes that bring investment and opportunity, both in Rotherham town centre and in our towns and villages | Secure planning approval, complete detailed design and appoint contractor for the construction of the market and library project as part of Future High Streets Fund. | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport</i><br><br>Zoe Oxley<br><i>Head of Service Operations and Business Transformation</i> | Regeneration and Environment | February 2022 (Planning Board) – October 2022 | Cllr Sheppard<br>Cllr Lelliott |
| 4.4 |  | Develop business cases for the 6 Town Deal projects and submit summaries to government by 27 June 2022.   | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport</i>   | Regeneration and Environment | January 2022 -June 2022                       | Cllr Lelliott                  |
| 4.5 |  | Complete the detailed design prior to construction of the   | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director</i>   | Regeneration and Environment | January 2022 – October 2022                   | Cllr Lelliott                  |

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|  |   | leisure development on Forge Island.  | <i>Planning<br/>Regeneration and<br/>Transport</i>  |  |   |               |
| <i>In addition to the actions outlined above, there are a range of activities within the environment theme (Better transport systems for future generations) which will contribute to connecting people to economic opportunities.</i> |   |   |   |  |   |               |
| 4.6  | Working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs, paid at the Real Living Wage or above, and apprenticeships | Work with partners to identify their local spending profile as well as promoting living wage accreditation.                           | Graham Saxton<br><i>Interim Assistant<br/>Director Financial<br/>Services</i><br><br>Simon Dennis<br><i>Acting Head of<br/>Policy,<br/>Performance and<br/>Intelligence</i> | Finance and<br>Customer Services<br><br>Assistant Chief<br>Executive's | September 2022<br>(progress review<br>date) | Leader        |
| 4.7  |   | Ensure new in scope contracts are in line with Living Wage accreditation.   | Graham Saxton<br><i>Interim Assistant<br/>Director Financial<br/>Services</i><br><br>Simon Dennis<br><i>Acting Head of<br/>Policy,<br/>Performance and<br/>Intelligence</i> | Finance and<br>Customer Services<br><br>Assistant Chief<br>Executive's | Ongoing - March<br>2023 (review date)       | Leader        |
| 4.8  |   | Adopt a local labour policy to encourage and/or enable local people to access job opportunities arising from major development sites. | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director<br/>Planning<br/>Regeneration and<br/>Transport</i>   | Regeneration and<br>Environment  | Ongoing - March<br>2023                     | Cllr Lelliott |
| 4.9  | People having   | Deliver the European  | Paul Walsh  | Adult Care,  | Ongoing to March                            | Cllr Sheppard |

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|------|---|---|---|-------------------------------|--|---------------|
|      | opportunities to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential           | Social Fund 'Pathways to Success' employment support programme, to at least 450 residents who qualify, into training and work.  | <i>Interim Assistant Director of Housing</i>                                | Housing and Public Health     | 2022 (may be further extended to Dec 2023)     |               |
| 4.10 |   | Commence the delivery of the Advance project and provide assistance to 500 people in employment to enhance their career prospects.  | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport</i> | Regeneration and Environment  | January 2022 - December 2023                   | Cllr Lelliott |
| 4.11 |   | <p>Train library staff and work with partners to help people make best use of library resources for job seeking, gaining skills, and supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs to grow. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners from the People and Skills Networking Group to set up work coaches and job seeker support across the library network.</li> <li>• Business and intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) to launch at the Central Library.</li> </ul> | Zoe Oxley<br><i>Head of Service Operations and Business Transformation</i>  | Regeneration and Environment  | <p>November 2021 onwards</p> <p>March 2022</p> | Cllr Sheppard |
| 4.12 | Strengthening digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all | Identify measures to improve digital inclusion through consultation with communities.   | Luke Sayers<br><i>Assistant Director Customer, Information and Digital</i>  | Finance and Customer Services | December 2022                                  | Cllr Alam     |



|      |  |   |  |                                  |                              |           |
|------|--|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 4.13 |  | Develop a Digital Inclusion Strategy.   | Luke Sayers<br><i>Assistant Director<br/>Customer,<br/>Information and<br/>Digital</i> | Finance and<br>Customer Services | December 2022 -<br>July 2023 | Cllr Alam |
| 4.14 |  | Deliver public Wi-Fi to the new town centre library and markets building and investigate the feasibility of delivering Wi-Fi to other Council owned public spaces within the Town centre. | Luke Sayers<br><i>Assistant Director<br/>Customer,<br/>Information and<br/>Digital</i> | Finance and<br>Customer Services | March 2023                   | Cllr Alam |

| A cleaner, greener local environment |   |   |   |                              |                                       |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ref                                  | Outcome   | Activity  | Lead officer  | Lead directorate             | Timescales for delivery (from and to) | Lead Cabinet Member |
| 5.1                                  | Increasing satisfaction with the cleanliness of the Borough | Develop first proposals for country park masterplans (Rother Valley and Thrybergh) for public consultation.                                 | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service Creative Programming and Engagement</i> | Regeneration and Environment | April 2022                            | Cllr Sheppard       |
| 5.2                                  |   | Increase the number of fines, prosecutions or legal actions for fly tipping.  | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director Community Safety and Street Scene</i>    | Regeneration and Environment | August 2022                           | Cllr Beck           |
| 5.3                                  |   | Implement systems to monitor and assess the environment in local areas and enable improvements in grounds maintenance and street cleansing. | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director Community Safety and Street Scene</i>    | Regeneration and Environment | April 2022                            | Cllr Beck           |
| 5.4                                  |   | Target an extra 240 local areas for additional cleaning and weed removal.   | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director Community Safety and Street Scene</i>    | Regeneration and Environment | March 2023                            | Cllr Beck           |
| 5.5                                  | Creating better transport systems for future                | Deliver bus, tram and cycle improvements through the Transforming Cities Fund   | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director</i>                                     | Regeneration and Environment |                                       | Cllr Beck           |

|     |  |  |   |                              |   |           |
|-----|--|--|---|------------------------------|---|-----------|
|     | generations  | <p>programme, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheffield Road Cycleway</li> <li>• Frederick Street public realm with cycleway</li> <li>• Forge Island footbridge</li> <li>• Moor Road, Manvers cycle route</li> <li>• Doncaster Road, Dalton</li> <li>• A.631 Maltby bus corridor.</li> </ul> | <i>Planning<br/>Regeneration<br/>and Transport</i>  |                              | <p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p> |           |
| 5.6 |  | Finalise delivery plan for the approved cycling strategy.  | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant<br/>Director<br/>Planning<br/>Regeneration<br/>and Transport</i> | Regeneration and Environment | March 2023  | Cllr Beck |
| 5.7 |  | Complete A630 Parkway Improvement Scheme to reduce speeds (50mph), reduce congestion and improve air quality.  | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant<br/>Director<br/>Planning<br/>Regeneration<br/>and Transport</i> | Regeneration and Environment | June 2023   | Cllr Beck |
| 5.8 | Reducing the risk and impact of flooding and other environmental | Achieve 'shovel ready' status for the six priority flood alleviation schemes and work to secure funding to implement   | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant<br/>Director<br/>Community</i>                                    | Regeneration and Environment | March 2024  | Cllr Beck |

|      |  |   |   |                              |                              |                            |
|------|--|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
|      | emergencies  | the schemes.  | <i>Safety and Street Scene</i>  |                              |                              |                            |
| 5.9  |  | Construct the Forge Island canal barrier.   | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director Community Safety and Street Scene</i>    | Regeneration and Environment | August 2022                  | Cllr Lelliott<br>Cllr Beck |
| 5.10 |  | Construct the Ickles Lock to Centenary Way flood wall and embankment.   | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director Community Safety and Street Scene</i>    | Regeneration and Environment | October 2021 – December 2022 | Cllr Beck                  |
| 5.11 |  | Develop plans to support community resilience and community-led activities in areas at risk of flooding.  | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director Community Safety and Street Scene</i>    | Regeneration and Environment | September 2022               | Cllr Beck                  |
| 5.12 | Contributing to reducing carbon emissions across the Borough | Develop a medium term and long-term Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.  | Rob Savage<br><i>Acting Head of Change and Innovation</i>                   | Assistant Chief Executive's  | March 2022                   | Cllr Lelliott              |
| 5.13 |  | Implement heating or energy efficiency measures in Council buildings that reduce CO2 emissions, working towards the target of an 18% reduction by March 2023. | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport</i> | Regeneration and Environment | April 2022 - March 2023      | Cllr Lelliott              |
| 5.14 |  | Install additional 8 vehicle charging units to complement existing provision, and 2 residential charging hubs.  | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director Planning Regeneration</i>               | Regeneration and Environment | April 2022 - March 2023      | Cllr Lelliott              |

|      |  |  |  |                              |                            |               |
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|      |  |  | <i>and Transport</i>   |                              |                            |               |
| 5.15 |  | Develop a fleet conversion programme to low carbon fuel.   | Tom Smith<br><i>Assistant Director Community Safety and Street Scene</i>   | Regeneration and Environment | November 2022              | Cllr Lelliott |
| 5.16 |  | Develop a plan to tackle single use plastics across council buildings and events.  | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service Creative Programming and Engagement</i><br><br>Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport</i> | Regeneration and Environment | May 2022                   | Cllr Lelliott |
| 5.17 |  | Deliver a communications plan to raise awareness about climate change and influence a positive change in behaviour across the borough. | Rob Savage<br><i>Acting Head of Change and Innovation</i><br><br>Chris Burton<br><i>Head of Communications and Marketing</i>                                   | Assistant Chief Executive's  | Ongoing - March 2023       | Cllr Lelliott |
| 5.18 |  | Plant 10,000 new trees across the borough working with community groups and schools.   | Leanne Buchan<br><i>Head of Service Creative Programming and Engagement</i>  | Regeneration and Environment | November 2021 – March 2023 | Cllr Sheppard |

|      |  |  |   |                              |            |           |
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| 5.19 |  | Continue to provide direct support to residents to enable them to apply for insulation grants where applicable through the ECO03 and ECO04 programmes. | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant<br/>Director<br/>Planning<br/>Regeneration<br/>and Transport</i> | Regeneration and Environment | March 2023 | Cllr Beck |
| 5.20 |  | Find a suitable site for Renewable Energy Generation, obtain planning permission and commence procurement.   | Simon Moss<br><i>Assistant<br/>Director<br/>Planning<br/>Regeneration<br/>and Transport</i> | Regeneration and Environment | March 2023 | Cllr Beck |

| One Council |  |   |  |                               |                                       |                     |
|-------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ref         | Outcome  | Activity  | Lead officer   | Lead directorate              | Timescales for delivery (from and to) | Lead Cabinet Member |
| 6.1         | Effective customer services – residents know we mean what we say, are kept informed and can access the services they need in the way that suits them | Develop and implement a new set of cross organisational customer service standards following consultation with customers (internal and external stakeholders).                  | Luke Sayers<br><i>Assistant Director Customer, Information and Digital</i> | Finance and Customer Services | December 2023                         | Leader              |
| 6.2         |  | Expand and improve the range of services available online and identify ways to reduce unnecessary call demand to improve average customer wait times to a maximum of 6 minutes. | Luke Sayers<br><i>Assistant Director Customer, Information and Digital</i> | Finance and Customer Services | Ongoing – March 2023                  | Leader              |
| 6.3         |  | Refresh the Council's equality strategy and objectives.   | Simon Dennis<br><i>Acting Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence</i> | Assistant Chief Executive's   | April 2022                            | Cllr Alam           |
| 6.4         |  | Review the Corporate Consultation and Engagement Framework.   | Simon Dennis<br><i>Acting Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence</i> | Assistant Chief Executive's   | November 2022                         | Leader              |
| 6.5         | Engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet   | Implementation of the Workforce Plan.   | Lee Mann<br><i>Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational</i>  | Assistant Chief Executive's   | January 2022                          | Cllr Alam           |

|      |   |   |   |                               |                       |            |
|------|---|---|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
|      | the needs of all customers  |   | <i>Development</i>  |                               |                       |            |
| 6.6  |   | Assess and implement a strategic workforce planning approach to attraction and retention for high priority roles such as care and social work, with a focus on encouraging applications from Rotherham residents. | Lee Mann<br><i>Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development</i> | Assistant Chief Executive's   | September 2022        | Cllr Alam  |
| 6.7  |   | Review feedback from the Employee Opinion Survey 2021, identify priority areas and agree corporate and directorate action plans.  | Lee Mann<br><i>Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development</i> | Assistant Chief Executive's   | June 2022             | Cllr Alam  |
| 6.8  | Sound financial management and governance arrangements  | Deliver a balanced budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Council.   | Graham Saxton<br><i>Interim Assistant Director Financial Services</i>                 | Finance and Customer Services | March 2022 (annually) | Leader     |
| 6.9  | Effective leadership, working with our partners to achieve better outcomes across the whole Borough | Refresh the Member Development Programme.   | Emma Hill<br><i>Acting Head of Democratic Services</i>                                | Assistant Chief Executive's   | April 2022            | Cllr Allen |
| 6.10 |   | Refresh the Rotherham Together Plan.  | Simon Dennis<br><i>Acting Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence</i>            | Assistant Chief Executive's   | June 2022             | Leader     |



# **Our Rotherham, Our Borough**

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## **Consultation Report**

### **November 2021**

## **‘Our Rotherham, Our Borough’ Consultation Report**

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## 1. Background and Methodology

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The new Council Plan sets out the strategic aims for Rotherham Council for the period 2022 to 2025, providing a foundation on which all council activities are based. To help inform this, a public consultation and engagement exercise took place from 9th August to the 19th September 2021 to seek the views of Rotherham residents and other local stakeholders. The plan will be signed off by Cabinet in December 2021 before being adopted by the Council and launched in January 2022.

The pandemic has presented logistical issues in undertaking consultation and engagement, particularly around engaging with vulnerable groups that were understandably reluctant to meet in person. Other groups were reluctant to engage virtually as they were not comfortable with the virtual platform. Following the Government's gradual easing of restrictions, a combination of virtual and face to face consultation took place. However, consideration was taken to ensure that any face-to-face consultation and engagement was conducted in a Covid-secure manner. Despite the issues posed by the pandemic, over 1,300 interactions took place in total across all methods of engagement.

The consultation was conducted in a semi-structured manner, in that there were set themes that formed the parameters for discussion. The focus then centred around what people thought the issues and priorities were under each theme. The following methodologies were used to capture broad range of views:

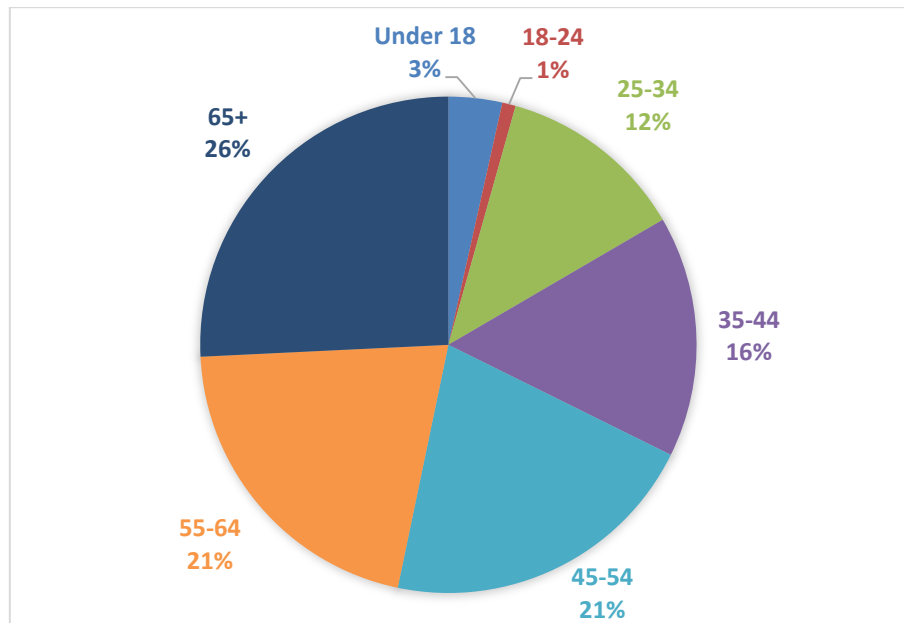
- **Focus Groups** – 4 focus groups took place in August, each on a particular theme. An external facilitator was used for impartiality and attendees included members of the public and staff from voluntary and community sector organisations. 48 people took part in total.
- **Short Interactions** – 3 questions were discussed with groups both virtually and in person with triangular consultation 'towers' and people using sticky notes to answer the questions:
  1. What do you most like about where you live?
  2. What is one thing you would improve?
  3. What is your one wish for the future for Rotherham?
 There were 274 responses across all questions (not including the Rotherham Show).
- **Online and Postal Survey** – An online survey was hosted on the Council website that went 'live' on the 20th August and closed on the 19th September. Questions were based on 4 themes which split the survey into different sections. Residents could then select which sections they want to answer questions on. A postal survey ran concurrent to this which included a paper version of the online survey questions sent out to 500 randomly selected households across the borough with a freepost envelope included. There were 298 respondents in total online, and 52 postal survey responses were received.
- **Rotherham Show** – The 'tower' and questions from the short interactions were used to consult with the public over the 3 days of the show, staffed by the Policy, Performance and Intelligence team in the Assistant Chief Executive's directorate. There were over 700 responses across all the questions.

This consultation is seen as part of an ongoing dialogue between the Council and members of the public. Feedback will continue to be sought and the consultation 'towers' will continue to be used for short interactions to feed into the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, the Rotherham Plan, the equalities review and the refresh of the equalities strategy.

## 2. Engagement Profile

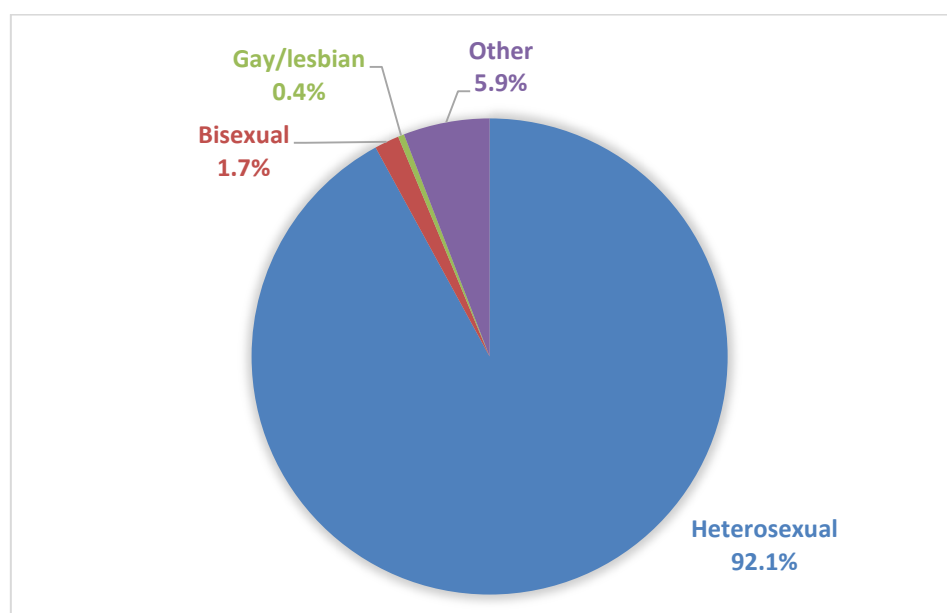
There was a total of 350 responses to the postal and online surveys. Overall, there were more responses from women than from men, with women made up 62% of the respondents, as compared to 34% male respondents.

The age profile of the respondents are as follows:

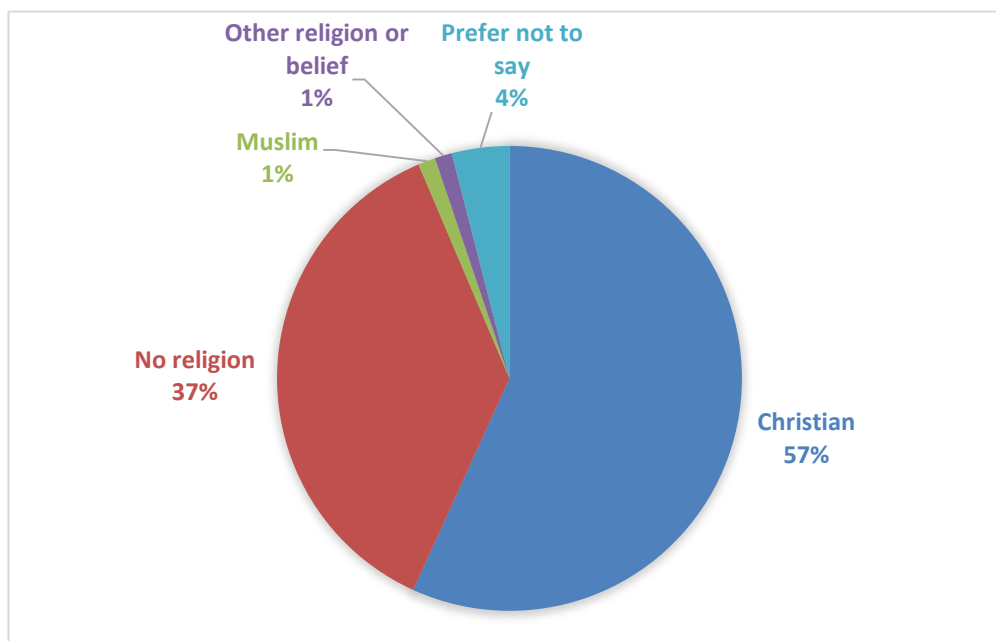


Compared to the age profile of the borough, survey respondents were older – 26% over 65s, as compared to 20% borough-wide – and only 4% of survey respondents were under 24, compared with a borough figure of 29%. There was a good representation of the middle age groups (25-44 year olds), while 45-54 year old were overrepresented, with 21% respondents from that age bracket, as compared to a Rotherham figure of 14%.

In terms of sexuality, respondents largely align with national figures, with 92% identifying as heterosexual, 2% as bisexual, gay or lesbian, and 6% as other.



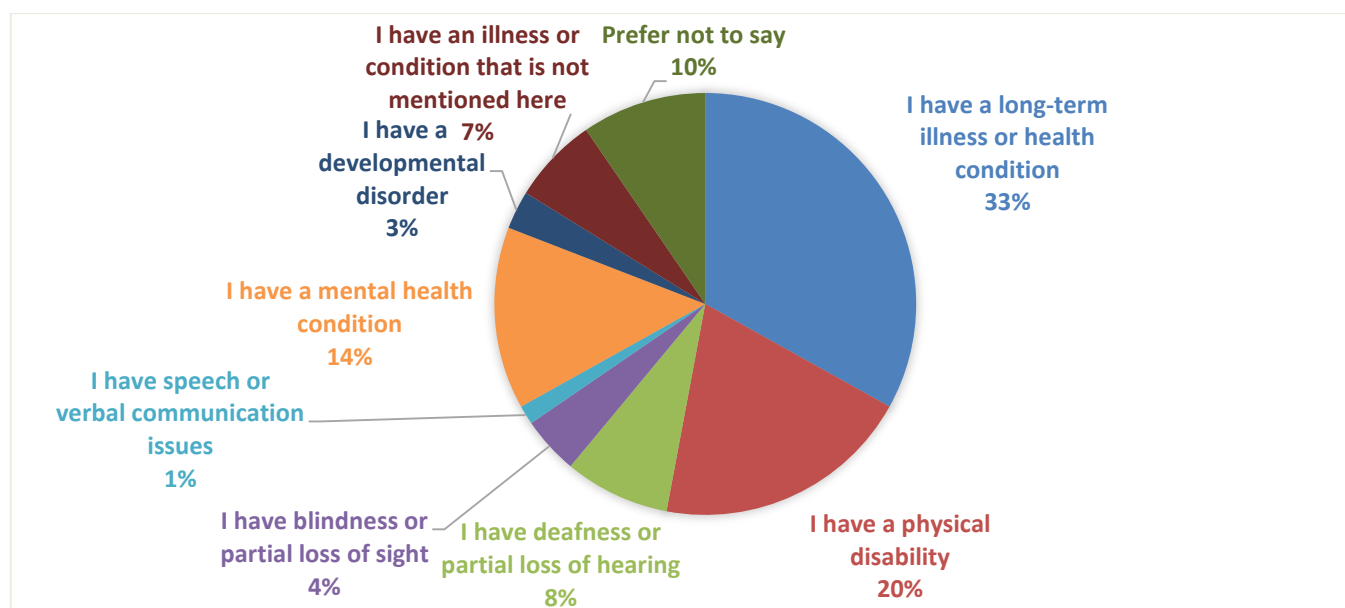
The religious beliefs of respondents are as follows:



These differ from Rotherham figures, with less of the respondents identifying as Christian (57% as compared to 67%), and more stating no religion (37% as compared to 22.5%) – though the borough-wide figures are dated. 1.2% of the respondents identified as Muslim, compared to the dated borough-wide figure of 3.7%, which is expected to have increased.

The ethnic make-up of respondents also differed from borough-wide figures, with more respondents identifying as White British or White Irish and less as BAME, with only 0.8% identifying as Asian/Asian British 0.8%, 0.8% as dual heritage, and a further 0.8% as other, while Rotherham had over 8% BAME residents in 2011, which is expected to have increased since.

Out of the respondents, 29% reported to have a disability. Of the 29% that stated they have a disability, a further breakdown of these is shown in the pie chart below:



This compares with 22% of Rotherham residents who reported a long-term illness or disability in 2011, and an estimate of 18% of residents having common mental disorders in 2017, although the rate is lower in over 65s. 19% of respondents stated they were unpaid carers.

Focus groups aimed to make up some of the engagement gaps, by engaging stakeholders working with some of the groups whose views were underrepresented in the survey, and in particular those sharing protected characteristics. It should be noted that this representation through stakeholders is not sufficient substitute to participation, and for future consultations it would be preferable to aim at equal representation across the protected characteristics (as representative of the population of the borough) within all methods of data collection.

Representatives from the Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance, the Unity Centre, Rotherham Wah Hong Chinese Association aimed to fill some of the gaps in responses from BAME residents and Rotherham Muslim Community Forum for Muslim residents.

Several organisations represented vulnerable residents, such as Victim Support (support for victims of crime), Rotherham Rise, (support for domestic abuse victims), as well as more specialised support: for Black and minority ethnic women experiencing violence (Apna Haq), for those with learning disabilities from minority ethnic communities (Nayi Zindagi), a BME & Young People Carers group, Mama Africa (support for Refugees and Asylum seekers), holistic support for BME women (Tassibee), support for those with learning disabilities and autism (Speakup). There were also organisations working with older people, such as Age UK and the Older People's Forum. With support from Rotherham service providers the short interactions engagement method also allowed us to engage with a broad range of people from communities of interest and protected characteristic groups.

Other important voluntary sector organisations represented were Voluntary Action Rotherham and Rotherfed, and further participating were sports organisations (Rotherham United Community Sports Trust, Active Regen and a grassroots football club), physical activity and health organisations (Pivotal Health and Wellbeing, Rotherham Health Watch, the Rotherham Carers Forum) as well as other organisations such as South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and litter picking groups.

### 3. Findings from the Consultation and Engagement Methods

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#### Focus Groups

The consultation included four focus groups, each one centred around one of four themes, that were held on the following dates:

- Safe and resilient – 09 August 2021
- Securing a greener future for Rotherham – 09 August 2021
- Improved wellbeing and quality of life – 16 August 2021
- An economy that works for everyone – 16 August 2021

Focus groups were composed of stakeholders including partners, voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations and members of the public. Stakeholders were invited to participate in a theme corresponding to their area activity; for example stakeholders that support particularly economically vulnerable residents in Rotherham were invited to participate in the “economy that works for everyone” discussion. There was a total of 48 participants across all four focus groups.

Focus group discussions used a semi-structured format; several broad questions and prompts were used to guide the conversation that was otherwise shaped by participants. A third-party facilitator asked these questions and ensured that conversations stayed focused and relevant to the theme whilst allowing participants to independently raise issues from their own perspectives.

#### Findings

##### *Across all focus groups*

As well as specific thematic insight, the following cross-cutting areas of discussion were observed across all focus groups:

1. **Themes are linked to one another:** In all thematic focus group discussions links were made with other themes. For example, conversations about health and wellbeing made links to economic vulnerability, and vice versa.
2. **The need for partnership working:** All groups agreed on the need for more joined-up partnership working to address key issues. This focus is driven by the participants mostly being partners, VCS organisations and similar stakeholders.
3. **Engagement is seen as a key issue:** All focus groups emphasised the need to focus on engagement - communicating information to communities and seeking and acting on their input. An important component of engagement is collaborative and multi-agency work; there were mixed responses on how well this was being done; it was highlighted that the Council needs to play a central role in forming diverse and adaptable networks that can identify and respond to problems faced by residents and communities.
4. **Vulnerability was a key theme across thematic discussions:** The experience of the pandemic has created new vulnerabilities, added new dimensions to existing ones, and made pre-existing issues apparent. There is a need to focus on those that do not appear vulnerable but require support. Consensus that tackling issues requires a comprehensive definition of what vulnerability entails and a joined-up strategy to address its facets. Emphasis was placed on difficulties in accessing support that must be addressed.

Discussions included addressing vulnerability through building positive environment / society rather than solely focusing on vulnerable people.

5. **Equalities emerged as a cross-cutting issue:** Inequalities were both exacerbated and made increasingly apparent by the experience of the pandemic. Equalities was mentioned in all focus groups and linked with the need for services and support to be adaptable and to rely on co-delivery.
6. **All groups expressed uncertainties or concerns around delivering services and activities in a post-covid landscape:** These ranged from how effective online services are, to the practicalities of organising work with communities. From service delivery partners, many questions were raised about shortfalls in funding since the experience of the pandemic.
7. **Digital services:** Concerns were raised about inequalities of access and risk of disengagement from digital services. Conversely, some participants reflected that the digital shift has offered advantages in service delivery.

### ***Focus Group 1: Safe and resilient***

This focus group discussion covered a range of vulnerabilities facing residents and communities: mental health, loneliness, hate crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), bullying, and socioeconomic issues were directly raised. It was noted that the definition of vulnerability needed to be re-understood post-pandemic. This was largely framed around understanding the emergence of new issues facing vulnerable residents and new dimensions to existing issues, as well as identifying vulnerability that may be pre-existing but had previously gone unnoticed. The question was also raised by participants as to how we understand vulnerability generally – which led into a discussion of the risk of targeting support based on arbitrary labels or indicators of vulnerability.

This risk was framed in the context of invisible vulnerabilities or support needs that may go unnoticed; respondents reported a focus of support on those who are visibly vulnerable, while others that have a real need for support but do not obviously present as such may go unnoticed.

Health, particularly mental health, was at the centre of this discussion. Participants noted a large increase in service users experiencing mental health issues. These were linked to a holistic set of wider issues (e.g. housing difficulties, socio-economic and family circumstances) as well as general wellbeing issues such as loneliness induced by self-isolation. Loneliness and boredom emerged as significant issues across all groups and may have consequences on general wellbeing as well as wider impacts (such as driving rates of ASB). Difficulties accessing support or long waiting lists exacerbate mental health issues further, while mental health impacts were reportedly significant across the participants' workforce and volunteers. Participants also speculated that the disruption of services and other issues since the pandemic may bring on a "mental wellbeing pandemic".

It was expressed that support offers do not seem to be sufficient in addressing such vulnerabilities in Rotherham: one respondent explained them as "reactive" rather than "proactive" – seeking to address vulnerability where it is apparent, but failing to address the underlying issues that give rise to vulnerability. Mental health was a particular area where respondents expressed concern regarding the level of support available. Participants noted that providers engaging with each other was important to share learning and develop a shared understanding of issues faced by service-users, and that engaging with communities was important to better understand the type of support needed. The need to gather this learning and insight was related to a reported increase in the complexity of emerging support needs. One example reported was the increase in difficulty of



people involved in domestic abuse to remove themselves from these situations due to financial issues or difficulties in leaving the house that have been compounded since the pandemic.

Participants reflected on the experience of adapting their support offers during and since the pandemic, noting the logistical complication of staff working from home and the practicalities of social distancing with services being offered digitally where possible. Strong signs of service adaptation were reported: one example being a participant reporting the use of digital services as a way of monitoring service users "going quiet" as a sign that they are struggling, which can be then tackled with targeted proactive engagement. Participants also positively reported that digitalisation largely allowed services to continue in some form, and even increased accessibility of services in some cases. This was supported by positive collaborative working which the council was frequently involved with. In spite of this, the following consequences were still noted: some support, even where offered online, has still been more limited and some services had unfortunately been halted by necessity. Some groups are still not able to easily access digital services, whereas other groups are increasingly likely to disengage from digital services. It was also noted that the limits of specialist support offers have increased the burden on "generic" services attempting to support individuals.

Given the direct focus of this discussion on vulnerability, the group also covered several key equalities issues while addressing vulnerabilities that may uniquely or disproportionately affect groups of specific characteristics, particularly:

- **Older people** have been uniquely affected by the pandemic; in terms of physical health and the effect of isolation. Restrictions on being unable to see older relatives in residential care is both harmful in terms of mental health and in terms of scrutiny; hoping this should improve. Participants with particular interests in the welfare of older people suggested that the issues faced by older residents have not received proportionate attention and described need to think about how "age-friendly" Rotherham is generally.
- **Younger people** have also been affected significantly by recent changes in their circumstances: loss of friendship groups and social networks, uncertainty around education or (for older groups of young people) employment prospects. Vulnerability of young people linked to exposing them to risks, as well as potentially driving them to be involved in "risky behaviour", including gang culture, knife-crime and joyriding.
- **BAME communities** were also discussed, particularly the disproportionately high Covid death rates in these communities, and wider issues such as increases in hate-crime. Participants noted that certain groups in the BAME community may also experience distance from local institutions and therefore require specific focus in terms of engagement.

### ***Focus Group 2: Securing a greener future for Rotherham***

This focus group covered various areas relating to the environment. Firstly, a great deal of concern was raised around littering (as a large proportion of participants in this focus group were involved in litter picking community groups). Conversation around this issue focused around visible but uneven improvements since the aforementioned community group took action, with some areas showing a marked improvement whilst other areas were still full of litter. The group also raised the issue around the difficulties in getting people to take proactive action against littering.

Following from this initial focus on littering, several other environmental issues were raised. Concerns were expressed around increases in flooding, which were linked by respondents to a reduction in drainage, largely arising from uncontrolled housing development. Housing was also

raised as a concern itself, with participants predicting that existing developments will not be “future proofed” to make a positive contribution to carbon reduction. Biodiversity and green spaces were also put forward as important issues by respondents who thought these should be considered priorities due to their positive impacts on mental and physical health. Respondents expressed concern regarding both the extensiveness and maintenance of green spaces, with one respondent suggested many green spaces without function could be better utilised and maintained by being donated to local community groups. Concern was also raised around the limited “green” jobs and industry in Rotherham, one respondent suggesting that this must be the focus of investment priorities, and that this must be based in a clearer idea of what “sustainability” is in industry.

Participants appeared to link the natural environment to pride in one’s community, particularly in narratives around littering. This was most strongly expressed through comparisons between the local environments of other locations and Rotherham’s. Similarly, this link to local pride was articulated by the desire to see Rotherham Council as a “leading light” on environmental issues. The natural environment was also important to participants because of its impact on physical health (e.g. air quality) and mental health. Sustainability was also prioritised by respondents to ensure that the ecological services provided by the local environment could be “enjoyed by future generations”.

Participant discussion of action that could be taken was, reflecting the composition of the focus group, most detailed around waste. Respondents reflected a negative view on the current provision of waste services: participants expressed frustration with the Council’s waste collection offer, and the limited provision of community litter bins which was linked to increases in the level of littering; a desire was expressed for the Council to work more closely with community groups around this area. Similarly, a desire was expressed for improvement in recycling and commercial/residential waste collection with participants identifying these as insufficient and costly for the service user. Participants also noted that the following actions would be beneficial:

- The social implications of action around climate change (the example given was that the legislative shift to electronic vehicles and hybrids will have a potentially huge social impact that needs to be accounted for by the local authority)
- Raising awareness and increasing societal understanding of issues, and solutions we can all take. It was particularly emphasised that emissions and "net zero" are not particularly well understood ideas
- Better utilising relevant assets (e.g. unused green spaces could be donated as sites for things like growing food, etc)
- Future-proofing housing and ensuring developers are to as high a standard as possible
- Otherwise shaping the "green" agenda - e.g. setting clear priorities for instance on investment initiatives that prioritise "green business" - clarity from the Council on what "sustainable industry" looks like

Participants also emphasised the importance of engagement in delivering effective action. Firstly, this was around education on relevant issues and the promotion of environmental priorities to communities. Secondly, participants observed a need for greater transparency on “what the Council will and won’t do”. This was linked to an acknowledgement from participants that many issues relating to the environment may be outside the Council’s direct control or subject to competing priorities in the context of limited resources. Greater clarity on how the Council is intending to act, and a clearer understanding of priorities and how these priorities should translate to practical action was perceived as important to fostering collaborative activity with communities and stakeholders.

This discussion of the Council's responsibilities also fed into a wider discussion of responsibility for the environment. Private companies were given a great deal of attention here. In the case of littering, it was noted that the products of private firms largely fuelled littering and other environmental issues, and it was subsequently expressed that companies that extract profit from these products shared responsibility for associated environmental issues. Some respondents suggested that action here, and a wider set of environmental actions, may need to come from central Government (e.g. in the form of taxes or regulations on commodities), however others pointed out that the Council and even smaller community groups could take action. One respondent reported their own experience as part of a small community, pressuring a chain takeaway operating in their area to contribute to litter picking efforts. Participants also noted the responsibility of individuals and groups across Rotherham to "go greener" but expressed significant barriers here: particularly around general understanding (participants expressed that "net zero" and "decarbonisation" are not well understood ideas) and the significant cost that can be attached to environmental measures. Connecting these boundaries of responsibility were related ideas given by respondents of being "joined up" and of "reciprocity" both between national and local government, and between the Council and its residents.

### ***Focus Group 3: Improved wellbeing and quality of life***

The focus group on wellbeing and quality of life understood the theme as encompassing personal mental and physical welfare, ranging from the fundamental ability to move around to more complex mental health needs; as well as a wide range of contextual environmental and socioeconomic factors (e.g. neighbourhoods, access to green and open spaces, financial deprivation, etc.). One respondent noted that health and wellbeing may be understood differently by individuals, but will rely on an individual being happy, comfortable, and motivated. Respondents emphasised the "collective" component of health and wellbeing which was linked to the importance of emphasising positive action to create communities that achieve health and wellbeing, rather than simply seeking to promote health provision for those who are not well.

As with Focus Group 1, a significant focus on this theme was on vulnerability. The barriers to achieving good health and wellbeing that were identified included both personal circumstances (such as finances, family circumstances, etc.), and the environment around an individual. The state and relative deprivation of a neighbourhood, and availability of certain features (e.g. open green spaces, local and cultural activities) are linked to the circumstances of individuals within them, particularly around mental health. Additionally, participants noted that significant barriers may exist in accessing support; particularly an awareness and understanding of available services and the confidence to access support were identified. Overall vulnerability was understood as being multi-faceted and as such cannot be addressed with a "one-size fits all approach".

The focus group highlighted the need for joined-up multi-agency work to enable comprehensive support. It was expressed that institutions have not been engaging adequately as providers – frequently working as voices within specific communities rather than across them. Some examples were given of universal initiatives, but it was thought that this was not general practice.

Participants shared their views on the key existing issues in service provision, which included:

- the overall impact of Covid, which had forced some services to be more limited, move online, or cease functioning altogether
- an observed apathy towards Zoom/Teams and declining engagement with services
- the tendency for hidden vulnerability to go unnoticed
- tightening funding streams to carry out services
- the way funding is administered was identified as a barrier to the collaborative multi-agency work that participants prioritised – they reported that this was because funding usually

appeared in silos with rarely there being opportunities for joint bids, and with competitive funding being a barrier to collaboration

As with Focus Group 1, conversations around vulnerability here were wrapped up in equalities' considerations. Firstly, it should be noted that, whilst not a legislated equalities characteristic, levels of personal and community deprivation were considered cross-cutting determinants of one's health and wellbeing. Additionally, participants linked inequality around health and wellbeing to a lack of representation of vulnerable voices in various aspects of life, ranging from the workplace to service provision itself. As noted above, participants emphasised how these inequalities had been exacerbated and became more apparent over the course of the pandemic, particularly with issues such as loneliness.

However, whilst this group did pay attention to inequality between groups, participants also spoke against treating all groups the same. Individuals sharing the same characteristic may face a widely different set of circumstances. For example, there could be significant inequality across disabled people in terms of accessing support, which was in turn linked to confidence and understanding of relevant institutions, as well as awareness of support available, deprivation, education, etc. Participants also emphasised the value of "one whole community voice." One respondent in particular supporting older people noted a desire to open their community group, initially focused on supporting older people, to all members of the community. These considerations for both the differences and connections between groups were again linked to a need for collaborative action to provide comprehensive support. Participants also connected this to the need to better personalise services.

#### ***Focus Group 4: An economy that works for everyone***

The focus group discussion on the economy theme largely centred around the human experience of the economy and factors that determined economic wellbeing. Within this context, a broad range of economic issues were identified by participants:

- The economic impacts of COVID-19 have driven many people to the point of economic crisis; participants noted an increase in people accessing services at the point of financial crisis, particularly those who have not had to access support/benefits previously
- One participant from the business community noted the difficulties in seeking support as a small business, and particularly expressed frustration over the clarity of information available, while another expressed concern at lengthier timescales required to access funding compared to immediate overheads being faced by businesses
- Rotherham's social care sector will require significant growth, however participants pointed out that it may be difficult to encourage entry into this work force with current rates of pay in the sector
- Impacts on funding streams have put organisations supporting individuals and communities under strain
- Participants noted that small businesses were frequently set up in Rotherham, with a low survival rate
- Concern was expressed that poor opportunities in the local job market may lead to "talent" (i.e. skilled and educated workforce) leaving Rotherham, with negative subsequent results for growth and productivity

These issues were understood as significant because of the human impacts they created. It was felt that the gaps in Rotherham are widening between "haves" and "have-nots", or, a widening gap between those who are relatively well off and those experiencing economic deprivation. Several examples of this were put forward, ranging from digital access driving economic inequality, to inter-generational differences in wellbeing that were pointed out. The perceived impacts of economic deprivation were largely focused around the physical and mental wellbeing of the

individual, again mental health emerged as a strong theme. Participants noted that economic deprivation may additionally perpetuate barriers to accessing support; for example it may be difficult to encourage people to participate even in cost-free training and education when their focus is on seeking and maintaining employment “to put food on the table”.

Given the focus on “haves” and “have-nots,” equality and inequality emerged once again as an important theme in this focus group. As in other focus groups participants emphasised the importance of understanding the specific needs and issues facing each community, whilst also understanding that there is diversity within these communities, and that understanding and addressing the needs of groups “in silos” is not desirable. Particular equalities concerns relating to the economy were raised around older people, younger people, people with disabilities, and the BAME community.

Respondents identified a number of areas where action is needed, expressing the “need to do things differently” and take ambitious action:

- Focus on apprenticeship opportunities for both younger and older people; it was expressed that the Council should take an active role in providing apprenticeship opportunities directly, and working with others to support the provision of opportunities
- An increase in the emphasis of social value in the Council’s spending
- Provide further support to small businesses, particularly around advice. One participant noted this could be done through facilitating mentoring links in the business community
- Participants noted a desire for investment and economic measures be integrated with other priorities, for example stimulating green growth and the social care sector.
- Collaborative action; this both refers to the collaborative multi-agency support identified in other focus groups, as well as ensuring council services themselves are not working in silos (e.g. business support teams and compliance teams)
- The Council should take an active role in facilitating positive networks between agencies and stakeholders, for example developing lines of contact between support providers, the DWP, and businesses to efficiently direct people to opportunities
- The Council should prioritise on proactive communication and engagement with individuals and communities



Photos show Rotherham United FC players Angus MacDonald (above) and Kieran Sadlier (below) taking part in the consultation





### **Short Interactions**

The consultation included a series of short interaction activities which took place with participants in various ways, using the same three questions:

- *What do you like about where you live?*
- *What one thing would you improve?*
- *What is your one wish for the future for Rotherham?*

This is a simple engagement exercise, a conversation starter. It has the capacity to collect substantive qualitative data, but due to its informal nature it is difficult to collect monitoring data. Therefore, the analysis is based on number of responses to determine common denominators.

During the time this activity was taking place, many groups were still not meeting face to face, and many didn't feel comfortable using virtual platforms. Therefore, to reach out to as many characteristic groups as possible given the situation, we tailored the activity to encourage people to engage in a way that suited them.

This activity took place with:

- Housing Involvement Panel – held via Microsoft Teams on 15<sup>th</sup> July with council tenant representatives.
- Rotherham Minster's Social Supermarket – A consultation tower was placed at the Rotherham Minster for 2 days on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August to engage with people visiting the social supermarket (those suffering from financial deprivation, isolation, and hardship).
- Rotherham Youth Cabinet – a hybrid style workshop took place on 24<sup>th</sup> August at Ferham Children's Centre.
- The Unity Centre - a consultation tower was placed at the Unity Centre throughout September and their staff facilitated the exercise with their users including students from ESOL classes.
- Healthwatch hosted an event held via Zoom on 15<sup>th</sup> September which allowed for the collection of information concerning disability/sensory matters.

- Deaf Futures Group - with the support of Rotherfed and the help of a British Sign Language interpreter, a face-to-face session took place at Springwell Gardens on 17<sup>th</sup> September with Rotherham's profoundly deaf community.
- BME Disabled Young People & Parent/Carers Group – the questions were circulated to group members and responses were collated and sent back.

In total there were over 274 individual responses across all questions.

### **Question 1: What do you like about where you live?**

There were 75 responses to this question across all the above events. The most common attribute that featured throughout to this question was that of having good neighbours, welcoming communities, and a willingness to help each other. Of comparatively equal standing was having access to parks and green spaces, with references to the countryside as well. Many also reflected on good local amenities and facilities where they live, and the wealth of places to visit. However, there were also more negative responses where some people said they liked nothing about where they lived.

### **Question 2: What is one thing you would improve?**

There were 135 responses to this question. A diverse range of groups engaged with the activity and each one had their own key headlines for this question. However, a common theme running through all events was a desire to see Rotherham town centre vibrant, flourishing, clean, and safe. There were many suggestions as to how this may be achieved including incentives such as freer parking, reduced rents to encourage a wide range of shops and businesses, plus investments made to attract families with children, and young people into the town centre.

Linking to messages concerned with the town centre, retaining business and encouraging trade and industry into the area, were responses concerned with local jobs for local people. Street scene matters were also frequently mentioned for the town centre and across the borough. Rotherham people would like to see cleaner streets free from litter and fly-tipping stating that this could be achieved by more pro-active measures such as awareness raising and education around these matters, coupled with greater enforcement put in place to encourage prevention. People expressed that they would like to see roads kept in good repair and pavements well maintained and to remain accessible for disabled and young families.

A common theme running through all events, particularly if there was a disability, health condition, and/or from a different culture was on communication, engagement, and access to appropriate services. Many responses from those within these communities are feeling unheard, undervalued, and ignored; this includes carers. Responses received express a want for services to deliver and engage in ways so that these communities feel listened to, included, and informed. Linked to this, some responses alluded to a need for Council services to be more aware, sensitive, and understanding of Rotherham's diverse communities; particularly those that follow other religions. Other issues mentioned referred to better provision for those with mental health issues, those who are isolated, and more things for children and young people to do. Weaving through all these responses were references to be safe and secure and for improved safety and security measures put in place in certain areas and the town centre.

### **Question 3: What is your one wish for the future for Rotherham?**

There were 68 responses to this question across all the events. The common theme running across all events for this question was for welcoming and harmonious communities, where everyone comes together to help each other. A wish for a cohesive society was also frequently mentioned.

To complement these responses around neighbourliness and community cohesion, another conversation common across all events was a wish for more community-based action, and activities. Many felt that this would support a range of matters including aiding preventative measures for mental health, providing opportunities to reduce isolation, and break down barriers associated with segregated communities. Responses included an aspiration for action that promotes strong, resilient, and cohesive communities, equality and a respect for diversity, a greater awareness of the needs of those with disabilities and/or special needs, and facilities and activities for families, children, and young people – places where they can go and feel safe and secure.

Aspects of Rotherham Town Centre was also frequently mentioned, and Rotherham people have high aspirations to see the town centre flourish, be vibrant, safe and attractive to all.



Photo from Deaf Futures Group Session



## **Rotherham Show**

The short interactions activity took place at the Rotherham Show held on 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September. Two consultation towers were used. One was situated in the 'Made in Rotherham' area next to Voluntary Acton Rotherham, and the other situated in the Children's and Families area in the Libraries and Neighbourhood Hubs Service marquee.

Across the three days over 700 responses were received for all 3 questions; 152 of these responses were from children and young people and are analysed separately. This was an exercise conducted with the public who attended the Rotherham show. No monitoring data was collected for this informal exercise but from observation it seemed that a diverse range of people engaged with the activity.

### **Question 1: What do you like about where you live?**

There were 144 responses to this question over the three days of the show. The most universal feature was an appreciation of the *beautiful* countryside and woodlands. People adore the views and enjoy the opportunities for out-door recreational activities like walking, site seeing, and visiting historic buildings. This theme continued with many warm references to Clifton Park (this may have been because this consultation was taking place there) and a fondness for Rotherham's green spaces in general.

The second most common feature was that people considered having good neighbours and friendly communities as key aspects of what they liked about where they lived; often associated with the need to feel connected and supported. Often mentioned in the same response was that having clean streets was also a reason why they liked where they live. Many, possibly older people, also reflected on the fact that what they liked about where they lived was the peace and quiet. People also reflected on the good transport networks and having easy access to the motorways and major roads as a positive feature of Rotherham. There were also many comments that expressed a warmth and connection to Rotherham.

### **Question 2: What is one thing you would improve?**

There were 265 responses to this question over the three days of the show. By far, the most common subject mentioned was Rotherham town centre. Many responses related strongly for the need to make the town centre a place that people want to visit, and shops to prosper. There was a passion for Rotherham town centre to be vibrant, for it to succeed and to be prosperous. Common topics raised were concerned with its recovery.

Many comments related to aspects of the public realm and responses included: clean up the streets and buildings; promotion on awareness about littering and keeping the centre clean and tidy; ensuring accessibility for families with young children, and disabled. Linked to these comments were responses relating to the town centre shopping experience. Many expressed a desire for a wider range of "decent" shops, more activities for families with young children, and greater accessibility for disabled and those with sensory impairments.

Concerning borough wide matters, the most common feature referred to be the plea for roads to be repaired and maintained. There were also clear messages for a wish for the pavements to be kept clear and accessible.

Responses on other borough wide matters related to a need for more support for Rotherham's young people to help them to achieve and aspire. There was a consensus for a demand to invest in, and resource more facilities and activities for this age group.

As well as a focus on supporting Rotherham's young people, there was a wider conversation concerned with supporting whole communities. Many responses referred to a wish for more leisure, culture & community-based hubs/activities because respondents feel that this approach can contribute towards alleviating isolation, help combat mental health issues, support those in financial hardship, assist families with young children, and bring people together from diverse communities. People also wanted to see more help and support for those with disabilities. People also wanted to see greater provision for families with young children and comments included a wish for more low-cost childcare, for the children's centres to remain open, and more activities for children of working parents.

Many responses referred to a wish for greater police presence, for anti-social behaviour and crime to reduce, and for more help for the victims. Drugs' awareness was also mentioned frequently. Linked to many of the comments mentioned above there was a desire for better cross sector working between key statutory organisations such as the Council, NHS, Police, and public transport.

There were also some references on caring for the local environment. People wished for good quality housing and buildings that are built to meet the demands of the climate emergency. As well as a desire to respect the environment and wildlife, there was a call for action towards reducing pollution, more cycle ways, and creating areas that can encourage more biodiversity.

### **Question 3: What is your one wish for the future for Rotherham?**

There were 184 responses to this question over the three days of the show. There were three key themes that came out of this part of the exercise, all interrelated with a common set of issues running through. The main feature that came out was a strong association with Rotherham town centre and many responses showed a passion for the centre to be prosperous, vibrant, welcoming, and clean. The second most popular theme was an aspiration for harmonious, active, and welcoming communities. Linking to both themes above is the desire to feel safe, secure, and to live in a clean environment.

Several people also highlighted the need for more awareness and sensitivity for those with disabilities and sensory impairments, and a wish for the vulnerable to be protected. As well as the desire for clean streets in local areas, other environmental issues mentioned included the wish for more biodiversity and an overall respect for the environment.

### **Children and Young People (Rotherham Show and Short Interactions)**

As mentioned above, there were 152 responses from children and young people at the Rotherham Show. There are a further 74 responses across all questions from a variety of youth groups including the Looked After Children's Council, as well as the 48 comments from members of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet, the latter analysed with the initial data collected for the short interactions. The gathering of this information has been achieved by working with Children's and Young People's Services.

All the children's and young people's responses have been solely gathered for analysis to gain an understanding as to what they like, what their concerns are, and what they wish for the future for Rotherham.

**Question 1: What Do you like about where you live?**

There were 104 responses to this question across all events. There were two key features that children and young people like about where they live. The first one is about living in a safe and secure environment where there is a sense of community where people are kind and friendly. There were many references to liking where they live because of friends, school, family, and neighbours.

The second most common feature, from the responses received, is that children and young people like where they live because they have access to the parks, green spaces, woodlands, and can explore Rotherham's heritage with references to Roache Abbey and the Wentworth Estate.

Young people also said they liked the easy accessibility to Sheffield and Meadowhall, with good public transport links. There were also some very warming responses on how children and young people associate with Rotherham.

**Question 2: What is one thing you would improve?**

There were 82 responses to this question across all events. There were three common features that children and young people would like to see improved. The first one being that children and young people want to feel safe and secure when out in their communities and the town centre. Several suggestions were put forward including improve street lighting, more activity that reduces crime and vandalism rates – and to be informed of this, plus a want for a larger police presence. Linking to this, young people and children would like to see action that promotes cleaner streets and parks, and they would like to see less litter.

Third common feature is that children and young people would like to see better facilities and activities for their age groups – music and youth clubs were frequently mentioned, as well as better play areas. Improving the town centre was also mentioned and for it to be more appealing for young people to visit with their friends. Young people also would like to see more local job opportunities, degree apprenticeships to help retain talent and so they do not have to move away from their friends and family.

**Question 3: What is your one wish for the future for Rotherham?**

There were 78 responses to this question across all the events. From these responses the most common feature a wish for harmonious communities with people that support, help, and accept each other for who they are. To also feel safe, and to live in a clean environment. Young people also wished for Rotherham town centre to be a place that people want to visit, for there to be more shops, activities, and places for young people to go.

On a borough wide basis, many young people want to see more creative/arts facilities/hubs, and more leisure and sports activities; music venues and clubs were also mentioned.



Photo from Rotherham Show Consultation

## **Online and Postal Survey**

The online survey went 'live' on the Council website for 4 weeks, from 17th August to 19th September 2021. There were 45 questions in total across the following four themes:

- Thriving Neighbourhoods
- Everyone Safe, Well and Resilient
- An Economy that Works for All
- Improving the Local Environment

Participants could choose whether to fill in questions on each of the themes or just answer certain sections. The majority of respondents answered questions on all four themes. There were 298 responses to the online survey in total.

The postal survey ran concurrent to the online survey. A paper version of the online survey questions was sent out to 500 randomly selected households across the borough with a freepost envelope provided. 52 postal survey responses were received in total, which is an 11% return rate. This was a higher percentage than predicted, as nationally the average return rate on a postal survey is between 1%-2%.

Of the 52 postal survey responses, 96% were White British and mainly from older/retired people with 63% of respondents who provided their age being 65 or older. Only 12% of respondents who provided their age were aged between 18-44 (with no responses received from people aged 18-24).

41% of postal respondents were male and 56% female, with 75% of respondents stating that their religion was Christianity and the remainder stating that they had no religion. No other religions were selected by postal respondents.

Key findings from the postal responses included:

- More respondents feeling that their neighbourhood/community had become more (15%) rather than less (8%) supportive since the start of the pandemic, and 63% feeling that there had been no change. However, when asked 'do you feel safer in your local neighbourhood compared to 12 months ago' more respondents now feel less safe (25%), with 10% feeling safer and 62% citing no change
- Respondents cited road safety issues including increased traffic, parking problems and access to bus services as areas of concern
- Anti-social behaviour was a specific area of concern, with many suggestions that more investment should be made in activities aimed specifically at older children/teens
- 'Feeling safe' was the top response when asked 'what would have the biggest positive impact on your wellbeing and quality of life?'

Aside from the above observations, the postal survey results have been added to the online survey responses and analysed together for the purposes of this report.

Below are the key findings in both the online and postal survey responses combined for each of the four themes:

### **Neighbourhoods are vibrant and thriving**

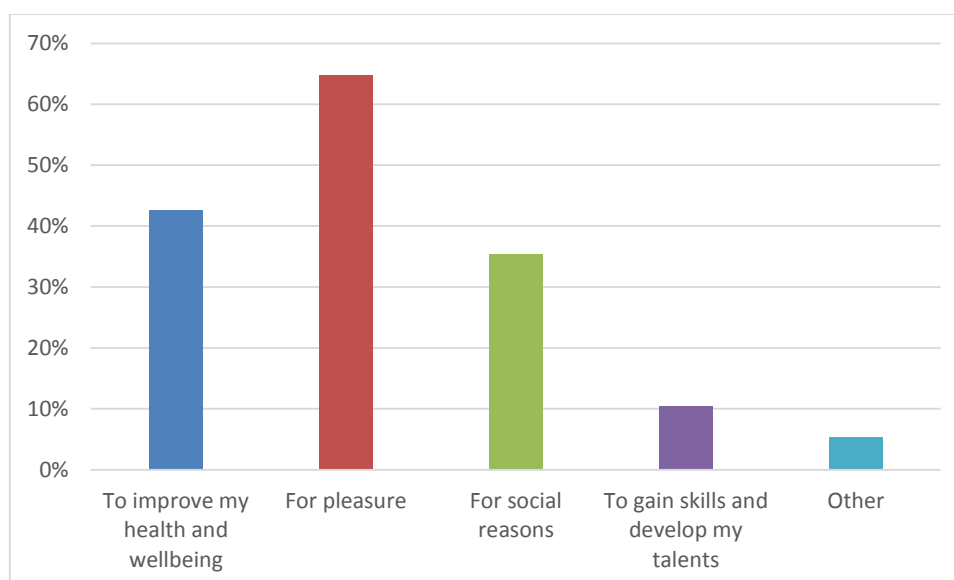
The survey opened with an open text question asking respondents 'what is the best thing about your neighbourhood?'. Many respondents talked positively about the people, their communities and the access to parks and the countryside. In open comments residents listed Rotherham

abundance of green space as the best thing about their neighbourhood. 20% of comments mentioned proximity to green spaces, woodland, and wildlife as the best thing about living in their area. 19% mentioned a strong community spirit helped create a sense of belonging. 13% spoke highly of supportive good neighbours. Other comments included friendliness (12%) and quietness (11%).

The next question was 'what is the one thing within your neighbourhood / community that you would like to change?'. Most comments on neighbourhood/community improvement were around street cleanliness. 22% highlighted litter and dog fouling as an area for improvements, alongside, more rubbish bins in communities. 20% mentioned anti-social behaviour, especially high-speed motorists being a nuisance. Parking (14%) needed improvement with responses mention motorists parking on kerbsides, blocking driveways and accessibility for disabled road users. Other comments include drug use (10%), public space maintenance (10%) and bus services (7%).

31% of respondents said that they believed that people in their local area were more supportive since the start of the pandemic.

The main reasons given for participating in cultural activities were as follows (respondents could choose more than one option):



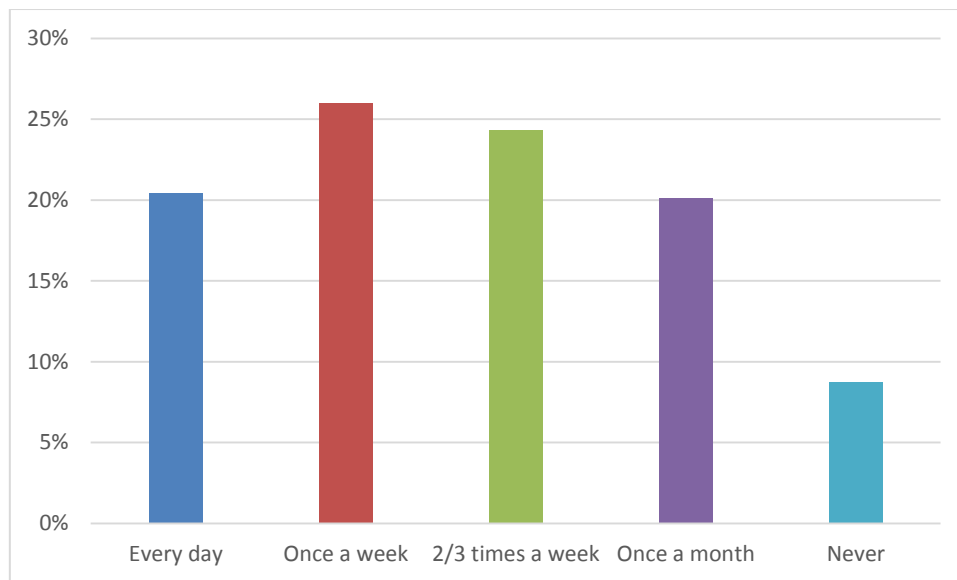
65% said for pleasure, 43% to improve health and wellbeing and for 35% for social reasons.

Prior to lockdown, the most popular visitor venues/activities were parks (81%), events (46%) and museums (40%). The least popular were Herringthorpe Stadium (3%), Civic Theatre (29%) and libraries (33%). When asked what would make cultural venues more appealing, comments included making them easier to get to on public transport, more publicity around events and activities and more historical events.

63% considered facilities for children and young people locally either good or adequate. 59% wanted to see improved play areas and cheaper access to sports/activities for children and young people, and 56% wanted to see more youth work. There were a number of comments linking a lack of things to do for older children/teens and anti-social behaviour, with suggestions that the Council should invest more in youth services and activities specifically aimed at older children.

When asked if they volunteered to help out family, friends or neighbours, the responses are as follows:





20% did so every day, 26% on a weekly basis, 24% did so 2-3 times a week, and 20% monthly. Only 9% said they never volunteered to help.

In terms of more formal volunteering opportunities offered by the Council, the Rotherham Heroes initiative had the highest levels of awareness amongst respondents, with 35% aware of the scheme and 3% volunteering as Heroes. There was a general lack of awareness amongst respondents of all of the Council led initiatives, with awareness levels ranging between 16% and 35%. Around 13% of those who said they were aware of the initiatives actually volunteered or participated in one of the schemes. 62% of respondents said they knew who their local Councillor is.

There was an even split response to the question on whether respondents felt that people are able to buy or rent quality affordable housing in their neighbourhood, with 48% saying yes and 51% saying no.

Improving road safety/speeding, access to busses and tackling problem parking were the three most important priorities for transport investment in local neighbourhoods. 10% of other comments focused on investment in new train stations for Maltby and Waverley.

### **People are Safe, Well and Resilient**

When asked if they felt safer in their local neighbourhood compared to 12 months ago, only 8% said yes and 54% felt that there was no change. For the people that said they felt less safe (38%), the main reasons given were an increase in crime, ASB and an increase in traffic issues.

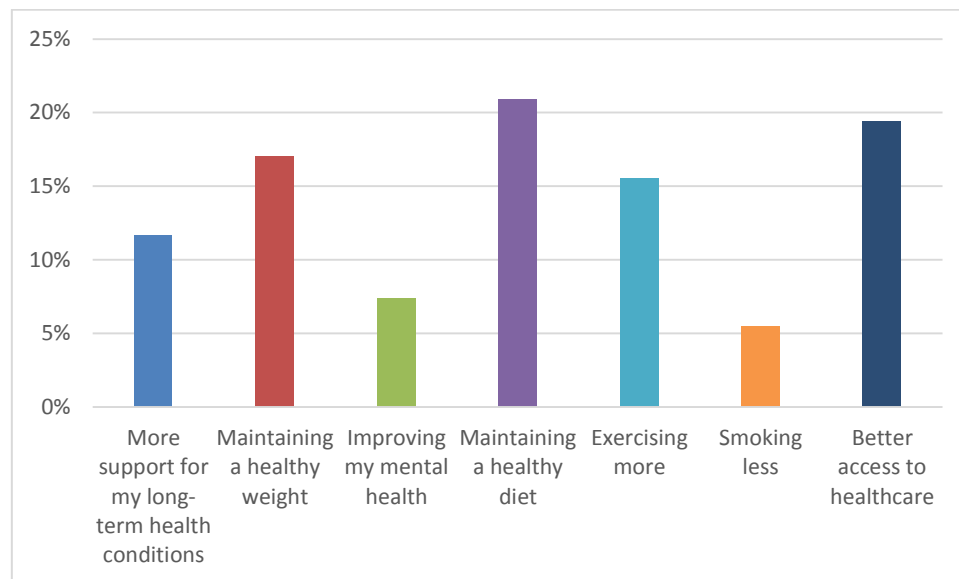
The three most important community safety issues for respondents included tackling ASB (79%), tackling crime (67%) and protecting vulnerable older people (62%). Over a third (34%) of open comments pointed to increased theft, especially pet and car theft, making them feel less safe. 10% said knowing neighbours and having a neighbourhood watch made them feel safer.

Awareness levels around the support available for children and young people to be resilient and safe against the wider challenges of pandemic were low at 14%, with 50% not aware and 30% answering 'don't know'. 64% said that they were aware of how to report a safeguarding concern regarding a child, and 59% were aware of how to report a safeguarding concern regarding an adult. 18% of open comments said children and vulnerable adults knowing their local community support and police officers would help many feel safer.

Access to specific groups and activities for young people was considered top priority (36%) for encouraging children and vulnerable adults to feel safer and more resilient. 25% of open

comments mentioned having more affordable activities and programs for children and vulnerable adults

Specific questions were asked regarding resilience, the impact of the pandemic and leading a healthier life. When asked what is the most important action that you feel would help you to live a healthier life, the answers were as follows:



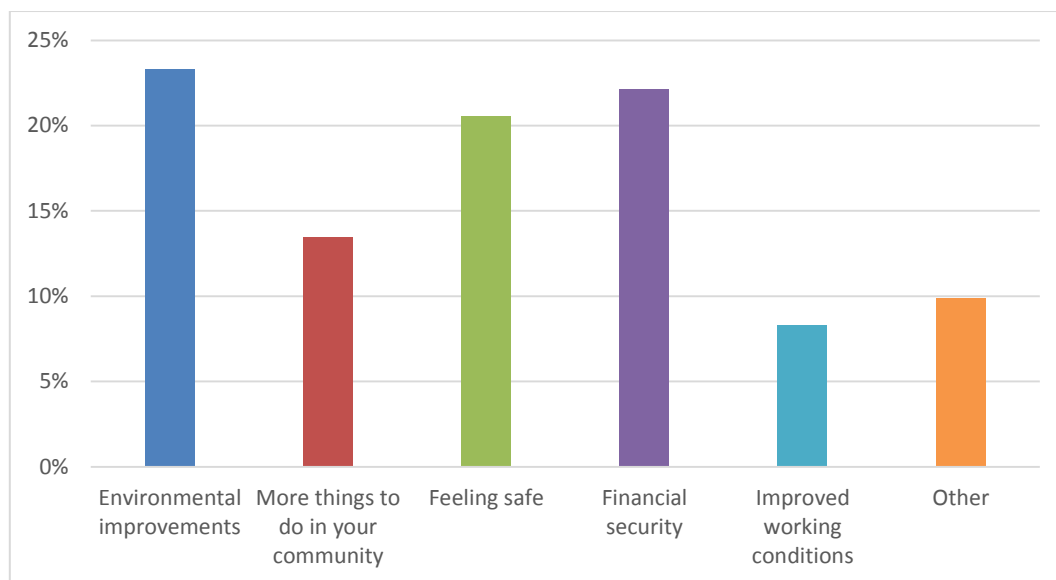
The top three answers were maintaining a healthy diet (21%), better access to healthcare (19%) and maintaining a healthy weight (17%).

57% stated that the pandemic had significantly or slightly negatively impacted on their mental health, 33% had seen no change and 9% had seen their mental health improve slightly or significantly. The top three ways in which the virus had negatively impacted on respondents' mental health were: 44% had gained weight, 37% were less physically active and 35% were worried about contracting the virus.

When asked about the positive effects the pandemic has had on respondents' lives, 27% said they had a better work/life balance and 19% reported being more physically active. 52% said that none of the options applied to them. Respondents were asked how positive they felt about the future, (at this stage of the pandemic) 36% gave a positive response, 34% were negative and 30% were neutral.

Respondents considered environmental improvements (23%), financial security (22%) and feeling safe (21%) the top three things that would have the biggest positive impact on their wellbeing and quality of life (see graph below):





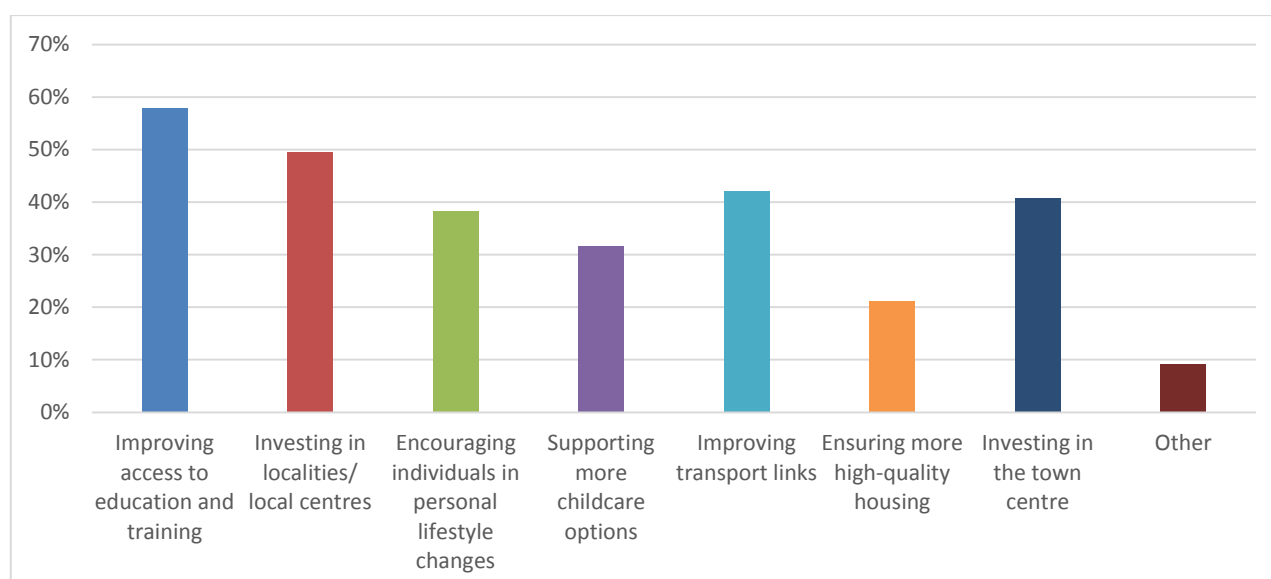
Men (30%) and those without a disability (27%) were more likely to state environmental improvements (23% overall), while more women and those with a disability stated 'More things to do in the community' (16% women, 22% with disability, 13% overall). Male respondents (14%) and those with a disability (12%) were also more likely to state 'improved working conditions' as factors (8% overall).

## An Economy that Works for All

25% of respondents were retired, 43% were full time employed, 20% part-time employed, 5% unemployed and 7% self-employed or other.

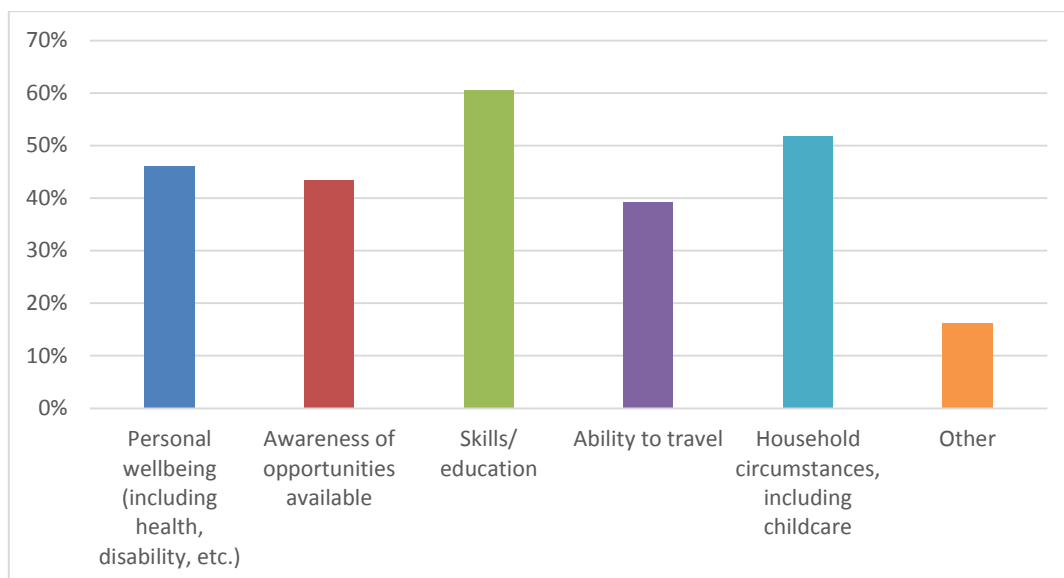
Only 20% of respondents felt that there were enough job opportunities in their area, 45% said there were not enough and 35% were unsure. When asked about the quality of opportunities in their area only 16% agreed that they were good, with 40% disagreeing and 44% giving a neutral response. 69% of respondents were not very/not at all optimistic about economic opportunities for young people in Rotherham and South Yorkshire more widely, with only 31% providing a positive response.

To improve the number/quality of jobs in the area the Council should prioritise the following:



The top 3 responses were improve access to education and training (58%), invest in localities (50%), and improve transport links (42%). The things that were considered to make the most difference and improve job prospects and economic opportunities for young people leaving school over the next few years were more local training opportunities or apprenticeships (76%), creating more jobs in the local economy generally (63%) and more work experience opportunities (48%).

Respondents considered job satisfaction (23%), income (21%), and work/life balance (20%) the most important factors in a job. When asked what they thought the main barriers to people accessing jobs were, the results are as follows:



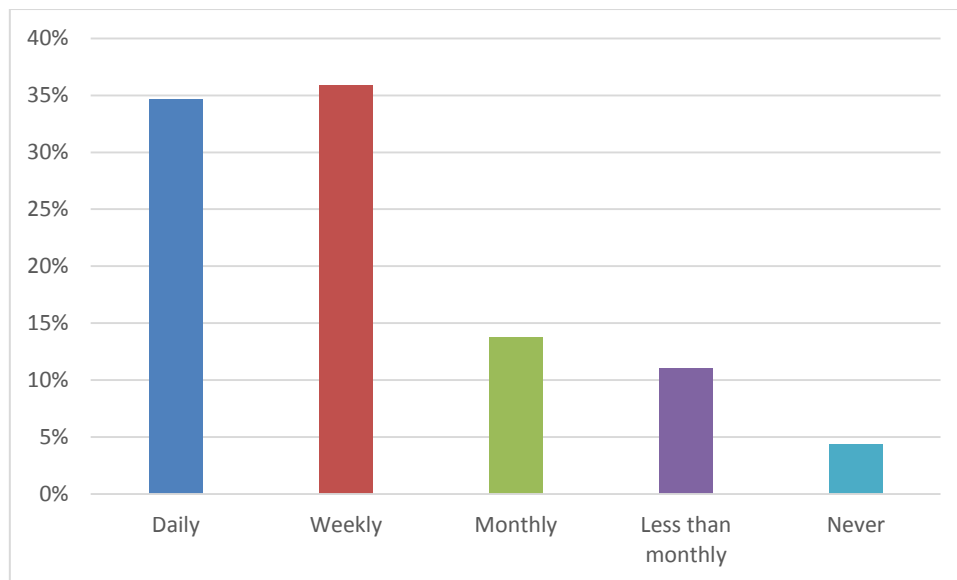
The top 3 answers included skills/education (61%), household circumstances (52%) and personal wellbeing (including health, mental health and disability) (46%).

The pandemic has had some economic impact on respondents, with 30% working from home, 9% furloughed, 6% being made redundant, 3% on reduced hours, 2% undergoing a career change and 44% not impacted at all by any of these measures. 33% stated that family members or friends had been out of work during the past 12 months.

## Caring for the Local Environment

The survey revealed a real and deep appreciation for parks and open spaces, particularly during the pandemic and also generally with 86% of respondents saying that since the start of the pandemic they had visited parks and green spaces more often. 98% of respondents considered their local park or open space to be very (91%) or somewhat (7%) important to their local community.

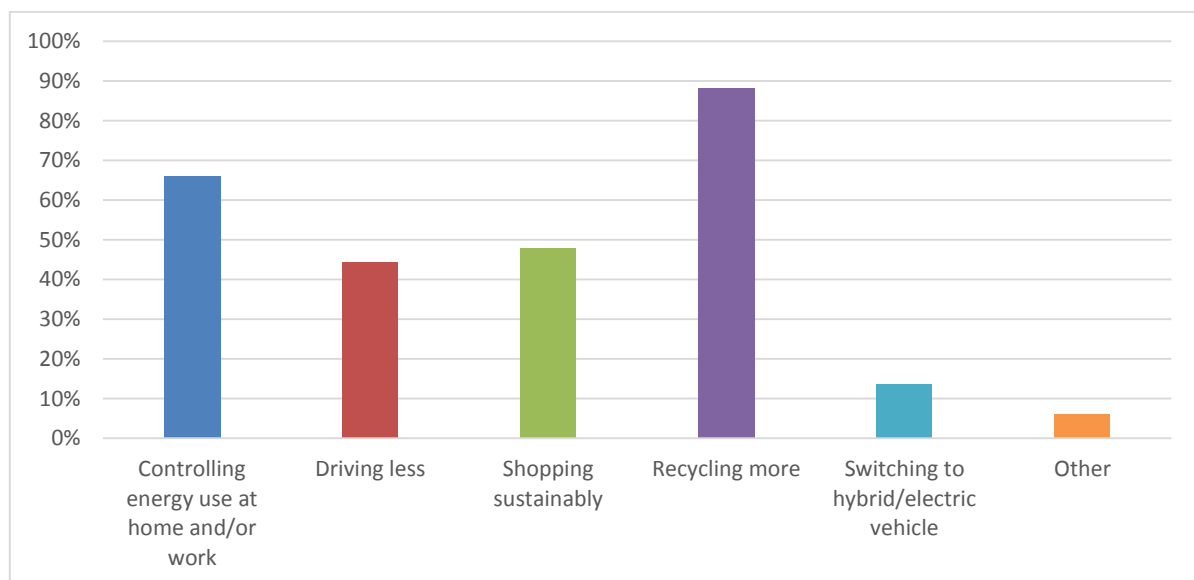
Comments revealed other uses for parks and open spaces included children play (17%), running (13%), bird watching (13%), dog walking (10%), litter picking (10%) and socialising with friends (10%). When asked how often they use their local parks and green spaces, the results are as follows:



70% used their parks or green spaces at least weekly and 50% of respondents felt that their local park or green spaces were important to their community in terms of improving their health and wellbeing. Men were more likely to say they used parks daily (46%) than women (28%), while women were more likely to never use parks at all (7%), than men (1%).

The most important environmental issues in local areas were identified as (first choice ranking) fly-tipping (30%), littering (22%) and potholes (14%), with respondents identifying climate change (53%) and pollution (15%) as the environmental issues that they felt were most important to the next generation.

When asked about how they were taking action to reduce their impact on the environment, the results were as follows (respondents could choose more than one option):



88% were recycling more, 66% were controlling energy use at home and/or work, 48% were shopping sustainably and 44% were driving less.

#### 4. Conclusion

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Overall, the consultation was extensive with over 1,300 interactions taking place in total across all methods of engagement. This was despite the issues posed by the pandemic and where the majority of the consultation had to take place over the school summer holidays. Therefore, the consultation was designed to ensure that there were a number of opportunities for people to participate over the course of 6 weeks, both virtually and face to face, digitally and at various locations across the borough.

There was a lot of positive feedback from the focus groups and people were pleased to be involved and asked for further ongoing engagement. In future consultations, the Council will seek to develop ways to ensure wider resident participation; to capture more diverse perspectives and ensure even greater representation from protected groups.

For the short interactions, responses from all three questions correlated well with each other. The initial question “*what do you like about where you live?*” Rotherham people associate neighbourliness, clean, and welcoming communities as being key to what they liked about where they lived, along with good local amenities and access to green spaces and the countryside. The second question, “*what one thing would you improve?*” highlighted Rotherham people’s association with the town centre and their aspirations for it to be prosperous, safe, and clean. Closely linked to this is the concern for local jobs for local people and the need to retain local talent.

People would like to see an improvement with Council service communication and engagement in that people want to feel that they are being listened to and kept informed; as well as a need for Council services to be aware and sensitive to Rotherham’s diverse communities. There is a concern for mental health, those living in isolation, and a greater awareness of the needs of those living with disabilities is required, along with the needs of carers. The final question, “*What is your one wish for the future for Rotherham?*” was a desire to be living in welcoming, diverse, and cohesive communities, where local action takes place, where there are accessible facilities and activities where people feel safe and secure, neighbourhoods are clean and free from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Topics raised at the Rotherham Show were very similar to those mentioned by the groups involved with other short interaction events. From this exercise people in Rotherham associate strongly with the town centre and wish to see it prosper. People want to live in welcoming, clean communities where they know their neighbours, feel safe, where everyone shows respect towards one another, and where there is support no matter what their circumstance is, their background, or where they live.

Children and young people’s responses have been analysed separately. The responses correlate well with the replies from adults across all three questions. For the first question many children and young people relate to liking where they live because of their friends, family, and kind people. They feel safe and secure, and where they live is clean. As with adults, this age group also related strongly with being able to access parks, woodlands, and the countryside. For the second question, issues came forward concerned with what improvements would like to be seen associated with the need to feel safe and secure locally and in Rotherham as a whole. As with adult responses there were messages for cleaner streets and parks, appropriate security measures, wishes to accept people for who they are, and better facilities and activities for young people to participate in. On the final question, *a wish for the future for Rotherham*, this age group want to live in harmonious, welcoming communities that are safe, secure, and clean. A place that is filled with opportunities to allow children and young people to succeed.

Overall, the online and postal survey was successful in terms of collecting useful data that could be analysed easily and the results broken down further using the equalities data. On the whole, participants agreed with the proposed themes of the Council plan and more than 72% of people chose to complete each theme section of the online/postal survey. However, there were issues with online survey in terms of pages 'timing out' after 10 minutes, which meant that people lost the information they had inputted and had to go back and do it all again. The timeout was a security feature built into the software which couldn't be changed. Residents reporting this pointed out potential equalities implications for those who may require more time to complete the survey. To address this, users were encouraged to open a 'Your Account' with the Council and log in with their email address to fill out the survey so they wouldn't lose any of the information they had completed. With the postal survey responses, there were a number of forms returned where people had misunderstood the 'ranking' of questions (either chosen more options than asked for or ranked all their responses as equally important rather than ranking them numerically based on 1 being the most important etc.). When looking at similar surveys in the future where question responses are ranked, there needs to be consistencies in the questions and possibly example answers given in the first instance.

As stated previously, this consultation is part of an ongoing dialogue between the Council and members of the public. Feedback will continue to be sought and the consultation 'towers' will continue to be used for short interactions to feed into the year ahead plan, the Rotherham Partnership Plan, the equalities review and the refresh of the equalities strategy.

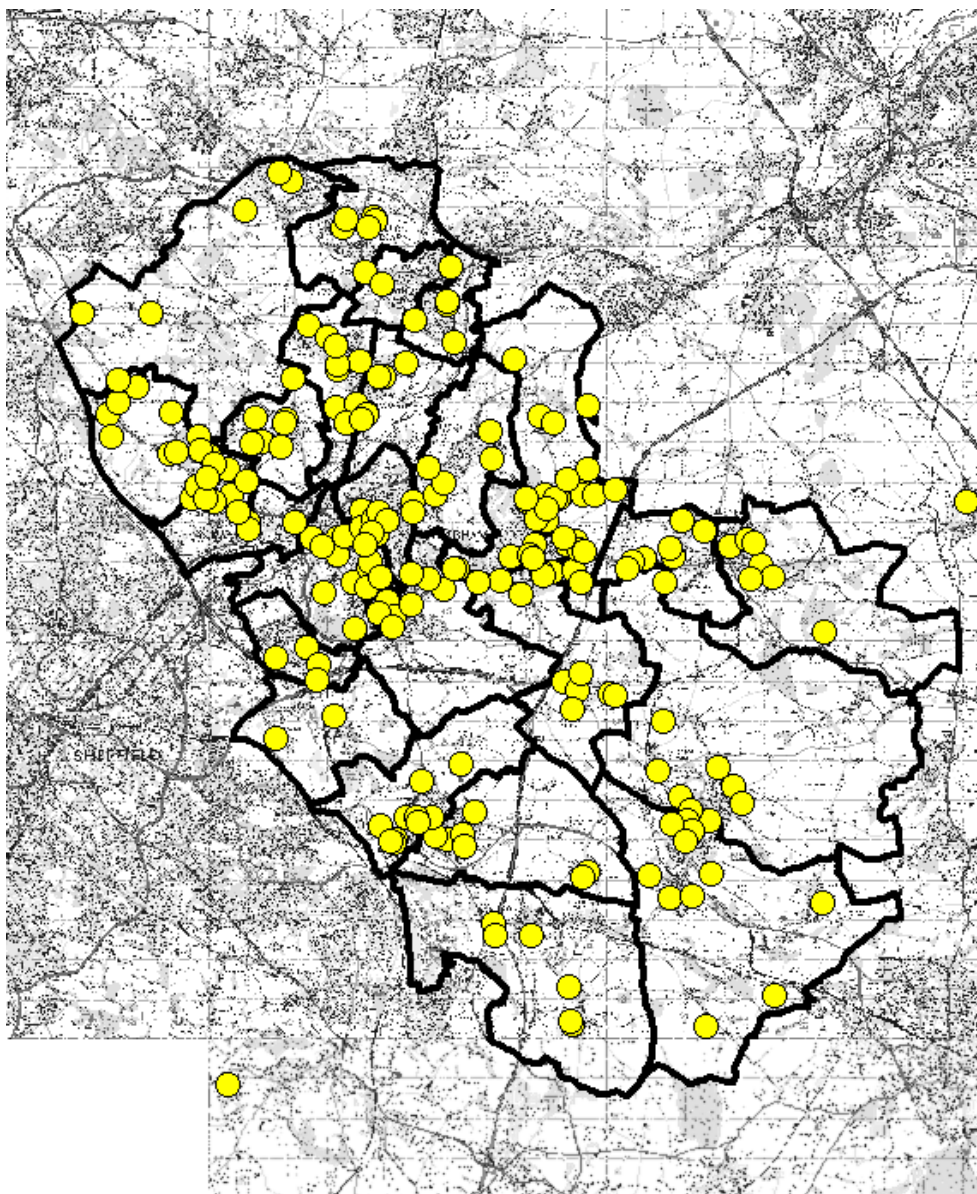


Photo from Rotherham Show Consultation



## Appendix 1 – Respondent map locations

225 full postcodes were given by respondents and 223 were Rotherham based. The map below shows the postcode spread for all survey respondents. All 25 Rotherham wards were represented in both online and postal surveys.



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## 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   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Equality Analysis title:</b> Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan  |  |
| <b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA):</b> 14 October 2021   |  |
| <b>Directorate:</b> Assistant Chief Executive  | <b>Service area:</b> Policy, Performance and Intelligence  |
| <b>Lead Manager:</b> Simon Dennis  | <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk">simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>Is this a:</b><br><input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b><br><br><b>If other, please specify</b> |  |

**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<br>(eg service user, managers, service specialist) |
|---------------|--|---|
| Leonie Wieser | Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council | National Management Trainee                             |
| Tanya Lound   | Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council | Acting Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager           |
| Steve Eling   | Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council | Policy and Equalities Manager                           |

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

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

The Council Plan is a core document that underpins the Council's overall vision and sets out the headline priorities, outcomes and measures that will demonstrate its delivery.

The plan is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. This plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.

To help inform the priorities and actions in the Council Plan, various consultation exercises took place between August and September 2021. There were over 1,300 interactions across all engagement methods. The consultation was part of an ongoing dialogue between the Council and members of the public.

The Council Plan for the period 2022-2025 will be approved by Elected Members at the Council meeting in January 2022, along with the Year Ahead Delivery Plan.

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

A mix of contextual equalities information, such as from the 2011 census, and consultation on the Council Plan is provided here.

**Population**

- Population estimates indicate that the borough is becoming increasingly diverse with significant international migration, mainly from other EU countries. Based on the 2011 census, the proportion of residents from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities increased from 4.1% in 2001 to 8.1% in 2011 and will have grown further since to at least 10% by 2016. Ethnic diversity is most evident amongst young people illustrated by the 17.8% of school pupils who were from BAME groups in 2018. The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British, with 3% of residents in 2011 and 6.8% of school



pupils in 2018.

- Rotherham's BAME population is very concentrated in the inner areas of the town whilst the outer areas were 96% White British in 2011. 42% of BAME residents live in areas that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country and for some groups the figure is higher. This compares with the Borough average of 19.5%.
- The population is ageing; Rotherham has 52,000 people aged 65 years or over or 19.7% of the population, above the national average of 18.4%. The population aged over 65 is projected to increase to over 21% by 2026, with the largest increase being in the number of people aged over 75.

## **Economy**

- Rotherham has a polarised geography of deprivation and affluence with the most deprived communities concentrated in the central area whilst the most affluent areas are to the south, although the overall pattern is complex.
- Rotherham is one of the 20% most deprived areas in England with 12,667 children living in "absolute poverty" 2018/19.
- The inequality in the pay gap between men and women is substantial, whereby male workers in Rotherham earn £13,409 more than female workers, on average (median gross annual pay). This means women's pay in Rotherham is only 54.6% of men's pay, compared with 64.5% nationally.
- In the consultation for the Council Plan, 45% of respondents stated there were not enough job opportunities in their area, as opposed to 19% who stated there were enough. Those with no disabilities were more likely to state there were enough job opportunities in their area (21%) than those with disabilities (15%), with female respondents more likely to be unsure about the opportunities (37%), than men (32%).

## **Health and wellbeing**

- Rotherham had 56,588 people with a limiting long-term health problem or disability in 2011, with 11.3% saying this limits their activity a lot, compared with the average of 8.3% nationally. Although there have been health improvements, health inequalities remain and in some cases are widening.
- Health inequalities are also significant, both between the borough and the national average and between the most and least deprived communities in Rotherham. In addition to these factors, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities, with the most disadvantaged communities being hit the hardest.
- In the Council Plan consultation, in response to the question on what would have the biggest positive impact on wellbeing and quality of life, men (30%) and those without a disability (27%) were more likely to state environmental improvements (23% overall), while more women and those with a disability stated 'More things to do in the community' (16% women, 22% with disability, 13% overall). Male respondents (14%) and those with a disability (12%) were also more likely to state 'improved working conditions' as factors (8% overall).

## **Neighbourhoods**

- In the survey consultation on the Council Plan, men were more likely to say they used parks daily (46%) than women (28%), while women were more likely to never

use parks at all (7%), than men (1.2%).

- With regards to crime and community safety, tackling anti-social behaviour (79%), tackling crime such as car crime (67%), and protecting vulnerable older people (62%) emerged as respondents' top priorities, over preventing harassment and violence against women and girls (42%), and preventing hate crime (includes disability/ racial/ religious/ homophobic/ transphobic crimes) (35%) – which might partly be due to the age profile and the overrepresentation of older age groups, as well as the underrepresentation of religious and ethnic minorities.

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

#### Consultation Engagement Profile

With regards to the consultation undertaken on the Council Plan, there was a total of 350 responses to the postal and online surveys. Overall, there were more responses from women, than from men, more from older people than from younger people, and more from those identifying as White British than those from BAME backgrounds (as compared to the Rotherham population).

Women made up 62% of the respondents, as compared to 34% male respondents. Compared to the age profile of the borough, respondents were older – 26% over 65s, as compared to 20% - and only 4% of respondents were under 24, compared with a borough figure of 29%. There was a good representation of the middle age groups (25-34 year olds and 35-44 year olds), while 45-54 year old were overrepresented, with 21% respondents from that age bracket, as compared to a Rotherham figure of 14%. In terms of sexuality, respondents largely aligned with national figures, with 92% identifying as heterosexual, 2% as bisexual, gay or lesbian, and 6% as other. The religious make-up of respondents differed from Rotherham figures, with less of the respondents identifying as Christian (57% as compared to 67%), and more stating no religion (37% as compared to 22.5%) – though the borough-wide figures are dated. 1.2% of the respondents identified as Muslim, compared to the dated borough-wide figure of 3.7%, which is expected to have increased.

The ethnic make-up of respondents also differed from borough-wide figures, with more respondents identifying as White British or White Irish and less as BAME, with only 0.8% identifying as Asian/Asian British 0.8%, 0.8% as dual heritage, and a further 0.8% as other, while Rotherham had over 8% of BAME residents in 2011, which is expected to have increased again.

Out of the respondents, 29% reported to have a disability, which includes 8% with a mental health condition. This compares with 22% of Rotherham residents who reported a long-term illness or disability in 2011, and an estimate of 18% of residents having common mental disorders in 2017, although the rate is lower in over 65s. 19% of respondents stated they were unpaid carers.

Focus groups aimed to make up some of the engagement gaps, by engaging stakeholders working with some of the groups whose views were underrepresented in the survey, and in particular those sharing protected characteristics. Representatives from the Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance, the Unity Centre, Rotherham Wah Hong Chinese Association aimed to fill some of the gaps in responses from BAME residents and Rotherham Muslim Community Forum for Muslim residents. Several organisations represented vulnerable

residents, such as Victim Support (support for victims of crime), Rotherham Rise, (support for domestic abuse victims), as well as more specialised support: for Black and minoritised women experiencing violence (Apna Haq), for those with learning disabilities from minority ethnic communities (Nayi Zindagi), a BME & Young People Carers group, Mama Africa (support for Refugees and Asylum seekers), holistic support for BME women (tassibee), support for those with learning disabilities and autism (Speakup). There were also organisations working with older people, such as Age UK and the older people's forum. Other important Voluntary sector organisations represented were Voluntary Action Rotherham and Rotherfed, and further participating were sports organisations (Rotherham United Community Sports Trust, Active Regen and a grassroots football club), physical activity and health organisations (Pivotal Health and Wellbeing, Rotherham Health Watch, the Rotherham Carers Forum) as well as other organisations such as South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Litter picking groups. Ongoing safety issues and anxiety concerning the pandemic meant that some groups were not comfortable meeting on a virtual platform or ready to engage in person at the moment – this included Older People's Forum, Carers Forum, and the Rainbow Project (LGBTQ). Further, while VCSE sector representatives of various groups with protected characteristics were invited to focus groups, these in many cases were stakeholder and representatives, rather than members of the public themselves.

Furthermore, ongoing consultation is taking place with Children and Young People's Groups – an Early Help group and a Looked After Children group.

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

Progress updates on the Council Plan Year Ahead Delivery Plan will be produced on a quarterly basis. These updates are reviewed by both SLT, Cabinet and Scrutiny and are publicly available online. The update reports will include progress in relation to actions within the plan, as well as performance relating to a suite of key performance measures.

In addition, as the Year Ahead Delivery Plan is implemented, all services will be required to complete an equality screening and/or analysis to ensure due regard has been given and that there is an understanding of the effects of a strategy, policy, service or function on those from a protected characteristic group, where this is applicable to do so.

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

**Focus groups**

48 attendees across 4 focus groups included representatives from (see details on organisations in 'Engagement Profile' above):

- Age UK
- The Older People's Forum
- Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance
- Rotherfed
- Speakup
- Rotherham Carers Forum
- Victim Support
- Unity Centre
- Voluntary Action Rotherham

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wah Hong Chinese Association</li> <li>• Rotherham United Community Sports Trust</li> <li>• Representatives from a number of litter picking groups across the borough</li> <li>• Members of the public</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Findings</b></p> <p><b>Safe and Resilient (service providers), 9<sup>th</sup> August</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to improve understanding of vulnerabilities</li> <li>• Rise in mental health issues</li> <li>• Engagement extremely important in enhancing support</li> <li>• Older people uniquely affected by pandemic and isolation</li> <li>• Younger people also affected by significant changes through Covid</li> <li>• BAME communities affected by higher death rates, and other issues, such as hate crime</li> </ul> <p><b>Securing a greener future for Rotherham, 9<sup>th</sup> August</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for better understanding of environmental issues and 'net zero'</li> <li>• Responsibility for environment shared by council, central government, businesses and residents</li> <li>• Waste and litter raised as issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Improved wellbeing and quality of life, 16<sup>th</sup> August</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal mental and physical welfare, but community important aspect too</li> <li>• Significant barriers in accessing support</li> <li>• joined-up multi-agency work important</li> <li>• personal and community deprivation as cross-cutting determinants of health and wellbeing</li> </ul> <p><b>Fair and flourishing economy, 16<sup>th</sup> August</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widening economic gaps between residents</li> <li>• Economic deprivation linked to mental health</li> <li>• Particular equalities concerns relating to the economy around older people, younger people, people with disabilities, and the BAME community</li> </ul> <p><b>Key findings across groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement and communication with communities key</li> </ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasis on inequality, importance to understand heterogeneity of groups, and similar human needs across groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Key findings from the survey responses included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to lockdown, the most popular visitor venues/activities were parks (81%), events (46%) and museums (40%).</li> <li>• 63% considered facilities for children and young people locally either good or adequate. 59% wanted to see improved play areas and cheaper access to sports/activities for children and young people, and 56% wanted to see more youth work</li> <li>• 20% volunteered to help out family, friends or neighbours every day, 24% did so 2-3 times a week, 26% on a weekly basis and 20% monthly. Only 9% said they never volunteered help.</li> <li>• Most comments on neighbourhood/community improvement were around street cleanliness.</li> <li>• Respondents considered environmental improvements (23%), financial security (22%) and feeling safe (21%) the top three things that would have the biggest positive impact on their wellbeing and quality of life</li> <li>• Only 20% of respondents felt that there were enough job opportunities in their area, 45% said there were not enough and 35% were unsure.</li> <li>• Respondents considered job satisfaction (23%), income (21%), and work/life balance (20%) the most important factors in a job.</li> <li>• The survey revealed a real and deep appreciation for parks and open spaces generally, but particularly during the pandemic.</li> </ul> <p><b>In responses to the postal survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More respondents felt that their neighbourhood/community had become more (15%) rather than less (8%) supportive since the start of the pandemic, and 63% feeling that there had been no change. However, when asked 'do you feel safer in your local neighbourhood compared to 12 months ago' more respondents now feel less safe (25%), with 10% feeling safer and 62% citing no change</li> <li>• Respondents cited road safety issues including increased traffic, parking problems and access</li> </ul> |
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|  | <p>to bus services as areas of concern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-social behaviour was a specific area of concern, with many suggestions that more investment should be made in activities aimed specifically at older children/teens</li> <li>• 'Feeling safe' was the top response when asked 'what would have the biggest positive impact on your wellbeing and quality of life?'</li> </ul> |
| <b>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b> | <p>Engagement with staff was undertaken through Chief Executive Q&amp;A sessions, wider leadership sessions, managers, SLT/AD sessions, as well as sessions with DLTs and managers throughout August - October 2021.</p> <p>Staff were also encouraged to fill in the online consultation.</p>   |

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

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

The Council Plan sets out the priorities for the borough over the next three years. It consists of five key themes, one overarching theme and a set of guiding principles.

Equalities is cross cutting throughout the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan. Of the five guiding principles, two in particular aim to meet residents' and communities' differentiated needs:

- Expanding opportunities for all
- Working with our communities

Expanding opportunities encompasses the Council's essential priority to tackle inequality striving to ensure that the health and life chances of the most disadvantaged communities are improving the fastest. To complement this approach, 'working with our communities' ensures that to achieve the best outcomes for local people, local residents are involved in the things that matter to them and services are designed based on input from those who use them. This will enable service users to take an active role in improving access to services, highlighting any barriers for those sharing protected characteristics in designs and services, making sure that specific needs are met.

There is also an outcome focussed on addressing inequalities and leaving no one behind within the 'people are safe, health and live well' theme. This will involve providing support to our communities at a level that is proportionate to the degree of need – taking a

universal approach where appropriate whilst also providing targeted support to those who most need it.

Furthermore, the underlying 'One Council' theme encompasses two specific areas, which ensure different needs are met:

- All customers at the heart of everything we do
- Engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customer

The Council's commitment to place all customers at the heart of service delivery includes a strengthened approach to equalities and being inclusive. This will involve working with services and partners to promote equality, celebrate diversity and ensure fairness for everyone. The commitment to an engaged, diverse and skilled workforce is expected to improve the council's response to diverse customer needs, by bringing a more differentiated understanding of equality and diversity considerations and barriers.

The quarterly reports will capture progress in relation to all activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. This will include a suite of key performance measures.

Within **five themes of the Council Plan**, a series of universal offers are aimed at all of Rotherham's residents, while several actions are specifically aimed at tackling inequalities and issues of access. The following expands both on the universal and the targeted offers within each theme.

### **Neighbourhoods are vibrant and thriving**

Activities in this area are aimed at meeting the needs of all residents and ensure they benefit from thriving neighbourhoods. The priorities of making neighbourhoods welcoming and safe, neighbourhoods to be cleaner and greener, local people having access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces, improved local town and village centres, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and improving street safety are for the benefit of all residents regardless of protected characteristics. Residents, organisations and businesses are encouraged and enabled to use their skills and resources to help others.

Individual services, such as parks, libraries, cultural offers and neighbourhood working will each undertake an equality analysis, where required to do so, to identify gaps, making sure that any physical, cultural, language or other access barriers are identified, and all residents have offers meeting their needs.

### **People are safe, healthy and live well**

Actions in this area are aimed at protecting everyone's physical and mental health, while focusing on the most vulnerable. Within actions to ensure that people have good mental health and physical wellbeing, programmes to tackle loneliness and isolation will have particular benefits to older people and those living with disabilities. Within the priority for children, families and adults to feel empowered, safe and live independently for as long as possible, actions focus on children in care, people with learning disabilities, independent living and adult social care ensure that the needs of these vulnerable groups are prioritised. Actions further include for everyone to have access to affordable, decent housing.

One specific action within this area focuses on addressing inequalities, ensuring nobody is left behind. This includes the confidence to understand inequalities, and actions in particular tackle financial exclusion, homelessness and domestic abuse.

Ongoing monitoring and improvement of these services contributing to this theme will be key, as the most vulnerable often face the most barriers. Monitoring will identify and address gaps in provision, and in particular ensure that individuals sharing several protected characteristics, and thus potentially facing multiple barriers, can access the support they need.

### **Children and young people fulfil their potential**

Actions under this theme are aimed at children having the best start in life, children and young people having a voice and feeling listened to, young people empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations, and children and young people having fun things to do and safe places to go. Activities in the early years aim to address educational inequalities, collaborative working with schools to give children the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of ability, including vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and reconnect those disengaged from education to opportunities and training.

Services contributing to this theme, again, will carry out equality analyses where appropriate and monitor equality data.

### **Everyone has economic opportunities**

Actions under this theme include a growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress, places rejuvenated by regeneration that brings investment and opportunity, people have opportunities to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential, working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs, apprenticeships, paid at the living wage or above, strengthened digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all. Contributing to these actions are programmes supporting vulnerable residents to gain skills and employment, and libraries providing IT and resource support to residents, to improve digital inclusion.

Equality analysis and monitoring will be carried out where appropriate to ensure vulnerable residents sharing protected characteristics benefit from this support. Given the gender pay gap in Rotherham is substantial and above the national average, activities in this area will need to be monitored closely to ensure they do not widen the gap.

### **The environment is cared for**

This theme encompasses reductions in carbon emissions, working towards net zero targets, better transport systems for future generations, reduced risks of flooding and other environmental emergencies. There are no immediate equality implications in this area, although any direct impacts on residents, such as through actions in housing, transport and in work with community organisations, will be monitored.

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



|  |
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| <p>No problems or barriers have been identified. The Plan does not make specific reference to any protected characteristics, and ongoing monitoring as detailed above will be key to ensure any barriers are identified and addressed.</p>   |
| <p><b>Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?</b></p> <p>Yes as detailed above.</p>   |
| <p><b>What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?</b> (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)</p> <p>No negative impacts expected – any targeted activities are based on known needs and vulnerabilities.</p> |

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

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| <b>Title of analysis: Council Plan</b>  |
| <b>Directorate and service area: Assistant Chief Executive, Policy, Performance and Intelligence</b>  |
| <b>Lead Manager: Simon Dennis</b>   |
| <b>Summary of findings:</b>   |
| <p>The Council Plan addresses inequalities in several of its key themes, including the overarching theme 'One Council' and guiding principles, with the aim to decrease inequalities and for the council's services to deliver for all residents. Equality and access data will need to be monitored closely, especially in the 'People are safe, healthy and well' and 'Everyone has economic opportunities' themes, as these are areas of considerable existing inequalities, which will make it more difficult for some individuals and groups to access opportunities and services.</p> |

| Action/Target   | State Protected Characteristics as listed below | Target date (MM/YY) |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Monitor the ongoing equality implications of the Council Plan, in particular with reference to the themes of 'People are safe, healthy and well' and 'Everyone has economic opportunities'. | All   | Ongoing             |
| Provide quarterly update reports to Cabinet, including consideration of the equality implications.  | All   | Quarterly           |

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| All services to undertake equality analyses where applicable and monitor | All | Ongoing |
|  |     |         |

\*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 |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------|
| Lee Mann        | Assistant Director HR and OD |      |
| Cllr Chris Read | Leader                       |      |

#### 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](mailto: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 | 20 October 2021      |
| Report title and date            | Council Plan 2022-25 |

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Date report sent for publication</b>   | 8 November 2021 |
| <b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b><br><a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a> |                 |

## Appendix 5 - Carbon Impact Assessment – Council Plan 2022-25 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan

### 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

| 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? | Decreases emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year Ahead Plan 2022 and the Council Plan 2022 – 2025 include data for previous carbon emission reductions and targets for net-zero 30 across Council operational buildings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of new Century business centre at Manvers and delivery of a range of business support and advice projects to help local companies recover - could increase emissions from new office buildings or other businesses.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMB adopted a policy that all new and refurbishment properties will look at the feasibility of low carbon heating and energy efficiency measures as a first option. Business centres are included in the Council's decarbonisation Plan.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all Cabinet reports.</li> <li>All emissions from operational buildings are monitored and reported publicly</li> </ul>   |
| Emissions from transport?              | Decreases emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of a fleet conversion programme to low carbon fuel will decrease emissions.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan for neighbourhood road safety engagement, including 20 mph zones, will if successful decrease emissions.</li> <li>Completion of the A630 Parkway Improvement Scheme to reduce speeds (50mph), reduce congestion and improve air quality, and delivery of bus, tram and cycle improvements through the Transforming Cities Fund programme, and Cycleways schemes in line with the cycling strategy will decrease emissions.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of additional 8 charging units to complement existing provision, and 2 residential charging hubs (subject to SYMCA funding) will mitigate transport emissions by aiding the transition to hybrid or electric.</li> <li>Engagement with communities in the climate change agenda and the delivery of the communications plan to raise awareness about climate change is expected to influence a positive change in behaviour across the</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approaches to monitoring vehicle usage, emissions and fuel efficiency are being developed.</li> <li>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</li> <li>Baseline data assessments are in progress for fleet and grey transport emissions</li> </ul> |

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|  |                    |   |   | borough, including moving to low carbon transport.  |  |
| Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself? | Potential increase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans include reductions of waste and fly tipping</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A series of events and activities, including Women's Euro 2022, Rotherham Show, Rotherham 10k could increase the amount of waste.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A plan is being developed to tackle single use plastics across council buildings and events.</li> <li>Plans for awareness raising in the community and amongst council staff to influence a positive change will aid the reduction of waste in any planned large-scale events.</li> <li>Climate emergency communications plan being developed to facilitate the participation and involvement of residents, partners and other interested organisations and communities will include engagement with young people to reach out to the community.</li> <li>Future large-scale events, such as plans to deliver the Children's Capital of Culture initiative, with phase 1 engagement programme to co-design commencing this year, explore option to focus around keeping waste and emissions reductions in mind.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A baseline for single use plastics across council buildings and events will be identified.</li> <li>Improved information and data to take further action in reducing waste, improving recycling rates and reducing contamination.</li> <li>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</li> </ul> |

|   |                    |   |  |   |  |
|---|--------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?  | Impact unknown     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of the Council's Housing Growth Programme, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Town Centre housing programme</li> <li>○ Chesterhill Avenue and Whinney Hill</li> <li>○ Delivery of Council bungalows on sites in Treeton and Ravenfield.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh of the Housing Strategy for 2022-2025 will include the Green Housing Strategy to reduce energy costs and improve efficiency of homes.</li> <li>• Implementation of domestic building, heating or energy efficiency measures will reduce annual CO2 emissions.</li> <li>• Identify buildings that have heating systems in need of replacement which are suitable for alternative fuels.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish housing stock emission baselines, consolidating the available intelligence and gathering further data as required, using both Parity software with existing data on council-owned housing stock, and developing intelligence on the wider housing stock across the Borough.</li> <li>• Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</li> </ul> |
| Emissions from construction and/or development? | Potential increase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction and planned developments, such as improving the condition of local neighbourhood roads through the 2024 roads programme, completion of the Libraries Capital Investment Programme, including the provision of the new library at Thurcroft, developing new and improved play areas for children and young people, a feasibility study for the Rotherham Theatre will increase emissions.</li> <li>• Plans for large scale developments and improvements, such as</li> </ul> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emission considerations as part of the Council's social value policy are being developed, exploring how the policy can be used to incentivise climate change commitments and CO2 reductions within tender processes.</li> <li>• Introduction of further SPDs (supplementary planning documents) relevant to climate change – SPDs can elaborate on Local Plan policies, giving developers additional technical guidance, speeding up applications and resulting in better</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</li> </ul>  |



|                                      |                    |   |  |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---|--|---|--|
|                                      |                    | <p>the towns and villages fund, construction of the market and library schemes as part of Future High Streets Fund programme and construction of the leisure development on Forge Island could significantly increase carbon emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans connected to the construction of flood alleviation schemes and barriers, such as achieving 'shovel ready' status for the six priority flood alleviation schemes, securing funding to implement the schemes, constructing the Forge Island canal barrier and the Ickles Lock to Centenary Way flood wall and embankment will all entail emissions.</li> </ul> |  | quality development for the community and environment.  |  |
| Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)? | Decrease emissions |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of approach to weed control and removal, as well as sustainable management of verges and greenspaces to encouraging biodiversity and increase wildflower areas, with potential impact on carbon capture.</li> <li>Commence a borough-wide tree planting programme (7000 trees in total), in partnership with community</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A medium term (next five years) and long term (next ten years) Environmental Crisis Strategy and Action Plan is being developed.</li> <li>First proposals for country park masterplans (Rother Valley and Thrybergh) for public consultation to be developed.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council currently has little data related to carbon sequestered via trees, limiting our understanding of the planting required to offset emissions.</li> <li>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</li> </ul> |

|   |  |  |                     |  |  |
|---|--|--|---------------------|--|--|
|   |  |  | groups and schools. |  |  |
| 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:

Reduction of carbon emissions, working towards net zero targets, is one of the five themes of the Council Plan. Actions within this theme encompass plans for the reduction of emissions in housing, through a Green Housing Strategy, and transport, such as through cycleway improvements, and public transports improvements, as well as improving data on waste and single-use plastic. Data and monitoring measures, such as baselines in waste and housing, are still developed, with all cabinet reports requiring a Carbon Impact Assessment.

Both the Year Ahead Plan 2022 and the Council Plan 2022 – 2025 focus on relevant sustainability goals. The plans are a collated summary of activities and actions that deal with the sustainability challenges covered.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Supporting information:   |   |
| Completed by:<br>(Name, title, and service area/directorate).   | Leonie Wieser, National Management Trainee, Policy, Performance and Intelligence, Assistant Chief Executive |
| Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].   | Climate Emergency Progress Summary and 2021/22 Action Plan<br>Year Ahead Delivery Plan draft                |
| 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]  |   |

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 12 January 2022

**Report Title**

Proposal to Create an Honorary Freeman of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

Emma Hill , Acting Head of Democratic Services

[emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

Under the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the title of Honorary Freewoman and Honorary Freeman of the Borough to persons of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough.

The Council is asked to consider a proposal endorsed by the Mayor and the Political Group Leaders, in accordance with the authority's protocol in respect of the award of the freedom of the borough, to create a new Honorary Freeman.

**Recommendations**

1. That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of his outstanding service to sport as an Olympic Gold Medalist Paralympian and inspiration to others facing adversity through life changing events, Gavin Walker, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of this Borough at Annual Council.

**List of Appendices Included**

None

**Background Papers**

Protocol for the Award of the Freedom of the Borough of Rotherham

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

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**  
No

## **Proposal to Create an Honorary Freeman of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The origin of the Freedom of the Borough goes back to early medieval times, when with the growth of the great English towns, there emerged a class of citizen known as Freemen, who enjoyed important privileges in the government of their own and in the matter of corporate property, as against strangers and the rest of the inhabitants.
- 1.2 With the passing of the Honorary Freedom of the Boroughs Act 1885 the dignity attached to the Office of Freeman was revived and enhanced. This act conferred upon all Municipal corporations the power to admit as Honorary Freeman of the Borough “persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the Borough”. This can only be achieved by the Council voting at a specially called meeting.
- 1.3 The Freedom of the Borough is the highest Civic Award the Council can bestow.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 In 2018, the Council approved a protocol detailing the decision-making process for making the award of the Freedom of the Borough. A nomination for the award must be received and supported by at least ten Members of the Council prior to it being considered by the Mayor and Political Group Leaders, who will determine whether to recommend the award to the Council.
- 2.2 A nomination to admit Gavin Walker as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Rotherham was submitted by Councillor Alan Atkin, with the support of ten other councillors. The nomination set out the various outstanding achievements of Gavin Walker on behalf of the borough.
- 2.3 In accordance with the protocol, the Chief Executive arranged for the Mayor and political group leaders to review the nomination.
- 2.4 Following consideration of the nomination by Councillors Read, Barley, Carter and Elliott, as political group leaders, this report has been prepared recommending the award to Gavin Walker.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 It is recommended that, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of his outstanding commitment as a Paralympic Gold Medallist and inspiration to others to achieve against life changing events, Gavin Walker be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of this Borough at the Annual Council Meeting.

**4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The protocol detailing the decision-making process for the award of the Freedom of the Borough sets out how the Chief Executive should consult the Mayor and Political Group Leaders prior to any recommendation being submitted to Council. This process has been followed in enabling this report to be presented to the Council.

**5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 Subject to the Council approving the recommendation to make the award of Freeman of the Borough, at the Annual Council Meeting, following consultation with the Mayor, to pass the formal resolution.
- 5.2 The Head of Democratic Services will be accountable for the implementation of the Council's decision and for establishing arrangements for the award of the Freeman of the Borough.

**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 Section 249(9) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a relevant authority to spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person on whom the authority has conferred the title of Honorary Freewoman or Freeman under subsection (5).
- 6.2 Freedom Scrolls currently cost £855.50 each and it costs approximately £100 to have them framed. These costs can be met from the budget.
- 6.3 It is proposed to hold a small Civic Reception will be held following the Annual Council Meeting, as recommended under the Freedom of the Borough protocol. The costs will be met through the budget for the Civic Office.

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

- 7.1 In accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specifically convened with notice of the purpose, admit Honorary Freewomen and Honorary Freemen of the place or area for which it is the authority persons/organisations of distinction and persons/organisations who have in its opinion rendered eminent services to the Borough.

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

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

**9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

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

**10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

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

**11. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 There are no Climate change implications associated with this report.

**12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 There are no implications for partners arising from this report.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 There are no risks directly associated with this report.

**Accountable Officer(s)**

Emma Hill, Acting Head of Democratic Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

|  | <b>Named Officer</b> | <b>Date</b>                 |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chief Executive  |                      | Click here to enter a date. |
| Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services<br>(S.151 Officer) | Judith Badger        | Click here to enter a date. |
| Assistant Director of Legal Services<br>(Monitoring Officer)         | Philip Horsfield     | Click here to enter a date. |
| Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)               | N/A                  | Click here to enter a date. |
| Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)                             | N/A                  | Click here to enter a date. |

*Report Author: Emma Hill , Acting Head of Democratic Services*

*emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk*

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

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 12 January 2022

**Report Title**

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

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

Not applicable

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

Emma Hill, Acting Head of Democratic Services  
01709 823566 [emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

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

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

The allocation of seats must follow two principles:

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

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

As a result of two by-elections held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 the political balance of the Council has changed.



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

### **Recommendations**

1. To note the new political balance of the Council as a result of the by-elections.
2. That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees.
3. To agree the amendment of appointments of Members to Committees, Boards and Panels to reflect the change in political balance as notified by Group Leaders.

### **List of Appendices Included**

None

### **Background Papers**

The Council's Constitution

### **Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

### **Council Approval Required**

Yes

### **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

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

### 1. Background

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

### 2. Political Groups

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

| Name of Group | Designated Leader & Deputy Leader<br>(number of Members)                                 |
|---------------|--|
| Labour        | Leader – Councillor Chris Read<br>Deputy Leader – Councillor Sarah Allen<br>(33 Members) |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Conservative               | Leader – Councillor Emily Barley<br>Deputy Leader – Councillor Zachary Collingham<br>(18 Members) |
| Liberal Democrat           | Leader – Councillor Adam Carter<br>(4 Members)  |
| Rotherham Democratic Party | Leader – Councillor Rob Elliott<br>(3 Members)  |

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

### 3. Allocation of Seats

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

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

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

| Political Group            | Seat Entitlement |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Labour                     | 83               |
| Conservative               | 45               |
| Liberal Democrat           | 10               |
| Rotherham Democratic Party | 8                |
| ( <i>balance</i> )         | 3                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>149</b>       |

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

|                                     | Seats Available | L  | C | LD | RDP | NA |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----|---|----|-----|----|
| <b>Regulatory Committees/Boards</b> |                 |    |   |    |     |    |
| Audit Committee                     | 5               | 3  | 2 | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| Licensing Board                     | 21              | 12 | 6 | 1  | 1   | 1  |
| Licensing Committee                 | 15              | 8  | 5 | 1  | 1   | 0  |
| Planning Board                      | 15              | 8  | 5 | 1  | 1   | 0  |
| Staffing Committee                  | 5               | 3  | 2 | 0  | 0   | 0  |

|                                      |            |           |           |          |          |          |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Standards and Ethics Committee       | 8          | 4         | 2         | 1        | 0        | 1        |
|                                      |            |           |           |          |          |          |
| <b>Overview and Scrutiny</b>         |            |           |           |          |          |          |
| Overview & Scrutiny Management Board | 12         | 7         | 3         | 1        | 1        | 0        |
| Health Select Commission             | 18         | 10        | 5         | 1        | 1        | 0        |
| Improving Lives Select Commission    | 18         | 10        | 5         | 1        | 1        | 0        |
| Improving Places Select Commission   | 18         | 10        | 5         | 1        | 1        | 0        |
|                                      |            |           |           |          |          |          |
| <b>Other Bodies</b>                  |            |           |           |          |          |          |
| Corporate Parenting Group            | 5          | 3         | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Introductory Tenancy Review Panel    | 4          | 2         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 1        |
| Joint Consultative Committee         | 5          | 3         | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        |
|                                      |            |           |           |          |          |          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>149</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>3</b> |

- 3.3 In the table in paragraph 3.2 above, the committees and panels listed have locally agreed provisions in respect of their membership which were determined by the Council at its annual meeting in May 2018. In the case of the pool of membership of the Employment Appeals Panel this was increased to 13 Members. For ease of reference additional information relating to appointments is set out below:

| Panel                            | Description of Role and Function  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Employment Appeals Panel</b>  | Appeal Panels shall comprise three members of the Council selected from a pool of 13 members (four of whom shall be Cabinet members, and nine of whom shall be Scrutiny Panel members and three of whom shall be members of the opposition party), who have received appropriate training on employment related issues. |
| <b>Corporate Parenting Group</b> | The Panel, in addition to the Members appointed by the Council, shall comprise of two representatives of the Adoption Panel and one representative of the Fostering Panel.  |

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

#### **4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 4.1 The law and the authority's Constitution provide for the appointment of members to serve on committees and other bodies as a power reserved to the Council.
- 4.2 The Council may determine not to appoint to the committees at this meeting, however this will delay the conduct of the authority's business until the next available council meeting. This option is not recommended.

#### **5. Consultation on proposal**

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

#### **6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 6.1 There is a requirement for the Council to make appointments to committees, boards and panels at its meeting on 12 January 2022.

#### **7. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

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

#### **8. Legal Advice and Implications**

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

#### **9. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

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

#### **10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

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

**11. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

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

**12. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

- 12.1 There are no implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change arising from this report.

**13. Implications for Partners**

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

**14. Risks and Mitigation**

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

**Accountable Officer(s)**

Emma Hill, Acting Head of Democratic Services

Report Author: Emma Hill, Acting Head of Democratic Services  
01709 823566 emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

|  | <b>Named Officer</b> | <b>Date</b>                 |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chief Executive  |                      | Click here to enter a date. |
| Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services<br>(S.151 Officer) | Named officer        | Click here to enter a date. |
| Assistant Director of Legal Services<br>(Monitoring Officer)         | Named officer        | Click here to enter a date. |
| Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)               |                      | Click here to enter a date. |
| Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)                             |                      | Click here to enter a date. |

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

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 12 January 2022

**Report Title**

External Audit Re-procurement

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

**Report Author(s)**

Rob Mahon (Head of Corporate Finance)  
Finance & Customer Services Directorate  
01709 254518 [rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The Council's current external auditor is Grant Thornton, under a contract managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA). This contract expires at the end of the 2022/23 financial year. The purpose of the following report is to allow the Council to consider the options around the future procurement of the external audit functions. The Council will need to consider the options available and put in place new arrangements in time to make the re-appointment. If the Council is to remain within the PSAA national procurement scheme the deadline for opting into this process is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. This report was presented to Audit Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November who fully support the proposed recommendation, that the PSAA national procurement route is taken.

If the Council is to independently procure its own external auditors this must be done by December 2022.

**Recommendations**

1. That Council approves the recommendation to opt-in to the PSAA re-procurement of the external audit function.

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Audit Committee – 30 November 2021

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The external auditors of the Council's 2023/24 accounts have to be appointed by the end of December 2022. The secretary of state has confirmed PSAA in the role of the appointing person for eligible principal bodies for the period commencing April 2023. A formal invitation has been received by the Council to opt into these arrangements which will cover the five consecutive financial years beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. It should be noted that Grant Thornton would remain the Council's external auditor for the 2022/23 accounts.
- 1.2 In order to join the national scheme, the Council has to formally accept the invitation by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The decision to accept the invitation must be made by the members of the authority meeting as a whole i.e. Full Council.

**2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 There are a number of options available to the Council when appointing new auditors.
- It can continue to take part in the national procurement undertaken by PSAA
  - Procure individually
  - Seek to carry out a joint procurement along with (probably) neighbouring local authorities and / or Sheffield City Region (SCR).
- 2.2 In conjunction with around 98% of all local authorities, the Council opted-in to the national procurement arrangement run by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) in 2017, covering the audits of the Council's 2018/19 to 2022/23 accounts.

**Procurement through PSAA**

- 2.3 The procurement through the PSAA has the following advantages.
- transparent and independent auditor appointment via a third party;
  - the best opportunity to secure the appointment of a qualified, registered auditor;
  - appointment, if possible, of the same auditors to bodies involved in significant collaboration/joint working initiatives, if the parties believe that it will enhance efficiency;
  - on-going management of any independence issues which may arise;



- access to a specialist PSAA team with significant experience of working within the context of the relevant regulations to appoint auditors, managing contracts with audit firms, and setting and determining audit fees;
- a value for money offer based on minimising PSAA costs and distribution of any surpluses to scheme members - in 2019 the PSAA returned a total £3.5million to relevant bodies and more recently a further distribution of £5.6m was announced in August 2021;
- collective efficiency savings for the sector through undertaking one major procurement as opposed to a multiplicity of smaller procurements;
- avoids the necessity for local bodies to establish an auditor panel and undertake an auditor procurement, enabling time and resources to be deployed on other pressing priorities;
- updates from PSAA to Section 151 officers and Audit Committee Chairs on a range of local audit related matters to inform and support effective auditor-audited body relationships; and

concerted efforts to work with other stakeholders to develop a more sustainable local audit market.

- 2.4 A potential disadvantage of procuring through the PSAA is that Individual elected members will have less opportunity for direct involvement in the appointment process other than through the LGA and/or stakeholder representative groups.

#### **Procure Individually.**

- 2.5 Legislation requires that to procure individually the Council must set up an Auditor Panel. The Panel must consist of wholly or a majority of independent members as defined by the Act and must be chaired by an independent member. Independent members for this purpose are independent appointees, this excludes current and former elected members (or officers) and their close families and friends. This means that elected members will not have a majority input in assessing bids and choosing to which firm to award the contract for the Council's external audit. The new independent auditor panel would be responsible for selecting the auditor.

#### *Advantages/benefits*

- Setting up an auditor panel allows the Council to take maximum advantage of the new local appointment regime and have some local input to the decision.

#### *Disadvantages/risks*

- Recruitment and servicing of the Auditor Panel, running the bidding exercise and negotiating the contract is estimated by the LGA to cost in the order of £15,000 plus on-going expenses and allowances.
- The Council will not be able to take advantage of the benefits of scale and reduced fees that could be available through joint or national procurement contracts.
- The assessment of bids and decision on awarding contracts will be taken by independent appointees and not solely by elected members. Hence our members do not control the process or appointment.
- The external audit market has become very challenging, with firms unable to recruit staff. Often audited bodies nationally in the public and private sector have found that they have at most one bidder for their audit. Consequently single-procurement risks having very little or no choice of audit provider.

### **Joint Procurement**

- 2.6 The Act enables the Council to join with other authorities to establish a joint auditor panel. Again, this will need to be constituted of wholly or a majority of independent appointees (members). Further legal advice will be required on the exact constitution of such a panel having regard to the obligations of each Council under the Act, and the Council would need to liaise with other public authorities locally to assess the appetite for such an arrangement. Soundings with other local authorities so far have indicated that they are not keen to opt for a joint procurement, as they doubt the benefits would be worth the additional time and procurement costs needed.

#### *Advantages/benefits*

- The costs of setting up the panel, running the bidding exercise and negotiating the contract will be shared across a number of authorities.
- There is greater opportunity for negotiating some economies of scale by being able to offer a larger combined contract value to the firms.

#### *Disadvantages/risks*

- The decision-making body will be further removed from local input, with potentially no input from elected members where a wholly independent auditor panel is used, or possibly only one elected member representing each council, depending on the constitution agreed with the other bodies involved.
- There will be the usual delays and time needed to negotiate and agree joint provision with other LA bodies, with the danger if agreement is not met, that the Council is then too late to opt-in to the PSAA arrangements.
- The choice of auditor could be complicated if individual councils have independence issues. An independence issue occurs where the

auditor has recently or is currently carrying out work, such as consultancy or advisory work for a council. Where these issues occur, some auditors may be prevented from being appointed by the terms of their professional standards. There is a risk that if the joint auditor panel choose a firm that is conflicted for this Council, then the Council may still need to make a separate appointment with all the attendant costs and loss of economies possible through joint procurement.

- The problems in obtaining a range of auditing firms prepared to bid, as discussed under Option Two, are unaltered by this arrangement.
- Lack of enthusiasm for this approach from other LAs contacted.

### **Recommended option**

- 2.7 For the last procurement exercise, after considering the above factors, the Council decided that opting in to the PSAA national procurement exercise was the best approach. 98% of other local authorities (and Fire, Police etc bodies) decided likewise, so PSAA was the overwhelming choice of the sector. There have been some frustrations arising from this decision, as the scope of external audits has been increasing and with it the cost of the audit to the Council. However, given the current fragility of the audit market, the considerable time and effort involved in tendering individually or in a small group, the additional demonstrable independence of the national process, and the benefits of acting as a collective sector in the audit market, it is the view of officers, supported by Audit Committee, that the Council should again opt-in to the PSAA process.

## **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 The options considered have been addressed in section 2 of this report.

## **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The Council has liaised with other local authorities within South Yorkshire to assess their approach and any appetite for a joint procurement exercise. However, all parties feel that the potential benefits of the PSAA arrangement, the lack of resources and the cost of another approach being taken mean that a PSAA engagement is the option of choice across the region.

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The deadline for opting into the PSAA national scheme for appointing auditors is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report, other than the normal ongoing costs of paying for the subsequent external audits.

**7. Legal Advice and Implications**

7.1 None

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

8.1 There are no Human Resource implications arising from the report.

**9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

9.1 There are no implications arising from the proposals to Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

**10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 There are no implications arising from this report to Equalities and Human Rights.

**11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 No direct implications.

**12. Implications for Partners**

12.1 There are no other implications arising from this report to Partners.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 Cabinet approval timelines to be followed in order to ensure that the timeline for opting in to the agreement is adhered to.

**14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Judith Badger (Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services)

*Report Author:* Rob Mahon (Finance Manager – Financial Accounting)  
Finance & Customer Services Directorate  
01709 254518 [rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk)

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

**STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**  
**18th November, 2021**

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Castledine-Dack, Collingham, Cooksey, Griffin and Hughes, along with Mr. A. Buckley and Mrs. M. Carroll (Parish Council Members) and also Mrs. A. Bingham, Mr. P. Edler and Mrs. M. Evers (Independent Members).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bennett-Sylvester, Mr. P. Horsfield (Monitoring Officer), Mrs. K. Penney (Independent Member), Mr. D. Roper-Newman (Independent Person) and Mr. R. Swann (Parish Council Member).

**19.        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Griffin declared a personal interest in Minute No. 23 (Complaints) on the grounds of having knowledge of one of the cases listed.

**20.        EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Resolved:-** That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for (Minute No. 22 and 23 – Review of Concerns Pursuant to the Whistleblowing and Consideration of Complaints) on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**21.        MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2021**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

The Chair had highlighted at the Council meeting that Parish Councillor Buckley and Parish Councillor Carroll's terms of office (Minute No. 12) would not be confirmed until the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 and indicated they had left the meeting before confidential items were considered.

The Committee was updated in terms of Minute No. 13 (LGA Model Code of Conduct) which had been circulated to all Parish Council Clerks, referenced in the Members' Bulletin and had confirmation from the LGA that training would be delivered in due course.

The Chair had also liaised with the Deputy Leader, whose portfolio covered Parish and Town Councils, following some instances of potential Code of Conduct breaches.

**STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE - 18/ 11/ 21**

The Committee was also advised that in terms of Minute No. 14 (Training) plans may be delayed during the pre-election period and it could be the New Year before the scheduled training was delivered.

The Chair also urged inclusion of a key of acronyms for future reports as per Minute No. 15 (Concerns Pursuant to the Whistleblowing Policy).

**22. A REVIEW OF CONCERNS RAISED PURSUANT TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report and appendix presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, which provided an overview of the Whistleblowing cases which have been received over the past year.

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

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

**23. CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, detailing the progress with the handling of complaints relating to breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Town and Parish Councillors. The report listed the current cases of complaint and the action being taken in respect of each one.

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

The Chair asked that actions/referrals on the schedule of complaints be dated accordingly.

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

**24. URGENT BUSINESS**

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

**25. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee be held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at the Town Hall, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**30th November, 2021**

Present:- Councillor Baker-Rogers (in the Chair); Councillors Browne and Mr. J. Barber (Independent Person).

Messrs. G. Mills and Thilina De Zoya (Grant Thornton) were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barley, Wilson and Wyatt.

**49. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute No. 63 (Internal Audit Progress Report – Appendix C), and Minute No. 66 (Regeneration and Environment Directorate Risk Register Appendix) as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 (financial information) and 7 (information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**50. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no items of urgency to be considered.

**51. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2021**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

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

**52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

**53. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS**

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

**54. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS - EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ISA260**

Further to Minute No. 38 of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, consideration was given to the ISA260 presented by Gareth Mills, on behalf of Grant Thornton. As previously reported, the final publication had been delayed due to national issues with public sector audit requirements.

Due to the Value for Money (VFM) work having not yet been completed, Grant Thornton were not in a position to issue the Auditor's Annual Report. It was expected to issue this before the end of February 2022, in line with the National Audit Office's revised deadlines requiring the Auditor's Annual Report (AAR) to be issued no more than 3 months after the date of the opinion on the financial statements.

The audit of the Council's financial statements had been substantially completed and, subject to the outstanding queries being resolved, it was anticipated issuing an unqualified (clean) audit opinion by 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

One possible risk of significant weakness had been identified in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit position. Further procedures had been performed in respect of this risk and consideration given to the Council's arrangements in place, actions being taken to address the deficit and the Council's engagement with relevant key stakeholders. It had been concluded that there was no residual risk of significant weakness at the time of Grant Thornton's financial statement audit opinion date. Further work on this matter and reporting would be captured in the AAR.

The report also highlighted:-

- No issues identified in respect of management override of controls
- One immaterial disclosure error but had no impact on the Council's useable Reserves and management had amended the accounts to correct this
- Valuation of pension fund net liability as reported at the previous meeting
- No issues identified in respect of management key judgements and estimates made by management

The ISA260 also confirmed that working papers were of a high standard and the audit queries were dealt with in a timely and efficient manner.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The DSG position would be considered in more detail as part of the VFM work which looked at the arrangements in place regarding governance in terms of how the DSG position was being managed and monitored. However, Grant Thornton was acutely aware of the situation in Rotherham and the active engagement with stakeholders
- It was hoped to meet the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 deadline but it was still a challenge for public sector audit
- It was hoped to sign off the audit on 30<sup>th</sup> November but if not 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the latest.
- It was hoped the VFM audit could be issued in January 2022



Resolved:- That, having taken due regard of the External Audit findings detailed within the ISA260 report, the 2020/21 audited Statement of Accounts, as submitted at Appendix 2, be approved for publication as final and the 2020/21 Narrative Report (Appendix 3) be signed and approved for publication as final.

## **55. ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES**

Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance, presented for information a series of slides which informed the audit risk assessment for the Council for the 2020/21 External Audit.

The slides illustrated the two-way communication between the Council's External Auditors and the Audit Committee as 'those charged with governance'. They also covered some of the important areas of the auditor risk assessment where the External Auditor was required to make inquiries of the Audit Committee under auditing standards.

As part of the assessment procedures, the External Auditor was required to obtain an understanding of management processes and the Council's oversight of:-

- General Enquiries of Management
- Fraud
- Laws and Regulations
- Related Parties
- Accounting Estimates

It was noted that the questions posed by Grant Thornton were in line with the revised Auditing Standards. The Council's Finance Team had responded to the questions and set out how they had arrived at their estimations and judgement. For the 2021/22 accounts, this paper would be submitted prior to the Statement of Accounts to enable the Committee to have sight of the questions and responses.

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

(2) That future reports include a commentary as to whether the responses provided by the Council's Finance Team were satisfactory to the External Auditor.

## **56. EXTERNAL AUDIT RE-PROCUREMENT**

Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance, presented a report on the re-procurement of External Audit. The Council's current External Auditor was Grant Thornton under a contract managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA). This contract would expire at the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

The report set out the options available for the future procurement of the external audit function:-

- The Council could continue to take part in the national procurement undertaken by PSAA
- Procure individually
- Seek to carry out a joint procurement along with (probably) neighbouring local authorities and/or the Sheffield City Region

The report highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of each of the 3 options.

If the Council was to remain within the PSAA national procurement scheme, the deadline for opting into this process was Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Resolved:- (1) That the option to continue to take part in the national procurement undertaken by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) be the preferred option for the re-procurement of the External Audit function.

(2) That the report be referred to Council for approval.

## **57. MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS MONITORING REPORT - 2021/22**

Consideration was given to the report presented by Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance, outlining the mid-year treasury review which also incorporated the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of the capital expenditure plans and the Council's Prudential Indicators.

The review, as set out in the Appendix submitted, provided detail of mid-year performance against the plan, the key changes to the Council's capital activity (the PIs) and the actual and proposed treasury management activity (borrowing and investment).

With regard to investments, the primary governing principle remained security over return and the criteria for selecting counterparties continued to reflect this.

The Council would maintain its strategy of being under-borrowed against the capital financing requirement. Whilst the Council would continue to utilise the short term borrowing strategy to maximise savings within Treasury Management, the opportunity had arisen during the first half of 2021/22 to access some long term (50 years) PWLB rates. During July and August, 2021, £120M of long term PWLB borrowing was taken (£100M General Fund at 1.54%, £10M HRA at 1.81%, £10M HRA at 1.86%). This was to take advantage of the low PWLB borrowing rates available at the time and would be used to replace short term borrowing

as it matured. The borrowing position would remain under review and an update of the Strategy would be submitted to Members within the Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 report to Council in March 2022.

All governance, strategies and monitoring were undertaken by the Audit Committee.

The report illustrated how the underlying economic and financial environment remained difficult for the Council, foremost being the improving, but still challenging, concerns over investment counterparty risk. This background encouraged the Council to continue maintaining investments short term and with low risk counterparties; the downside of such a policy being that investment returns remained low. This situation had been further exacerbated by the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, that had seen the Bank of England base rate fall to 0.1%.

The Council's use of long term PWLB borrowing would result in the level of short term borrowing gradually falling as short term borrowing matured. With long term borrowing rates forecast to rise over the next 3 years, this strategy had taken advantage of historically low long term borrowing rates. This provided certainty of borrowing costs and mitigated the risk of borrowing having to be taken in the future at potentially higher rates. In the short term the cost of borrowing would increase as the long term borrowing was at a higher rate than the short term borrowing it was replaced though this impact was factored into the Council's financial monitoring position.

PWLB rates fluctuated; during 2021/22 to date the rates had seen highs of 2.3% for a 50 year PWLB loan and lows of 1.5%. The immediate impact of this had seen short term borrowing falling to as little as 0.3% for 6 months. This had allowed the Council to make greater short term borrowing savings than anticipated whilst always being able to soak up additional interest rate costs of taking long term borrowing at the significantly low levels sooner than planned.

The Council continued to keep interest rates under constant review within its borrowing strategies and decisions on the mix of long term and short term borrowing.

It was confirmed that the basis of the Treasury Management Strategy, the Investment Strategy and the PIs (aside from the under 12 months indicator referenced above) had not changed from that set out in the approved Treasury Management Strategy (March 2021).

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

**58. CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, submitted the refreshed Council Code of Corporate Governance for consideration. It was presented at the meeting by Simon Dennis, Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager. There had been no new revisions to the CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) and SOLACE (the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) guidance on delivering good governance in local government. However, it was good practice to review and revise the Council Code on an annual basis.

An annual review of the Code had been completed to ensure it remained up-to-date and relevant to the Council. Amendments had been made to include relevant elements of the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it had developed as well as other minor amendments where necessary.

The 7 key principles set out in the guidance which underpinned the governance of each local government organisation had not changed. The Rotherham Code followed each of the principles and demonstrated how they were applied and evidenced in practice.

Resolved:- That the refreshed version of the Code of Corporate Governance be approved.

**59. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, presented the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for approval. The draft AGS had been presented to the Committee in July 2021 for the 2020/21 financial year and was published with the Council's financial statements. It was further reviewed at the 30<sup>th</sup> September Committee meeting and published with the Council's financial statements, however, at that time the External Auditors, Grant Thornton, had not concluded their review of the AGS. That review was now complete with the few points raised resulting in minor amendments to the AGS.

The full AGS was attached as Appendix A.

Resolved:- (1) That the 2020-21 Annual Governance Statement be approved.

(2) That the requirement for the Leader and Chief Executive to sign the Statement prior to the publication of the Annual Governance Statement be noted.

**60. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND POLICY**

Further to Minute No. 48 of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, Simon Dennis, Corporate Risk Manager, submitted proposed minimal changes to the Risk Policy and Strategy.

The changes to the Policy and Guide were minor and mainly to improve clarity of information for users. The last extensive refresh of the Policy and Guide was undertaken in 2018.

In the course of the coming year, work would continue to ensure the Council's approach to risk management was well embedded across all projects and all staff, by providing training, clear guidance, supporting the Risk Champions and reporting according to agreed timelines.

Resolved:- (1) That the revised Risk Policy and Strategy be approved.

(2) That future reports include reference to the International Standard of Risk Management in the list of background papers.

**61. IG/GDPR ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

Consideration was given to an update and annual report presented by Paul Vessey, Head of Information Management, on the Council's compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA).

Monitoring of the Council's compliance with GDPR and DPA was carried out by the Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG) which had representatives from all Directorates and Chaired by the Council's Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO). Any risks relating to Information Governance, including GDPR and Data Protection were monitored on a regular basis by the group. Risks and actions were logged and reviewed at CIGG meetings and, if necessary, escalated in line with the Council's risk management processes.

The key issues were:-

- Maintain compliance  
Compliance with Data Protection principles was a continuous project  
CIGG fulfilled a core function in monitoring and overseeing information risks  
Regularly monitored the effectiveness of the Council's Data Protection Policies and each Directorate's Information Governance and Data Protection processes
- Monitor performance of Freedom of Information (FOI) and Right of Access requests  
Slight increase in the number of FOIs completed on time – 87% 2019/20 91% 2021/21

Decrease in the number of Right of Access Requests (ROARs) received – 188 (2019/20) 162 (2020/21) but also decrease in the number completed on time (64%-43%)

Appendix 1 of the report submitted provided performance for the last 4 financial years.

Discussion issued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Performance would continue to be closely monitored with the focus on improvement
- Requests varied substantially in complexity and workload making analysing, allocating resources and forecasting problematic. In practical terms this meant that until a request was received, it could not be known how long it would take to complete
- Joint requests for information were a cause for concern and work was taking place on how the process could be improved for determining which Directorate was to provide the response
- An audit had been undertaken of the figures to provide assurance that the processes in place in terms how ROARs were dealt with were robust. It was found that delays in service had arisen mostly due to the complexity of cases, pressures on service and the pandemic. The outcomes of the report were being worked through
- A monthly reporting process had been activated
- FOI requests could be turned down if they were vexatious and/or other reasons. The number of these were not currently captured in the information presented
- There was no bench marking with other authorities

Since the last report submitted on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 (Minute No. 48 refers), all outstanding tasks had been completed and all required policies and processes for compliance with GDPR and DPA were now in place and embedded within the organisation. It was now the responsibility of all Directorates and Service areas to comply with the Council's Data Protection policies and procedures.

Resolved:- (1) That the General Data Protection Regulation annual report 2019/20 be noted.

(2) That the legal requirement of the Council continuing its maintenance of its Information Governance policies and processes in compliance with legislation be noted.

(3) That future reports include the number of Freedom of Information requests refused and any breaches of the GDPR Regulations.

## **62. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, which provided a summary of Internal Audit work completed during 1st September to 31st October, 2021, and the key issues that had arisen therefrom. The current position of the plan was outlined in Appendix A to the report.

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

Internal Audit also carried out unplanned responsive work and investigations into any allegations of fraud, corruption or other irregularity. There had been 3 reports of this type issued since the last meeting (Appendix C).

Internal Audit's performance against a number of indicators was summarised in Appendix D. Target performance was almost achieved in March but was affected by sickness within the Team, however, all other indicators had been achieved in June to August.

Appendix E showed the number of outstanding recommendations that had passed their original due date, age rated. The number of outstanding actions currently stood at 3 all of which were due to be completed by the end of the month.

The previous issue of a high number of outstanding actions had already been resolved through the actions of the Chief Executive and Strategic Leadership Team who had been very supportive.

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken since the last Audit Committee, 1st September to 31st October, 2021, and the key issues that have arisen from it be noted.

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

(3) That Appendix D of the report be updated to reflect the comments made at the meeting for future reports.

(Appendix C was considered in the absence of the press and public in accordance with Paragraph 7 of the Act – information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime)

**63. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN**

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee covering the period January to November, 2022.

It was noted that the Strategic Risk Register and Annual Report (Value for Money) would not be considered at the January meeting.

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

**64. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY**

There were no items for referral.

**65. REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE RISK REGISTER**

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment, supported by Simon Moss (Planning, Regeneration and Transport), presented a report providing details of the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Regeneration and Environment's Directorate.

2 of the 19 risks also feature on the Council's Strategic Risk Register i.e.

- To Maintain a Safe and Operational Property Estate
- Achieving Economic Growth

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised:-

- Some of the risks were not within the Council's overall control
- Tree replacement consisted of native and non-native species dependent upon their location and ability to cope with local conditions
- Cautionary approach taken to the safe delivery of events in the Borough

Resolved:- That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Regeneration and Environment Directorate, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

**66. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That a further meeting of the Audit Committee be held on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, commencing at 2.00 p.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.



**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**  
**24th November, 2021**

**Present:-**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Councillor D. Roche | Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health<br><b>(Chair)</b>                           |
| Ben Anderson        | Director of Public Health  |
| Jamie Bland         | Healthwatch Rotherham  |
| Steve Chapman       | South Yorkshire Police   |
| Dr. Richard Cullen  | Strategic Clinical Executive, Rotherham CCG  |
| Chris Edwards       | Chief Operating Officer, Rotherham CCG   |
| Shafiq Hussain      | Voluntary Action Rotherham   |
| Suzanne Joyner      | Strategic Director, Children and Young Peoples Services                                  |
| Sharon Kemp         | Chief Executive, RMBC  |
| Anne-Marie Lubanski | Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health                                |
| Dr. Jason Page      | Governance Lead, Rotherham CCG   |
| Michael Wright      | Deputy Chief Executive, The Rotherham Foundation<br>Trust (representing Richard Jenkins) |

**Report Presenter:-**

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Sam Keighley | Yorkshire Sport Foundation |
|--------------|----------------------------|

**Also Present:-**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Martin Elliott | Governance Advisor, RMBC                |
| Faye McDool    | Rotherham CAB                           |
| Gavin Jones    | South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service |
| Beck Woolley   | Policy Officer, RMBC                    |

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aveyard, Cusworth, and Thompson, Elizabeth Brown (Healthwatch Rotherham), Kathryn Singh (RDaSH), Alison Smith (NHS England) and Paul Woodcock (RMBC).

**26. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no urgent items.

**27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**28. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

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

**29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

**Resolved:-** That the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 22nd September, 2021, be approved as a correct record.

### 30. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair noted his attendance at a series of meetings where the future role of the Health and Wellbeing Boards had been considered.

### 31. ROTHERHAM SURGE PLAN

Anne-Marie Lubanski, Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, made a presentation that provided an update on the Demand Management/Surge Plan 2021-22.

The presentation provided information on:

- Lessons Learnt during 2020-21.
- The Governance arrangements surrounding the Covid Winter Surge Plan 2021/22.
- The planned activity around the delivery of the Covid Winter Surge Plan 2021/22 in areas including:
  - Acute
  - UECC
  - YAS – 999
  - Flow management
  - Community Services
  - Mental Health
  - Care Homes
  - Communications strategy
- Planned activity around provision of services for Children and Young People by both RDaSH and Rotherham MBC.
- The Multi-Agency Covid Booster and Flu Plan.

Members made the following points during the subsequent discussion.

- Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact of a flu outbreak occurring at the same time as an increase in Covid-19 cases. Members noted the importance of ensuring co-ordinated activity across all partners to maximise the uptake of the flu vaccine as well as Covid-19 boosters.

- The positive impact of driving and delivering successful activity due to effective partnership working.
- Concerns were raised regarding staff resilience in health and social care settings due to consistent high levels of demand for many months at a level only normally seen in winter.
- Members noted success of the Covid booster programme. Concerns were however noted on the pressure that delivering this programme was having on primary care services.

**Resolved:** - That the update be noted.

### 32. **STRATEGIC VALUE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

Sam Keighley, Strategic Director at the Yorkshire Sport Foundation, attended the meeting to make a presentation on the strategic positioning of physical activity in Rotherham.

The presentation provided information on:

- The problems related to physical inactivity noting that:
  - Nearly 1 in 3 people across Rotherham were active for less than 30 minutes a week. This figure was much higher amongst underserved groups.
  - Inactivity was a contributing to 1 in 6 deaths in the UK.
  - How being physically active reduced the risk of heart disease by 35%, hip fractures by 68% type 2 diabetes by 40% and depression by 20%.
- The development of a prevention pathway that aimed to reduce the harms from smoking, obesity and alcohol and support healthy ageing.
- How even a small increase in physical activity could improve mental health and wellbeing, reduced loneliness and isolation and also reduced the chance of developing of non-communicable diseases.
- How the Yorkshire Sport Foundation planned to work with stakeholders across the Borough to increase physical activity.

Members made the following points during the subsequent discussion.

- The vital importance of physical activity and of getting more people active and moving in order to increase people's health and wellbeing.

- That the challenge of getting more people being physically active was a significant one that would require a large cultural change. The biggest challenge, but the one that would make the most significant difference, would be in helping the very inactive to start moving more.
- The importance of encouraging more people to build activity into their lives and not solely focussing activity on increasing participation in organised sports and activities.
- How the Council would work to increase the physical activity of its workforce and how it would lead as an example to others in the Borough.
- How physical activity could be effectively promoted, especially with harder to reach groups across the Borough. It was noted that the involvement of local sporting celebrities could be beneficial.

**Resolved: -**

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That activity around the objectives of:

- “All public sector anchor organisations doing what they can as employers to get and keeping their workforces active.”
- “Creating the conditions where social movements that normalise physical activity can flourish.”
- “Training front line workers across multiple organisations (prevention, early intervention and clinical) to be confident to talk about and signpost people to being active. i.e., Making Every Contact Count (MECC).”

be the priority areas of focus in plans to increase physical activity in Rotherham.

(3) That a ‘coalition of the willing’ be created to work collaboratively on each of the actions selected at (2).

(4) That a progress report be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in six months’ time.

**ACTION:- Policy Officer/Sam Keighley**

**33. UPDATE ON AIM 3 OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

Michael Wright, Deputy Chief Executive TRFT, and Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive RMBC, made a presentation that provided an update on activity surrounding Aim 3 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It was noted that Aim 3 of the strategy was to:

- Ensure support is in place for carers.
- Support local people to lead healthy lifestyles, including reducing the health burden from tobacco, obesity and drugs and alcohol.

The presentation provided information on:

- Key areas of progress around priority one “Ensure support is in place for carers” including:
  - that carers had expressed support for the objectives and priorities within the Carers Strategy.
  - a programme of face-to-face events was planned through the Carers Corner, including activities to celebrate Carer’s Rights Day.
  - that over 200 carers have benefitted from receiving a carer’s grant.
- Key areas of progress around priority two “Support local people to lead healthy lifestyles, including reducing the health burden from tobacco, obesity and drugs and alcohol” including:
  - the enhanced tier 2 Weight Management Service that had now commenced.
  - that a new employee was now in post and engagement had begun with partners on the development of the drug-related death pathway.
  - funding was in place and recruitment was commencing in November for an outreach team focused on frequent attenders to ED with complex alcohol and mental health needs.
- The areas of focus that needed to be addressed to keep the implementation of Aim 3 on track. It was noted that no activities were rated as ‘off-track’ but that four were rated as ‘at-risk’. The actions that would be taken to address the ‘at-risk’ activities were noted.
- Next steps around priority one that included:
  - the planned engagement with the Young Carers Council, Rotherham Carers Forum and Rotherham Parent Carers Forum.
  - that the Carers Strategy was scheduled to come to the January 2022 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting for approval.

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- Next steps around priority two that included:
  - how the needs assessments on smoking and healthy weight would be used to inform the recommissioning of services and the development of the partnership Prevention and Health Inequalities Strategy and action plan.
  - the development of a drug-related death review policy for ratification by the Safer Rotherham Partnership and how consideration would be given if this also needed Health and Wellbeing Board agreement.
  - the commencement of delivery of the outreach service, pending recruitment to the outreach team.

**Resolved:** - That the update be noted.

**34. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD ACTION PLAN**

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, and Becky Wooley, Policy Officer, provided an update of activity taking place around the Health and Wellbeing Board action plan.

**Resolved:** - That the update be noted.

**35. UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD**

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive RMBC, provided an update from the Local Outbreak Engagement Board that detailed:

- that while the Covid-19 infection rate was rising in Rotherham, it was rising at a slower rate than other areas.
- that the key message given to residents would continue to be that Covid-19 had not gone away and that there should be no room for complacency.
- the activity that had been taking place around the winter communications strategy and its focus on encouraging vaccine take up and the continued wearing of masks in higher risk situations. It was also noted how communications would continue to be clear and consistent in their messaging.
- the continued success of the local contact tracing service.
- the high uptake of testing locally.

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, advised that the messaging around the Covid-19 booster programme would reaffirm the vital importance of getting a booster when offered one.

**Resolved:** - That the update be noted.

**36. ISSUES ESCALATED FROM THE PLACE BOARD**

Chris Edwards, Chief Operating Officer Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group provided an update on activity around the Place Board. It was noted that the Gold Command Structure was now in operation.

**Resolved:** - That the update be noted.

**37. BETTER CARE FUND PLAN 2021-22**

Members of the Board considered the Better Care Fund Plan 2021/22.

**Resolved:** - That the documentation submitted to NHS England on 16th November, 2021, regarding the Better Care Fund Plan 2021/22, be noted.

**38. ROTHERHAM PUBLIC ICP PLACE BOARD**

Members of the Board considered the Minutes of meetings of the Rotherham Public ICP Place Board held on 7th July, 8th September, and 6th October 2021.

**Resolved:** - That the Minutes of meetings of the Rotherham Public ICP Place Board held on 7th July, 8th September, and 6th October 2021 be noted.

**39. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:** - That the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board be held on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022, commencing at 9.00 a.m. at a venue to be confirmed.

**PLANNING BOARD**  
**4th November, 2021**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Bird, A Carter, Cowen, R. Elliott, Fisher, Havard, McNeely, Sansome, Tinsley and Wilson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Castledine-Dack, Keenan, Lelliott and Wooding.

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

**49. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**50. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

**51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor A. Carter declared a prejudicial interest in applications:-

- RB2021/1372 - Reserved matters application (details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for the formation of a proposed motorway service area with details of access (comprising main service station building, car fuel filling station, HGV amenity building, HGV fuel filling station, formation of car, coach and caravan parking areas and associated works) (reserved by outline RB2017/1347) at Motorway Service Area Rotherway Brinsworth for Applegreen Plc
- RB2021/1385 - Erection of a Drive-thru unit (use class E) at land at junction 33 M1 Motorway Brinsworth for Applegreen Plc

on the grounds that he had already commented on the applications as a Ward Member.

Councillor A. Carter left the room during consideration of both applications.

**52. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.



**PLANNING BOARD - 04/11/21**

**53. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS**

There were no site visits recommended.

**54. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

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

(2) That the Reserved Matters application RB2021/1372 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report with the addition of an amendment to Condition 23 for the EV charging point expansions to be reviewed "periodically".

(3) That application RB2021/1385 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

**55. UPDATES**

The following update information was provided:-

(a) Public Inquiry

Further to Minute No. 47 of the meeting of the Planning Board held on 14th October, 2021 the Head of Planning confirmed an Inquiry Hearing Programme from the Planning Inspectorate for the virtual public inquiry was in the process of being circulated by email, following the refusal of planning permission and subsequent appeal for the erection of 116 No. dwellinghouses, landscaping, public open space and associated infrastructure at the Pitches Sports Club, Wickersley Road, Broom for Newett Homes Limited (RB2019/0539).

This would enable Members to join and observe the Public Inquiry detail.

**56. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

**PLANNING BOARD  
25th November, 2021**

Present:- Councillor Bird (in the Chair); Councillors A Carter, Castledine-Dack, Fisher, Havard, Keenan, Lelliott, Sansome, Tinsley and Wooding.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atkin, Cowen, R. Elliott, McNeely and Wilson.

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

**57. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**58. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

**59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Castledine-Dack did not speak or vote during consideration of this application on the basis of an objection being made by her employer.

**60. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

**61. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS**

There were no site visits recommended.

**62. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS - APPLICATION TO VARY CONDITIONS 03 (APPROVED PLANS), 09 (NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ACCESS USE) & 12 (TRAVEL PLAN) AND THE REMOVAL OF 11 (PARKING STANDARDS) & 14 (SOUTH ACCESS BARRIER). IMPOSED BY RB2018/1225 LAND OFF CUMWELL LANE HELLABY (RB2021/1506)**

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

**PLANNING BOARD - 25/11/21**

In accordance with the right to speak procedure, the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the application:-

Mr. D. Burn (Applicant)

Mr. C. Darley (in support of the Applicant)

Mrs. A. Rowley (on behalf of HCAG – Objector)

(2) That the application to vary conditions 03 (approved plans), 09 (northern and southern access use) and 12 (travel plan) and the removal of 11 (parking standards) and 14 (south access barrier). imposed by RB2018/1225 for land off Cumwell Lane, Hellaby be approved and be now subject to the conditions listed in the submitted report.

**63. UPDATES**

There were no updates to report.

**64. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

**PLANNING BOARD  
16th December, 2021**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Bird, A. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Cowen, Fisher, Havard, Keenan, Lelliott, McNeely, Sansome, Tinsley and Wooding.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elliott and Wilson.

The webcast of the Planning Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

**65. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**66. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

**67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

**68. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

**69. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS**

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

**70. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

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

In accordance with the right to speak procedure, the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the following applications:-

- Demolition of existing unlisted part converted barns and part built houses, conversion and extension of existing farmhouse to two dwellings and erection of 43 No. dwellinghouses at land at North Farm North Farm Close Harthill for Glen Saint and Newett Homes (RB2019/1474)

Ms. E. Lancaster (on behalf of the Applicant)

A statement was read out on behalf of Harthill with Woodall Parish Council (Objector).

A statement was read out on behalf of Mr. Rowland (Local Resident and Objector).

- Erection of 10 No. dwellinghouses with associated parking at land east of Crane Drive/Welling Way, Kimberworth for Campbell Homes Limited (RB2021/1336)

Mr. L. Watkins (Objector)

Mr. J. Krot (Objector)

(2) That, with regards to application RB2019/1474:-

(a) subject to a legal agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- Eleven Affordable Housing Units on site.
- A commuted sum of £22,500 towards sustainable travel encouragement.
- A commuted sum of £94,537.50 towards secondary education provision at Wales High School .
- Establishment of a Management Company to manage and maintain the areas of Greenspace on site and play equipment.

(b) subject to the satisfactory securing of such an agreement, the Council resolves to grant planning permission for the proposed development subject to the reasons for grant and conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That, with regards to application RB2021/1336:-

(a) subject to a legal agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- One x three bedroom bungalow to be delivered on site as an affordable housing unit. (Either plot 5 or plot 10)
- A commuted sum of £43,503.80 towards affordable housing provision within the Borough

(b) subject to the satisfactory securing of such an agreement, the Council resolves to grant planning permission for the proposed development subject to the reasons for grant and conditions listed in the submitted report.

## 71. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

**72. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**8th November, 2021**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Griffin and Hughes.

**LICENSING ACT 2003 - LICENCE - CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.51 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) TO REVIEW THE PREMISES LICENCE IN PLACE AT PIZZA PIZZA, 116 HIGH STREET, MALTBY, ROTHERHAM, S66 7BN.**

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003) to review the Premises Licence in place at Pizza Pizza, 116 High Street, Maltby, Rotherham S66 7BN.

The Council's Licensing Service (acting in its role as a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003) had made an application on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, to review the Premises Licence in place at Pizza Pizza. The application was submitted as a result of concerns around the management of the premises by the Licence Holder and the Designated Premises Supervisor following an incident of disorder in the vicinity of the premises.

The premises were licenced for late night refreshment and the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises only.

Following submission of the review paperwork, 3 additional responses had been received.

Following detailed discussions with the Licence Holder, significant improvements had been made in order to uphold the licensing objectives and satisfied that all conditions on the Premises Licence had been implemented and adhered to. All staff had been retrained and had a good understanding of the Licensing Act and there had been no further incidents in the immediate vicinity of the premises. Accordingly, the applicant for the review had withdrawn the review application. However, the 3 representations had not been withdrawn.

Mr. Koohi, Licence Holder, was in attendance at the hearing.

The Sub-Committee heard representations from Councillor Tinsley and Parish Councillor Biggin, on behalf of Maltby Town Council. Their objections centred around:-

- Lack of control around the sale of alcohol
- Anti-social behaviour in the area caused by the actions of the Premises Licence Holder

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 08/11/21**

- Failure to adhere to the conditions attached to the licence
- Lack of effective management of the activities taking place at the premises resulting in the licensing objectives being undermined

Mr. Koohi addressed the concerns raised by the objectors.

The Sub-Committee considered the application for the review of the Premises Licence and the representations made specifically in light of the following Licensing objectives (as defined in the 2003 Act):-

The prevention of crime and disorder

Public safety

The prevention of public nuisance

The protection of children from harm

Resolved:- That no further action be taken.



**LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE  
15th November, 2021**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Clark, Hughes and Wyatt.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Singleton.

**14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**15. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

The Chair authorised consideration of 2 urgent items both of which were considered in the absence of the press and public.

**16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair declared a Personal Interest in the House to House Collection application submitted by Bramley and Wickersley Lions Club (member of Wickersley Parish Council and a resident of Wickersley).

Councillor Clark declared a Personal Interest in the House to House Collection application by Rotherham Sitwell Rotary Club (former member).

**17. DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR A HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION PERMITS**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Licensing Manager concerning the following applications for the grant of promoter's permits to carry out a house-to-house collection:-

## LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE - 15/11/21

| Organisation   | Area                 | Date  |
|--|----------------------|---|
| UK Clothing Caravan Ltd. on behalf of Children with Cancer UK Charity  | Whole of the Borough | 18 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021 – 17 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022 |
| Just Helping Children Charity  | Whole of the Borough | 18 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021 – 31 <sup>st</sup> May, 2022     |
| Bramley and Wickersley Lions Club  | Whole of the Borough | December, 2021  |
| Members of Rotherham Sitwell Rotary Club and/or Rotherham Round Table on behalf of Cancer Research and Genetics UK | Whole of the Borough | 20 <sup>th</sup> November–24 <sup>th</sup> December, 2021       |

Resolved:- That, in accordance with the provisions of the House to House Collections Act 1939, the above applications be approved.

#### 18. DETERMINATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION PERMIT

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Licensing Manager concerning the following application for the grant of a promoter's permit to carry out a house-to-house collection:-

| Organisation                       | Area                 | Date   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Mexborough and District Lions Club | Manvers and Brampton | 9 <sup>th</sup> December – 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2021 |

Resolved:- That, in accordance with the provisions of the House to House Collections Act 1939, the above application be approved.

(Exempt under Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime))

#### 19. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM ROTHERHAM MBC HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY REQUIREMENT

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to an application from Mr. A. for an exemption from the Licensed Vehicle Age Policy (Appendix I to the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy).

In order to licence the vehicle, an exemption from the Council's requirements in relation to vehicle age was required. However, the owner had not provided documentation to confirm that the vehicle met the Council's exceptional condition criteria and, therefore, had been brought to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

The Sub-Committee considered the reasons for the request in detail.

Mr. A. and his representative were in attendance at the meeting.

Resolved:- That the request for an exemption from the Licensing Vehicle Age Policy in respect of vehicle XXX XRW be refused.

(Exempt under Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime))

**LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE  
20th December, 2021**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester, Hughes, Jones and McNeely.

**20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to record.

**21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**22. APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCE**

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

Mr. M.M. was in attendance at the meeting together with Mr. I.A. (supporter) and Mr. F. (interpreter)

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