



Council

Wednesday 5 October 2022
2.00 p.m.

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council



WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FACILITIES

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

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

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

Contact:- Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
governance@rotherham.gov.uk

Date of Publication:- **27 September 2022**

COUNCIL

Wednesday 5 October 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sharon Kemp)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

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

ASTON AND TODWICK

BACON, Joshua
BARKER, Aaron

AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST

PITCHLEY, Lyndsay
TAYLOR, Robert Paul

BOSTON CASTLE

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

BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD

MILLS, Lewis H.M.
REYNOLDS, Gregory

BRINSWORTH

CARTER, Adam J.
CARTER, Charlotte R.

DALTON AND THRYBERGH

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

DINNINGTON

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

GREASBROUGH

ALLEN, Sarah A.
ELLIOTT, Robert W.

HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST

ANDREWS, Jenny
BALL, Simon A.

HOOBER

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

KEPPEL

BROWNE, Tony
CLARK, Maggi
HAGUE, Paul

KILNHURST AND SWINTON (EAST)

CUSWORTH, Victoria
SANSOME, Stuart J.

MALTBY EAST

HUNTER, Lee J.
TINSLEY, Adam J.

RAWMARSH EAST

HUGHES, Rachel E.M.
SHEPPARD, David

RAWMARSH WEST

BIRD, Bob
THOMPSON, Jill

ROTHOR VALE

BROOKES, Amy C.
MIRO, Firas

ROTHORHAM EAST

COOKSEY, Wendy
HALEEM, Rukhsana B.
KHAN, Tajamal

ROTHERHAM WEST

AVEYARD, Ben
JONES, Ian P.
KEENAN, Eve

SITWELL

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

SWINTON ROCKINGHAM

MONK, Gina
WYATT, Ken

THURCROFT & WICKERSLEY

COLLINGHAM, Zachary A.
COLLINGHAM, Thomas R.

WALES

BECK, Dominic E.
HAVARD, Marnie A.

WATH

ATKIN, Alan
COWEN, Sheila A.

WICKERSLEY NORTH

ELLIS, Sue
HODDINOTT, Emma E.
READ, Chris

Council Meeting Agenda

Time and Date:-

Wednesday 5 October 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

Venue:-

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

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 9 - 79)

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 20th July, 2022, and to approve the accuracy thereof.

5. PETITIONS (Pages 81 - 85)

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

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive questions from members of the public who may wish to ask a general question of the Mayor, Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a

Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

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

10. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS (Pages 87 - 102)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11th July 2022.

11. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022 (Pages 103 - 116)

To approve the the Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22.

12. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2022-2025 (Pages 117 - 159)

To approve the recommendation from Cabinet - Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan for 2022-2025.

13. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - JULY FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23 (Pages 161 - 191)

To approve the recommendation from Cabinet - July Financial Monitoring 2022/23.

14. MEMBER LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPROVAL (Pages 193 - 196)

To approve a period of absence in line with the Elected Member Parental Leave Policy.

15. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - ROTHERHAM WEST - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS (Pages 197 - 199)

To receive updates from ward councillors from Rotherham West on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

16. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - ROTHERHAM EAST - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS (Pages 201 - 203)

To receive updates from ward councillors from Rotherham East on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION - GRANGE LANDFILL SITE

That this council notes:

Since 2016 there have been many complaints to the Environment Agency around the re-permitting of the Grange landfill site at Droppingwell. Despite the valiant efforts of the Droppingwell Action Group and numerous members of the public, the works carry on, without the proper level of scrutiny and regulation of the Environment agency. This has led to dozens of complaints that have been escalated to stage 2 and several are now sitting with the office of the parliamentary ombudsmen.

The council believes that:

Due to the ineffective nature of the Environment Agencies regulation, its inability to take any kind of enforcement action, the members of the public in Rotherham West and this council no longer have any confidence in the Environment Agency.

This council resolves that:

Mirroring the thoughts and wishes of the residents of Droppingwell, Blackburn and Kimberworth, this council should pass a motion of No Confidence in the Environment Agencies handling of the site.

That the Chief Executive be required to write to the head of the Environment Agency and the Government minister impressing on them the need for a full, open and transparent public enquiry into the re-permitting and ongoing lack of regulation of the site.

Proposed by Cllr Ian Jones

Seconded by Cllr Rob Elliot

18. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 205 - 223)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

19. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 225 - 228)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

20. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 229 - 239)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

21. STAFFING COMMITTEE (Pages 241 - 242)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

22. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE (Pages 243 - 247)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

23. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

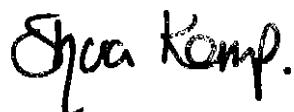
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council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

24. 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).

25. URGENT ITEMS

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.



SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on
30 November 2022 at 2.00 p.m.**

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**COUNCIL MEETING
20th July, 2022**

Present:- Councillor Khan (in the Chair); Councillors Allen, Atkin, Aveyard, Bacon, Baker-Rogers, Ball, Barker, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Bird, Brookes, Browne, Burnett, A. Carter, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Clark, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth, Elliott, Ellis, Griffin, Havard, Hoddinott, Hughes, Hunter, Jones, Keenan, Lelliott, McNeely, Monk, Pitchley, Read, Reynolds, Roche, Sansome, Sheppard, Tarmey, Taylor, Thompson, Tinsley, Whomersley, Wilson, Wooding and Yasseen.

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

32. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that he had held his Civic Service and Parade with local dignitaries, representatives, family and friends. Many of his events during his first 2 months in office had been associated with Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This included events organised by B:Friend Charitable Organisation, Aughton Junior Academy, Lime Tree Nursery and Rotherham Markets. Events included a street party in Wath, a garden party at Rotherham Hospital, and the Big Jubilee Lunch Garden Party at Clifton Park. The Mayor also visited Kimberworth Park Club 50+ and the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. The end of the Jubilee celebrations was marked by the Mayor lighting the beacon at Boston Castle and attendance at Sheffield Cathedral for a county-wide service of celebration.

Other events since Mayor Making included attendance at:

- Civic Services for other new Mayors
- A Citizenship Ceremony, honouring citizenship of new British residents
- The Thomas Rotherham College Art Exhibition
- The Rotherham Children's University Graduation event at Gullivers
- BME Young People and Carers CIC Celebration Event
- Laughton School Sports Day
- Brinsworth Academy Art/DT viewing and Summer Fayre
- Hairspray the Musical
- Rotherham Rep's Performance of Stepping Out
- Gillian Banks Theatre School Variety Show
- Get Up to Speed with Culture and Leisure Event
- Pakistan Muslim Centre in Sheffield.
- Harthill and District Garden Association's Village Garden Trail
- The Weekend of Discovery at Ulley Country Park
- Greasbrough Gala
- Brinsworth Parish Council Village Fete

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- The official opening of the Women's Euros exhibition at Clifton Park Museum
- The RUFC Exhibition opening at New York Stadium
- The opening of the Euros Fan Party
- Anston Cricket Club Garden Party
- The Mayor's Cup at Grange Park Golf Club

The Mayor also supported local businesses by meeting with representatives of AESSEAL UK and supported the civilian and armed forces at the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's 69th Recruits Graduation Ceremony and Armed Forces Day in Rotherham.

The Mayor had attended many local charity engagements so far with organisations such as Crossroads Care; South Yorkshire's Community Foundation; Rush House; Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice; Voluntary Action Rotherham. The Mayor had also attended the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust's 2022 Proud Awards.

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alam, Barley, Baum-Dixon, Fisher, Hague, Haleem, Mills, Miro and Wyatt.

34. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications received.

35. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 20th May and 25th May, 2022, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Allen

36. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

38. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One public question had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12:

(1) Waverley Community Council - The Waverley Community Council would like to know how RMBC will update its monitoring demographics going forward as the current calculations did not foresee the current demand?

The Clerk from Waverley Community Council was not able to attend the meeting and as such, a response would be provided in writing by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

39. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

40. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader stated his statement by acknowledging the families in Kiveton and Maltby who had lost their homes in fire during the previous days heatwave which was the hottest weather ever seen in the Borough. Council services and other partners were working to provide support to help those affected rebuild their lives. The Leader acknowledged the efforts of those members of the Council directly involved with supporting the emergency response and thanked the emergency services who had been working so hard in the heat to prevent even worse disasters. A major incident had been declared across South Yorkshire as the fire service, police and others were stretched by incidents across the area. The Leader stated that this was a reminder of not just the climate crisis faced and how it was not just some distant far-off challenge affecting other people, but also a reminder of how individual actions matter. He urged communities not to take risks with fire, keep themselves safe and do their bit to help the emergency services.

The Leader then focused on some of the great events that had been seen across the Borough recently including the Women's Euros which had put Rotherham on the map for all the right reasons, showing off the New York Stadium to an international audience. The Women of the World Festival took place in Clifton Park and the Leader had also celebrated Eid with the Mayor in the Town Hall.

The Annual Social Value Event was held at Gullivers Valley which gave the Council and private sector partners time to reflect on the progress made to create more jobs and apprenticeships for local people. More than £7m of social value commitments had been made since the policy was introduced 3 years ago.

The Leader confirmed that the Member Survey had been sent to all Elected Members to complete. Only 30 out of 59 Members had responded as yet so he encouraged those that had not provided comments to do so by getting in touch with the Head of Democratic Services or the Head of Neighbourhoods.

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With regards to the comments on Social Value, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that residents were seeing some of the benefits in Dalton and Thrybergh from the Chesterhill development. Most people would physically see it in the new bench that has been put in Thrybergh Country Park. That development alone has created local apprenticeships and supported existing ones. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked, roughly, how many apprenticeships the Council's Social Value Policy has helped create and support?

The Leader confirmed that he did not have that information available during the meeting and as such, a written response would be provided.

Councillor A. Carter echoed the Leader's comments regarding the fires and the work done by the emergency services. He wished to place on record the Liberal Democrat's sympathy with those that had lost their homes. Councillor A. Carter asked a question regarding Doncaster Sheffield Airport and whether action would be taken to safeguard its future? The Liberal Democrats believed that the Council should be doing everything it could to ensure South Yorkshire kept a commercial airport for the foreseeable future.

The Leader explained that the potential closure of Doncaster Sheffield Airport was the single biggest economic blow faced across South Yorkshire for some time. The Leader had met the previous week with the Mayor of South Yorkshire and other South Yorkshire Council Leaders to discuss the potential response. He believed this was the correct avenue to go down to make representations to Government. A meeting between the Leaders and the owners of the airport was taking place during the Council meeting to discuss the proposals. Leaders wanted to do everything they could to keep the Airport and maintain the benefits that the Airport brought. Given the scale of the numbers that the owners were talking about, the Leader believed Central Government would have to step in. The Leader hoped that the situation was not one of a private developer attempting to lever in public money to support their business or to extort public money in order to maintain that business. He urged the owners to get involved with the discussions that were taking place. The Leader would not promise to write a blank cheque.

Councillor Ball wished to echo the comments regarding the work of the emergency services during the heatwaves in the day prior to the meeting. He particularly thanked the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service who had been the first to respond to the calls in Maltby as other Services were that stretched. He also thanked Dronfield Fire Station. Councillor Ball asked if conversations could be held about who Elected Members could call in these situations. He noted that himself and Councillor Tinsley had been on the ground in Maltby and had tried every number they could but there was no specific contact number at that time. Councillor Ball thought it was worth a conversation for all Elected Members to have to get that contact number circulated? He also thanked Councillor Hoddinott for answering his calls on the matter.

Councillor Ball also referenced climate change and noted the large amounts of plastic in the Council Chamber. He stated that everyone had to start doing the small things and that there should not be this amount of plastic.

The Leader thanked Councillor Ball for his question and for the calls that he had made. It was confirmed that the emergency number would be circulated to all Members after the meeting. In relation to plastic, there was a commitment to phase out single-use plastic in the Council. Discussions were ongoing about whether removal of single-use plastic was the most carbon friendly way of providing packaging due to the energy that went in to providing alternatives. However, that was a wider discussion to be had and the Council were committed to doing less with single-use plastic.

41. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester referenced the Cabinet Minutes of 16th May, 2022, Minute No. 150, in relation to the school holiday voucher support. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester had asked a question at the Council meeting about this matter and it had been confirmed that the Council provide the funding but that it is up to the schools to design the schemes. Had there been any feedback from schools/SEND clubs in relation to broadening the choice for parents of where they can shop.

The Leader did not have that information and confirmed that a written response would be provided.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester also referenced the Cabinet Minutes of 20th June, 2022, Minute No. 10 and asked the Cabinet Member for Housing about Housing Strategic Acquisitions. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if there had been any serious looks at acquiring leaseholder properties that had been bought from the Council? There had been anecdotal evidence from people in Dalton and Thrybergh that the only people that got to buy these properties are private landlords which continues the cycle of privatisation of ownership. Could the Council look at this in the future and investigate the issues leaseholders might be having that leave them open to buybacks from the Council?

Councillor Brookes confirmed that she would look into the matter and asked Councillor Bennett-Sylvester to send her any information on the matter.

Councillor Ball asked about Coronation Park which he raised at the last Cabinet Meeting. He stated that he had attended the Park that week and there had never been as much glass. Councillor Ball asked what help could be provided for Coronation Park at this moment in time because it was dangerous? Children could not play there, dogs could not be walked there. Nothing could be done in the Park without a risk of harm.

Councillor Beck explained that the Council would support him as much as they could in turning round Coronation Park as there was a role for the Council. However, there was also a role for the police. It was not the Council's fault that every Monday morning the Park was generally in the state that it was. There was an issue of anti-social behaviour there which had been acknowledged by all and needed to be gotten on top off. Councillor Beck would be happy to facilitate site meetings/pull the relevant people together. The frequency of bin collections had been increased in the Park. However, it was acknowledged that work needed to be done together to resolve the issues.

Councillor A. Carter raised the Council Tax Rebate Scheme and stated that the matter had been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board a number of weeks ago. That review had found that a significant number of residents who had received cheques for the rebate had not yet cashed them. Councillor A. Carter stated that the Council had let those residents down as they had not received those much needed finances. He asked if any progress had been made and what the latest figures were?

The Leader explained that he would have checked the latest figures if he had been given notice. However, the clear majority of those cheques had been cashed and residents have taken that money. The Leader accepted that, for some people, the specific measure of using a cheque, had been a challenge and some of those people had missed out on some of that money because of the way they had needed to cash that. It was regrettable. The Leader, however, stated that if Members looked at the way the system was set up, comparing it to systems across the country that required applications, those residents impacted would not have even got applications in by the time Rotherham had sent cheques out. The 30 something councils that were using Post Office vouchers had also encountered issues in that it was a further month before those could be sent out and it relied on residents having access to a Post Office in order to receive that money. The Leader accepted the criticism about the problems some residents had had with cheques but reiterated that there was no great mechanism that would get money into all the pockets of those who need it easily. The Council did well to get the money out to residents quickly. As time passed by, the Council would chase up the people who had not been able to cash their cheques, would be able to issue reminders and possibly reissue cheques as well as bringing residents in to be able to physically hand over cash. Further, the Council could credit the money against Council Tax accounts where those people had tax outstanding. The fear was that those who needed it the most were probably the most likely to struggle to get it but that would have been the case no matter what system had been used.

Resolved:- That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 16th May and 20th June, 2002, be received.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Allen

42. AMENDMENTS TO APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND PANELS

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

Mover:- Councillor Allen

Seconder:- Councillor Read

The agreed nominations were:

Standards and Ethics

Parish Councillor Alan Buckley – to be added

Parish Councillor Monica Carroll – to be added

Mayoral Combined Authority Transport and Environment Board

Councillor Beck

Substitute - Councillor Lelliott

Mayoral Combined Authority Audit and Standards Committee

Councillor Ball

Substitute - Councillor Barley

43. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW ON EXTERNAL FUNDING

Councillor Lelliott introduced the report which had been presented to Cabinet in June 2022. All recommendations from the review had been accepted by Cabinet at that meeting and were in the process of being actioned. Councillor Lelliott thanked all those that had worked on the review.

Resolved:- That the Council notes that Cabinet approved the response to the Scrutiny Review Recommendations – External Funding.

Mover:- Councillor Lelliott

Seconder:- Councillor Read

44. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE OUTCOMES FROM THE SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT REVIEW ON SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS

Councillor Cusworth introduced the report which had been presented to Cabinet in June 2022. All recommendations from the review had been accepted by Cabinet at that meeting and were in the process of being actioned. Councillor Cusworth confirmed that an update would be provided at the Health Select Commission the week after Council on the

progress made with the actions. In seconding the report, Councillor Roche highlighted the transition for young carers into adulthood and echoed his support for the recommendations.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked what was being done to allow young carers to be children and enjoy their childhood? Councillor Cusworth explained that the Council were working with Barnardos to ensure that all young carers got a childhood. This included looking at access to leisure activities. Work was also ongoing with schools as the work Barnardos did started with 8 year olds but it was widely acknowledged that there were young carers younger than this. As such work, was ongoing with schools to help identify those children and support them where possible.

Councillor Thompson asked what the plan was to get the children on the waiting list for the support they needed as quickly as possible and if additional funding was required to ensure that all young carers received the right care at the right time, would that be made available now?

Councillor Cusworth stated that she would speak to officers outside of the meeting and provide a written response.

Resolved:- That Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations, as summarised in the Cabinet report at Appendix 1 and detailed in Appendix 2.

Mover:- Councillor Cusworth

Seconder:- Councillor Roche

45. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE OUTCOMES FROM THE SUB-GROUP ON POST-CSE SUPPORT SERVICES

Councillor Read introduced the report which had been presented to Cabinet on 16th May, 2022. All of the recommendations from the review had been accepted by Cabinet and were in the process of being actioned. In introducing the report, Councillor Read expressed his thanks to the sub-group for the review and acknowledged that it had taken longer than expected. The Council continued to try and provide the best support possible.

In seconding the report, Councillor Cusworth acknowledged the significant progress that had been made but confirmed that Scrutiny would continue to monitor the matter.

In response to a question from Councillor Bacon regarding Action C, it was confirmed that the action plan had been considered by the Improving Lives Select Commission and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board before being accepted by Cabinet. As such, it was not for Cabinet to change the recommendations. However, the Leader confirmed that he would have no objection to widening the discussions to include the Improving Lives Select Commission, but that was not a matter for him to decide. Councillor Pitchley, Chair of Improving Lives Select Commission,

confirmed that all Members were welcome to join discussions and any future sub-groups on this matter.

Councillor T. Collingham asked what support was available to young carers and for how long was that support available? The Leader explained that it completely depended on the individual situation. The initial pathway was time limited but the Council would also endeavour to offer as much support as they could as and when survivors required it.

Councillor Z. Collingham asked a question in relation to Action E which was about listening to survivors and the research at Sheffield Hallam University. He asked if it was an ambition of the Council to go beyond that research and organise independent engagement sessions with survivors, to keep it an on-going conversation about how survivors are finding services?

The Leader explained that it would be a changing picture over time. The situation the Council was in 5 years ago was not the situation the Council would find itself in now which would not be the situation the Council found itself in in 5 or 10 years' time. The Leader stated that the piece of work that Sheffield Hallam University was doing was very important and that was an independent verification of Adult Services doing what needed to be done and what were survivors saying about that within the safety of a private conversation with a third party organisation. The results would be an important indicator and could result in changes going forward. The Leader did not believe that that work was completed and was, therefore hesitant to pre-judge where it was. It was confirmed that once received, the results would be analysed and the Council would work out the best way forward.

Councillor Clark stated that this was the longest piece of work she had done as a Councillor. She asked if the Sheffield Hallam University research had been requested but no response received and also whether an all Members seminar would be held by the author of the report once it had been delivered?

The Leader confirmed that it was his understanding that the piece of work had not yet been concluded but he was confident that the report would be provided once it had. It was agreed that an all Members seminar would be held when the results were provided.

Resolved:- That Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations, as summarised in the Cabinet report at Appendix 1 and detailed in Appendix 2.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Cusworth

46. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE OUTCOMES FROM THE REVIEW GROUP ON THE ROTHERHAM COMMUNITY HUB

Councillor Roche introduced the report which had been presented to Cabinet on 20th June, 2022. All recommendations from the review had been accepted by Cabinet and were in the process of being actioned. In moving the report, Councillor Roche thanked those who had worked on the Community Hub throughout the Pandemic. In seconding the report Councillor Sheppard also recorded his thanks to the officers and volunteers involved with the Hub.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester and Councillor Yasseen praised the work of the Community Hub and noted the work of the local community.

Resolved:- That Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations, as summarised in the Cabinet report at Appendix 1 and detailed in Appendix 2.

Mover:- Councillor Roche

Seconder:- Councillor Sheppard

47. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2021/22 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report which explained that the Cabinet had considered a report detailing the proposals to update the Capital Programme for 2021/22 and the recommendation to note the Financial Outturn for 2021/22. On 11th July, 2022, the Cabinet had recommended that the report be presented to Council and that Council note the updated financial position as detailed in Appendix A to the report and approve the updated Capital Programme.

The report presented to Cabinet (Appendix A to the Council report) explained that the Revenue Budget 2021/22 was approved by Council on 3rd March, 2021. A budget of £235.7m was set for General Fund services; this excluded schools' budgets and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The 2021/22 Budget was supported by the use of £7.5m from the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve. However, given the availability of the £14m of Covid Funding covering the majority of the Council's Covid related costs, the use of this reserve had not been required. The Council had also been able to deliver a final outturn position of a £2.4m underspend, not through delivering fewer services but by being able to apply more Government funding to the outturn position than had originally been planned.

This was a helpful outturn position that included a positive trend of necessary cost reduction within some of the Council's key services including an increase of £2.4m into the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve along with some planned savings for 2022/23 already being achieved. It placed the Council in a more robust position heading into the 2022/23 financial year, more able to mitigate against cost pressures and

the financial challenges that were not evident at the time of setting the 2022/23 Budget such as the war in Ukraine, the significant rise in energy prices and inflation and to be more able to manage the impact rather than needing to consider making cuts in services.

The budgeted transfer from HRA reserves was reduced by £2.1m following the revenue and capital outturn positions. Cabinet also noted the carry forward of the combined schools balance of £3.794m in accordance with the Department for Education regulations as well as the reduced DSG deficit following receipt of Safety Valve funding.

The total of Corporate Reserves balances at the Financial Outturn 2021/22 was £65.8m, which was £6.1m more than the £59.7m estimated in the Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 report. The Budget Report 2022/23 planned for £7.1m use of reserves in 2022/23. Based on the 2021/22 Outturn position, that would leave a total of £58.7m Corporate Reserves at the end of the new financial year.

The Capital Programme 2021/22 totalled £144.347m split between the General Fund (£92.171m) and (HRA) £52.176m. As at the financial year end 31st March, 2022, the Capital Programme had expenditure of £104.9m, with underspend and slippage of £39.4m.

The Capital Programme 2022/23 had been reset at £285.283m split between the General Fund (£211.221m) and HRA (£74.062m). These programmes were higher than previous programmes due in the main to the following:

- Significantly increased government and external funding to support Town Centre redevelopment and Infrastructure programmes. Such as the Town Centre Fund, Future High Streets Fund and Transforming Cities Fund. Whilst this is positive, these resources are heavily time restricted and present a significant challenge for the Council to deliver.
- Slippage into the 2022/23 financial year from 2021/22 due to delays caused in part to the pandemic, inflation impacts and challenges from demand on suppliers in the sector, adding greater pressure on delivery to 2022/23.
- The Housing Growth Programme within the HRA programme, presents the ambition of the Council to expand and improve housing supply but also represents a sizeable challenge for delivery.

The 2022/23 programme had increased overall by £40.509m from the position reported to Cabinet in February 2022. The movement was based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes following the 2021/22 outturn position, factoring in slippage from 2021/22 of £36.930m and new grant funding of £3.579m. The total slippage from 2021/22 was £38.983m, £36.930m moving into 2022/23 and a further £2.053m re-

profiled across 2023/24 to 2025/26. Additional information on the Capital Programme was contained in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report submitted.

In introducing the report, the Leader confirmed that the Financial Outturn was slightly better than expected as more money had been received from the Government than expected. It was reported that Capital projects were under pressure nationally and the Capital Programme had been adjusted to reflect that. However, there were no fundamental changes.

Councillor Z. Collingham asked if it was possible for the data in relation to the percentage of Capital Programme expenditure that had been delivered against the budget could be provided for previous years (prior to 2020/21?) The Leader confirmed that he would speak to officers and provide a written response.

Councillor T. Collingham highlighted that Regeneration and Environment were particularly behind in delivering planned capital expenditure due largely to delays with the Parkway, Ickles Lock Project and Pothole Funding Allocation. Councillor T. Collingham appreciated that costs went up and that could result in financing deals but asked if there were any lessons to learn about the project management and planning ahead for the timely use of Pothole Grant Funding?

The Leader explained that the challenges with the Parkway Widening Scheme were mainly due to the size of the project. The Leader understood that there had been some slippages due to delays in different phases of the Scheme which moved the numbers around but the expectation was that it would be completed broadly on schedule. In relation to the Pothole Funding Allocation, the Leader explained that it was a late allocation from Government which took several months to get through the system to Rotherham, hence it was difficult to spend in the allocated time. This was because there were only so many employees working on potholes based on the agreed budget and it was then difficult to put into effect an immediate expansion of works. It was expected that this would smooth out over the next year. The challenge across all projects was having enough project management capacity; some was bought from the private sector and the rest was provided in-house.

Councillor Burnett raised that Regeneration and Environment had overspent by £3.1m with over half of that funding Home to School Transport. The Outturn response mentioned improvements that were underway that would go someway to reducing those costs. Councillor Burnett asked what those improvements were and how big of an impact where they expected to make?

The Leader explained that additional money had been provided as it was acknowledged that it was inadequate last year. Further, a review had been ongoing for a number of years in the way that the service was delivered. The Policy had been changed 3 or 4 years ago with an emphasis on moving away from providing a door-to-door service (single

use taxis or minibuses) which was an expensive way of providing the service and could be quite deskilling. This was because some of the children using the service would become independent travellers and need to know how to use public transport. This meant taxis and minibuses were not helping their development. However, it was acknowledged that it was a very reassuring service for families when a taxi turned up every morning. Moves were being made towards more independent travelling or grants to allow families to sort their own arrangements. There had been some learning about the cost implications and the Council were continuing to work through that process.

The other aspect of the increased cost of Home to School transport was the fact that around 10% more children were now eligible for the service each year which was a real challenge. Work was going on between Children and Young People's Services, who were responsible for the assessment and making sure the child was catered for, and Regeneration and Environment who were responsible for providing the transport. The work included trying to match up those services in an efficient way. However, it was expected that the budget would have to continue to rise for the foreseeable future to address the demand.

Councillor Bacon stated that the outturn response acknowledged the principle of using the Council's reserves to manage or mitigate difficult times yet the Cabinet continued to add to reserves during a budget surplus, a war and an international cost of living crisis. He asked how much more difficult did times need to get?

The Leader reiterated that the Council's finances were in a stronger position at present than expected which was a good thing for the Council and Council Tax payers. However, the current in-year forecast was for an overspend of around £7.5m which would easily wipe out that, the money that the Conservative Group wanted to spend on Council Tax support during the budget setting process plus some. Further, the Cost of Care exercise was saying that, to continue the current provision of Adult Social Care, would cost an extra £4.5m in the next year. That totalled around £10m with nothing changing whatsoever and if that continued, the reserves position would be unsustainable within 3 years. If that happened, the Government could intervene which has been seen at councils across the country.

The Leader did not accept that everything was fine and, therefore, the money could just be spent. The Council would continue to take sensible decisions on behalf of the Council Tax payers of Rotherham, run a sustainable budget and it would not get into the financial difficulties other councils had. That included providing services to those that needed them the most and being on the side of social justice.

Councillor Tarmey stated that, unlike previous years, the picture presented was one of an underspend and increasing reserves. He asked if the Leader agreed that it was time to review spending plans as a result

of the favourable position the Council found itself in? The Council had not managed to spend all of the funds on Capital Projects due to the pandemic but he asked if there was an opportunity to be doing more, modestly, for local communities as was suggested in the Liberal Democrat budget amendment earlier in the year?

The Leader stated that he did not think the Council were in a position to do that for the reasons outlined in the previous answer. However, the issues raised would be reviewed as part of the budget setting for 2023/24 when looking at what things cost, what resources were therefore available and the impact of that on Council Tax and the Council's services. With inflation being 10% at the time of the question, the Leader could not give any guarantees.

Councillor A. Carter stated that he believed the outturn report showed that in the midst of a pandemic and cost of living crisis, the Council had not been able to help the residents who needed it the most or keep the capital projects moving forward. The report also showed in paragraph 2.1 that, despite the one year underspend surprise, after years of overspending, that the Council had not learnt its lesson in that an overspend of more than what was saved in the previous year was anticipated for the forthcoming year. Councillor A. Carter said it was very disappointing that he was worried about the state of the finances.

Councillor Wooding stated that, in light of the inflation crisis which he believed was not being covered sufficiently, every single day the Council was losing £25,000 of reserves in real value. With everything considered, he asked what steps were being taken to assess the real risk of inflation to the reserves and the fact that social value was being withheld from residents?

The Leader explained that the Council continued to undertake a robust treasury management position which had saved in excess of £7m a year, each year for the last 3 or 4 years. The officers had taken a responsible position as inflation rose and as interest rates rose to protect the Council's financial position against that. If the Council were simply sitting on assets, the Leader stated that Councillor Wooding would have been right, the assets would be depreciating in value. However, because officers were being proactive, it protected against those risks.

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 2.83 to 2.86 of the report to Cabinet on 11th July, 2022, and Appendices 1 to 4 be approved.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Allen

48. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

Consideration was given to the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22. The report, circulated with the agenda, highlighted a number of examples where Scrutiny had led to meaningful outcomes, such as:-

- Work with Rotherham Youth Cabinet
- Town Centre Masterplan Implementation
- Budget and Financial Scrutiny
- Equalities Outcomes
- Scrutiny of Mental Health Services
- Access to Health Services work
- Health Inequalities work
- Review of Post CSE Support
- Spotlight review of Rotherham's Cultural Strategy
- Domestic Abuse Work and Youth Reoffending
- Safeguarding
- Markets Review
- External Funding Sources Spotlight Review
- Work on Housing Energy Efficiency, Roads Maintenance, Fly-tipping, Bereavement Services, Rough Sleepers, Housing Policies. Tree Services, Town Centre Regeneration and Recycling

In introducing the report, Councillor Clark, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, thanked the officers who had helped write the report and noted the change of format. She highlighted the range of activities carried out by the Board and the 3 Select Commissions and noted how Scrutiny linked with the Council's priorities. The work and commitment of all Members involved in Scrutiny was praised.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

49. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM RAWMARSH EAST WARD COUNCILLORS

Further to Minute No. 55 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th November, 2018, consideration was given to the annual Ward updates for Rawmarsh East as part of the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy.

The Strategy signalled a new way of working for the Council both for Members and for staff and covered every Ward in the Borough delivered through Ward Plans developed with residents to address local issues and opportunities. Ward Members were supported by the Neighbourhood Team and worked with officers and residents from a range of organisations to respond to residents.

Update reports had been provided as part of the agenda. However, each Ward Member was invited to speak.

Councillor Sheppard and Hughes provided an update on Rawmarsh East:

- There were 4 Ward Priorities:
 - o Improving the physical environment
 - o Facilities and activities for children and young people
 - o Explore opportunities to improve the Health and Wellbeing of local residents
 - o Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Work had been carried out on problem parking on the grass verges on Green Lane
- For Remembrance, the area was decorated with over 3,000 lamppost poppies
- The Friends of Rawmarsh Cemeteries Group was being developed and work had continued with the Friends of Rawmarsh and Parkgate Greenspaces
- It was hoped that the Towns and Villages Funding works would be completed in time to enhance events planned for 2023 such as the Parkgate 2000 year commemorations
- A consultation event was due to take place in Sandhill Park to discuss improvements
- Work continued with Rawmarsh Library with lots of activities planned
- The Summer Reading Challenge was being done again for 2022.
- Partnership working continued with community centres
- Work was ongoing to combat loneliness and isolation
- Funding had been secured for new play equipment
- Neighbourhood walkabouts continued to take place to combat crime and anti-social behaviour. Ring doorbells had also been installed for some residents to aid with this.

Resolved:-

- 1) That the report be noted.

Mover:- Councillor Sheppard

Seconder:- Councillor Hughes

50.

THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM RAWMARSH WEST WARD COUNCILLORS

Further to Minute No. 55 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th November, 2018, consideration was given to the annual Ward updates for Rawmarsh West as part of the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy.

The Strategy signalled a new way of working for the Council both for Members and for staff and covered every Ward in the Borough delivered through Ward Plans developed with residents to address local issues and opportunities. Ward Members were supported by the Neighbourhood Team and worked with officers and residents from a range of organisations to respond to residents.

Update reports had been provided as part of the agenda. However, each Ward Member was invited to speak.

Councillor Bird provided an update on Ward activity:

- There were 4 Ward Priorities:
 - o Improvements to the local community
 - o Facilities and activities for local people
 - o Ensure Rosehill Park was a well used resource and was accessible to all ages and abilities
 - o Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Councillor Bird thanked neighbourhood and housing officers for their work.
- The Friends of Rawmarsh Green Spaces had visited schools
- Further funding had been secured for additional lighting and a new CCTV system.
- A new walk had been established which would be signposted.
- There were many events planned in Rosehill Park for the school holidays.

Councillor Z. Collingham placed on record his thanks to Councillor Thompson for her work in Rawmarsh West Ward.

Resolved:-

1) That the report be noted.

Mover:- Councillor Bird

Seconder:- Councillor Allen

51. **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

Resolved:- That Council received and considered minutes and recommendations of the Health and Wellbeing Board and confirmed the minutes as a true record.

Moyer:- Councillor Roche

Seconder:- Councillor Cusworth

52. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

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

Mover:- Councillor Ellis

Seconder:- Councillor McNeely

53. PLANNING BOARD

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

Mover:- Councillor Atkin

Seconder:- Councillor Bird

54. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

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

Mover:- Councillor McNeely

Seconder:- Councillor Griffin

55. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There were no questions.

56. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

(1) Councillor Whomersley stated that RMBC confirmed they have 30 Electric Vehicle Public Chargers. He asked, in the month of April 2022, what number of these chargers where open to public usage?

Councillor Beck answered: all of them.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Whomersley asked what the cost of those public charges were or was there a cost?

Councillor Beck explained that he would have to speak to officers and provide a written response.

(2) Councillor Whomersley stated that it is estimated that in the UK, almost 30% of all cars on the road in 2027 will be electric. That is just over 9 million. Currently RMBC have 30 public chargers. To avoid gridlock, what is the plan to increase the number of charges in Rotherham within the next 5 years?

Councillor Beck explained that as of May 2022 the total public provision in the Borough was 89 fast charging bays and 59 rapid charging bays. This was amongst the highest in the region, when expressed as charging sockets per 100,000 population. A further 6 rapid chargers were due to be installed in the next 9 months as part of a South Yorkshire-wide project at 3 locations at Drummond Street, Constable Lane and Douglas Street. The completion of this project would mean that nowhere in the Borough would be more than 5 miles from a Council operated public charging socket.

A further application has been submitted to the Government for £1.6m of funding to install 32 charging points on Drummond Street carpark. This will include 4 rapid and 8 ultra-rapid chargers, and, crucially, a solar power canopy to provide renewable energy to the chargers. Finally, in the budget – which Councillor Whomersley voted against – Cabinet had allocated a capital funding allocation of £173k to fund a pilot of a residential charging hub, and work is ongoing to identify the best location

for this. There was a lot happening and the Cabinet were also wanting to do more so that it what they were doing.

(3) Councillor Ball asked how many home electric charging points had been added to new builds in an effort to combat climate change?

Councillor Beck explained that the Council did not have any easily identifiable way of saying how many properties had EV charging points in the Borough. However, in June 2020, the Council adopted a Supplementary Planning Document which stipulated that for a development of 10 or more dwellings, a vehicle charging point had to be provided. Since then, through Planning, we know that there have been in the region of 1,600 homes that have been granted planning permission with electric charging facilities since we tightened Planning rules in relation to this. As more and more planning projects came forward and developments of a certain size proposed, they should have more electric charging points installed as part of the construction.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Ball asked whether these would be moved onto a 3-phase system to future proof?

Councillor Beck explained that he did not know the answer to that question and as such, a response would be provided in writing.

(4) Councillor Griffin stated that the Women's Euros had been one of the biggest things to come to Rotherham for a number of years. He recognised that they were still ongoing, but was the Cabinet Member able to give some assessment of their success so far? And did he believe there will be a legacy for the town, especially in respect of women's sport?

Councillor Sheppard explained that the Women's Euros had been a fantastic event for the town with 3ee Fan Parties and matches delivered to date and the quarter final to follow on Saturday.

Match 1 welcomed France and Italy to 8,541 spectators (the game actually sold out); with more than 3,000 people who enjoyed Fan Party activities across the Town Centre.

Match 2 saw 8,173 people attend for the Belgium v France game. The Fan Party took place again in the town centre with an estimated audience of 6,500 enjoying music, dance, food and sport.

Match 3 on Monday (France v Iceland) had an attendance of 7,392 and a great number of fans (especially from Iceland) in the fan zones.

As well as the games themselves there had been a huge amount of other activities linked to the tournament, including schools' engagements, a volunteer's programme, exhibitions and events at Clifton Park and the Museum and through Libraries to provide a legacy of Women's sport.

19 females had undertaken their “Introduction to Football” Coaching qualification.

18 girls had undertaken Referee Awards. These new referees would be used within school competitions and also local clubs. That was over quadruple what would have been aimed for.

5 people had qualified as Soccercise deliverers to help engage with a new audience and bring basic football skills into fitness classes.

New Shields had been funded for girls’ school competitions so schools would be able to continue the legacy of the women’s Euro’s for the next 10 years during each competition.

3 young females attended the National FA Leadership Academy.

Additional participation figures were held by the Youth Sport Trust and the FA. Councillor Sheppard stated that it really had been a fantastic event so far.

(5) Councillor Hoddinott asked would the Cabinet Member thank all those involved in bringing the Women's Euros to Rotherham and contributing to a wonderful event?

Councillor Sheppard stated that he fully agreed that all those involved in bringing the Women's Euros to Rotherham did indeed deserve a big thank you. It had been such an uplift to the town and anybody who had been walking through the town centre, even on non-match days, would have seen the extra buzz and colour about the place. We were one of only 10 host towns or cities so it was a real achievement to have 3 group games that had already been played and the Quarter Final here on Saturday was still to come.

As well as the football itself there had been so many other activities as part of this event, such as:-

- Specific Sporting themed shows at Rotherham Theatre
- A schools programme focused on positive role models, sports and hobbies
- 22nd May launch event at Clifton Park
- Fan Party Zones in the Town Centre on the day of the games
- A specific exhibition, Grass Roots to Glory, at Clifton Park Museum celebrating Women's football and especially the history in Rotherham which would run until October.
- Lots of volunteers have supported the fan parties, with many more supporting the town centre dressing programmes such as Knit Off to Kick Off.

Councillor Sheppard thanked all those that had volunteered and supported the events so far. The trees in the town centre have been adorned with colourful knitworks so thanked all the volunteers from Knit Off To Kick Off groups.

Finally, Councillor Sheppard mentioned the positive impact of the Women's Euros not only for the town but also for the people and especially the children and young people. Seeing so many children and young people at the matches, with smiling faces and for many probably the first time they had been to a football game was absolutely fantastic. The atmosphere created was wonderful and the enjoyment and sheer spectacle of seeing world class football on a world stage coming to Rotherham was brilliant.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Hoddinott stated that it was amusing that Rotherham had been updated to a Host City given that it was a town but it showed the status of the competition. Councillor Hoddinott thanked the Cabinet Member for mentioning the volunteers and celebrating what they had done. Over 100 volunteers had helped to make this happen alongside the staff and have been advocates for Rotherham. Councillor Hoddinott asked if the Council recognised that?

Councillor Sheppard explained that so many people had been hosted in Rotherham, not just from other areas within England, but from France, Belgium, Iceland, Italy and the Netherlands. The work done by the volunteers had been fantastic, especially in the trying circumstances of the heatwave. Councillor Sheppard thoroughly backed Councillor Hoddinott's request to celebrate the volunteers and would look into what could be done.

(6) Councillor Baker-Rogers stated that imminent cuts to bus services were going to leave residents of Thrybergh with no 116 service in the evenings and no buses on Sundays. She asked what action the Council would be taking to prevent this totally unacceptable reduction in services occurring?

Councillor Beck agreed that it really was worrying that as many as a third of South Yorkshire's bus services could be lost before the end of the year if the Government funding was to end as was the threat. If it did happen, it would be a cumulation of at least a decade of underfunding and missed promises on funding public bus services in South Yorkshire and across the country.

Councillor Beck explained that the cuts to services, such as the 116, were a result of commercial decisions taken by operators due to the reduction in fare income as Government support was withdrawn after the pandemic. Back in March, the representations made by the previous South Yorkshire Mayor and the Leaders of the South Yorkshire Councils helped to persuade the Government to extend that funding until October. However,

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whilst they continued to make that argument, at the moment the Government was saying there would be no more money.

Rotherham, alongside its colleagues across South Yorkshire, had already pumped £1.7m into protecting bus services between April and October 2022, and in the week following Council, the MCA would consider a plan to commit up to a further £5.5m to protect non-statutory school bus services.

Councillor Beck stated that the local resources would fall short of what was needed to keep all local services afloat in October, which was why the Council was lobbying the Government to extend the emergency Covid funding over the next 3 years and keep the buses running until bus use was much more like the level it was at before the pandemic. This was important as it affected all communities. Some of the worst case scenarios were horrifying. Councillor Beck stated that the Government needed to provide the money to aid buses to support the Climate Change agenda and encourage residents to get out of their cars.

(7) Councillor A. Carter stated that 2 months after Mayor Coppard's election (on a promise to improve bus services) residents were seeing drastic cuts to buses in Brinsworth leaving those who relied on public transport cut off. He asked whether the administration agreed that this was unacceptable and that the Mayor should get to work using the powers available to him to stop bus cuts from happening?

The Leader stated that, if by those powers available to him, Councillor A. Carter meant franchising powers, he could assure Councillor A. Carter that the Mayor was at work on that; he had a commitment to that and work was funded and underway. But to be clear, there was no Mayor anywhere in the country who could make bus companies run buses were they did not want to run them. The Mayor of Greater Manchester could not do that, the Mayor of London could not do that. When contracts were being offered, which was what a franchising system was, companies were still required to take them on. Nobody could force them to do it. The Leader was clear that the problem was not just a failure of regulation but a lack of resources. When bus usage was down 30% on pre-Covid level, bus operators were only able to fill that gap for so long and the Government was needed to step in and fill that gap.

Councillor Beck had already referred to the £7million of South Yorkshire resources that were being put in to avoid some of the worse case scenarios. On a South Yorkshire footprint, there was not the level of resources needed over the medium term to get bus services back up and running.

The Leader advised Councillor A. Carter to support Labour's campaign to get the Government to give the money needed to support residents.

In his supplementary, Councillor A. Carter agreed that the Government should be doing more to fund local buses. He also stated that the Government did not seem to expect local roads to make a profit so he was not sure why they expected buses to make a profit on some of the rural routes. Councillor A Carter expressed his appreciation for the work being done on residents' behalf to lobby the Government. He hoped the Members from all parties could support that fight. He asked if, given the scale of cuts being seen across the Borough and particularly in Brinsworth, did the administration regret the decision not to commit Council funding to help ensure that bus franchising throughout South Yorkshire could potentially happen quicker in the Liberal Democrat Motion from earlier in the year?

The Leader stated that he did not regret the decision as they had moved ahead on the franchising plan as quickly as the agreements and arrangements could be put in place in South Yorkshire to do that. That was not an issue of resourcing but was a matter of trying to make sure that all parties at the table were in agreement. That was the position that had been got to and it was appreciated that other parts of the country had got their quicker but South Yorkshire was there now and the Mayor was quite clear about his position of re-regulating buses. Over the coming months and years, the Leader expected that to play out.

(8) Councillor Whomersley stated that, unfortunately, waste bins continued to be a problem in the Borough. The bin on the park next to Hangman Lane, Dinnington, was unemptied for 6 weeks. Sadly, this was piled high with dog waste bags. What was the current issue and what is being done to sort out this unacceptable problem?

Councillor Beck explained that the bin in the park next to Hangman Lane was the responsibility of Thurcroft Parish Council. Officers had contacted the Parish Council to make them aware of the issues that had been raised.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Whomersley stated that he had spoken to Thurcroft Parish Council on Monday (18th July, 2022) and they stated that they had spent 2 weeks trying to speak to someone at RMBC but had not had any response. He asked Councillor Beck if he could expediate that?

Councillor Beck stated that the inference there could be that they were not taking notice of what RMBC thought was the position. RMBC were led to believe that it was not their bin but officers would try and resolve it because one way or another, it needed someone to empty it.

(9) Councillor C. Carter asked whether the Cabinet Member would commit to improving lighting and installing CCTV around the Brinsworth Road/Broadway junction where continued anti-social behaviour is affecting residents?

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As Councillor Alam was not present at the meeting, a written response would be provided to Councillor C. Carter.

(10) **Councillor Ball** asked, yes or no, has any of the Cabinet or fellow Councillors paid a visit to Rwanda?

The Leader answered no.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Ball stated that after being goaded by a Councillor who brought this motion to the Chamber asking Members if they had been to Rwanda to see for themselves, it was rather surprising to learn that they had not been either. This was despite the Head of the Commonwealth going, the Prime Minister going plus the Home Secretary. The motion offered no solution to the problem so Councillor Ball suggested that all of those that passed the motion email him with their address and name, and he could then contact the Home Office offering their house to an unverified person where it was not known where they had come from. Councillor Ball asked the Leader if that was something he would be filling in?

The Leader responded by saying that if he was Councillor Ball, he would not try reliving the experience of that motion as it did not work out very well for him. The Leader stated that the situation Councillor Ball described was exactly the Government's policy with regard to Ukrainian refugees. Following comments made from Councillor Ball that those refugees had passports, the Leader asked if we were doing this solely on documentation now? Did it matter about people's lives or were we just checking documents? Was that the country we had become?

The Leader stated that it used to be the thing about Britain that it was the place where you did not need paperwork, paperwork was what those foreigners did on the continent. He asked if that was what we had go to?

The Leader came back to the issue on Rwanda by stating that, in yesterday's The Times, "that lefty rag", it said that in May last year, Joanne Lomas, the UK High Commissioner to Rwanda, warned that the country should not be pursued as an option for this for various reasons. She warned that the country had been accused of recruiting refugees to conduct armed operations in neighbouring countries. In an internal memo she said that Rwanda had a heavy handed security system meaning it was a risk to migrants if they did not follow rules and a poor Human Rights record regarding the conventions it has signed up to. The advice to the Home Secretary on 13th April, 2022, was that the agreement was unenforceable and there was a very high risk that the £120million that the Government had paid to the Rwandan Government would be lost to fraud. The Leader stated that the High Commissioner to Rwanda had said it was a bad deal.

The US State department had said that there were significant Human Rights issues including arbitrary killings and torture in Rwanda. The Leader stated that the American Government, not known for being soft liberal types, thought it was a bad idea.

The Leader quoted the daughter of a Civil Rights campaigner in Rwanda who had said that there was no hope migrants would be spared abuse; that was the view from experts within the country. The Leader then quoted that Chief Inspector of Boarders in the UK who had said that he had seen no evidence that it acted as a deterrent.

The Leader stated that it was quite clear that this was a bad policy that had come about because the Conservative Government had taken the resources out of the asylum system so that they were now processing half the number of claims now then they were 5 years ago. The system was broken because the Conservative Government had broken it and innocent people would get hurt as a result.

(11) Councillor C. Carter asked what the Council's approach to trimming hedgerows on Council owned and Council maintained land during bird nesting season was?

Councillor Beck explained that the Council maintained its hedgerows in accordance with the relevant legislation that governs this area of work and all local authorities had to work under that. The Council therefore concentrated on the maintenance of the hedges and shrubs between August and February to avoid harming birds, their eggs or the nests. However, the Council did on occasion have to prune hedges, shrubs and other vegetation between February and August, especially if health and safety or accessibility issues needed to be addressed. If works were needed in this period, then attention was given to minimise any harm to birdlife and other wildlife.

In her supplementary, Councillor C. Carter stated that she had been contacted by a resident who was concerned that some hedgerow near them had been cut during the season. As such, Councillor C. Carter asked if she could have a copy of the policy on hedgerows and hedge management and further detail on what training was provided to the operators to ensure that they were aware of the policy?

Councillor Beck explained that he would ensure that the policy was provided. It was something that the Council was very sensitive to. There was a particular case that Councillor Lelliott was involved with where a vociferous resident who would like a long stretch of hedgerow maintaining and pruning back but the Council had insisted that this work could not be done at the moment. Councillor Beck was reassured that the proper processes were being followed but if things were going wrong he would like to know about it.

(12) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked for a comment on the circumstances around the demise of the one time popular Rotherham Walking Festival and the possibility of it being revived?

Councillor Sheppard explained that the Rotherham Walking Festival led by the Council was last held more than 10 years ago and due to the passage of time he did not have formal information as to why it ceased. However, Councillor Sheppard was happy to receive any information Councillor Bennett-Sylvester may have on the festival and why it stopped. The Council had no plans at present to revive this festival.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that in its heyday, this was a very popular tourist event to bring people into Rotherham and one of the best resources Rotherham had was its countryside. Could it be looked at by a working party within the tourism framework as it was incredibly successful and could be useful in terms of creating those good habits in terms of promoting walk ways, walking to school etc? It was very successful and would be a great way of bringing people back into the Borough.

Councillor Sheppard stated that it sounded like a great festival and something he would have loved to have been a part of had he been in the area at the time. He agreed to pick up the matter outside of the meeting with Councillor Bennett-Sylvester and local ramblers group.

(13) Councillor Aveyard stated that he was pleased to see Meadowbank Road pedestrian crossing was approved at Cabinet recently. He asked if the Cabinet Member could outline how the Council was supporting road safety improvements across the Borough moving forward?

Councillor Beck thanked the current and previous Ward Councillors for this area for working tirelessly to get the much needed crossing on Meadowbank Road. Councillor Beck was pleased to approve this crossing as one of 5 crossings that would be installed over the next few years which was part of the wider Road Safety Programme with over £2m just for road safety improvements across the Borough. The works would include road crossings as well as a range of other interventions, some of which had already been done and some which would be done over the coming few years.

Councillor Beck stated that the £2m was money that the opposition voted against at the budget, and it had been an entirely political decision from the Labour group to provide funding over and above the measly grant funding received from Government.

It was confirmed that the Meadowbank Road crossing would be installed later in the financial year and Councillor Beck hoped that, through the local Road Safety Programme, Members had submitted their proposals so that many more improvements could be provided across the Borough.

(14) Councillor C. Carter asked if the Cabinet Member agreed that the Council should introduce an “adopt a tree” scheme for any new trees planted to ensure that trees which were vital for tackling the climate emergency thrive?

Councillor Sheppard explained that the Council operated a number of engagement programmes that helped local people to play an active role in supporting the environment and he would be happy to speak to Councillor C. Carter to find out more about this scheme.

In her supplementary, Councillor C. Carter stated that it was excellent that many new trees have been planted on Bawtry Road, Brinsworth. However, these trees had been suffering in the recent heat and residents had contacted Elected Members to say that the trees were a bit worse for wear. Brinsworth Members were in discussions with officers about introducing an adopt a tree scheme for Brinsworth and it would be good to see that become the default across the Borough when any new trees are planted. Councillor C. Carter asked how could it be ensured that such a policy was put in place when so many new trees were planted?

Councillor Sheppard explained that the important thing was to get as many of the trees that had been planted to survive through to maturity to do the job that was required which was to green up the landscape and help combat climate change. Councillor Sheppard would take the matter back to officers for discussions.

(15) Councillor Ball asked how many air/ground source heat pumps have been installed after signing the Climate Emergency Motion?

Councillor Lelliott explained that the Council was committed to installing air/ground source heat pumps before the Climate Emergency was declared. The Council had already installed ground source heating at Moorgate Crofts and Breathing Spaces, and air source heating at Harthill Community Centre, Rother Valley Country Park, Aston Customer Service Centre, Rawmarsh Customer Service Centre and the Ann Rhodes Centre in Brampton.

Within the housing stock there had been 2 residential properties that had had air source heat pumps installed, with a further 14 coming through the development programme – 10 in the East Herringthorpe small sites scheme, 3 from the Thrybergh small sites scheme and one from an acquisition at Welling View in Kimberworth.

The Council had developed a Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) which focussed on operational buildings with heating systems that were at end-of-life, and decarbonisation surveys had been carried out on eligible buildings to inform what works were needed.

In the adopted budget there was £6.5million set on one side for the Decarbonisation Plan to be spread out across the year. The Council was working on this and at the end of it, the Council would have a full site survey so moving forward, external funding could be applied for. The matter would be brought to the working group where Councillor Ball would be able to give his input.

In his supplementary, Councillor Ball stated that it had been 993 days since the Council declared the Climate Emergency and he stated that things needed to be done faster on this. The Council had to do the small things and start growing. The numbers provided were minimal and it had to be rolled out on all the housing stock. It should be the standard. The Council should not be putting gas boilers in that were burning stuff, it had to be the standard. Councillor Ball asked Councillor Lelliott if that was something she would be looking at?

Councillor Lelliott explained that of course she agreed that everything should be the standard. The Council had the deadlines of 2030 and 2040 within their climate agenda. £6.5million had already been committed from the budget to move forward with this issue and Housing colleagues were working on the matter as well. Once their plans were done and the Decarbonisation Plan was done, external funding would be available.

Councillor Lelliott stated that it was a national crisis and the fires/burning houses and fields from the recent heatwave demonstrated this. The Climate Emergency was a commitment of the Conservative Government but there had been talk about them stepping back from that. Whilst the Government was committed to it and the Council was committed to it, the Government had never put their money where their mouth is. Councillor Lelliott called on the Conservative Government to stop fighting amongst themselves, show the Council the money and help the Council to get to where it needed to get to in relation to climate change.

(16) Councillor Tinsley asked why privately owned vans were not allowed into the household recycling centre on Lidget Lane, Bramley?

Councillor Beck explained that the policy that the Council had required private vans to have a permit to access any of the 4 Household Waste Recycling Sites. This policy was in place to prevent businesses operating without the correct license or contracts in place to dispose of commercial waste. Household Waste Recycling Centres across the Borough existed to benefit residents, and this kind of policy operated in many other parts of the country.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley stated that he did not believe that Lidget Lane was one of those 4 sites referred to that accepted permits for vans so why could Lidget Lane not accept permits and also did the Council class car derived vans as vans or cars because quite a lot of residents were being turned away?

Councillor Beck explained that the Council did turn people away from 3 of the Household Waste Recycling Sites because sometimes the vans were too large to access them so they were always directed to Carr Hill at Greasbrough, provided they had a permit, where it was a larger site and could handle the capacity of larger vehicles. If the relevant permit was in place, residents should not be being turned away but if they had no permit, they would be quite rightly turned away.

Household Waste Recycling Sites existed for the benefit of household waste, the clue was in the name. If there were any specific instances where residents had been wrongly turned away, Councillor Beck would be happy to receive details and look into those.

(17) Councillor Hoddinott asked, with the cost of living crisis getting worse, what actions had the Council taken in reminding schools about the statutory need to keep uniform costs down for families?

Councillor Cusworth thanked Councillor Hoddinott for the hard work she had done on campaigning for statutory guidance from the Government to give teeth to the legislation intended to reduce the cost of school uniforms for parents.

Councillor Cusworth stated that the Council had championed the updated advisory position with all schools to make sure that all considerations including cost were factored into school uniform policies in Rotherham.

In the Autumn term, 2021 the Council had raised with schools the impact that uniform costs had on families and the updated position from the Government. This also included the investment the Council had made in supporting families with children going up to high school with uniform costs.

It was noted that the financial position of many families had worsened in the past year. The Council had committed £130,000 (£65,000 this year and £65,000 next year) to help with school uniforms for children transitioning to another school. The money for the school uniforms was with the schools and would be issued to parents by them. The Council had made sure that the vouchers were not too prescriptive as it was important that families could go to supermarkets and get those uniforms rather than branded uniforms. A number of schools had already looked at ways that uniform could be swapped. Councillor Cusworth highlighted that some Ward Councillors had set up School Uniform Banks. It was sad that these were needed but good that they were available to those that needed them.

Where individual concerns have been raised around Multi-Academy Trust uniform policy in Rotherham, then direct discussions had been held with academy leaders to share concerns. We will continue to raise with schools the need to keep uniform costs down. Councillor Cusworth stated

that it was Labour MP Mike Amesbury's Private Members' Bill that brought forward the uniform law, however, the impact was yet to be seen.

The Council would continue work on this matter, especially as it was going to be a tough time for families and would continue to offer other support.

(18) Councillor Ball asked what was the current policy on "working from home" for Members of the Council?

As Councillor Alam was not present at the meeting, a written response would be provided to Councillor Ball.

(19) Councillor Hunter asked that, given there was currently a 10 months wait just to get an appointment with the Housing Adoptions Department, how long did the process take to job completion?

Councillor Brookes explained that Councillor Hunter was right to highlight that there was currently a delay with non-urgent Community Occupational Therapy assessments which was having an impact of the progress with adaptations. In the worst case, where extensive works were required, this could mean that some people were waiting for 13/14 months from start to finish. Clearly this was not what the Council wanted from a jointly commissioned service between itself and the NHS but Councillor Brookes stressed that urgent cases could be and were dealt with more quickly than that. Urgent cases were assessed within one week. Secondly, a recovery plan was in place to get the backlog down and any further escalation.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Hunter stated that this was far too long a time and as such, asked if an early intervention unit could be established to go into services like this at an early stage to see what the problems were so that they did not get to the stage where they were now?

Councillor Brookes explained that that was more or less what had happened with this situation in terms of the recovery programme. In terms of identifying the problem, in part it was due to vacancies that were unfilled for various reasons but four of those had now been filled.

(20) Councillor Ball asked, are we, as a Council, currently referring people to South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service for a home assessment when they were asking for assisted bin collections, if so, how many?

Councillor Beck explained that the Council was working with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) to identify "at risk individuals" and ensure that information could be shared appropriately. Due to the Covid pandemic, this work stopped in March 2020 as both the Council and the Fire Service worked to support residents through the Covid pandemic. Councillor Beck had asked officers to get in touch with the Fire Service to resurrect this piece of good work.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Ball stated that it was an excellent way of capturing people as the Council had the data and all it had to do was shift it over to the Fire Service who could then go out and do their assessments. Councillor Ball asked if the matter could be urgently addressed because the referral rate would shoot up and someone could be saved from a terrible accident?

Councillor Beck agreed.

(21) Councillor Z. Collingham asked whether the Council owned or operated any CCTV or other recording equipment manufactured by Hikvision or Dahua and, if so, what, and where was it located?

As Councillor Alam was not present at the meeting, a written response would be provided to Councillor Z. Collingham.

(22) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that his Ward was among the 225 areas across the country that were recognised as "left behind neighbourhoods" in research by OCSI. He asked if the Cabinet Member would give an opinion following last weeks media coverage on "left behind" areas what was needed to help those identified in Rotherham to catch up with the rest of the town never mind country?

The Deputy Leader gave her opinion and explained that, as an Elected representative of one of the 3 Wards identified by the research as being "left behind", she was as equally passionate about closing the gaps that had been highlighted. The Deputy Leader explained that it was not only her opinion, but the opinion of many others, that these Wards would not be in the position of "being left behind" if they had not had to endure over a decade of targeted austerity.

The Deputy Leader explained what she believed was necessary to level up the neighbourhoods: time, because none of the changes could be done overnight; energy to keep going, because some of the issues could be so disheartening; tenacity to stick with it when it was hard; and most of all, money to put into ideas that were already out there.

The Deputy Leader stated that in her opinion, there were 2 key things that needed to be done. These were to continue to collect and improve on the quality of information and statistical information about what the gaps were in all neighbourhoods and to use that information to guide the focus of the work. The second thing was about looking for new solutions to old problems as some of the issues had been around for many years. This should be done through community engagement such as providing for neighbourhood local meeting places and civic infrastructure. Neighbourhood hubs had been established but some were not used and needed improving. There was also an issue around digital connectivity with those hubs as well.

The Deputy Leader stated that it was, therefore, fortunate that a start had already been made on these things. All Elected Members had the opportunity to work to bring about necessary change, not only in the 3 neighbourhoods referred to, but across the Borough. This could be done through the role of community leaders. The Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy, which had just been updated, set out the Council's aspiration and clear statement of intent for the neighbourhoods. The language used already talked about how no one and no place would be left behind. The Strategy also aligned closely with the Council Plan which stated the aims for all neighbourhoods and how those aims would be achieved.

The Neighbourhood working model was the envy of some authorities, and to bring about the changes that were necessary to close those gaps, the neighbourhood working resources needed to be targeted towards supporting Elected Members in their community leadership roles.

The Deputy Leader stated that political differences should be put aside to care for local communities and concentrate on the local circumstances that were holding neighbourhoods back and work with the communities to bring forward, locally, appropriate actions.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester referenced the empowerment of local communities and people on the ground not having the confidence to demand the services; demand that they were looked after in the way that certain other neighbourhoods were. He thanked Councillor Baker-Rogers as this had been very much part of their Ward plan and the work that they had done so far. However, it would take time to build that and it was a hell of a job to do. In the meantime, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked what could be done in terms of making sure that whenever any policy was looked at, such as the Climate Emergency, that narrowing the gap between communities was something that was looked at, for every single report too?

Councillor Allen explained that if this was Planet Allen, every report that went to Cabinet or any other arena such as Scrutiny, as was in place now with something about equalities and climate change, there would be something in there about neighbourhoods and closing that gap. Unfortunately, it was not Planet Allen and as such, it may take a little longer to get to that, but Councillor Allen took the point. The Council needed to be focusing more on what was needed in the neighbourhoods. The refresh of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy would provide the framework and tools to start to move on that.

(23) Councillor Ball stated that RMBC have yet to find the missing "business plan" for the solar bins despite mentioning it. It had been 3 months of asking, where was it?

Councillor Beck stated that he understood that officers had now provided Councillor Ball with a copy of the Strategic Outline Case (SOC), which was the business plan, for the Litter Bin Replacement Programme which related to solar bin installation. The project had now been completed.

In his supplementary, Councillor Ball asked Councillor Beck to thank officers for providing the case only that morning?

Councillor Beck explained that he himself had been copied into an email before that that included the SOC that was being referred to. The Council were not hiding on this, it was very proud of what it had done with the solar bin installation. The project had been through every process and scrutiny and level of oversight that anything else would go through. It started out as a pilot in Rotherham Town Centre and was so successful it was rolled out across the Borough and residents were now benefitting from that. The project would have gone to Cabinet Budget Working Group that was held to give proper scrutiny to these types of investments and it would have gone to scrutiny as part of the Capital Programme Investments. Finally, it would have been approved by Council as part of the Capital Investment budget. Councillor Beck stated that it was not his fault that the majority of this happened before Councillor Ball was elected.

(24) Councillor Tarmey asked if the administration would commit to introducing a dedicated fund for projects associated with tackling hotspots of anti-social behaviour on our road network?

As Councillor Tarmey was not present at the meeting, a written response would be provided to Councillor Tarmey.

(25) Councillor Tinsley asked how many petrol vehicles does the Council own and roughly how many litres of petrol have these vehicles consumed in total over the last year?

Councillor Beck explained that the Council currently operated 19 petrol vehicles on the fleet. The total volume of unleaded fuel for the 6 months period since 1st April was 11,147 litres and, therefore, anticipated usage was around 22,000 litres for 12 months.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley asked if there were any plans in the future to replace those? He also asked if alternate fuels such as BioLPG where the Council could have probably saved £1 per litre on that 22,000 litres which could be £22,000?

Councillor Beck explained that there was a comprehensive fleet replacement programme and strategy that was due for its first draft at the end of 2022. This would include various asks and commitments to improve the carbon emissions that were emitted by the Council's fleet. This was part of the on-going Climate Emergency work that was ongoing across the Council. It was not known yet what the fleet replacement strategy would say but it was known that electrical vehicles cost a hell of a

lot more than the contemporary petrol and diesel vehicles that were currently operating. The commitments had to be balanced against other priorities.

(26) Councillor Baker-Rogers asked whether, in accordance with the Council's Supported Volunteering Policy, were Officers who are Trustees of charities, entitled to paid leave to attend Trustee meetings?

As Councillor Alam was not present at the meeting, a written response would be provided to Councillor Baker-Rogers.

(27) Councillor Jones stated that at the last Council meeting Councillor Beck said, in relation to a question about Grange Park, "RMBC own the road but not the surface so they have no obligation to maintain it." He asked Councillor Beck to explain why RMBC thinks it has the right to give access over that surface?

Councillor Beck explained that the quote in the question was absolutely correct and that he stood by what he had said at the last meeting. In reference to what the Council thinks, Councillor Beck stated that the Council actually knew that they did not have to maintain the accessway there, it just owned the land. The Council did not have responsibility of maintenance because of the shared access that existed there.

In terms of the access, it was subject to a long established access that the third parties have over that piece of land. Those were rights that they have had for many a year.

In his supplementary, Councillor Jones stated that the surface itself was actually entirely owned by Millmoor Juniors FC. The claim of a historic right of access was something that Councillor Jones believed the Council's Legal Services should challenge. Councillor Jones believed that there were only 3 options open to the Council: one being that the operator be required to drive across the embankment at the side which gave access across the land but not the surface; two being that operator be encouraged to continue using that surface and therefore being an accessory to them breaking the civil law of trespass and any documentation being used against the Council; or lastly, attempt to buy the surface off Millmoor Junior's. Councillor Jones stated that he believed that the starting price for this was around the £20million mark. He asked Councillor Beck which of the 3 options he would prefer?

Councillor Beck explained that his understanding of this over the past years was that the Council had exhausted all options in regard to how it could prevent the activity that was going on at Droppingwell Tip. That was the position of the Council and that had always been clear. The Council were dealing with some very old permits in relation to the permit that was being operated under as well as some historic access rights that they had over the Council's land. As much as the Council wanted to, and had tried

to, there was nothing further that they can do about that, irrespective of the options that Councillor Jones had presented.

(28) Councillor A. Carter asked what the Council's policy towards closing or merging underused Council garage sites was?

Councillor Brookes explained that the overall policy that was in place regarded the consolidation of garage site use and rationalisation of where they were clustered. The Council looked at the sustainability of the site where demand was subject to a waiting list as there was vast differences in use across the Borough. Some sites were very popular and had long waiting lists, others there was no demand at all and they were in a state of disrepair. Some were at risk of becoming or were already blights on the area. When the site was rationalised, there was a policy there to consult with Ward Member and garage tenants before any decision was made. There was also a Garage Site Decommissioning Procedure guide to the process for if that did happen and to support any garage tenants affected.

In his supplementary, Councillor A. Carter welcomed that there was work ongoing in some aspects. In Brinsworth and other Wards there were sites that needed consolidating. Councillor A. Carter asked for a copy of the Policy and he also asked what sites were now being used for? He suggested the new Council Housing stock could be put there to stop people having to leave Brinsworth to get affordable housing.

Councillor Brookes agreed to share what she could.

(29) Councillor Ball asked how many electric vehicles did the Council currently have on the road at this current time?

Councillor Beck explained that there were 2 electric vehicles on the fleet currently. The vehicles were used within the Town Centre and were Bradbury electric vehicles for litter picking and general waste collection.

In his supplementary, Councillor Ball stated that it had been 993 days since the Climate Emergency had been declared and asked if the Council could look forward to 4 vehicles in another 1,000 days?

Councillor Beck explained that the fleet replacement programme was being drafted and the Council had been very clear about decarbonising the fleet of the Council. Moving forward, the Council would look to do that but had to balance that against the key priority of setting a sustainable budget.

(30) This question had been withdrawn.

(31) Councillor Tinsley stated that DEFRA, who has published a code of practise for litter and waste, had advised lead times for the removal of the litter depending on the severity of the build-up. He asked whether the Council had statistics to show when litter was reported in Maltby with a Grading of C and D? Had it met the clearance lead times or not?

Councillor Beck explained that the Council had specific targets for litter and waste removal driven by an existing grading system which focussed on removing hazardous or offensive waste the quickest. Councillor Beck stated that this was not the same as the Defra system. For example, offensive graffiti or hazardous fly tipping could be removed within 24 hours. There was a combination of different targets for other types of waste ranging from 1 to 7 days and the Service generally met those targets.

The Council was piloting a new approach to the grading of areas for cleanliness, which would be aligned to the new guidance referenced by Councillor Tinsley, thanks to the recent investment of £0.5million for Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Service which was sure to be a success.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley stated that he did not hear any statistics to say if the Council was meeting those targets or not. He asked if the Council was aware that if they did not meet those targets, they would be subject to a Litter Abatement Order because it was clear those targets were being missed in Maltby? Councillor Tinsley stated that no targets were being met which was clearly down to zonal working not working or Labour not working.

Councillor Beck explained that sadly, everyone lived in a society where people littered and the Council could not be there every time a piece of litter was dropped. However, it was the Council's role to ensure that they picked that litter up as fast and as diligently as possible according to the targets that were in place.

Councillor Beck stated that if the Council had the £200million back that had been lost over the last 10 years of Conservative Government austerity, it would be able to pick up a hell of a lot more litter, a hell of a lot more quickly.

(32) Councillor Jones asked the Cabinet Member to explain why RMBC was actively not engaging with Town centre businesses and local organisations when planning town centre events?

Councillor Lelliott explained that the Council's Events Team did actively engage with town centre businesses across a range of events from the annual Christmas Lights Switch On to the most recent Women's Euros Fan Parties. For major events the team attended briefings with businesses as well as visiting any specific areas or businesses that may be affected.

In his supplementary, Councillor Jones stated that in 2019, the Council organised one of the most successful Armed Forces Day events by working with town centre businesses. This was done through a Voice Meeting that both Councillor Jones and Councillor Lelliott attended. The footfall in Rotherham was increased by over 10,000 people in one day, bringing in much needed trade. Councillor Jones stated that this year, traders were ringing him in the week leading up to the event looking for information and posters. Police Officers were also ringing Councillor Jones to find out why they had not been involved in any of the town centre planning. This basically left the town centre with no policing plan 2 days before the event. Councillor Jones stated that this had carried over to the Women's Euros. The Social Value Policy had been passed by the Chamber following a Labour motion calling on the Council to support local businesses when allocating contracts. He asked the Cabinet Member to explain to him why, in the current Women's Euros events, local businesses were not even asked to bid for contracts such as the fast food and drinks or entertainment etc at the fan zones?

Councillor Lelliott stated that the Voice meetings would be set back up. In terms of the fan zones, it was confirmed that the Council did engage with businesses, especially the ones in the fan zone areas. Businesses received a letter, 170 emails were sent to businesses and there were follow up face-to-face meetings with the businesses, asking them to get involved. They were asked to be part of the celebrations, they had the opportunity to do that. Officers did go out, both from an events perspective and from the RiDO side. Councillor Lelliott stated that the Council could only engage so much, the businesses had to want to take part.

Also, in terms of the town centre and getting businesses involved and engaged, a Town Centre Manager would be employed in the Neighbourhoods Team to work across Cabinet to make sure that the Town Centre was at the forefront.

The Euro's and associated fan zones that had been brought to Rotherham by Councillor Allen were a marvellous opportunity to get Rotherham on the map for the right reasons and for businesses to get involved. Councillor Lelliott hoped that there would be more opportunities like this and that businesses would come and get involved. The Council would always support them to do so.

(33) Councillor Tarmey asked that, given the excellent financial health that the Council finds itself in, would the administration commit to further increasing spending on the maintenance of 'street scenes', grass verges and the development of a rolling programme of street tree maintenance and replacement?

Councillor Beck explained that the Council were already on with this. There had been significant investment, the biggest revenue investment of the budget was in Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Services. Councillor Beck was confident this was making an impact out in communities. This comes after years where millions of pounds had been taken out of that particular Service so the Council was playing catch-up. Moving forward it was a priority of the Council; it was in the Year Ahead Plan. More equipment such as mini-sweepers had been invested in and the administration was looking to do more to make sure the staff in those Services had all of the equipment that they needed.

Councillor Beck stated that he did not share Councillor Tarmey's confidence that there was a lot of money to spare to use as this year was going to be entirely different to the previous one. An overspend of £7.5million had already been forecast for the year end and things had to be managed as they moved forward.

In relation to Street Tree Maintenance, Councillor Beck confirmed that Councillor Sheppard was dealing with it in relation to the motion that was presented to Council in April. It was known that this was a priority for the people of Rotherham as it was raised all the time. Residents could be reassured that the Council was listening.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tarmey asked if the administration would commit to further funding?

Councillor Beck explained that such decisions were not made in Council meetings like this one. Any suggestions had to be subject to due process through the many different processes that were in place for budget planning. This would be presented in early 2023 for the 2023/24 budget. Cabinet would look at what they could do in relation to the financial envelope that they had. However, there were significant pressures and the Cabinet had to be cognizant of those with all decisions moving forward.

(34) Councillor Tinsley stated that with the review of the Living Wage Foundation hourly rate being undertaken in September, how soon would staff at RMBC be expecting to wait until they receive the increased rate in their pay-packet?

As Councillor Alam was not present at the meeting, a written response would be provided to Councillor Tinsley.

(35) Councillor Bacon asked after recent reports that raised concerns over fan parks for the Women's Euros were taking away from local businesses - what's to make us believe this Labour administration really is on the side of our local businesses?

Councillor Lelliott explained that the very fact that the Labour administration had gone out to get the Euro's to come to Rotherham and the town centre, to allow businesses to show what Rotherham had to offer, showed that the Labour administration was working for the town centre businesses and businesses in general.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed that work had been done with businesses, they had been informed of where the fan zones were going to be, letters had been sent out and the Council wanted them to be involved. A lot of businesses had been involved and some had reported that it had been absolutely excellent for them. Consultation has been ongoing throughout the fan zones; officers had been calling in to see businesses to see if there are any problems or to see if there was anything more they could do.

Councillor Lelliott stated that if anyone could sit there and say it was not a good idea to bring the Euro's to Rotherham, they were greatly mistaken.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bacon stated that he was not sure if he was mistaken because shop and café owners said they were stunned by the decision to bring in burger vans. Councillor Bacon stated that he was not sure if anyone knew it, but it was key for businesses to have confidence to stay here, hence why so many had left. He asked whether it gave confidence to existing businesses as he did not believe it did?

Councillor Lelliott gave the advice that Councillor Bacon should not believe everything he read in the Advertiser, despite the Conservative group putting most of it in. The Council worked to support businesses and would always work to continue to support businesses. The administration would continue to support building a better and thriving Rotherham town centre for businesses and the good people of Rotherham. Funding had been secured through the Towns Deal and the Council had committed its own money for the redevelopment of it. The Council was working on its housing to repopulate the town centre; work was ongoing on the markets development for traders to come and work.

Councillor Lelliott stated that to say that this administration was not committed to working and supporting businesses, was absolutely deluded. All of the work with the Masterplan had gone towards doing that and the administration would continue to do that with the house building and other projects. Councillor Lelliott stated categorically and absolutely that they were there to support businesses and if businesses were struggling, the RiDO team and business advisors could go out and talk to them. If there were any businesses that Councillor Bacon wanted to send Councillor Lelliott's way that felt like they were not being supported, she would be more than happy to send officers out to see them.

(36) Councillor A. Carter stated that on 18th and 19th June, there was a junior football gala held at Phoenix Sports Club in Brinsworth where there was a lot of dangerous parking. He asked how did the Council and Police monitor and ensure that events such as these do not result in dangerous road conditions for local residents?

Councillor Beck explained that where vehicles were blocking access to private properties or parked dangerously, these would be a matter for the Police to action and enforce where necessary. In terms of events or how events are organised and ensure they were done to the relevant legislation around health and safety and in recognition of the local highway network, there were officers within Culture and Licensing who could assist with issues of that nature.

In his supplementary, Councillor A. Carter asked if the Council would commit to engaging with the Phoenix Football Club to ensure that, in future, events were done in a way to mitigate the impact on residents?

Councillor Beck explained that officers had a good track record of engaging with local organisations/groups on how they organised and managed the events that they hold. The best example of that was recently around the Jubilee events that the Council supported all across the Borough in many different ways. Councillor Beck was confident that through the work that was done to support events they could ensure they go successfully as possible.

(37) Councillor Tinsley stated that Ward housing hubs generated money from HRA and these were used for improvements that would benefit Council property estates. Had there been any consideration that with Selective Licencing areas that a similar fund could be made to benefit or improve these areas which are usually in deprived areas?

Councillor Brookes explained that the answer was no as Selective Licensing funds could not legally be used for anything above and beyond the operational costs. The Council could not generate any revenue for Selective Licensing.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley stated that that was a shame as the areas were really deprived and tended to get into a vicious circle of litter and fly-tipping and issues with landlords so something like this would have really benefited them. He asked Councillor Brookes if there were any other schemes that could be looked at?

Councillor Brookes explained that she was open to any and all schemes that Councillor Tinsley may have and he was welcome to send those to her.

(38) Councillor Z. Collingham asked what steps had been taken to provide communities with access to a clear process, written guidance and template risk assessment for temporary road closures?

Councillor Sheppard explained that there was information on the Council's website that outlined the process and provided guidance. However, since the question Councillor Sheppard had looked at it and thought it could be clearer. He would, therefore, be working with officer's to amend the information so it was clearer for future events.

In his supplementary, Councillor Z. Collingham stated that the answer was reassuring. What was less reassuring, however, was that he had been to the Council's website and had been unable to find it. He asked if the Cabinet Member could tell him where it was as he had looked under events, putting himself in the shoes of someone who was looking to have a temporary road closure and apply to the Council but he was not able to easily find the process, timescales or information about waiving the cost for Remembrance?

Councillor Sheppard explained that he would meet with Councillor Z. Collingham to go through the process.

57. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

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Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

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Councillor Victoria Cusworth

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07824895314

27th July 2022

Clerk

Waverley Community Council

Via email: clerk@waverley-cc.gov.uk

Dear Clerk

Question to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for submitting the following question to Council on Wednesday 20th July:

The WCC would like to know how RMBC will update its monitoring demographics going forward as the current calculations did not foresee the current demand?

I can advise that the Local Authority like all Local Authorities works in line with Department for Education (DfE) requirements and methodology of modelling the number of houses built and occupied and the pupil yield generated against a national formula. The demographic profiles are reported to the Department for Education (DfE) annually. DfE has made its position clear that school places should be planned for across a local school planning area and the statutory requirement is that there is a sufficiency of school places across the local planning area to ensure that a 'reasonable offer' of a school place can be made in line with the DfE definition of a 'reasonable offer'.

To further increase capacity at Waverley Junior Academy will require Regional Schools Commissioner approval prior to any work commencing. DfE have made the

position clear, that regardless of demographic growth at Waverley, there is a sufficiency of school places across the local planning area (neighbouring schools) and therefore surplus capacity in neighbouring schools must be used up prior to any further capacity being added at Waverley.

We continue to work with DfE and the Principal Developer to bring about a longer-term solution that meets the desire of Waverley parents to have their children educated at Waverley Junior Academy. However, until the Local Authority can satisfy DfE that neighbouring schools will not be negatively impacted by any further capacity being added at Waverley Junior Academy, DfE would not be in a position to approve any additional classrooms being added to the school either on a temporary basis or permanently.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Cusworth'.

Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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Please Contact:
Councillor Chris Read

4th August 2022

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

Via email: Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Bennett-Sylvester

Question at Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for raising a question on my statement at Council on 20th July 2022 as follows:

With regards to the comments on Social Value, residents were seeing some of the benefits in Dalton and Thrybergh from the Chesterhill development. Most people would physically see it in the new bench that has been put in Thrybergh Country Park. That development alone has created local apprenticeships and support existing ones. Roughly, how many apprenticeships the Council's Social Value Policy has helped create and support?

I am pleased to advise that the Chesterhill Avenue and Whinney Hill development has resulted in significant social value outcomes and the key achievements so far are set out below:

- Apprenticeships – **9**
- People progressed into employment – **45**
- School / college site visits / events – **43**
- Work experience placements for 14-16 year olds – **3**
- Work experience placements for people over 16 years old – **8**
- People accessing short courses (including employability session with care leavers from Rotherham and Women In Construction event at the local Skills People Group – **39**
- Volunteering days – **24**

With regards to the whole borough, I can advise that officers are working on high level stats for a mid-year position across all contracts, and that will be produced in a form similar to when the annual report goes to Cabinet. The measure of apprenticeships using the national report system is based on the commitment to apprenticeship weeks, the specific figure will be verified through the mid-year review but is expected to be in the region of 351 weeks.

I hope this information helps in terms of the data we have to date.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

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Councillor Chris Read

11th August 2022

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

Via email: Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Bennett-Sylvester

Question at Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for raising a question relating to the Cabinet minutes of 16th May 2022, minute 150, in relation to the school holiday voucher support. You asked if there had been any feedback from schools/SEND clubs in relation to broadening the choice for parents of where they can shop.

I've asked officers your question about any feedback following recent conversations and I'm advised that in September there will be a wider data collation with schools to get a detailed view on where they are procuring the vouchers to provide support to families. From this data collation, information around the best practice models will be captured to share learning with the wider school community to make sure this programme is having the maximum impact in supporting families.

I will ask for a further update in due course.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

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Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

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3rd August 2022

Councillor Jill Thompson
Elected Member

Via email: jill.thompson@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Thompson

Council Meeting – 20th July 2022

Thank you for the question you raised at Council on 20th July as part of the Scrutiny spotlight review on young carers as follows:

What was the plan to get the children on the waiting list the support they needed as quickly as possible and if additional funding was required to ensure that all young carers received the right care at the right time, would that be made available now?

Covid led to increased waiting times for children to receive a service as the interventions offered to the open cases took significantly longer to complete and 25 children were on the waiting list at the end of Q4. All children on the waiting list are contacted and triaged to ensure their needs are understood.

Wellbeing packs are now delivered to all children when the referral is accepted. These packs contain a range of helpful resources for children and are designed to support the emotional wellbeing of the child whilst they await individual support and intervention from the team.

Weekly on-line support groups are being offered to the children awaiting their support to commence. There are two groups, one for older and one for younger children. These sessions are held early evening and serve as an opportunity for the child to begin initial engagement with the practitioners and the chance to cover relevant topics such as how they are coping overall, any common school issues and to share some social time on-line with other young carers. Younger children are also engaging in some joint on-line games within the sessions, but the older children are understandably not wanting this within their sessions. The groups are open to all with no requirement to register in advance so children and young people can choose if and when they attend. Some children and young people attend consistently whilst others attend only when they feel it would be helpful to them.

Additional funding was provided to the young carers service to support young carers to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and increase capacity to deliver group work to provide support to children on the waiting list.

The capacity within the team was increased with the additional funding. A new team member started in November, and she has begun casework with children and families. This additional casework capacity has been reflected in the caseload figures.

In Q4 21/22 the Young Carers Service worked with 23 children and reported 45 open cases. In Q1 22/23 the Young Carers service worked with 58 children and reported 54 open cases.

I hope you find this information useful, but if you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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Councillor Chris Read

9th September 2022

Councillor Z Collingham
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Collingham,

Thank you for your question at the last Council in relation to the percentage of the capital programme delivered on an annual basis.

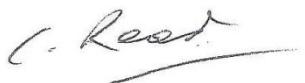
I have attached for your information the most recent financial years. As you will see the Council has delivered well over the period you requested and consistently above the average for Metropolitan Council's which was 61.3% in 2020/21. Whilst the Council continued to deliver above the benchmark for 2020/21 at 64.3%, this was a reduction from the years prior to the pandemic.

Delivery of the Capital Programme was impacted upon by Covid-19 for a number of reasons such as delays with Covid restrictions on site, accessing contractors due to the demand caused by Covid restrictions and the increased demand as Covid restrictions eased.

Performance of the Capital Programme is continually reviewed with a drive to return to the pre-pandemic levels of performance. The current challenges facing all Council's in this regard is inflation and energy costs and particularly their impact on the previously agreed funding streams agreed with Government such as the Towns Deal, Future High Street and Levelling Up Fund. We are working constructively with Government and other Councils to manage these challenges. Given our success at securing funding and multi-year projects coming to fruition the size of the programme has and will continue to change more than in previous years.

I hope this provides assurance that the Council's performance on the capital programme continues to compare favourably with other Council's, and that said, there is no complacency in continuing to drive the delivery of important projects despite the continuing challenging circumstances.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

| | £m | £m | £m | % |
|----------------|--------|---------|----------|-------------|
| Financial Year | Budget | Actuals | Variance | % Delivered |
| 2021/22 | 144.3 | 104.9 | -39.4 | 72.70% |
| 2020/21 | 125.3 | 80.6 | -44.6 | 64.37% |

| Pre-Covid Impacts | Budget | Actuals | Variance | % Delivered |
|-------------------|--------|---------|----------|-------------|
| 2019/20 | 99.9 | 97.0 | -2.9 | 97.13% |
| 2018/19 | 99.8 | 91.6 | -8.1 | 91.87% |
| 2017/18 | 66.1 | 52.7 | -13.4 | 79.78% |
| 2016/17 | 66.3 | 56.5 | -9.9 | 85.15% |

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

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| DB/LH | 01709 823564 | Councillor Beck |

5th August 2022

Cllr Benjamin Whomersley

Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Whomersley

Supplementary question to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for your supplementary question to Council on 20th July regarding what the cost of the 30 Electric Vehicle Public Chargers was?

I can advise that the Capital costs for installation of the Electric Vehicle Chargers was fully covered by a Government grant under the Clean Air Zone Early Measures fund which paid in full for all the EV chargers. No funding was required as match from the Council.

The cost for the public to charge their Electric Vehicles at these chargers is currently 50p / kWh, with no connection fee, which is comparable to other EV Charging networks.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



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

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**Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for
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5th August 2022

Councillor Simon Ball
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Ball

Supplementary question at Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for your supplementary question regarding home electric charging points and if they would be moved onto a three-phase system to future proof?

I can advise that the Supplementary Planning Document does not set a specific standard for the Electric Vehicle Charging in terms of a minimum KW requirements. However, the Building Regulations Part S does say that the minimal nominal rated output of charging points should be 7kw. I understand that a 3-phase system would be required to support charging of 11 or 22 kw and some residents or businesses may wish to include such higher Kw charging to reduce the 'stay time' but this does not appear to be standard on residential properties.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



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

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

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2nd August 2022

Councillor Charlotte Carter
Elected Member

Via email: charlotte.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Question submitted to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 20th July as follows:

Will the cabinet member commit to improving lighting and installing CCTV around the Brinsworth Road/Broadway junction where continued antisocial behaviour is affecting residents?

I am aware that officers have been contacted about the issue of young people parking cars at the junction and related ASB has been raised at the Brinsworth CAP meeting. We have made more funding available for CCTV over the last few years, but officers do have to evidence the need for CCTV under regulations, so I can't promise now that it can be deployed in the area you refer to as that needs to go through the appropriate channels.

I understand that options to resolve the issue are being explored, including a lockable gate to prevent access, parking restrictions and CCTV/lighting improvements, and a report will be made to the next CAP meeting on 11 August.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance

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**Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for
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3rd August 2022

Councillor Charlotte Carter

Elected Member

Via email: charlotte.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Supplementary question at Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for the supplementary question you raised at the Council meeting as follows:

You had been contacted by a resident who was concerned that some hedgerow near them had been cut during the season, and you asked if you could have a copy of the policy on hedgerows and hedge management and further detail on what training was provided to the operators to ensure that they were aware of the policy?

I can advise that the Council does not have its own policy in place as there are specific requirements laid down in legislation and the Council (and others) has a legal duty to protect nesting birds. The Council does have a specific training programme which is delivered through regular toolbox talks. The training covers the below key elements:

- Nesting birds
 - Provides a definition
- Offences
 - IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE TO:
 - Deliberately take, damage or destroy any active nest or egg of any wild bird
 - Disturb any wild bird whilst nesting unless under licence
- Nests
 - Covers the types of nests operatives may come across

- Nest locations
 - Covers likely locations of nests which are:
 - Vegetation such as scrub/brambles
 - Trees
 - Hedgerows
 - On the ground in grass or bare land
- The bird nesting season
 - The nesting season is covered as early March to late September
- Planning works
 - Provides information on how best to plan work to avoid disrupting nesting birds.
- During your works
 - This makes clear that all work must stop if any nest or nesting bird are identified.

I trust the above information is helpful but if you would like to discuss further with officers, Sam Barstow (sam.barstow@rotherham.gov.uk) is the current Acting Assistant Director.

Yours sincerely



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

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

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2nd August 2022

Councillor S Ball
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Ball

Question submitted to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 20th July as follows:

What is the current policy on “working from home” for members of the council?

I can confirm that the council does not have a policy for members relating to “working from home”.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance

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3rd August 2022

Councillor Z Collingham
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Collingham

Question submitted to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for your question to Council on 20th July as follows:

Does the Council own or operate any CCTV or other recording equipment manufactured by Hikvision or Dahua and, if so, what and where is it located?

I can advise that the Council owns cameras with Hikvision components installed, the cameras are mainly used for deployable units within communities where ASB is occurring as well as in public parks and community buildings. None of the Council's main frame CCTV systems have these parts in them.

The Council operates its procurement and systems in line with the current Government Policy and if this was to change then the Council would obviously work within any amendments.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance

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4th August 2022

Councillor Drew Tarmey
Elected Member

Via email: drew.tarmey@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Tarmey

Question at Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for the question you raised at Council on 20th July as follows:

Will the administration commit to introducing a dedicated fund for projects associated with tackling hotspots of antisocial behaviour on our road network?

I understand that Emma Ellis, our Interim Head of Community Safety has been in contact to ask to meet and discuss, and I hope that you find this helpful.

In general terms, the Safer Rotherham Partnership has allocated dedicated funding to tackling anti-social behaviour in identified hot spot areas throughout the Borough. £20,000 has been allocated to the continuation and enhancement of existing partnership work aimed at problem solving in local neighbourhood crime/anti-social behaviour hotspot areas in 2022-23. In addition, the Council has continued to invest directly in preventative measures, such as CCTV with a total of just under £700k over previous years alongside improving the Youth Outreach Offer with £180k revenue invested in increasing capacity.

As you are aware, we are also increasing investment in local neighbourhood road safety schemes.

I would hope that across all these measures officers and members would be able to bring together resources to tackle localised problems and this is what I have asked Emma to work with you on.

I trust the above is helpful but if I can be of any further assistance, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance

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3rd August 2022

Councillor Baker-Rogers
Elected Member

Via email: Joanna.baker-rogers@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Baker-Rogers

Question submitted to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 20th July as follows:

In accordance with the Council's Supported Volunteering Policy, are Officers who are Trustees of charities, entitled to paid leave to attend Trustee meetings?

I can confirm that the Employee Supported Volunteering Policy covers trustee or board positions of charities and staff can apply to have up to 3 days paid leave per year.

Approval for individual volunteering leave rests with senior managers and before agreeing to undertake any type of volunteering activity including being a trustee employees need to speak to, and get agreement from, their manager. Any request to take part in volunteering activities will be considered against the impact on service delivery.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance

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**Councillor Amy Brookes – Cabinet Member for
Housing Services**

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4th August 2022

Councillor Adam Carter

Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Carter

Supplementary question to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for your supplementary question at Council on 20th July 2022 as follows:

In Brinsworth and other wards, there were sites that needed consolidating. Can I have a copy of the Policy, and what were the sites now being used for? The new Council Housing stock could be put there to stop people having to leave Brinsworth to get affordable housing.

I can advise that where garage sites are identified as being unsustainable, options for the future use of those sites will be considered. This includes exploring the option of using those sites for housing development, where such use would be acceptable in planning terms.

Unsustainable garage sites have previously been decommissioned in various locations around the borough and then used to deliver affordable housing, either by the Council directly or working with housing associations. I understand that a garage plot site at Whitehill Drive, Brinsworth was decommissioned and used for new homes a few years ago. More recently sites have been redeveloped at Wickersley and currently in East Herringthorpe, where garage site usage has been consolidated to release an unsustainable site for Council housing development.

When garage sites are redeveloped for housing, a decommissioning process is followed to ensure affected tenants are provided with advance notice of the planned closure and are supported to relocate to more sustainable sites in the area if needed. There is a protocol in place to guide that process, which I have attached for your information. This process is undertaken in consultation with ward members and garage tenants affected by the proposal.

In the Brinsworth area I understand that there are 11 garage sites and most sites in the area are categorised as medium or high demand, mainly due to local parking pressures. In the coming months the Council will be undertaking a review of the Council's garage site portfolio, which will include the sites in Brinsworth. This will identify whether sites are sustainable and have healthy levels of demand and where they are not, how those sites could be used to support future housing delivery.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Amy Brookes
Cabinet Member for Housing

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

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: cllrsaghir.alam@rotherham.gov.uk

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

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Ref | Direct Line: | Please Ask For |
| SA/LH | 01709 255959 | Cllr Saghir Alam |

3rd August 2022

Cllr Adam Tinsley
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Tinsley

Question submitted to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 20th July as follows:

With the review of the Living wage foundation hourly rate being undertaken in September. How soon will Staff at RMBC be expecting to wait until they receive the increased rate in their paypacket?

I can advise that the Living Wage Foundation's Real Living Wage hourly rate is normally applied following agreement of the national pay award.

The pay award for 2021/22 was agreed in March 2022 and has resulted in likely delays to the implementation of the 2022/23 pay award. Due to those delays, the Council took the decision to apply the current Real Living Wage from 1st April 2022, pending agreement of the national pay award.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 05 October 2022

Report Title

Petitions

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Samantha Mularkey, Governance Advisor

01709 247916 or samantha.mularkey@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides Members with a list of all petitions received by Rotherham MBC since the last Council meeting held on 20 July 2022 and details which petitions will be presented by members of the public at this Council meeting.

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

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Council receive the petitions listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report and the lead petitioners be entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes per petition in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.
3. That the relevant Strategic Director be required to respond to the lead petitioners, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Wednesday 19 October 2022.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Petitions

1. Background

1.1 The Council refreshed its Petition Scheme in May 2019, following its introduction in 2010 after legislative changes requiring local authorities to respond to petitions. Whilst the Localism Act 2011 repealed that statutory requirement, the Council has maintained its commitment to responding to issues raised by local people and communities in respect of matters within the Council's remit.

1.2 The current Petition Scheme sets thresholds for various routes that petitions can take through the decision-making process:-

- Up to 20 signatures – not accepted as a petition.
- 20 to 599 signatures – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and response by relevant Strategic Director.
- 600 to 1,999 signatures – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and referral to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for review of the issues, followed by response by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board setting out their findings and recommendations.
- 2,000 signatures and above – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner followed by a 15-minute debate of the petition by the Council, followed by response by relevant Strategic Director on behalf of the Council.

1.3 This report is submitted for information to detail the number of petitions received since the previous Council meeting held on 20 July 2022 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision-making processes.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The following petitions have been received which meet the threshold for presentation to the Council meeting and for a response to be issued by the relevant Strategic Director:

| Subject | Number of Valid Signatures | Lead Petitioners | Directorate |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Revise the conditions for asking questions at public meetings | 27 signatures | Liam Harron | Assistant Chief Executive |
| Traffic congestion at Hellaby and Bramley on Bawtry Road approaching J1 of the M18 | 349 signatures | Ann Rowley | Regeneration and Environment |

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

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

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 This report is submitted for information in order to detail the petition received by the Council since the previous Council meeting held on 20 July 2022. There are no consultation issues directly associated with this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

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

5.2 The deadline for responding to the petition is Wednesday 19 October 2022.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

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

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

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

11. Implications for Ward Priorities

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

12. Implications for Partners

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

13. Risks and Mitigation

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

14. Accountable Officers

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Report Author: *Samantha Mullarkey, Governance Advisor*
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samantha.mullarkey@rotherham.gov.uk *Samantha.mullarkey*
@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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**THE CABINET
11th July, 2022**

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

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

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked a question in relation to the Housing Strategy that was on the agenda. The Strategy was very welcome as there were many conversations taking place with residents who were desperate for housing. However, around East Herringthorpe there had been a number of infill sites that have been used, such as Lauderdale Road and the former Dalton allotments, which had led to the loss of a lot of informal green spaces on the estate. As an area, it already had few community facilities, one very small neighbourhood centre, one play area but not very much else. Regarding Priority 6 of the Strategy, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked what would be coming back to East Herringthorpe to strengthen the community and how discussions could be held regarding that?

Councillor Brookes responded by explaining that she did not have the specific detail on those particular infill sites but more generally, there were specific design criteria that had to be taken into account for open and green space and what amenities were required for the amount of people expected to live in new housing developments. That was all built in at the design stage. In relation to strengthening communities, building in social value was a key aspect of the smaller developments.

The Head of Strategic Housing and Development explained that, through the East Herringthorpe Small Sites Programme, the Council would be maximising social value from that Scheme and would be working with Ward Members to understand the priorities for that area. There had also been some significant social value and community benefits arising from the Chesterhill Avenue and Whinney Hill schemes led by Engie. It was confirmed that a summary of those outputs could be provided to Councillor Bennett-Sylvester.

In relation to the sites selected for development, the Housing Service had worked closely with Planning colleagues to make sure that local need for green space and infrastructure had been factored in and plans made accordingly.

In response, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester explained that the social value in relation to Chesterhill had been great. Concerns, however, related to the fact that East Herringthorpe was quite a deprived community and the local bus route did not serve the local library. There was a feeling within the community that it was just being used for building in rather than being development in any meaningful way. It was important that when future development took place, meaningful conversations are held with the community.

(2) Councillor Ball raised the issue of Coronation Park in Maltby which was due to be transferred from Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to Maltby Town Council. Councillor Ball wanted to make sure that the residents of Maltby would not end up being double taxed because he could not understand why the Town Council wanted to take over a park that was in such a derelict condition. It had out of date play areas, there was glass everywhere and rubbish everywhere, grass that had not been cut etc. Would the tax payers be losing out by paying the precept and the Council Tax?

The Leader explained that it was his understanding that the Community Asset Transfer was at the request of the Town Council. It was not something initiated by Rotherham MBC.

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment confirmed that he would be happy to have a meeting with Councillor Ball, other officers and Elected Members to discuss the concerns raised.

Councillor Ball explained that Coronation Park should have been up to the same standard as all of the other parks but it was not. Local residents did not use it and referred to it as "the mucky park." Additional services had been provided for the skate park after concerns. Why were the residents of Maltby now having to pay for the Town Council to look after the Park, on top of their normal Council Tax, when other residents had parks provided by the Borough Council?

The Leader agreed to take that away and a further response would be provided.

Councillor Beck explained that there had been ongoing discussions regarding Coronation Park. One of the main issues was trying to get on top of the anti-social behaviour in the Park as that was one of the major courses of the "crime and grime" in the Park. Councillor Beck explained that it did not matter who owned or managed the Park until the issue of anti-social behaviour was dealt with to some extent. The Police needed to

be involved. Nobody wanted to see the Park in a poor state of repair or reputation.

20. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 20th June, 2022, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Appendix 3 to Item 11 on the agenda contained exempt information, however, the meeting remained open to the public and press throughout.

22. PUBLIC HEALTH PROPOSALS FOR DRUGS AND ALCOHOL GRANT 2022-2025

Consideration was given to the report which set out the proposal for the Drug and Alcohol Grant which had been made available to Rotherham as one of 50 accelerator areas in England by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID).

Rotherham had been identified by the OHID for the first wave of enhanced funding starting in 2022/23. This was due to a combination of qualifying factors including deprivation and performance against the Public Health Outcome Framework (PHOF) indicators on 'exits' – people who leave treatment with a positive outcome and do not return for at least 6 months. This area had been in the Council plan for some time and had struggled to recover to pre-Pandemic levels, which were already lower than national and regional rates.

The funding being made available was outlined in paragraph 1.3 of the report. For 2022/23, Rotherham had been allocated £588,722 (Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant and £64,077 (Inpatient Detoxification Grant.) The Inpatient Detoxification Grant would remain the same for 2023/24 and 2024/25 but the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant would increase to £1,128,463 for 2023/24 and to £2,178,186 for 2024/25.

All 4 South Yorkshire areas were in the first 50 identified which would offer additional opportunities for collaboration and Integrated Care System (ICS) level developments. Receipt of funding was dependent on maintaining existing (2020/21) investment in drug and alcohol treatment from the Public Health Grant which also has to be included in the Plan which was attached as Appendix One. The current understanding was that OHID anticipate the funding to continue after the initial 3 years in line with the target in the 10-year strategy, but this would be dependent on performance.

The allocation of £64,077 per year was also available for 3 years to fund specialist placements for Rotherham residents who require to be admitted as inpatients to undergo detoxification from alcohol or drugs. This grant was initially made available as a one-off in 2021/22 with Rotherham joining a consortium of Yorkshire and Humber local authorities to commission additional capacity in the system. This was agreed by Officer Decision on the 20th September, 2021, with Doncaster agreeing to receive the funding on behalf of the consortium. It was proposed that Rotherham continues to work with the regional consortium to block purchase capacity and work collaboratively on capacity issues with the neighbouring authorities. Further conditions would be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC). Under that MOU, Doncaster would make a sub-grant to Rotherham of some of the funds which Doncaster receives from central Government. This MOU covers issues of insurance and liability for all parties and will be reviewed by Legal Services when received. Rotherham was not expected to enter into any kind of grant agreement with central Government.

Section 2.2 of the report set out the high-level reporting requirements from the grant which included national targets of increasing treatment capacity by 20%; 2% of the treatment population attending rehabilitation; 75% of adults with substance misuse problems leaving prison are engaged with treatment and increasing the national workforce.

There was an expectation of a local delivery partnership which included partners from the Criminal Justice sector to ensure continuity of care, which would drive a local strategy/action plan. That has been set up and had now met twice with local delivery partnership members being given the opportunity to contribute to the plan.

Some of the key actions during Year One of the delivery plan were around building service demand and identification of unmet need. Others also focus on building programmes of activity that can be started independently of the tender.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet accept the grant funding and approve the approach to management of the grant.
2. That Cabinet agree the 3-year outlined grant plan, and to receive an annual update.
3. That Cabinet note that at present there is a national expectation that this is the first 3 years of a 10-year national strategy but there is no certainty of funding beyond 2025.

4. That the proposal to continue to be part of the Yorkshire and The Humber regional consortium is agreed as the method of accepting the inpatient detoxification grant from OHID.

23. FINANCE OUTTURN 2021/22

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the final revenue and capital outturn position for 2021/22. It was reported that the Revenue Budget 2021/22 was approved by Council on 3rd March, 2021. A budget of £235.7m was set for General Fund services, which excluded schools' budgets and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The 2021/22 Budget was supported by the use of £7.5m from the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve. However, given the availability of the £14m of Covid Funding covering the majority of the Council's Covid related costs, the use of this reserve had not been required. The Council had also been able to deliver a final outturn position of a £2.4m underspend, not through delivering fewer services but by being able to apply more Government funding to the outturn position than had originally been planned.

This was a helpful outturn position that included a positive trend of necessary cost reduction within some of the Council's key services, including an increase of £2.4m into the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve along with some planned savings for 2022/23 already being achieved. It placed the Council in a more robust position heading into the financial year 2022/23, more able to mitigate against cost pressures and the financial challenges that were not evident at the time of setting the 2022/23 Budget such as the war in Ukraine, the significant rise in energy prices and inflation and to be more able to manage the impact rather than needing to consider making cuts in services.

The financial challenges were being considered as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning. The energy price rises and inflation would impact the Council's costs in the provision of services. However, some of the cost impact would be mitigated in future years by increased core funding as business rates income was indexed to the rate of inflation. It was currently expected that the period of high inflation would last for around 2 years before returning to a more normal level. As such, the Council would face short term financial pressures that would need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council's reserves.

The Council's General Fund minimum balance had remained at £25m as planned and set out within the Council's Reserves Strategy reported in the Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23. The reserve was held to protect the Council against unforeseen events and realisation of contingent liabilities.

The Housing Revenue Account had an underspend of £2.1m, along with the revenue contribution to capital outlay remaining at the budgeted level of £6.5m. As a result of this the HRA was able to reduce the budgeted transfer from reserves by £2.1m. This reduction in planned use of reserves would help the HRA to mitigate the financial challenges presented by rising inflation and energy costs over the medium term.

The capital outturn shows slippage and underspend of £39.4m against the estimated spend for 2021/22 included within the Capital Programme. The Pandemic had significantly impacted the delivery of a number of schemes, in the main due to Covid restrictions impacting how works were undertaken as well as a knock on effect on the cost of materials and supply and demand in the market. However, capital expenditure (programme delivery) in the year had achieved a higher level than in previous years.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet:

1. Note the revenue outturn position.
2. Note the budgeted transfer from HRA reserves was reduced by £2.1m following the revenue and capital outturn positions.
3. Note the carry forward of the combined schools balance of £3.794m in accordance with the Department for Education regulations.
4. Note the reduced DSG deficit following receipt of Safety Valve funding, as set out in paragraph 2.13.
5. Note the reserves position set out in paragraphs 2.50 to 2.59.
6. Note the capital outturn and funding position as set out in paragraphs 2.60 to 2.82.
7. Refer the report to Council for information and recommend to Council approval of the updated Capital Programme as set out in paragraphs 2.83 to 2.86 and Appendices 1 to 4 of this report.

24. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2021/22

Consideration was given to the Annual Treasury Management report, which was submitted to review the treasury activity for 2021/22 against the strategy agreed at the start of the year. The report also covered the actual Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code. The report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the

CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council is required to comply with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Further, the Council had received an Annual Treasury Strategy report in advance of the 2021/22 financial year at its meeting on 3rd March, 2021, and the Audit Committee received a mid year report at its meeting on 30th November, 2021, representing a mid-year review of treasury activity during 2021/22.

The Council's treasury management functions had been operating within unprecedented times of uncertainty. The uncertainty impacted forecasts on borrowing and lending rates, availability of borrowing and investment options and capital programme projections. The uncertainty was brought about initially from the outcome of the EU exit but has been further compounded by the financial pressures and overall effect of the Covid-19 outbreak, the effects of which were expected to last for several years. More recently the impact of the conflict in Ukraine has been an additional driver of uncertainty in the financial markets, along with rising inflation and energy prices.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet note the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators outturn position as set out in Section 2 and Appendix 1.
2. That Cabinet agree that the report is forwarded to Audit Committee for information.

25. MAY FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of May 2022 and was based on the actual costs and income for the first 2 months of 2022/23 and forecast 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 first in a series of monitoring reports for the 2022/23 financial year which would continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As at May 2022, the Council estimated a Directorate overspend of £7.7m for the financial year 2022/23. Whilst the core Directorates services had a forecast year end overspend of £6.7m on the General Fund, there was also £1m of estimated unbudgeted cost resulting from the wider financial impact of the war in Ukraine, inflation and energy price increases. This additional financial challenge was being considered as part of the

Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning as the impact would reach beyond the current year.

Given the current uncertainty in terms of the level that inflation may reach and precisely when and also the inevitable pressure on pay levels, it was not possible to be precise about the full financial impact at the present time. The next report to Cabinet was due in September and would present a much clearer picture of the likely impact.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £7.7m.
2. Note that actions will continue to be taken to reduce the overspend position but that it is likely that the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2022/23 financial position.
3. Note the Capital Programme update.

26. ROTHERHAM'S HOUSING STRATEGY 2022-25

Consideration was given to the report which presented the new Housing Strategy for 2022-25. The Strategy had been developed in consultation with tenants and residents, officers and key stakeholders. It set out the Council's strategic priorities for housing over the next 3 years.

The long term vision for housing in the Borough was set out in Rotherham's 30 years Housing Strategy which was published in December 2012 and runs until 2043. The Strategy is refreshed every 3 years to ensure it remains up-to-date and addresses the current challenges and opportunities and references the most recent statistical evidence.

The progress made on delivering the commitments set out in the previous Strategy, which covered the period April 2019–March 2022, was set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report.

Appendix 1 to the report was the Strategy for 2022-25 and set out the priorities which are:

1. High quality new homes
2. Affordable housing to meet local need
3. Investing in existing homes
4. Bringing empty homes back to use
5. Supporting people to live independently
6. Strengthening communities

These priorities aimed to help the Council respond to the key challenges that had arisen since the Strategy was last refreshed. These challenges included changes in Government policy following the pandemic following the initial drive to house everyone sleeping rough. Challenges also included to move to be “net zero” and ensure new homes are built to high standards whilst at the same time, ensure that the Council invests in Rotherham’s existing homes. The Social Housing White Paper 2020 had been introduced following the Grenfell tragedy and this aimed to ensure tenant’s voices were heard and that landlords were accountable.

Consultation had been undertaken between November 2021 and February 2022 and the feedback was used to develop the 6 themes.

Progress would be discussed regularly at the Rotherham Strategic Housing Forum meetings and an annual report would be prepared for the Improving Places Select Commission.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet approve the Housing Strategy 2022-25.

27. ANNUAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT REPORT - 2022/23

Consideration was given to the report which set out the progress made against the Council’s Housing Development Programme and proposed new projects for 2022/23. Appendix 2 provided a list of sites proposed for development and exempt Appendix 3 provided a list of potential strategic acquisition opportunities. Work was underway to develop a full programme through to 2025/26 to increase the number of new Council homes, and this would be presented to Cabinet in December 2022 alongside the latest Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. Six monthly progress reports would be presented to Cabinet thereafter.

An overall summary of housing growth progress over the past 12 months was set out in paragraph 1.2 and the photographic summary included as Appendix 1 showed some of those schemes. From January 2018 to the end of March 2022, the Council had completed 390 homes (221 for Council rent, 86 for shared ownership and 83 for sale.) A number of other schemes were in progress or pending contract exchange. This totalled 608 homes.

The housing development activity proposed in the report would commence during 2022/23 and a further report would be presented to Cabinet in December 2022, to update on progress and set out the programme through to March 2026.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process. The Board fully supported the recommendations but requested that further work be undertaken to characterise the environmental impacts of

construction projects including waste management within the Carbon Impact Assessments. This recommendation was accepted by Cabinet.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet approve the Council-owned sites listed in Appendix 2 being brought forward to deliver new homes, with developments which will deliver more than 10 homes being subject to further Cabinet approvals.
2. That Cabinet approve the purchase of homes from any of the schemes identified in Exempt Appendix 3.
3. That further work be undertaken to characterise the environmental impacts of construction projects including waste management within the Carbon Impact Assessments.

28. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Consideration was given to a report which explained that Cabinet had received a report in May 2022 covering the extension of the Household Support Fund (HSF) for the period March to September 2022. The report provided for provisional allocation with some of the grant to be held in reserve for a further decision.

The current report made recommendations for use of the current reserved fund along with some allocations and direction for the second half of the year.

The Government had now announced a further extension of HSF covering October 2022 to March 2023. Final allocations and grant conditions had not yet been received. A further report would be presented when those provisions were known.

Rotherham has been allocated £2,489,030 but this had to be spent in line with the grant conditions set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report. At its meeting in May, Cabinet had resolved to allocate funding of £1,421,400 for food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals, and £250,000 to enable applications from pensioner households for assistance with cost-of-living hardships. The proposals for Cabinet to consider were based on the remaining fund of £805,305, taking account of increased numbers of children eligible for free school meals.

It was proposed that the allocation of the Household Support Fund grant of £2,489,030 for the first half of 2022/2023 be updated to: increase the allocation for food vouchers to £1,433,775; include an allocation of £45,000 to support care leavers; maintain the £250,000 for pensioner households to apply for support with rising household living costs at the level set in the May Cabinet report; distribute the remaining funding

equally across the pensioners in receipt of Council Tax Support as at 31st August, 2022.

Resolved:-

1. That the allocation of Household Support Fund grant of £2,489,030 for the first half of 2022/2023 be updated as follows:
 - a) Food vouchers for children eligible for free school meals be increased to £1,433,775.
 - b) £45,000 allocation to support care leavers, being young people leaving foster or local authority care and living independently in their own accommodation who are responsible for paying their own utility bills, providing additional financial support through the cost of living increases.
 - c) That the £250,000 for pensioner households to apply for support with rising household living costs be maintained at the level set in May Cabinet report.
 - d) That the remaining funding is distributed equally across pensioners in receipt of Council Tax Support as at 31st August 2022.
2. That, subject to further announcement and receipt of allocations and grant conditions for HSF covering the period October 2022 to March 2023, a further report be presented to Cabinet in the Autumn to assess progress made and make allocations.

29.

TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022-23

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the Transport Capital Programme for 2022-23 and set out the sources of funding. It provided an overview of the aims of the various project themes that the funding would be used for and described how projects would subsequently be managed within those themes.

Transport Capital funding had historically been provided to the Council via the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority's (SYMCA) Integrated Transport Block allocation which was awarded to Local Transport Authorities each year from the Department for Transport specifically for transportation improvement works. The last financial year, 2021-22, was the final year of that round of funding.

For the period from 2022-23 to 2026-27, a new round of funding, called City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), had been confirmed. This funding was awarded to Local Transport Authorities who, in Combined Authority areas, distributed funding to Local Authorities. An allocation of £570m had been confirmed by the Department for Transport (DfT) for the South Yorkshire region, of which a total of £72.4m was confirmed for schemes in Rotherham.

There was an expectation from DfT that all CRSTS funding, including Local and Neighbourhood Transport Programmes, would contribute to the overarching objectives of: driving growth and productivity through infrastructure investment; levelling up services towards the standards of the best; and, decarbonising transport, especially promoting modal shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling. Additionally, SYMCA proposed to allocate an additional £181,000 of Gainshare for the delivery of pedestrian crossings. This could be subject to a business case process within SYMCA.

Paragraph 2.1 of the report set out the funding profiles across the key themes. The funding profiles provided a larger fund for Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety Schemes which enabled local concerns to be addressed relating to local road safety and traffic management matters. This would be led by Elected Members.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet note the funding, as stated in the report, and that it will be used to support delivery of the Council's programme of transport projects.
2. That Cabinet approve receipt of £1.2m City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) – Local and Neighbourhood Improvement block funding, and £181,000 South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority capital for pedestrian crossings, as set out in paragraph 2.1.
3. That Cabinet approve the allocations for use of this funding, and previously approved RMBC capital funding, as set out in paragraph 2.1.
4. That Cabinet approve the schemes set out in paragraphs 2.8 and 2.10 for delivery under the 2022-23 Transport Capital Programme. Further schemes for development and delivery will be presented in a future Cabinet for approval once they have been identified.

30. HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE (HWRC) OPTIONS PAPER

Consideration was given to the report which explained that approval was sought to enter into a joint procurement with Barnsley and Doncaster Councils for Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). The current Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contract had been in place since October 2018 and was delivered in partnership with Barnsley and Doncaster Councils. In October 2023 the current contract expires. Waste officers from Rotherham have been exploring the options available for future service delivery.

Work had been undertaken on improving the current provision through a potential new contact should that option be selected. This would be done by aligning operational policies, such as opening times, vehicle access, material acceptance or permitting conditions, where possible across the 3 Councils.

The Council's net budget 2022-23 for the HWRC Service was £1.023m. The budget covered the payment to maintain the joint service with Barnsley and Doncaster. The selection of the preferred option, the collaborative procurement of the HWRC Management contract, was expected to be the lowest cost option, even with service changes being proposed. Appraisal of the option of bringing the Service in-house found the cost would increase by £0.4m or more. As such this option, as well as the option to seek to tender for a contract for Rotherham Council alone, had been rejected.

Consultation was currently underway and sought views on the implementation and delivery of services such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition, permit systems, commercial waste, hard to recycle materials and contractual changes. The operational changes suggested were outlined in paragraphs 1.7 to 1.14 of the report. Social value was also an important part of the procurement exercise.

Cabinet was also asked to approve the changes to the operational procedures relating to DEFRA's recent consultation proposals to permit construction type waste resulting from household DIY home projects. The consultation referred to 300 litres (average car boot size) no more than once per week, however, any changes to local policy would mirror the final changes to be made nationally both in terms of specification and timing of any change.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the option of undertaking a collaborative procurement and award a contract for the provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres in the Borough using the Contract Procedure Rules of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and approve the leasing of the 4 HWRC to the successful provider.
2. Receive a further update on the Household Waste Recycling service offer before the new contract commences.
3. Approve the changes to the practice at the HWRC to align with DEFRA's final national proposals, following its consultation on household DIY waste.

31. OUTCOMES FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD RELATING TO ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS CUMWELL LANE/KINGSFORTH LANE PETITION

Consideration was given to the report which explained that, at the Council meeting on 13th April, 2022, a petition with 622 valid signatures had been received in respect of a request to improve road safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane. As the petition met the threshold for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, a meeting was held on 11th May, 2022, to receive representations from the lead petitioners and also hear from the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment and officers.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board made 7 recommendations which were:

1. That the call for action as outlined in the petition be supported.
2. That the proposed actions outlined by the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment be supported.
3. That an evaluation be undertaken by the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment and the Speed Camera Partnership to assess the feasibility of installing average speed cameras on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane.
4. That this evaluation includes benchmarking of comparable local authorities with average speed cameras in their areas, any learning from the installation and their impact on road safety.
5. That Cabinet and the Speed Camera Partnership be asked to support the resourcing of the infrastructure required for the installation and maintenance of average speed cameras on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane, should their feasibility be established.
6. That the Council's response to and lessons learnt from the fatal traffic incidents in 2018 and 2019 on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane be circulated to Board Members and the Lead Petitioner by the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment.
7. That an update on progress in respect of the recommendations outlined, be provided to this Board in 6 months with a further report to be provided to Improving Places Select Commission in 12 months.

All of the recommendations had been accepted by Cabinet and at least 50% of the actions outlined in paragraph 3.1 of the report had already been completed. However, the decision on whether to implement average speed cameras would take longer as an evaluation was required to assess the feasibility.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet receive the recommendations and Council Officer proposed measures as detailed in Section 3 of this report.

32. LOCAL PLAN: CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to undertake public consultation on the following draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs):

- Developer Contributions SPD
- Biodiversity Net Gain SPD
- Trees SPD
- Preparing a Soils Strategy SPD
- Development in the Green Belt SPD

Detail on each of the SPDs was set out in section 2 of the report. The key elements of each document related to developer contributions, biodiversity net gain, trees, preparing a Soils Strategy and development in the Green Belt.

Rotherham's Local Plan provided the framework for determining planning applications. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide additional detail and guidance to support Local Plan policies. Once adopted they are a material consideration which can be taken into account when determining planning applications. SPDs provided detailed guidance to householders, planning agents and developers to help improve the quality of submitted planning applications, which in turn can speed up the planning process and produce better outcomes for the community.

The first suite of SPDs had been approved for adoption by Cabinet on 15th June, 2020, and the second suite were adopted on 21st June, 2021, following publication consultation.

The anticipated adoption of the draft SPDs, following public consultation and subsequent Cabinet approval, would assist in mitigating the negative impacts set out in the Nature Crisis motion approved by Council on 25th May, 2022. The SPDs would assist by presenting key actions that the Council could take to support a more natural environment, promote biodiversity and assist in nature recovery, and tackle climate change.

In line with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 the Council was required to undertake public consultation on draft SPDs for a minimum of 4 weeks, and to take account of any comments received in preparing final documents. Once

adopted by the Council the documents could then be considered when determining planning applications.

Resolved:-

1. That approval be given to public consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Documents at Appendices 1 to 5.
2. That, following consultation, a further report be submitted to Cabinet in early 2023 regarding adoption of the Supplementary Planning Documents.

33. 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.

34. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday, 19th September, 2022, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 05 October 2022

Report Title

Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22.

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)

David Webster, Head of Internal Audit

Tel: 01709 823282 E mail: david.webster@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report presents the final draft of the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2021/22 for Members' approval, having been endorsed by the Audit Committee on 28th June 2022.

The purpose of the Annual Report 2021/22 is to bring together in one document a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit Committee. The production of the report complies with current best practice for audit committees. It allows the Audit Committee to demonstrate it has fulfilled its terms of reference and share its achievements with the Council and is thought useful as a reminder to the organisation of the role of the committee in providing assurance about its governance, risk management and financial and business controls.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has issued guidance to local authorities to help ensure that Audit Committees operate effectively. The guidance recommends that Audit Committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities. A copy of the draft annual report of this Audit Committee is attached. A copy of the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference is included for information.

Recommendations

That the Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22 be approved.

List of Appendices Included

Audit Committee Annual report for 2021/22

Audit Committee Terms of Reference

Background Papers

Relevant reports presented to the Audit Committee and minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No.

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Audit Committee Annual report 2021/22

1. Background

- 1.1 The Audit Committee is a key component of corporate governance and provides an important source of assurance about the organisation's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial and other performance. The Committee is also responsible for approving the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.2 The Committee's specific powers and duties are set out in section 9 of the Constitution under the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee. A copy of the Terms of Reference is attached for information.
- 1.3 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued guidance to local authorities to help ensure that Audit Committees are operating effectively. The guidance recommends that Audit Committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities.

2. Work Undertaken during 2021/22

- 2.1 The Audit Committee met on six occasions in the year to 31 March 2022, in accordance with its programme of work. The frequency of meetings ensures the Audit Committee can fulfil its responsibilities in an efficient and effective way.
- 2.2 During this period the Committee assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, control environment and associated counter fraud arrangements through regular reports from Officers, the internal auditors and the external auditors.
- 2.3 The Committee sought assurance that action has been taken, or is otherwise planned, by management to address any risk related issues that have been identified during the period. The Committee also sought to ensure that effective relationships continue to be maintained between the internal and external auditors, and between the auditors and management.
- 2.4 The specific work undertaken by the Committee is set out in the report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 This report presents the final draft of the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2021/22 for Members' approval, having been endorsed by the Audit Committee on 28th June 2022.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 None.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 As Council is recommended to approve the Annual Report, there are no further stages in the decision-making process.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Appendix 9, Paragraph 5 of the Council's Constitution, the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference, requires the Audit Committee to submit an annual report to the Council and this report is submitted to meet that requirement.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no direct implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no direct Equalities and Human Rights Implications arising from this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 None.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Partners can be reassured that the Audit Committee is fulfilling its role within RMBC.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 None.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

David Webster, Head of Internal Audit

*Report Author: David Webster, Head of Internal Audit*David Webster, Head of Internal Audit

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

ROOTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

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FOREWORD

In commending the 21/22 Audit Committee Annual Report, I would like to thank all the Officers involved in its production, and Grant Thornton, our external auditor. The highlights of the report are testament to their professionalism and the robust governance processes implemented by the Council. I would also like to thank the Members of the Audit Committee, for their invaluable contribution, that has enabled this report to be published.

Cllr J Baker-Rogers, AC Chair June 2022

INTRODUCTION

While there is no statutory obligation to have such an arrangement, Audit Committees are widely recognised as a core component of effective governance and therefore reflect good practice. RMBC's Audit Committee is properly constituted and as such is given sufficient authority and resources by the Council. In effect, the Committee has the right to obtain all the information it considers necessary and to consult directly with senior managers. In line with best practice the Audit Committee can report its observations and concerns directly to the Council.

A local authority has a duty to ensure that it is fulfilling its responsibilities for adequate and effective internal control, risk management and governance, as well as the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of its activities. The Audit Committee has a key role in overseeing and assessing the internal control, risk management and corporate governance arrangements and advising the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements.

This role is reflected in the Committee's Terms of Reference which are given below for information.

The Audit Committee had the following membership during 2021/22:

| Member | Jun 2021 | Jul 2021 | Sep 2021 | Nov 2021 | Jan 2022 | Mar 2022 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Cllr Baker-Rogers (Chair) | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Cllr Hoddinott (Vice Chair) | x | x | | | | |
| Cllr Browne (Vice Chair) | | | x | x | x | |
| Cllr Cowen (Vice Chair) | | | | | | x |
| Cllr Barley | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Cllr Wilson | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Cllr Mills | | | | | | x |
| Cllr Wooding | | | | | | x |
| Cllr Wyatt | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Mr Barber (Independent Member) | x | x | x | x | x | x |

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

There have been many benefits from the work of the committee. The main outcomes and improvements include:

- An unqualified External Audit opinion on the Council's Statement of Accounts, confirming their accuracy and completeness
- The timely sign-off of the accounts to the amended timetable
- An Annual Governance Statement that reflected the developments within the Council
- A positive opinion from the Head of Internal Audit in his Annual Report
- A Risk Management process that is embedded within the Council

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 2021/22.

The Audit Committee completed the following during 2021/22

External Audit – Grant Thornton

- Received and considered a Progress Update and the audit plan to review the financial statements. This included the changes necessary to comply with new auditing standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and an updated Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.
- Received and considered the detailed results of the external auditor's work in relation to the audit of the 2020/21 financial statements of the Council. The Committee was pleased to note that the auditors had given an unqualified audit opinion.
- Received and considered a report detailing the information received from RMBC management which informed Grant Thornton's audit risk assessment.
- Received a report from the Financial Reporting Council giving the results of their review of Grant Thornton's work at RMBC in 2020/21. The Committee was pleased to note that the work was graded at level 2, only limited improvement required, which is an acceptable level.
- Received a report on the re-procurement of external audit by the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd after the current contract with Grant Thornton expires at the end of 2022/23. The committee recommended to Council that RMBC opt-in to the PSAA re-procurement exercise.

Internal Audit

- Continued to oversee the internal audit arrangements for the Council. This included approving the review of the Internal Audit Charter which outlines the terms of reference of the department and is aligned to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

- Received and approved the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2020/21. This included the Annual Audit Opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of control, risk management and governance within the Council. The Committee was pleased to receive a positive opinion.
- Received and approved the Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23. The plan ensures that internal audit resources are prioritised towards those systems and areas which are considered to be most at risk or which contribute most to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives. It is designed to enable the Head of Internal Audit to give his opinion at the end of the year, but is flexible to ensure it remains relevant throughout the year.
- Monitored the delivery of the Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22 through regular update reports presented by the Head of Internal Audit. Reviewed variations to the audit plans which were considered necessary to reflect new or changed Council priorities.
- Received and considered the results of internal audit work performed in respect of each Directorate.
- Monitored the progress made by management during the period to address identified control weaknesses. The closure of actions improved significantly during the year.
- Monitored the performance of the Internal Audit team through the regular update reports.
- Received and considered the implementation of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan for 2021 and the results of the self-assessment against Public Sector Internal Audit Standards leading to a revised plan for 2022.

Anti-fraud and Corruption

- Received and considered updates to the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy, including the introduction of an e-learning course for staff.
- Received and considered updates on completed fraud investigations as part of the Internal Audit Progress Reports.

Risk Management

- Continued to oversee the Council's risk management arrangements and strategy, including updates to the strategy and policy.
- Received a summary of risk management activity during 2020/21.
- Reviewed the progress made by the Council to identify and address corporate risks. This included consideration of the Strategic Risk Register twice during the year.

- Assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of each Directorate's risk management arrangements through consideration of the risks and mitigating actions identified in their Risk Registers. Presentations were received from Strategic Directors on their approach to risk management.

Corporate Governance

- Considered changes to the refreshed Code of Corporate Governance prior to approval. The Code reflects the core principles and requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework'.
- Considered the draft and final Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 on behalf of the Council, showing how the Council complied with the Code of Corporate Governance and highlighting areas of continued progress.
- Produced its own Annual Report for 2020/21 setting out the work undertaken by the committee.
- Received and considered at each meeting its own forward plan for the year ahead, ensuring that all relevant areas are covered during the year.
- Members completed a self-assessment against CIPFA Guidance for Local Authority Audit Committees. This will be used to inform an ongoing training programme for them.

Finance

- Considered the unaudited draft Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.
- Considered and approved the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 on behalf of the Council.
- Received and considered a report on the final accounts closedown and accounting policies updates for 2021/22. A second closedown report showed the timetable for reporting the accounts.
- Continued to review the Council's Treasury Management arrangements. This included reviewing the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2020/21 which covered the actual Prudential Indicators, and the Mid-Year Monitoring Report which included the actual and proposed treasury management activity.

Other

- Received and considered two update reports on progress made to implement recommendations arising from external audits, inspections and reviews.
- Received and considered reports on the Council's use of surveillance and acquisition of communication data powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). There had been no usage of these powers by the Council during 2020/21.

- Received an annual report on Information Governance, including compliance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act.
- Received a report on procurement, including the update to Contract Procedure Rules introduced during the year and the training provided to Officers by the Procurement team.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

There were a number of new Members to the Committee during the year. They each received induction training covering the main role and areas of responsibility of the Committee. In addition, training or a briefing was offered before most meetings based on the papers to be presented to the Committee and the results of the self-assessment.

AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2021/22

Committee Size

To comprise:

- Five Councillors, none of which are Members of the Cabinet.
- One person who is not a Councillor or Officer of the Council (independent member).

Statement of purpose

- 1 The Audit Committee is a key component of RMBC's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.
- 2 The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance to the Council of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of RMBC's governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

Governance, risk and control

- 3 To review the Council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework, including the ethical framework and consider RMBC's code of governance.
- 4 To review the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) prior to approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, taking into account internal audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control.
- 5 To approve the final AGS for publication.
- 6 To consider the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
- 7 To consider the Council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the Council.
- 8 To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the Council.
- 9 To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the committee.
- 10 To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
- 11 To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the Council from fraud and corruption.
- 12 To monitor the counter-fraud strategy, actions and resources.
- 13 To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.

Internal audit

- 14 To approve the Internal Audit Charter.

- 15 To approve the risk-based Internal Audit Plan, including Internal Audit's resource requirements, the approach to using other sources of assurance and any work required to place reliance upon those other sources.
- 16 To approve significant interim changes to the risk-based Internal Audit Plan and resource requirements.
- 17 To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the Head of Internal Audit to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.
- 18 To consider any impairments to independence or objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing of the Head of Internal Audit. To approve and periodically review safeguards to limit such impairments.
- 19 To approve the internal or external assessments of Internal Audit against Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. This will include:-
 - regular reports on the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP).
 - reports on instances where the internal audit function does not conform to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and Local Government Application Note (LGAN), considering whether the non-conformance is so severe that it must be included in the AGS
- 20 To consider reports from the Head of Internal Audit on Internal Audit's performance during the year. These will include updates on the work of Internal Audit including:
 - progress against the plan
 - key findings and issues of concern
 - action in hand as a result of internal audit work
 - performance indicators
- 21 To approve the Head of Internal Audit's annual report:-
 - The statement of the level of conformance with the PSIAS and LGAN and the results of the QAIP that support the statement.
 - The opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion.
- 22 To consider summaries of specific Internal Audit reports.
- 23 To receive reports outlining the action taken where the Head of Internal Audit has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.
- 24 To contribute to the QAIP and in particular, to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.
- 25 To provide free and unfettered access to the Audit Committee Chair for the Head of Internal Audit, including the opportunity for him/her to meet privately with the committee.

External audit

- 26 To support the independence of external audit through consideration of the external auditor's annual assessment of its independence and review of any issues raised by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA).
- 27 To approve the external auditor's annual plan.
- 28 To approve any revisions to the external auditor's plan.

- 29 To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports and the report to those charged with governance.
- 30 To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
- 31 To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
- 32 To commission work from internal and external audit.
- 33 To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies.

Financial reporting

- 34 To receive the draft annual Statement of Accounts following approval by the s151 Officer. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed.
- 35 To approve the final audited annual statement of accounts for publication. Specifically to consider whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council.
- 36 To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.
- 37 To deal with any matters referred to the Committee by the Strategic Director Finance and Customer services in relation to his/her responsibilities under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Treasury Management

- 38 To review treasury management policy, strategy and procedures and to be satisfied that controls are satisfactory.
- 39 To receive annual reports on treasury management, specifically the outturn report and the mid-year report.
- 40 To review the treasury risk profile and adequacy of treasury risk management processes.
- 41 To review assurances on treasury management, for example an internal audit report, external audit report or other review.

Accountability arrangements

- 42 To report to those charged with governance on the committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions.
- 43 To report to full Council on a regular basis on the committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the committee in meeting its purpose.
- 44 To submit a report on the work of the committee to the Council on an annual basis.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 05 October 2022

Report Title

Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Carol Adamson, Community Safety Service Manager
07919 302 448 carol.adamson@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP), of which the Council is a key statutory partner, has agreed a new Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan setting out priorities and commitments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. The Plan has been endorsed by Cabinet and is recommended to Council for approval.

The Plan will guide the partnership in delivering work to protect vulnerable children and adults, build safer and stronger communities and protect people from violence and organised crime.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership has used an evidence-based approach to agree the new priorities, drawing on analysis of partnership crime and community safety data and the outcomes of a comprehensive programme of consultation to capture the views of key stakeholders, including people who live, visit or work in Rotherham.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan at its meeting on 14th September 2022 and recommended that officers ensure wider engagement takes place to inform future and refreshed plans, including rural communities, disabled people, minority ethnic communities and those with other protected characteristics. This recommendation was adopted by Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday 20th September 2022.

Recommendations

1. That Council approves the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25.
2. That Council notes the requirement for scrutiny of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report, which is discharged by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25

Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[Rotherham Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Cabinet – 19 September 2022

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25

1. Background

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility to prepare an annual strategic assessment to identify community safety priorities across the local area, develop a partnership plan and co-ordinate activities to address the priorities. There is also a requirement to consult and engage with communities, ensuring their views are taken into account when identifying local priorities.
- 1.2 A comprehensive and enhanced review process commenced from May 2021 to inform new priorities and a new SRP Plan from 2022 to 2025. The enhanced review process included the use of the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) thematic tool, which is used widely by Police and community safety partnerships. It enables a range of strategic issues to be assessed in a structured and consistent way, using a quantitative evidence base and detailed information about current and emerging trends of crime and disorder affecting communities within the Borough. The information is derived from a range of sources including South Yorkshire Police data, data provided by Partners, open-source research, national publications and information from key stakeholders. There are four component parts of the MoRiLE assessment – Impact and Harm (physical/psychological/financial); Likelihood (scale/tends); Confidence (data reliability); and Organisational Position (resources and external factors such as public expectations).

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan and priorities for 2022-2025 were agreed by the SRP Board on 7 April 2022 in accordance with the outcomes of the MoRiLE assessments described above and taking into account the outcomes of consultation.
- 2.2 Objective areas under each priority respond to the key risks identified through the MoRiLE assessments. Commitments under each objective area identify where the SRP can provide additional activities by partnership working and sharing resources, over and above the priorities and responses in place within mainstream services and individual agencies. The commitments take into account wider partner and community priorities for action, identified through consultation. The priorities, objective areas and commitments are:
 - 2.3 **Protecting Vulnerable Children**
 - **Child Abuse**
 - Increase understanding of the potential signs of neglect and child abuse through training and awareness raising with partners.
 - Raise awareness with the public around the signs of early abuse and mechanisms for reporting.

- **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**
 - Increase understanding of CCE, reporting and responses, with professionals and the public through training and awareness raising.
 - Work together with partners and the public to reduce the risk of CCE and ensure accurate recording of investigations and quality outcomes.
- 2.4 • **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
 - Increase understanding of CSE, reporting and responses, with professionals and the public through training and awareness raising.
 - Work together with partners and the public to reduce the risk of CSE and ensure accurate recording of investigations and quality outcomes.
- 2.5 **Protecting Vulnerable Adults**
 - **Substance misuse**
 - Increase engagement and positive outcomes from substance misuse treatment services for offenders within the criminal justice system.
 - **Mental health**
 - Review the use and impact of mental health treatment requirements in the criminal justice system.
 - Review dual diagnosis pathways to support service users with mental health and alcohol/drug use treatment needs who are involved in the criminal justice system.
 - **Modern slavery and Human Trafficking**
 - Increase understanding of the potential signs of modern slavery through training and awareness raising with partners.
 - Raise awareness with the public around the signs of modern slavery and mechanisms for reporting.
- 2.6 **Safer and Stronger Communities**
 - **Making communities safer – tackling community safety priority locations**
 - Review and refresh the partnership approach to problem solving in local neighbourhoods, including thresholds and methodology for partnership activity.
 - **Preventing hate crime**
 - Focus on the use of education and engagement to prevent hate crime by tackling the drivers of hate.
 - Improve victims' experiences of reporting hate crime and incidents.
 - **Online crime**
 - Explore innovative ways in which partners and the public can be educated around online safety and digital technologies and develop engagement with young people, families and older people.
 - Identify best practice in embedding online activity within service user assessments.

2.7

Protecting people from violence and organised crime

- **Domestic abuse**

- Transform domestic abuse services, in line with the partnership strategy, to improve outcomes for victims.
- Ensure all those fleeing domestic abuse are able to access safe accommodation and appropriate support.
- Improve the use of criminal justice measures to better protect victims.

- **Sexual abuse**

- Review and refresh the sexual abuse delivery plan, focussing on victim engagement.
- Improve timely reporting of sexual offences to increase forensic opportunities.

- **Male violence against women and girls**

- Reduce male violence against women and girls by focussing on hot spot locations and repeat perpetrators.
- Deliver awareness raising events, projects and promotions aimed at improving women and girls' safety and feelings of safety.

- **Serious violence**

- Provide ways out for those already entrenched in violence, or who have been previously incarcerated, to support effective rehabilitation.
- Reduce violence through victim identification, care and support programmes.
- Reduce availability and access to lethal weapons.
- Work to change cultural and social norms that support violence.
- Encourage all professionals and organisations to continue to work toward becoming trauma-informed, to an approved standard for South Yorkshire.

- **Organised crime**

- Proactively identify and implement a whole system partnership approach to tackling organised crime.
- Prevent individuals and emerging groups from becoming involved in organised crime.
- Build stronger information sharing structures between partners and communities.
- Target our partnership approach to those causing the highest harm in our communities.
- Disrupt organised crime via a partnership approach, utilising the Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare framework.

- **Counter terrorism:**

- Reduce the risk of terrorism by taking a partnership approach to the Prevent, Protect and Prepare workstreams of the UK Contest Counter Terrorism Strategy.
- Achieve compliance with the Channel, Prevent, Protect and Prepare duties (under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) demonstrated through self-assessment using Home Office toolkits.

- 2.8 SRP Board level strategic leads are in place to lead and oversee the development and implementation of delivery plans and performance management reports for each priority. Quarterly performance reports will be monitored by the SRP Board. Annual reports will provide updates on progress to wider stakeholders.
- 2.9 The commitments and objectives within each strategic priority and the associated actions plans and performance measures will be reviewed annually by the SRP Board. The review will be based on an annual crime audit and consist of a broad evidential review of Police and partner data, robust risk assessment process and consultation with stakeholders. The annual review process will ensure the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 remains fit for purpose with meaningful objectives and performance indicators in place to deliver and measure progress and improvements.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The production of a strategy for reducing crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and reducing reoffending is a statutory requirement of responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. As a result, no alternative options were considered. In relation to the focus and priority areas, these have been developed as a result of extensive engagement and learning from both service users and professionals, and subject to partner and public consultation.
- 3.2 The plan has been endorsed by Cabinet who have recommended it to Council for approval. The Plan notes that annual delivery plans and quarterly performance reports will be produced by strategic theme leads and delivery groups and monitored by the SRP Board.
- 3.3 In addition to the role of the SRP Board in delivering monitoring and oversight, The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, creates the requirement for at least annual scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership. In Rotherham this is discharged annually by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, formally sitting as the Crime and Disorder Committee, which reviews the annual report of the Partnership.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Wide and inclusive consultation has taken place in order to take into account the views, needs and expectations of stakeholders. SRP partner agency consultation and data gathering took place from 14 June 2021 and continued until the final draft strategy was circulated to SRP Board members prior to their meeting on 7 April 2022 and the plan was finalised and agreed. The wider stakeholder, elected member and public consultation on the proposed priorities ran from 7 February 2022 to 24 March 2022.

Representatives from SRP partner agencies and relevant Council services were involved in the comprehensive risk assessment and data analysis stages to identify priorities. Relevant partner data was assessed alongside South Yorkshire Police data using the Management of Risk Assessment in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) tool.

4.2 Stakeholders consulted include:

- Safer Rotherham Partnership Partner organisations
- Strategic leaders and other partnership boards (Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, Strategic Housing Forum, Business Growth Board)
- Elected Members
- Community representative organisations and community members – geographic and diverse community of interest groups (e.g. older people, young people, BAME, faith, women, men, LGBT+, disabled people, parish councils and outcomes of ward plan and council plan consultations)
- Business community
- General public (online consultation).

4.3 The purpose of the consultation was to:

- Confirm the proposed overarching priorities for 2022-25
- Identify the types of partnership responses that are most important to stakeholders under each priority
- Identify any important community safety issues not addressed by the proposed priorities.

4.4 Methodologies included online consultation, attendance at partner meetings and community focus groups. The consultation was published via partner communication channels, including online, social media and newsletters.

4.5 Detailed outcomes of the consultation are available. A summary is below:

4.6 The online survey identified that the most important actions the public wanted to see were to:

1. Increase prevention and early intervention initiatives
2. Improve support services for victims and families
3. Take action to disrupt potential offenders

4.7 Analysis of the survey outcomes by protected characteristic groups was consistent with the overall outcomes as above. There were some differences:

- Women and young people placed more importance on support services to increase confidence in reporting neighbourhood crime
- People from ethnic minority groups placed more importance on understanding crimes from the victim's perspective
- Older people placed more importance on training staff to spot signs of abuse and crime and reporting it swiftly
- People from ethnic minority groups placed more importance on public awareness campaigns about child abuse and exploitation

- Males were generally more supportive than other groups of understanding why offenders commit crimes

4.8 Focus groups held from January to March 2022 with protected characteristic groups provided more detailed qualitative information that confirmed the key priorities and will be used to inform the development of delivery plans.

4.9 In relation to geographic communities, the outcome of Ward Plan consultations which took place in summer 2021 were analysed. Common themes related to community safety included in ward priorities were:

- Locality based partnership action to tackle crime and ASB
- Preventative action (encouraging reporting and projects to tackle root causes of problems)
- Road safety
- Environmental – fly tipping, litter

4.10 During discussion within Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, members challenged the breadth of the consultation and asked that officers review future plan to ensure they are as inclusive as possible and take consideration of issues such as rural communities. This resulted in an additional recommendation as follows:

- That wider engagement takes place to inform future and refreshed plans, including rural communities, disabled people, minority ethnic communities and those with other protected characteristics.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Actions supporting each SRP priority were implemented from 1 April 2022. Delivery is being monitored through a quarterly performance dashboard to the SRP Board who are overseeing delivery of the plan. The annual report of the Safer Rotherham Partnership will be subject to scrutiny as described in section 3.3.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct procurement implications as a result of the recommendations detailed in this report. However, any identified need for the Council to procure goods, services or works in relation to achieving the plan should be referred to the Corporate Procurement Service. This will ensure all projects are procured in line with both the relevant internal financial and procurement procedure rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended), and that social value commitments are secured.

6.2 The Safer Rotherham Partnership has received revenue grant funding of £120k in 2022/23 from the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, which is hosted by the Council, in order to deliver the priorities set out in the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Community Safety Partnerships were set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Under section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the responsible authorities that are party to a Community Safety Partnership are required to formulate and implement:

- (a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- (b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
- (c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.

7.2 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out the way in which the responsible authorities should carry out their functions as a Community Safety Partnership and require:

- (a) A partnership plan for the local government area, setting out the Community Safety Partnership's priorities;
- (b) A county level community safety agreement, setting out the ways the responsible authorities in the county might work more effectively to implement the identified priorities by joint working.

7.3 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the local policing bodies and the responsible authorities to have regard for each other's priorities and objectives and requires cooperation with each other in exercising their respective functions.

7.4 Further Regulations introduced in 2012 (The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2012) require information sharing and provide power to the Police and Crime Commissioners to require the attendance of the responsible authorities at a meeting to assist in the formulation and implementation of strategies relating to the local government area.

7.5 The Community Safety Partnership is required to produce and implement a plan setting out its priorities. Failing to do so would be a breach of its statutory duty under the above-mentioned legislation. The implementation of the plan should ensure that all other statutory duties are met, where they exist.

7.6 Under section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Local Authority is required to ensure that it has a committee with power to review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendation to the Local Authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, require this committee to meet annually. This a statutory requirement and to satisfy the duty, this is currently undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Protecting vulnerable children and protecting vulnerable adults have been adopted as continuing priorities by the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The SRP Plan 2022-25 sets out information about crime and community safety risks, threats and vulnerabilities relating to children and vulnerable adults and the priorities and commitments to address them. Delivery plans, governance structures and performance management is in place for both the Protecting Vulnerable Children and Protecting Vulnerable Adults priorities.

9.2 The Safer Rotherham Partnership works closely with the relevant strategic partnerships in Rotherham, including the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership, the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Health and Well-Being Board. Where delivery overlaps, officers will ensure the relevant consultation and where possible, joint delivery takes place. The relationship between the partnerships is supported by the Safeguarding Joint Protocol, which is an agreement across the Strategic Partnerships.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to support the development of the SRP Plan 2022-25 and is included at Appendix 2. The report shows how crime and community safety risks were assessed through data analysis, taking into account victim and offender demographic information. It also describes the consultation process that took place with multiple stakeholders including Equality Act 2010 protected characteristic groups. The Safer Rotherham Partnership plan meets the needs of different communities and groups by driving action to achieve its key priorities which are fully inclusive of protected characteristic groups. It identifies and puts in place actions to protect the most vulnerable people and communities within the Borough. By addressing the crime and community safety issues impacting Rotherham's diverse communities, the policy is designed to promote equality and good community relations.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been undertaken which is included at Appendix 3. The SRP coordinates existing partner activity and resources, therefore no specific impacts have been identified related to the SRP Plan 2022-25.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are wide-ranging implications for partners, who have been involved throughout the process of developing the SRP Plan 2022-25. The plan sets out how the Safer Rotherham Partnership (which is the borough's

Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) will achieve the duties of the responsible authorities to work together to protect local communities and help people feel safer. There are five responsible authorities that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership:

- Probation Service
- Clinical Commissioning Group (now South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board)
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- South Yorkshire Police

- 12.2 Voluntary Action Rotherham is an additional SRP member, representing and promoting the role of the voluntary and community sector. The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire is also represented at Board meetings, helping to join up work on local priorities with the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.
- 12.3 All the above partners are involved in the SRP Plan delivery and governance structures.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Risks primarily relate to capacity to deliver strategic intentions and uncertainty about the availability of external funding for specific initiatives, for example, Government funding for Domestic Abuse and the Police and Crime Commissioner community safety grant funding, which are notified year on year. The Safer Rotherham Partnership is able to facilitate the involvement of mainstream services, across a variety of partners, in work to achieve Safer Rotherham Partnership priorities and outcomes. Opportunities are therefore sought through partnership meetings and structures to seek opportunities for better collaborative working and pooling of resources.

Accountable Officer(s)

Sam Barstow, Interim Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene.

Emma Ellis, Interim Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Report Author: Carol Adamson, Community Safety Service Manager
This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

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Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan

2022-2025

Working together to make Rotherham safe, to keep Rotherham safe and to ensure the communities of Rotherham feel safe



The Safer Rotherham
PARTNERSHIP

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Councillor
Saghir Alam OBE

Foreword

Rotherham is a great place and we want everyone to enjoy living, working, studying and making the most of the many leisure opportunities and public spaces here. The Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 sets out the commitments and ambitions of partners to ensure that all people in Rotherham feel safe as they go about their daily lives.

Over the last 4 years, the partnership has worked together to achieve the community safety priorities identified within our last plan.

Protecting vulnerable children has been a key priority. It is good to see that work to increase awareness of the early warning signs of child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation with children and families' workers and members of the public, is resulting in increased intelligence reports and referrals to the Police. This work will carry on as we continue to prioritise protecting children from being drawn into all forms of exploitation, abuse and criminality and to disrupt those who set out to perpetrate these abhorrent crimes.

We have carried out some successful work to protect adults who find themselves in a vulnerable situation, for example due to mental health or substance abuse, and who are not able to protect themselves from harm. Partners have put support in place to reduce the risk of them becoming victims of crime or being drawn into offending. This work will continue.

I have been proud to see the progress made in tackling domestic abuse which is enhancing our services to domestic abuse victims and survivors and tackling perpetrator behaviour. Our new partnership Domestic

Abuse Strategy published in January 2022 puts us in a strong position to move forward and fulfil the duties of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour have a very damaging impact on residents' lives and wellbeing. We have seen positive progress in addressing these problems, achieved by bringing Police and Council officers together in three co-located neighbourhood teams. We will continue to build on this approach.

We have delivered some highly successful educational work with children and young people to explore and challenge attitudes that foster division and hate in communities, equipping our young people to be responsible citizens in the future.

Last year, the Safer Rotherham Partnership allocated resources for a new Organised Crime Partnership Coordinator. We are already seeing the benefits in increased disruption of organised crime groups and better information to Ward Councillors to assist neighbourhood level problem solving. We are now building on these early successes.

I welcome the work carried out by partners to review our priorities and to agree new commitments for the next three years. There are no easy answers to the challenges we face and we know that there will be constant new challenges to deal with.

I would like to thank all board members for their hard work and participation over the last four years and I look forward to working with you in future years where we will continue to strengthen our partnership for the benefit of everyone in Rotherham.

Councillor Saghir Alam OBE
Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board

1. Introduction

The Safer Rotherham Partnership is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Responsible authorities have a duty to work together to protect their local communities and help people feel safer. They work out how to deal with crime and local issues like anti-social behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and reoffending. They assess local crime priorities annually, consulting with partners and the local community about their priorities and monitor progress in achieving them. There are five responsible authorities that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership:

- Probation Service
- Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- South Yorkshire Police

Voluntary Action Rotherham is an additional and valuable member of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, representing and promoting the role of the voluntary and community sector in tackling local crime and community safety issues. The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire is also represented at meetings, helping to join up work on local priorities with the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.

Our vision remains unchanged:

Working together to make Rotherham Safe, to keep Rotherham safe and to ensure the communities of Rotherham feel safe

The Safer Rotherham Partnership has agreed its priorities for 2022-2025 after conducting wide ranging and inclusive research, analysis and consultation. The priorities are:

- Protecting vulnerable children
- Protecting vulnerable adults
- Safer and stronger communities
- Protecting people from violence and organised crime

The plan demonstrates how strong strategic leadership, planning, performance management and problem solving will result in action plans which aim to deliver long term, sustainable solutions and improved outcomes for the people of Rotherham. The plan will be reviewed annually to ensure that any new and emerging policies, risks and consultation feedback are identified and responded to. Annual reports will keep the people of Rotherham up to date with progress.

2. How we decided our priorities

The Safer Rotherham Partnership has used an evidence based approach to decide priorities, by drawing on the best available data and information. This included local and national crime and community safety data; the expertise and judgement of professionals and practitioners working in local partner organisations; and the views of people who live, visit or work in Rotherham. Our considerations covered a range of crimes and vulnerabilities where we looked at the level of harm caused to victims, recognising that crimes can cause physical, psychological and financial harm. We also looked at how different crimes affect the wider

community. The frequency and scale of crimes was another important consideration, for example, how often each type of crime is happening and whether it is predicted to increase or decline over the next 12 months. When considering key risks, we also looked at the reliability of the knowledge and data the assessment was based on, how well-placed partners are to mitigate the risks, including the resources available, and external factors such as public or residents' expectations. This comprehensive analysis helped us to identify the most significant current and emerging crime and community safety risks for Rotherham, which we confirmed and explored further through consultation with our partners, including voluntary and community organisations, business representatives and members of the public.

3. Outcomes of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2018-2022

The Safer Rotherham Partnership agreed five priorities from 2018-2022. These were: Protecting Vulnerable Children; Protecting Vulnerable Adults; Building Confident and Cohesive Communities; Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences; and Tackling Serious and Organised Crime. Annual reviews of objectives and performance measures ensured proactive responses were made to new and emerging challenges and opportunities.

Progress over the 4 years covered by the last plan included:

- Protecting Vulnerable Children**

The Safer Rotherham Partnership worked alongside the Safeguarding Children Partnership to develop a strategy to tackle child criminal

exploitation. The strategy provided a focus for the delivery of core operations and the Epic project that supports vulnerable young people, alongside Barnsley and Doncaster partners. Successes include engagement with almost 12,000 secondary age pupils in Rotherham and referrals to the Police have increased, safeguarding children at risk. The Safer Rotherham Partnership's role ensured targeted disruption activities. Child sexual exploitation referrals and intelligence reports continued to be an area for close monitoring and improvement action. Awareness raising was delivered through the 'Spot the Signs' campaign. The impact of an awareness raising video aimed at the hospitality sector has been tested and results used to work with the sector to tighten safeguarding. Online offending was adopted as a priority in 2019-20 due to concerns about increasing online incidents against young people. A Digital Champions Network was established to co-ordinate training across the partnership and raise awareness of new technologies. Messages have been promoted directly to young people through social media, with the aim of preventing online offending and promoting online safety.

- Protecting Vulnerable Adults**

The dedicated Mental Health Clinical Specialist, based within the Police Safer Neighbourhood Service, has played a key role in tackling the challenges of mental health. Over 1,700 mental health support interventions, delivered between April 2019 and March 2022, ensured that adults with mental health needs were provided with, or signposted to, the most appropriate support, reducing their vulnerability to becoming involved with the criminal justice system as either a victim or perpetrator.

How the partnership responds to people with complex needs has been improved further through the restructuring and additional resourcing of the Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, working towards reducing offending against vulnerable adults. There were 233 managed referrals between April 2018 and March 2022. The support provides a bespoke multi-agency response for individuals to reduce risks and vulnerabilities.

Reducing offending of high frequency offenders has been a key focus of the partnership. For example, in 2019-21, the partnership managed 110 cases, resulting in crimes committed by the managed users reducing significantly. During 2021-22, support plans were in place for all people managed under the Integrated Offender Management scheme who are in the community or coming up for prison release. The support offered through the plans resulted in reduced offending by the majority of those subject to them along with wider support in respect of employment and housing.

The Partnership enhanced its response to tackling modern slavery and human trafficking with the introduction of 13 council officers trained as single point of contact officers. This has resulted in improved working practices between agencies and higher levels of service to potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

- **Building confident and cohesive communities**

We continue to improve our integrated anti-social behaviour (ASB) service, which comprises Police and Council officers co-located within three locality teams (Central, North and South areas). Good data and information sharing has allowed for “hotspot” areas to be quickly

identified, enabling tailored assessments and responses. Positive progress to reduce ASB incidents, achieved in the year prior to the Covid pandemic, is now back on track. There were 24% fewer ASB incidents reported from April 2021 to December 2021 when compared to the same period in 2020.

We have invested almost £0.5 million in improving CCTV as a deterrent to offending and to improve public use and feelings of safety in public spaces. We have supported Community Payback initiatives, where offenders work on projects to pay back the community for their crimes. We have been successful in securing external funding for an innovative project in partnership with Remedi that has delivered 65 restorative interventions with young people and adults involved in hate crimes and incidents. The project also provided education sessions with 2723 young people. In 2020, Rotherham Youth Cabinet launched their hate crime charter for schools which contains eleven pledges for schools to implement that demonstrate their commitment to tackling hate.

- **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences**

A new partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy was published in January 2022 that builds on the strong progress made by the previous strategy. Significant investment has been made in enhancing domestic abuse support services for victims, including new central government funding, which has supported the implementation of new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Since April 2018, an average of almost 3000 referrals a year were made to domestic abuse support services and just over 6700 domestic abuse crimes and incidents were recorded each year. A range of commissioned

voluntary and charity sector services delivered support, counselling, housing and refuge services to domestic abuse victims and survivors. Council housing services provided immediate support and housing for victims and children fleeing domestic abuse. A domestic abuse competency framework was put in place to ensure partner agency staff and professionals developed the knowledge and skills they need.

All Rotherham schools are participating in Operation Encompass, which ensures immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. Publicity campaigns have reached out to local communities, including 'Ask for Angela' and 'Ask for Ani' initiatives with shops, public houses, and other safe places. The HARK initiative is a fast track service for hospital A&E, GPs, dentists, opticians and pharmacists to obtain support for victims. Technological solutions such as Smart Water forensic spray and TecSOS technology facilitates emergency service help to victims at the time they need it most.

Rotherham has been a successful partner in the development of domestic abuse perpetrator programmes across South Yorkshire for male, female and young perpetrators. Evaluation has shown that the programme has supported perpetrators to change their behaviour

- **Tackling serious and organised crime**

Increased enforcement and a range of disruption activities to prosecute or interrupt the activities of serious organised criminals, has resulted in the dismantling of some established crime groups, whilst improved mapping processes have identified new groups. Over 500 disruptions have been recorded since 2018.

Public engagement and feedback have consistently identified that drugs (use and supply) cause significant concern within communities. Progress has been made in tackling illegal drug use and activity, using partnership tools and powers in addition to Police powers. Drug treatment services are also involved in the overall approach. Concerted partnership action is tackling cannabis cultivation which has caused significant problems for residents in some areas of the Borough in 2021-22.

The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit takes a public health approach to preventing and reducing violence, delivering a range of innovative initiatives with partners. The Safer Rotherham Partnership manages the Rotherham Violence Reduction Action Plan. Initiatives include the Plan B Custody Navigator scheme delivered by City Hearts where navigators visit detainees in Police custody suites, engaging and providing support to young adults to help them make the right choices and to step away from crime.

4. Safer Rotherham Partnership Priorities 2022-25

We recognise that there is still much work to do to build on the progress made in our last plan and to respond to new and emerging crime and community safety risks, threats and vulnerabilities within our community.

The following pages set out our new priorities, some of the risks we face, and show how the organisations that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership can work together to deliver additional activities to make our communities safer for residents, businesses and visitors to Rotherham.

4a. Protecting Vulnerable Children

Why this is a priority and key facts:

| Child Abuse | Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) | Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most recorded victim and suspect relationships were family member (49%) and acquaintance (34%) Females were more likely to be victims of sexual offences. Males were at more risk of violence with injury. 10% of victims have also been recorded as missing from home | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victims of CCE are being introduced to some of the most violent crimes 40% of offences related to drug offences Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat are currently the most commonly used platforms to carry out CCE related activity – this can quickly change 9% of children who went missing were linked to CCE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56% of reported offences are delayed or historic offences (reported after 30 days) In 2020-21, 93% of all victims were female – male victims may be less likely to report Online offences have increased by 41% compared to 2019-20 Offences related to indecent images increased by 113% 13% of children who went missing in 2020-21 were linked to CSE |

Our commitments

| Objective area: | We will: |
|--|---|
| Child Abuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase understanding of the potential signs of neglect and child abuse through training and awareness raising with partners Raise awareness with the public around the signs of early abuse and mechanisms for reporting |
| Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase understanding of CCE, reporting and responses, with professionals and the public through training and awareness raising Work together with partners and the public to reduce the risk of CCE and ensure accurate recording of investigations and quality outcomes |
| Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase understanding of CSE, reporting and responses, with professionals and the public through training and awareness raising Work together with partners and the public to reduce the risk of CSE and ensure accurate recording of investigations and quality outcomes |

4b. Protecting Vulnerable Adults

| Why this is a priority and key facts: | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Substance misuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intelligence shows common drug types were cannabis, cocaine and heroin Offences relating to the production of drugs have increased, with drug activity mostly driven by trafficking of drugs There is a strong association with suicidal thoughts/attempts and death from suicide It is estimated that 89% of dependent alcohol drinkers and 46% of opiate and/or crack cocaine users are not in treatment | <p>Mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID has exacerbated mental health issues Crimes involving victims with a mental health vulnerability increased by 8.1% in 2020-21 Crimes associated with a mental health vulnerability increased by 8% - most offence types were stalking and harassment and public fear, alarm and distress Vulnerable victims (due to mental health) were over-represented in both violence against the person and sexual offences | <p>Modern slavery and human trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most common exploitation was 'forced labour in illegal activity' (19%) and 'forced gang related criminality' (16%) Perpetrators exploit vulnerable people - 48% of victims were under 18 years old 81% of victims were male – female victims may be under-identified Most recorded victim ethnicities were British (39%) and Albanian (26%) |

Our commitments

| Objective area: | We will: |
|---|---|
| Substance misuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase engagement and positive outcomes from substance misuse treatment services for offenders within the criminal justice system |
| Mental health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the use and impact of mental health treatment requirements in the criminal justice system Review dual diagnosis pathways to support service users with mental health and alcohol/drug use treatment needs |
| Modern slavery and Human Trafficking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase understanding of the potential signs of modern slavery through training and awareness raising with partners Raise awareness with the public around the signs of modern slavery and mechanisms for reporting |

4c. Safer and Stronger Communities

Why this is a priority and key facts:

| Anti-social behaviour (ASB) | Hate crime | Online crime |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020-21 saw a 22% rise in reported ASB although incidents are now decreasing Pre-existing ASB hotspots have seen an increase Trends around increased nuisance neighbour complaints continue Nuisance Vehicle - often off-road bikes or vehicles racing are an increasing problem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded hate crime in Rotherham increased by 17% in 2020-21 compared to the previous year and has increased further since Most recorded strands were racial (64%), disability (15%) and sexual orientation (13%) In most cases, victims were subjected to verbal abuse, including threats and intimidation 11% of hate offences were online | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of COVID-19 restrictions was significant with interactions moving online, increasing opportunities for criminals 67% of online offences were stalking and harassment offences 52% of victims were vulnerable victims Sharing of indecent images increased Continued increases are expected due to new/evolving technology and changes in ways perpetrators use it |

Our commitments

| Objective area: | We will: |
|--|---|
| Making communities safer – tackling community safety priority locations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and refresh the partnership approach to problem solving in local neighbourhoods, including thresholds and methodology for partnership activity Seek appropriate external funding opportunities and support and participate in partnership bids to secure additional funding for activity in the borough |
| Preventing hate crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the use of education and engagement to prevent hate crime by tackling the drivers of hate Improve victims' experiences of reporting hate crime and incidents |
| Online crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore innovative ways in which partners and the public can be educated around online safety and digital technologies and develop engagement with young people, families and older people Identify best practice in embedding online activity within service user assessments |

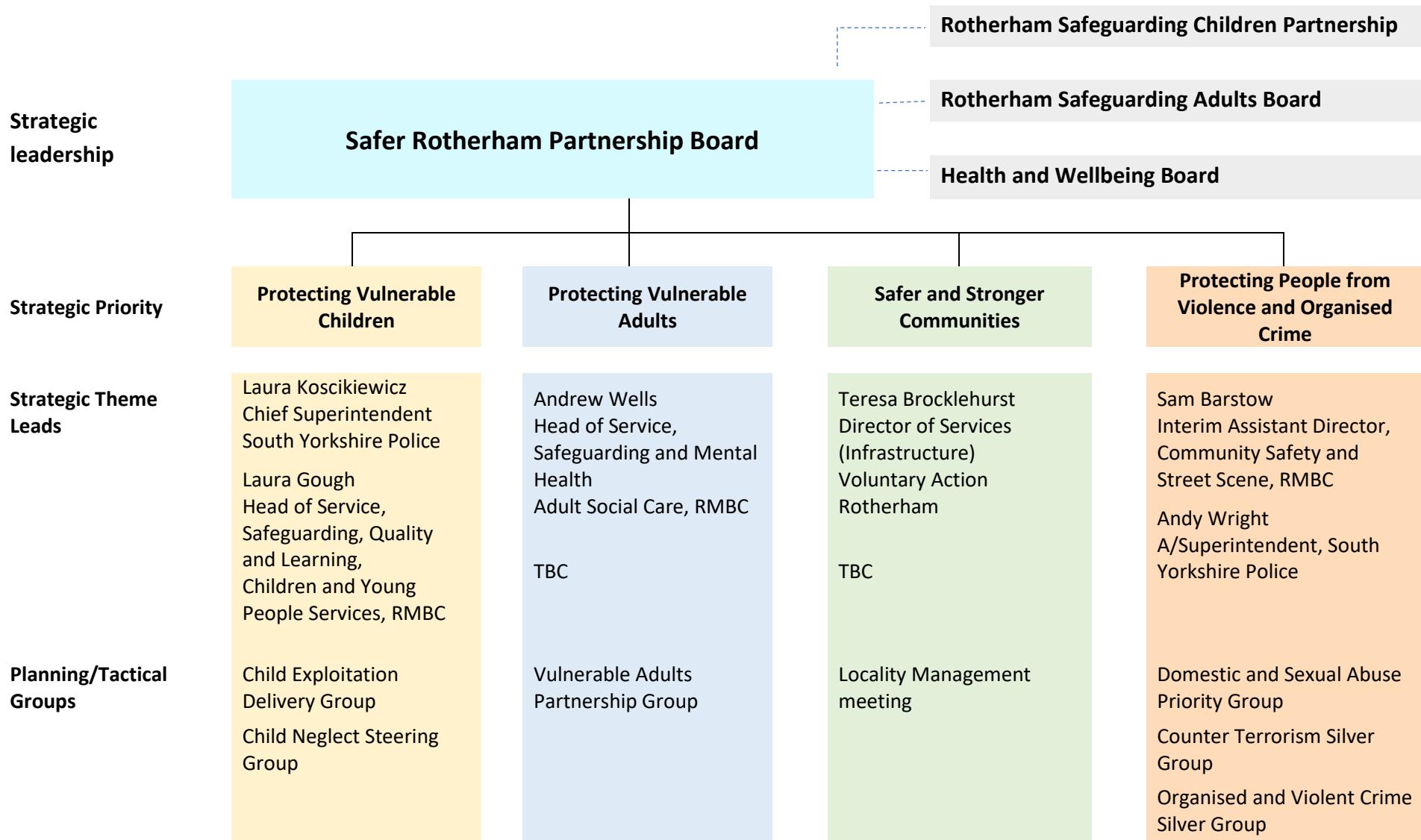
4d. Protecting people from violence and organised crime

| Why this is a priority and key facts: | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Domestic abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic abuse crimes accounted for 18% of offences reported in Rotherham in 2020-21 – it remains an under-reported crime 76% of victims were female Over a third of victims are experiencing long term repeated abuse In 2020, 1,577 victims accepted support from Rotherham Council services Teenage to adult violence increased by 28% | <p>Rape and sexual offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual offences decreased by 15% and rape by 33% In 2020-21 The highest crime types were 'sexual assault on a female aged 13 or over' (21% of all sexual offences) and 'rape of a female aged 16 and over' (19% of all sexual offences) 86.3% of victims were female - offences against males almost doubled in 2020-21 69.6% of adult victims were vulnerable adults | <p>Male violence against women and girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2020-21 there were 53.7 offences per 1000 female population 15% of victims were children 12% of offences were online offences The murder of Sarah Everard sparked national outrage and expectations for change The pandemic has intensified inequalities that put women and girls at risk of gender-based violence |
| <p>Serious violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of victims were male – the number of offences with a female victim rose by 23% 18% of offences had more than one offender 50% of attempted murders were domestic abuse related In recent months there has been an increase in gangs of youths identifying themselves as "postcode gangs" 38% of knife crime victims were vulnerable victims | <p>Organised crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% of suspects in 2020-21 were male Suspects were split by organised crime gang member (16%) or associate (84%) 13% of suspects were aged under 18 - young people are being exploited into committing offences on behalf of organised crime gangs 88% of all suspects were linked to drugs intelligence Many victims were subject to verbal abuse, threats and varying degrees of physical harm | <p>Counter terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK threat level is currently SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is 'highly likely' The threat from extreme right-wing ideologies is increasing. 2020 saw three further neo-nazi groups proscribed (banned) under UK law Key risks are self-initiated terrorism and online radicalisation Providing early support to safeguard children and vulnerable adults who are at risk from harmful extremist influences is vital |

Our commitments

| Objective area: | We will: |
|--|---|
| Domestic abuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transform domestic abuse services, in line with the partnership strategy, to improve outcomes for victims Ensure all those fleeing domestic abuse are able to access safe accommodation and appropriate support Improve the use of criminal justice measures to better protect victims |
| Sexual abuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and refresh the sexual abuse delivery plan, focussing on victim engagement Improve timely reporting of sexual offences to increase forensic opportunities |
| Male violence against women and girls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce male violence against women and girls by focussing on hot spot locations and repeat perpetrators Deliver awareness raising events, projects and promotions aimed at improving women and girls' safety and feelings of safety |
| Serious violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ways out for those already entrenched in violence, or who have been previously incarcerated, to support effective rehabilitation Reduce violence through victim identification, care and support programmes Reduce availability and access to lethal weapons Work to change cultural and social norms that support violence Encourage all professionals and organisations to continue to work toward becoming trauma-informed, to an approved standard for South Yorkshire |
| Organised crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and implement a whole system partnership approach to tackling Organised Crime Prevent individuals and emerging groups from becoming involved in Organised Crime Build stronger information sharing structures between partners and communities Target our partnership approach to those causing the highest harm to individuals and groups in our communities Disrupt Organised Crime via a partnership approach utilising the national Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare framework |
| Counter terrorism: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the risk of terrorism by taking a partnership approach to the Prevent, Protect and Prepare workstreams of the UK Contest Counter Terrorism Strategy Achieve compliance with the Channel, Prevent, Protect and Prepare duties (under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) demonstrated through self-assessment using Home Office toolkits |

5. Governance Structure



6. Delivery plans, performance management and review

Action plans will set out the key initiatives under each strategic priority including objectives, activities, measures of success, time scales, lead partner or officer, resources required and progress to date. These will help us to achieve the commitments in this plan.

Quarterly performance reports will be produced and reported by the priority strategic lead to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board. The reports will include progress on objectives and activities within the action plans and performance against key measures which are critical to the success of the plans. The Board will monitor and oversee progress, provide strategic level decision making, constructive challenge and resolution of any blockages or barriers.

The commitments and objectives within each strategic priority area and the associated actions plans and performance measures will be reviewed annually and agreed with the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board. The

review will be based on an annual crime audit and consist of a broad evidential review of Police and partner data, robust risk assessment process and consultation with stakeholders. The annual review process will ensure the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 remains fit for purpose with meaningful objectives and performance indicators in place to deliver and measure progress and improvements.

7. Find out more

For further information visit the Safer Rotherham Partnership website at www.saferotherham.org.uk or follow us on social media for our latest news and updates at:
www.facebook.com/Rotherhamcommunitysafety
www.instagram.com/rmbcommunitysafety
www.twitter.com/RmbcSafety

If you would like this information in another language or format, please ask us. You can contact us through our website or by emailing community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk

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: Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 | | |
| Directorate: Regeneration and Environment | Service area: Community Safety | |
| Lead person: Sam Barstow/Carol Adamson | Contact: Carol Adamson | |
| Is this a: | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| If other, please specify | | |

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

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan sets out the vision and priorities of the partnership and shows how partners will work together to achieve the priorities.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

Feeling safe is essential to wellbeing. Crime and the fear of crime can have a significant impact on individuals and whole communities. Crime affects physical and mental health in many ways and experiencing crime can have far reaching psychological consequences. The fear of crime can not only have psychological effects but can reduce health and wellbeing promoting behaviours such as social contact, getting out and about in the community for work or leisure and access to services.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership acknowledges that diverse communities may experience the impact of crime differently and their needs and expectations may also be different. Across England, both offenders and victims of crime are more likely to live in the most deprived areas.

- **Key findings**

Detailed data analysis has taken place which includes a breakdown of demographics relating to crime types and themes. A structured risk assessment process has been undertaken to identify the level of risk in relation to impact and harm on individuals and communities, likelihood, confidence in the data and organisational factors such as public expectations and capacity to respond to the issue. This has enabled key risk areas to be scored and prioritised. The analysis has been validated by partner professionals with expertise and experience in the relevant fields.

When developing and agreeing the final priorities for 2022-25, the Safer Rotherham Partnership will consult widely to take into account the views, needs and expectations of stakeholders, including protected characteristic groups and representative organisations.

- **Actions**

A consultation plan has been developed.

| | |
|---|--|
| Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis: | May 2021 to December 2021 |
| Date to complete your Equality Analysis: | April 2022 |
| Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title): | Carol Adamson Community Safety Service Manager |

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name | Job title | Date |
|-------------|---|------|
| Sam Barstow | Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services | |

6. Publishing

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

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

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

| | |
|--|----------|
| Date screening completed | 12.01.22 |
| Report title and date | |
| If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication | |
| Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement <u>equality@rotherham.gov.uk</u> | |

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

| 1. Title | |
|--|--|
| Equality Analysis title: Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 | |
| Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 23.03.22 | |
| Directorate: Regeneration and Environment | Service area: Community Safety |
| Lead Manager: Carol Adamson | Contact number: 07919 302 448 |
| Is this a: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |
| If other, please specify | |

| 2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance | | |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Name | Organisation | Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist) |
| Carol Adamson | RMBC | Community Safety Service Manager |
| Sam Barstow | RMBC | Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services |
| Helen Thorpe | RMBC | Community Safety Officer |
| Also reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board | | |

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 plan sets out how the Safer Rotherham Partnership (which is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) will achieve the duties of the responsible authorities to work together to protect local communities and help people feel safer.

The plan impacts on every individual/community in the borough along with businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations, public bodies and partner agencies.

The plan demonstrates how strong strategic leadership, planning, performance management and problem solving will result in action plans which aim to deliver long term, sustainable solutions and improved outcomes for the people of Rotherham.

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

Comprehensive risk assessment and data analysis taking into account crime and partner data (which includes victim and offender demographic information) was assessed using the Management of Risk Assessment in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) tool. Outcomes of the analysis are set out in MoRiLE rationale documents covering:

- Alcohol misuse
- Anti-social behaviour
- Child criminal exploitation
- Child abuse
- Counter terrorism
- County lines
- Child sexual exploitation
- Cyber crime
- Knife crime
- Mental health
- Modern slavery and human trafficking
- Most serious violence
- Organised crime groups
- Rape and sexual offences
- So called honour-based abuse and forced marriage

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic abuse • Drugs markets and drugs misuse • Firearms • Hate crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalking and harassment • Violence against women and girls • Vulnerable adults |
|--|--|

Consultation has taken place with communities of interest covering Equality Act protected characteristic groups and geographic communities of interest as well as with the general public and partner stakeholders. The outcomes of consultation have been used to confirm the priorities and will inform subsequent action planning and performance measures. Alongside online surveys for the general public and consultation with partner strategic leadership boards and employees, the following protected characteristic groups were engaged with during the consultation period from January 2022 to March 2022:

| Community of interest | Representative organisation/group |
|------------------------------|---|
| Older people | Rotherham Older People's Forum/Age UK |
| Older people/Women | Local community art group (with participants from across the borough) |
| Young people | Saif's gym |
| | Youth cabinet |
| BAME | Rotherham Ethnic Community Network |
| | Rotherham Community Forum |
| Faith | Faith Leaders Forum/ Rotherham Interfaith group |
| | Mosque discussion group |
| Women | Women's Network |
| | Apna Haq |
| Men | Saifs Gym |
| | Buddies Group (Vulnerable men's support group) |
| Disabled people | Sight and Sound – staff and service users |
| | Sense |
| Carers | Parent Carers Forum Carers Forum |
| LGBT+ | LGBT+ focus group |
| All strands | Independent hate crime scrutiny panel |
| | VCS groups/VAR |

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

No – in addition to the above, learning from past engagement has been considered, for example, engagement that informed the development of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-27 that was published in January 2022.

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

Each priority within the SRP Plan has a set of performance indicators that are monitored by strategic theme leads and partnership priority groups – where appropriate this data is disaggregated by protected characteristic.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p> | <p>The public online survey was open from 07.02.22 to 04.03.22. The purpose of the survey was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm the proposed overarching priorities for 2022-25 • Identify the types of partnership responses that are most important to stakeholders under each priority to inform action planning • Identify any important community safety issues not addressed by the proposed priorities <p>Detailed outcomes are available. A summary is below:</p> <p>The online survey identified that the most important actions the public wanted to see were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase prevention and early intervention initiatives 2. Improve support services for victims and families 3. Take action to disrupt potential offenders <p>Analysis of the survey outcomes by protected characteristic groups was consistent with the overall outcomes as above. There were some differences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and young people placed more importance on support services to increase confidence in reporting neighbourhood crime • People from ethnic minority groups placed more importance on understanding crimes from the victim's perspective • Older people placed more importance on training staff to spot signs of abuse and crime and reporting it swiftly • People from ethnic minority groups placed more importance on public awareness campaigns about child abuse and exploitation |
|--|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males were generally more supportive than other groups of understanding why offenders commit crimes <p>Focus groups held from January to March 2022 with protected characteristic groups provided more detailed qualitative information that confirmed the key priorities and will be used to inform the development of delivery plans.</p> <p>In relation to geographic communities, the outcome of Ward Plan consultations which took place in summer 2021 were analysed. Common themes related to community safety included in ward priorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locality based partnership action to tackle crime and ASB • Preventative action (encouraging reporting and projects to tackle root causes of problems) • Road safety • Environmental – fly tipping, litter <p>The online survey was promoted via the Parish Council Network meeting.</p> |
| Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings) | <p>Staff from partner organisations provided data and information for the MoRiLE analysis stage from June to September 2021 and were also invited to complete the online consultation survey as above.</p> <p>Strategic leaders from across the partnership were consulted via meetings and a separate online survey from 07.02.22 to 24.03.22. These partners included Cabinet Members, Elected Members and members of the following boards/groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Children Partnership • Safeguarding Adults Board • Health and Wellbeing Board • Strategic Housing Forum • Business Growth Board • Safer Rotherham Partnership priority groups <p>The top 4 actions identified by strategic partners were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased prevention and early identification 2. Train staff in all agencies to identify the signs of abuse and crime and ensure they know how to report it swiftly and through the correct channels 3. Take action to disrupt potential offenders 4. Improve support for victims and families <p>Safer Rotherham Partnership Board strategic priority leads were involved in MoRiLE risk assessment and priority setting workshops in Nov-Dec 2021 and regular</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | reports and approvals were sought from the SRP Board at each stage of the SRP Plan and priority development from August 2021 to April 2022. |
|--|---|

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 Safer Rotherham Partnership plan meets the needs of different communities and groups by driving action to achieve its key priorities which are fully inclusive of the above protected characteristic groups. The key priorities are:

- Protecting vulnerable children
- Protecting vulnerable adults
- Safer and stronger communities
- Protecting people from violence and organised crime

Objectives, action plans and performance measurements against each of these priorities will be developed, implemented, monitored reviewed and evaluated.

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

None identified – by addressing the crime and community safety issues impacting Rotherham's diverse communities, the policy is designed to promote equality and good community relations

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

The SRP plan identifies and puts in place actions to protect the most vulnerable people and communities within the Borough. In developing action plans to achieve objectives, barriers identified through the MoRiLE analysis and consultation will be addressed, for example in relation to access to services, access to the criminal justice system and prevention and early intervention support.

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)

A key priority/aim of the SRP plan is building safer and stronger communities, where people from different backgrounds get on well together.

The SRP plan and associated action plans will drive action to tackle the underlying attitudes that engender hate, prejudice and division within communities and to take early

action to prevent community tensions. It will also drive work to build resilience in communities and with young people to counter harmful influences, particularly online hate and extremism.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

| |
|---|
| Title of analysis: Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 |
| Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment, Community Safety and Street Scene |
| Lead Manager: Sam Barstow |
| Summary of findings: |
| <p>The Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 sets out how the Rotherham community safety partnership will work together to protect vulnerable people, help people feel safer and build safer and stronger communities.</p> <p>The plan impacts on every individual/community in the borough along with businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations, public bodies and partner agencies.</p> <p>The plan demonstrates how strong strategic leadership, planning, performance management and problem solving will result in action plans which aim to deliver long term, sustainable solutions and improved outcomes for the people of Rotherham.</p> |

| Action/Target | State Protected Characteristics as listed below | Target date (MM/YY) |
|---|---|--|
| Performance information will be monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure actions achieve their intended impacts on communities/protected characteristic groups. | All groups as below | Quarterly from 30 June 2022 to 31 March 2025 |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Annual reviews of crime data and assessments of changing and emerging risks will be carried out. | | |
|--|--|--|

***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 |
|--|--|----------|
| SRP Plan 2022-25 and Equality Analysis approved by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board | Councillor Alam, SRP Board Chair and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance | 07.04.22 |

7. Publishing

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

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

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Date Equality Analysis completed | 23.03.22 |
| Report title and date | Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 |
| Date report sent for publication | |
| Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk | 31.05.22 |

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User guidance:

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

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

| Will the decision/proposal impact... | Impact | If an impact or potential impacts are identified | | | |
|--|-----------|--|--|--|---|
| | | Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors. | Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole. | Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts | Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out |
| Emissions from non-domestic buildings? | No impact | | | | |
| Emissions from transport? | No impact | | | | |
| Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself? | No impact | | | | |
| Emissions from housing and domestic buildings? | No impact | | | | |
| 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:

N/A

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

The SRP plan and actions arising from it coordinates existing partner activity and resources, therefore there are no implied increases in car travel, heating buildings, etc. that will result in increased emissions.

Supporting information:

| | |
|---|--|
| Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate). | Carol Adamson Community Safety Service Manager Community Safety Regeneration and Environment 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] | Approved by |

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 05 October 2022

Report Title

Recommendation from Cabinet – July Financial Monitoring 2022/23

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

At its meeting on 20 September 2022, Cabinet considered a report detailing the Council's financial monitoring position for 2022/23, based on July Financial Monitoring.

The original report providing detail on the July Financial Monitoring position is appended to provide Members with sufficient knowledge to agree the proposals.

To give effect to the recommendations from Cabinet, consideration and approval by Council must be given to the recommendation set out below. This recommendation was presented to Cabinet as an Addendum and is attached for Council as Appendix 2.

Recommendations

1. Cabinet have authority to approve amendments to the Council's Capital Programme in relation to the Forge Island leisure development, should this be necessary in order to secure best value for the taxpayer.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 July Financial Monitoring
- Appendix 2 Addendum – Forge Island
- Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment
- Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 Report to Council on 2nd March 2022
May Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet on 11th July 2022

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

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 19 September 2022

Report Title

July Financial Monitoring 2022/23

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Report sets out the financial position as at the end of July 2022 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first four months of 2022/23. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and is essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's policy agenda. To that end, this is the second financial monitoring report of a series of monitoring reports for the current financial year which will continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As at July 2022, the Council currently estimates an overspend of £11.4m for the financial year 2022/23. Whilst the core directorates services have a forecast year-end overspend of £7.4m on the General Fund, there is £4.0m of estimated unbudgeted cost resulting from the wider financial impact of the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy price increases excluding the estimated impact of the 2022/23 pay award. This additional financial challenge has been factored into the current forecast following a review of the impact of these pressures on the current year and Medium Term Financial Planning.

Whilst the energy price rises and inflation will impact the Council's costs in the provision of services there will be some mitigation in future years by increased core funding as business rates income is indexed to the rate of inflation. It is currently expected that the period of high inflation will last for around two years before returning

to a more normal level but the cost increase being experienced will raise the base cost of services on which future inflation is applied meaning a compounding impact.

As such the Council faces significant financial pressures that will need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium Term Financial Strategy and through significant use of the Council's reserves. There is no indication as yet as to whether additional funding will be provided to local authorities as part of the financial settlement for 2023/24.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £11.4m.
2. Note that actions will continue to be taken to reduce the overspend position but that it is expected that the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2022/23 financial position.
3. Note the Council's approach to use of the Homes for Ukraine funding, as detailed in section 2.42.
4. Note the updated Capital Programme.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 Report to Council on 2nd March 2022
May Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet on 11th July 2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

July Financial Monitoring 2022/23

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of its performance and control framework the Council is required to produce regular and timely reports for the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet to keep them informed of financial performance so that, where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring expenditure in line with the approved budget for the financial year.
- 1.2 Delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme within the parameters agreed by Council is essential if the Council's objectives are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.
- 1.3 This Report is the second in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2022/23, setting out the projected year end revenue budget financial position in light of actual costs and income for the first four months of the financial year.

2. Key Issues

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

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn 2022/23 as at July 2022

| Directorate | Budget 2022/23 £m | Forecast Outturn 2022/23 £m | Forecast Variance over/under (-) £m |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Children and Young People's Services | 65.9 | 70.2 | 4.3 |
| Adult Care, Housing & Public Health | 88.9 | 89.0 | 0.1 |
| Regeneration and Environment Services | 47.5 | 50.5 | 3.0 |
| Finance and Customer Services | 19.6 | 19.6 | 0.0 |
| Assistant Chief Executive | 7.5 | 7.5 | 0.0 |
| Central Services | 30.2 | 34.2 | 4.0 |
| Directorate Forecast Outturn | 259.7 | 271.1 | 11.4 |
| Dedicated Schools Grant | | | 0 |
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) | | | 1.8 |

The Council's overspend position at this point is largely due to the following overall issues:

- Financial implications of the war in Ukraine, inflation and energy price increases.
- Placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services.
- Home to School Transport pressures within Regeneration and Environment.
- Pressures relating to the longer term recovery from Covid-19 on income generation within Regeneration and Environment.

As at July 2022, the Council currently estimates an overspend of £11.4m for the financial year 2022/23. Whilst the core directorates services have a forecast year end overspend of £7.4m on the General Fund, there is also £4.0m estimated overspend in relation to the wider financial impact of the war in Ukraine on inflation and energy price increases.

These financial challenges are being considered as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning. Whilst the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy did have reasonable cover for inflationary impacts and estimated pay award at the time of setting the 2022/23 Budget, the current rises are far above what the Council could have anticipated.

Along with most Council's across the UK, the Council assumed a 2% pay award for 2022/23 in the Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23. However, the current estimated pay claim (£1,925 on all NJC pay points from 1st April 2022 and 4.04% on allowances), potentially provides staff at the bottom of the pay scale with a 10.4% pay award, whilst it reduces to 1.1% for the top salary point. The bulk of the Council's staff are towards the lower end of the pay scale so will potentially receive a pay award well in excess of the 2% modelled within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. As yet there is no indication from Government that any additional resources will be provided to local authorities for 2022/23 or within the financial settlement for 2023/24 to support the application of this potential pay award. The financial impact of this pay award is £6.5m greater than the budget assumed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- 2.2 The energy price rises and inflation will impact the Council's costs in the provision of services. However, some of this cost impact will be mitigated in future years by increased core funding as business rates income is indexed to the rate of inflation. The Bank of England is still expecting that the period of high inflation will last for around two years before returning to a more normal level but the cost increase being experienced will raise the base cost of services on which future inflation is applied meaning a compounding impact. As such, the Council will face significant financial pressures that will need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council's reserves.
- 2.3 The current year forecast position will continue to be monitored closely and mitigations identified to enable a balanced outturn position to be delivered, though it's clear that the Council will need to call on reserves to achieve a balanced outturn position. There is significant volatility at present in the economy that makes projecting forwards the impact of inflation and energy prices challenging, as such the Council will need to keep focus on assumptions based

on these pressures. In addition, the Council will need to ensure that mitigating actions are taken to reduce the current directorate forecast outturns along with ensuring that savings plans are delivered on time to mitigate any knock on impact on future years Medium Term Financial Planning.

2.4 The following sections provide further information regarding the Council's forecast outturn of £11.4m, the key reasons for forecast under or overspends within directorates and the progress of savings delivery.

2.5 The Council is able to report further secured delivery of planned savings for 2022/23. The table below provides an update on the £11.5m of planned savings to be delivered over the medium term. £4.1m, almost a third of planned savings have been delivered already within 2022/23, an increase of £0.2m from May's Financial Monitoring position reported to Cabinet in July. This includes £971k for Early Help & Social Care Pathway (reductions in social care teams linked to reducing caseloads), £2.4m savings from reablement services and £119k delivery of increased income at Waleswood. CYPS have delivered £55k against their 2023/24 savings target. The R&E remaining position for savings to be delivered during 2022/23 is in respect of planned cost reductions on operational buildings.

Table 2: Planned delivery of £11.5m savings

| Saving | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 & Total FYE | Still to be delivered 2022/23 | Total secured to date |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| ACHPH | 2,800 | 2,800 | 2,800 | 400 | 2,400 |
| ACHPH – One off saving | 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500 |
| CYPS | 971 | 4,739 | 7,411 | 0 | 1026 |
| R&E | 374 | 762 | 784 | 205 | 169 |
| R&E Customer & Digital | 200 | 500 | 500 | 155 | 45 |
| Total Savings | 4,845 | 8,801 | 11,495 | 760 | 4,140 |

Children and Young People Services Directorate (£4.3m) forecast overspend

- 2.6 Children & Young People Services continue to implement the budget recovery plan with budget savings of £971k already delivered for 2022/23.
- 2.7 The budget pressure at the end of July 2022 is £4.3m, an increase of £0.7m on the May reported position. The movement reflects increased pressures linked to Post 19 transport (£200k) and agency costs in children's social care (although the Directorate are underspent overall on staff costs), along with increased pressures linked to costs on children's social care placements. The main pressures relate to placements (£3.9m), Children in Care & Post 19 Transport (£570k) and Section 17 monies (£170k), offset mainly by staff savings due to the level of vacancies across the directorate.
- 2.8 The Looked After Children numbers have increased from June 2022 by 9 from 546 to 555. This is below the original budget profile (557) for this period by 2 placements. However, the placement mix is showing higher than projected placements in external residential (1), emergency (5), Independent Fostering Agency (30), Leaving Care (13) offset by in-house fostering (37), in house residential (1) and no cost placements (13).
- 2.9 The LAC number of 555 includes 29 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children which has risen from 14 in March 2022. This is having an impact on the ability to reduce the overall LAC numbers.
- 2.10 The direct employee budget is £37.7m and is a combination of general fund, traded and grant funded services. The projected underspend at the end of July is £24k, which includes a general fund projected underspend of £127k and an overspend of £103k against DSG and traded services.
- 2.11 The general fund projected underspend on staffing is £127k, this relates to staffing savings in Early Help & Education offset by pressures in Children's Social Care (due to agency workers), District Wide (mainly Safeguarding) and Commissioning & Performance. At the end of July there were 28.0 agency workers in CYPS, 21.5 across children's social care and 6.5 in Education Services.
- 2.12 A significant element of the CYPS non-pay budget relates to placements which has a net budget of £34.9m with a current projected spend of £38.8m, a projected overspend of £3.9m.
- 2.13 The £3.9m adverse projection relates in the main to £3.2m on external residential placements, £1m on Independent Fostering Agency placements and £0.6m in emergency, offset by savings on in-house residential £0.2m, leaving care £0.3m, in house fostering £0.2m and on guardianship allowances £0.2m.
- 2.14 The £3.2m residential pressure is due to a combination of the increase in placement costs (£0.8m), a reduction in the estimated residential step downs

(£1.7m) as well as a reduction in the contribution from Dedicated Schools Grant due to a reduction in education placements (£0.7m).

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 2.15 The High Needs Block (HNB) is £51.6m (including the £3.3m transfer from the schools block) and demand remains high due to rising numbers of children supported in specialist provision and the rising costs of Education Health Care (EHC) plans. The High Needs Budget is based on the DSG recovery plan and includes anticipated growth of EHC numbers and the implementation of new developments linked to the SEND Sufficiency Strategy.
- 2.16 The Council has entered into a Safety Valve agreement with Government to enable the Council to reduce the DSG deficit reserve. The central DSG reserve now stands at £12.8m following receipt of £8.5m Safety Valve funding during 2021/22. The Council will receive further payments to fully remove the DSG reserve deficit along with additional capital funding to ensure the Council is placed in a more sustainable position moving forwards.
- 2.17 The Council is currently on track to meet its Safety Valve Recovery plan with the High Needs Block outturn for the year a small forecast overspend of £16k (excluding Safety Valve funding). The pressures reflect demand for special school, resource units, top up funding and ISP's, offset by savings on external residential placements and transport.
- 2.18 The key areas of focus to reduce High Needs Block spend are:
 - A review of high cost, external education provision to reduce spend and move children back into Rotherham educational provision.
 - Increase SEN provision in Rotherham linked to mainstream schools and academies, with further capacity becoming operational by the end of 2021/22.
 - Work with schools and academies to maintain pupils in mainstream settings wherever possible.
 - A review of inclusion services provided by the Council

Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, (£0.1m) forecast overspend

- 2.19 The directorate is forecast to overspend by £0.1m. There are several pressures within Adult Care which are mitigated by additional income giving a small net underspend within Adult Care of £0.2m. Housing GF is forecast to overspend by £288k.

- 2.20 The cost of Adult care packages is forecast to budget. Although there has been an increase in the number of people in older people's residential and nursing care, there has also been a significant increase in Continuing Health Care income towards several Learning Disability placements, some of which have been backdated to previous years. The forecast assumes all current placements remain for the rest of the year although they may reduce. Overall movements in numbers will be closely monitored as the year progresses.
- 2.21 Staffing budgets are forecast to be £138k underspent due to vacancies.
- 2.22 Neighbourhood Services (Housing) is forecast to overspend by £288k. The key pressure is on homelessness, which is expected to overspend by £365k after accounting for grant income, though this is mitigated in part by savings due to staff vacancies that reduce the overall pressure.
- 2.23 Public Health is forecast to budget at this stage.

Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£3.0m) forecast overspend

- 2.24 The projection for the directorate indicates the forecast pressure has remained at £3.0m for this financial year, as reported as part of May's Financial Monitoring to Cabinet in July. The forecast reflects the impact of ongoing demographic pressures in Home to School Transport and the remaining economic impact of the recovery from the lockdown restrictions on some of the directorate's services. For example, a continuation of the increases in waste tonnages believed to be resulting from changes in patterns of work life balance, and the impact on income generation, in particular in Parking Services. The forecast outturn projection includes the following specific budget issues.
- 2.25 Community Safety and Street Scene (CSS) is forecasting an overall pressure of £2m. The most significant pressure continues to be in respect of Home to School Transport of £1.6m, due to ongoing demographic pressures leading to an increase in the number of new eligible passengers and fewer contractors in the market leading to increased prices. Addressing the challenge of the increased costs and demand, a range of solutions are being explored to influence demand and maximise savings opportunities, using improved cost data analysis to support plans to implement lower cost routes.
- 2.26 Parking Services is forecasting a pressure of £0.4m. The longer term recovery post pandemic, the ongoing economic impact on town centre footfall and the closure of the Forge Island car park for the cinema development, has led to a reduction in income from parking charges.
- 2.27 Waste Management is forecasting an overspend of £0.3m. Household waste tonnages continue to be above trend, also disposal charges have risen and commercial waste income has dipped, however, the service is continuing to see an improvement in recycling income, as the market stabilises. The forecast assumes best case assumptions for outturn tonnages and income.

- 2.28 Culture Sport and Tourism (CST) is forecasting an overall pressure of £0.3m. The service is still seeing reduced levels of forecast income compared to pre-pandemic levels at Rother Valley Country Park, Green Spaces, Theatre and the Music Service.
- 2.29 Planning, Regeneration and Transport (PRT) is forecasting an overall pressure of £0.7m. The major pressure is in Asset Management, with a forecast overspend of £0.6m. The forecast assumes income under recovery in Estates and Building Consultancy. Pressures in Facilities Management include rising property costs, including repairs and maintenance and fixtures and fittings.
- 2.30 A pressure of £0.1m is being reported in respect of Facilities Services, due to inflationary pressures on food prices in School Meals (basic food, consumables and materials costs could be expected to rise further) and the closure of Riverside House Cafe. A pressure of £0.1m is being reported in the RIDO service, largely due to a forecast shortfall on Markets income arising from the number of void stalls and the ongoing difficult trading conditions. However, grant income offsetting direct costs in other services in RIDO has helped partially mitigate the Markets service pressure.

Finance and Customer Services (balanced outturn position)

- 2.31 The overall directorate is reporting a balanced outturn position. Whilst there are some financial pressures within the directorate, the service will continue to make savings on ICT Contracts and Legal disbursements and deliver a balanced budget.
- 2.32 Within Customer, Information and Digital Services, the service continues to generate cost reductions on the renewal or removal of ICT contracts. The removal of the kiosks across the borough and the promotion of online and over the phone payment routes has seen further savings for the service as the cost of cash transportation has reduced (as less cash is needed) and transaction costs reduce as residents move to more efficient payment methods. The service has also incurred difficulties with recruitment, creating further temporary cost reduction.
- 2.33 Whilst Legal Services continue to face demand for legal support with child protection hearings and court case costs relating to Looked After Children, the level of demand is decreasing. In addition, the service is seeing reduced costs of legal disbursements and whilst the number of cases can fluctuate, overall it is on a downward trajectory.

Assistant Chief Executive (balanced outturn position)

- 2.34 The service is currently able to forecast a balanced outturn position. The service had experienced difficulties in recruitment during 2021/22, however most of the vacancies are either filled or expect to be filled during 2022/23. The HR service is projecting increased income generation from salary sacrifice schemes and external business from partnership arrangements.

Central Services (£10.5m) forecast overspend

2.35 There are some significant financial challenges that were not evident at the time of setting the 2022/23 Budget, such as the war in Ukraine and its impact on the significant rise in energy prices and inflation. It is currently estimated that the impact of inflation and in particular energy price increases will be £4m above available budget. In addition, the Local Government Pay Claim 2022/23 has now been considered by national employers and is being put to NJC Trade Unions. The offer includes an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points from 1st April 2022 and 4.04% on allowances. If approved, at the lowest spinal column point that the Council uses, this would be a 10.4% pay rise, reducing down to 1.1% for the most senior role. The financial impact of this pay award is £6.5m greater than the budget assumed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy which assumed a 2% pay award for 2022/23, as the outcome remains uncertain it has not been factored into the current outturn position.

2.36 These financial challenges are being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning. Whilst the Council's outturn position for 2021/22 placed the Council in a stronger position and more able to manage the impact rather than needing to consider making cuts in services, it is clear that the Council will need to utilise reserves to manage these impacts. The energy price rises and inflation will impact the Council's costs in the provision of services. However, some of this cost impact will be mitigated in future years by increased core funding, for example business rates income is indexed to the rate of inflation. It is currently expected that the period of high inflation will last for around two years before returning to a more normal level. As such, the Council will face short term financial pressures that will need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council's reserves.

2.37 The Council currently anticipates that the financial impact of these pressures on the Council's 2022/23 budget will be £4.0m, with a significant pressure over the period of 2023/24 to 2024/25. Though the economic position is very volatile at present requiring this position to be under regular review. The forecast impact is based on assumptions around the potential impact of inflation and energy prices, areas that are to a large degree outside of the Council's control and influence.

2.38 The Central Services budgets are made up of a number of corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Integrated Transport Levy (ITA), PFI Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23, approved at Council 2nd March 2022. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the directorates and thus held centrally. For example, the cost of levies for 2022/23 was set at £11.8m at the outset of 2022/23. These wider Central Services budgets are forecast as balanced budgets.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

2.39 The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory ring-fenced account that the Council has to maintain in respect of the income and expenditure incurred in relation to its council dwellings and associated assets. The HRA is currently forecast to overspend by £1.8m.

2.40 The overspend largely relates to increases in energy costs which has an impact on building running costs as well as the District Heating scheme. The unit cost charged to DH tenants is fixed whilst wholesale gas and electricity prices are higher than anticipated. The forecast includes under recovery of dwelling rent and garage income.

2.41 The HRA budget includes a contribution to HRA reserve of £2.037m. The transfer to reserve is forecast at £0.277m to reflect the forecast overspend which will bring the HRA back to a balanced position.

Homes for Ukraine Funding

2.42 Councils have a critical role to play in the success of the Homes for Ukraine scheme and are uniquely placed to support local communities to offer people from Ukraine the warmest possible welcome to the UK. The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched on 14 March 2022 by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

2.43 This Scheme is open to Ukrainian nationals who were residents in Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022 and also to their immediate family members (for example spouse/partner and children under 18) who may be of other nationalities, to be sponsored to come to the UK.

2.44 The government issued guidance which set out a range of responsibilities for local authorities under the Homes for Ukraine scheme including carrying out property standards checks, accommodation suitability, safeguarding assessments, DBS checks on sponsors, initial welfare checks on new arrivals, payment of a £200 initial subsistence payment to guests and a monthly £350 'thank you' payment to hosts. Councils should also provide support for school admissions, accessing welfare benefits and work, homelessness, bank accounts and community integration.

2.45 The government is providing funding at a rate of £10,500 per person to Councils to enable them to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. Initially, the Council had to incur costs in advance of funding being provided but Government have now began to make the required funding allocations.

2.46 This funding comes with a number of conditions attached that dictate certain roles that the Council has to carry out but also flexibility for the wider wrap around support that will need to be provided. The fund will match the tariff offered under the first year of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), although the role of Councils will be

different. For example, Councils will not be asked to source initial accommodation under this scheme as this will be provided by the sponsor.

2.47 If all applications are approved (140 potential at this point), total grant will be £1,470,000. Numbers are being monitored closely, and for prudence, grant is currently estimated at £1,249,500, being the value of the 119 approved guests.

2.48 An officer decision will be taken by the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to set out how the fund has been used to date, to meet specific emergency requirements as well as setting out how the Council will provide ongoing wrap around support moving forwards.

Capital Programme Update

2.49 The Capital Programme 2022/23 now totals £188.138m split between the General Fund £135.310m and HRA £52.828m. This is a decrease of £97.145m to the position as at the end of May reported to Cabinet on 11th July 2022. The majority of which relates to the reprofiling of schemes due to delays caused mainly from COVID-19, inflationary pressures on the programme and the high volume of capital activity taking place nationally that is straining resources from an internal and external delivery point. The movement is based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, both new and revised grant allocations £1.777m and slippage and re-profiles of (£98.922m). The overall Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26 has increased by £4.970m, predominantly as a result of changes to grant funding available, as detailed in the following sections.

2.50 **Table 3: Variations to the Capital Programme 2022/22 to 2025/26.**

| | Total Impact £m | 2022/23 Impact £m | Post 2022/23 Impact £m |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Revised Grant and Funding Estimates | 5.789 | 1.777 | 4.012 |
| Slippage / reprofiling | -0.819 | -98.922 | 98.103 |
| Total | 4.970 | -97.145 | 102.115 |

2.51 The main re-profiles are shown below in two categories, those where there has been a change in delivery profile and those where grants were entered into the Capital Programme in the year of the Government grant award and as such need to be re-profiled to match planned delivery :

1. Re-profiles due to a change in delivery

- **Parkway Widening**, £1.380m underspend. Progress on the scheme is good and on target to complete by the end of October. The underspend is due to a reduction in costs on the employer risk element of the contract. Discussions are currently taking place with the contractor about

arrangements to bring the scheme and contractual arrangements to a close.

- **Netherfield Eastwood Phase 2**, £5.088m slippage. This scheme is in development and is currently delayed. Outline designs and indicative costs have been obtained and procurement activity is due to commence shortly. The budget has therefore been slipped into 2023/24. The delay is in part due to complexities with working with external partners and grant funding.
- **Beaumont Grange**, £1.443m slippage. The scheme is to purchase 14 units over a 2 year period. The budget has been reprofiled to line up with delivery of units from the contractor, the Council has no direct control over when the contractor completes the build. However, 3 units will be acquired during 2022/23.
- **SEND Phase 3/4**, £1.223m slippage. A review of SEND delivery in 2022/23 is taking place with revised costing being worked up. A project delivery programme is being put together to determine a more realistic profile.
- **Fleet Management Vehicle Purchase**, £8.700m slippage. A review of the project is underway to assess the most advantageous route to vehicle replacement whilst supporting the Council's climate strategy.
- **Rotherham Markets Redevelopment**, £9.454m slippage. The project has been delayed whilst a review of funding options took place, due to the impact of inflation on the project delivery costs. However, planning application has been submitted awaiting outcome during August 2022 and a revised funding package is being considered.
- **Town Centre Investment**, £4.279m slippage. It is expected that the residual balance of the Town Centre Investment fund will be used in the main to support Forge Island enabling works, to be determined September 2022. However, this funding is unlikely to be required before 2023/24.
- **Strategic Review of Libraries** £2.980m slippage. This is budget provision to support the new central library which will be delivered as part of the Market redevelopment. As above, this project has been delayed and is now not likely to start until 2023/24.

2. Re-profiles following Government grant award

- **Levelling Up Funding**, £24.071m re-profile. The budget profile has been updated to reflect the most recent forecasts submitted to the LUF. Original budgets were reflective of the funding awards, however, they are now based on revised budgets worked up based on project concepts and designs which have now evolved with greater costing information

available.

- **Town Deal**, £20.527m re-profile. Spend profile has been revised in line with the recent Towns Deal forecast return. The budget profiles are now based on the internal project business cases that have been developed providing a more robust financial and delivery profile.
- **Housing Growth Programme Phase 3**, £12.205m re-profile. There are a series of growth schemes being brought forward calling on this holding budget. The budget is to be re-profiled into future years to better align to when schemes have gone through the design/procurement process into delivery. The delay is due to several factors including complexities with external partners and inflation within the market leading to re-design requirements.

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

Table 4: New Grant/HRA Funded Schemes added to the programme

| Directorate/Scheme | 2022/23 | Post 2022/23 |
|--|----------------|---------------------|
| | £M | £m |
| Children's and Young People's Services | | |
| Confirmation of School Special Provision Funding | 0.000 | 4.322 |
| Amended School Condition Allocation budget. | -0.006 | 0.000 |
| Revised funding assumptions on Basic Need allocations. | 0.000 | -0.042 |
| Revised funding assumptions in line with Schools Condition Allocation tapering of grant protection arrangements. | 0.000 | -0.270 |
| Regeneration & Environment | | |
| New MCA Gainshare Funds approved for a contribution to the Forge Island flood defence work. | 2.000 | 0.000 |
| Removal of budget in relation to an unsuccessful grant bid for the Civic Theatre Annex studio space. | -0.217 | 0.000 |
| Total | 1.777 | 4.012 |

2.53 Programme Variations

The following variations to the capital programme cover significant movements between capital projects that are either key decision value or a change in use of corporate resources and as such need reporting to Cabinet.

- **Rotherham Markets Redevelopment:** The project has a forecast funding gap of £9.8m following an update of the cost plan. With changing market conditions, the updated cost modelling resulted in a substantial uplift to the anticipated cost of delivering the outlined phase of works. The reasons for the increase include general materials inflation but also much greater than expected inflation on base materials that are becoming scarcer. In addition, following early engagement with suppliers, further design adjustments have been identified that add to a funding shortfall.

Following a Council review of the project and wider capital programme a funding package has been proposed to bridge the gap. This includes;

- MCA Gainshare contribution of £5m
- Allocation of Libraries re-location budget of £2.9m, that was earmarked for the central library relocation with the markets redevelopment project will cover.
- Re-directed operational building budget of £1.8m, utilising the elements of this budget earmarked for central library and markets capital maintenance.
- **Town Centre Housing:** The Town Centre 3 Sites project comprises the development of 171 mixed tenure homes across three town centre sites (Sheffield Rd car park, Millfold House and Henley's Garage). The scheme is approaching completion, though final forecast scheme costs include an estimated overspend of £1.4m. The overspend relates to abnormal site costs, difficulties with utilities on all 3 sites and amendments to specifications in particular around communal areas. The additional costs can be accommodated in the main through additional income generation from the sale of the private properties, £1.2m, with the remaining balance coming from a number of small underspends within the Housing Growth programme.
- **Customer and Digital Improvements – Grounds and Streets Service:** An allocation of £100k is held within the programme to advance the digital capacity of this service area, however as the scheme has progressed it has become clear that this budget requirement is insufficient. A solution has been identified at a cost of 2 years, along with funding contributions from the following corporate funded schemes.
 - Handheld Machinery (borrowing) – Project completed with a £6k underspend
 - StreetScene Equipment (borrowing) – Project forecasting completion with a £71k underspend
 - Additional capital budgets are in place within Customer, Information and Digital Services (CIDS) to support achievement of the Council's

overall Digital Strategy. As this project will directly assist with delivery of the Customer and Digital programme and the broader Digital Customer theme, the remaining £28k will be funded from this capital budget.

2.54 MCA Approvals

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) acts as accountable body for a number of different Government funding streams and as the accountable body for Gainshare. The MCA have approved an allocation of £2m Gainshare funding towards a flood defence scheme at Forge Island.

2.55 The proposed updated Capital Programme to 2025/26 is shown by directorate in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Proposed Updated Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26

| Directorate | 2022/23 Budget £m | 2023/24 Budget £m | 2024/25 Budget £m | 2025/26 Budget £m | Total Budget £m |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund Capital | | | | | |
| Children and Young People's Services | 14.574 | 11.751 | 4.460 | 6.392 | 37.177 |
| Regeneration and Environment | 102.452 | 105.795 | 9.052 | 7.062 | 224.362 |
| Adult Care & Housing | 7.659 | 6.385 | 14.117 | 4.273 | 32.435 |
| Assistant Chief Executive | 0.496 | 0.210 | 0.210 | 0.210 | 1.126 |
| Finance and Customer Services | 4.129 | 4.893 | 7.090 | 12.990 | 29.102 |
| Capitalisation Direction | 6.000 | 6.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 14.000 |
| Total General Fund Capital | 135.310 | 135.034 | 35.930 | 31.928 | 338.202 |
| Total HRA Capital | 52.828 | 64.570 | 29.220 | 29.610 | 176.227 |
| Total RMBC Capital Programme | 188.138 | 199.604 | 65.150 | 61.537 | 514.429 |

The capital programme for 2022/23 remains ambitious even with a significant level of re-profiling of schemes into 2023/24. The Council will therefore need to keep close control of project spend profiles and delivery milestones to keep these projects on track. The Council will also need to review the deliverability of this significantly increased capital programme and potentially, re-profile some schemes into future financial years.

Funding Position of Capital Programme 2022/23

2.56 The £188.138m of capital expenditure is funded as shown in the Table 6 below.

2.57 Table 6: Funding of the Approved Capital Programme

| Funding Stream | 2022/23 Budget £m |
|--|-------------------|
| Grants and Contributions | 80.092 |
| Unsupported Borrowing | 52.164 |
| Capital Receipts | 1.878 |
| Capital Receipts - Flexible Use & HRA Contribution | 1.000 |
| HRA Contribution | 0.176 |
| Total Funding - General Fund | 135.310 |
| Grants and Contributions | 3.925 |
| Unsupported Borrowing | 10.724 |
| Housing Major Repairs Allowance | 33.380 |
| Capital Receipts | 2.073 |
| Revenue Contribution | 2.726 |
| Total Funding - HRA | 52.828 |
| Total | 188.138 |

Capital Receipts

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

2.59 To date General Fund useable capital receipts of £0.012m have been generated. Although loan repayments will be received during the financial year, these cannot be used to support the revenue budget as only those receipts by the disposal of property, plant and equipment can be used in that way.

| Description | Total as at 31st July 2022 £m |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Total Capital Receipts (Excluding loan repayments) | - 0.012 |
| Repayment of Loans | - 0.015 |
| Total Capital Receipts | - 0.027 |

2.60 The detailed disposal programme is currently being updated and it is very difficult to forecast. Therefore, at this stage the forecast for useable capital receipts is between £0.6m and £1m. These receipts are made up of a small number of disposals and therefore any changes to these could impact on these forecasts significantly. It should be noted that there is no corporate requirement to disposal of General Fund assets.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget the directorates are forecasting an overspend of £17.9m, further management actions continue to be identified with the clear aim of ensuring a balanced budget position can be achieved. It is now clear that to achieve a balanced outturn position there will be a need to utilise an element of the Council's reserves given the significant pressures that have come to light since the Council set its 2022/23 budget. This is in recognition that there are still financial implications that need to be fully understood and that may not be fully known until later in the financial year. It is nationally recognised best practice to monitor the performance against the agreed revenue budgets and the Capital Programme throughout the year.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Council consulted on the proposed budget for 2022/23, as part of producing the Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23. Details of the consultation are set out in the Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 report approved by Council on 2nd March 2022.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

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

5.2 Financial Monitoring reports are taken to Cabinet meetings during the year. The Financial Outturn report for 2022/23 was taken to Cabinet in July 2023.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The Council's overspend position is detailed within the report along with the estimated impact of current financial pressures from the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy price rises. This position continues to be monitored closely. Control over spending remains critical to both maintaining the robust Reserves Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

6.2 An update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy will be provided to Cabinet later in 2022. This will provide a more detailed update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning factoring in the impact of the current year financial pressures and the longer term impacts on the MTFS and reserves strategy.

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 No direct legal implications.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 No direct implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 This is a finance update report, providing a review of current progress to date on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, any equalities and human rights impacts from service delivery have been or will be detailed as service budgets, capital projects are pulled together for inclusion within the Council's revenue budget or capital programme.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 No direct implications.

12. Implications for Partners

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

13. Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

| | Named Officer | Date |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| Chief Executive | Sharon Kemp | 05/09/2022 |
| Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer) | Judith Badger | 30.8.22 |
| Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer) | Phillip Horsfield | 31.8.22 |

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services
This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Addendum

Cabinet recommends to Council that:

Cabinet have authority to approve amendments to the Council's Capital Programme in relation to the Forge Island leisure development, should this be necessary in order to secure best value for the taxpayer.

Detail:

The Council is progressing to deliver the redevelopment of Forge Island in line with the Town Centre Masterplan, with negotiations with private sector partners now reaching the final stages ahead of construction.

The Council's development partners have become aware of issues relating to the funding of the Scheme given the very recent volatility of the financial markets and the challenges this may now pose to private funders providing up-front capital within the requirements previously agreed by the Council. As a consequence, before finalising the funding arrangements, the Council is in conversation with the Developer, the Council's Finance Team and Legal Team to ensure that the changes to the financial market do not negatively impact on the delivery of the Project or unnecessarily increase the Council's liabilities.

A report will be presented to Cabinet on 17th October 2022 that will present the options available to facilitate delivery. This recommendation empowers Cabinet to choose from the full range of options for delivery including further supplementing or replacing what was expected to be privately raised capital with the Council's own borrowing and capital resources. Such changes could only be agreed by Cabinet if doing so would ensure that the Council can fulfil its best value duty by financing the scheme through the most cost effective mechanism.

The Cabinet decision is highly time sensitive due to external factors not within the control of the Council, and there are likely to be significant additional cost pressures should Cabinet not be in a position to decide on 17th October.

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Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title:

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

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

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

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

the Councils Financial Outturn report.

Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue position.

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

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

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

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme relates to a specific minority community with specific needs.

- **Key findings**

The community and their circumstances present specific needs that the scheme is design to address.

- **Actions**

Paragraph 2.48 or the report provides that an officer decision will be taken by the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to set out how the fund has been used to date, to meet specific emergency requirements as well as setting out how the Council will provide ongoing wrap around support moving forwards. This will address the equalities issues as required.

| | |
|---|---|
| Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis: | This will be determined by the actions covered in paragraph 2.48. |
| Date to complete your Equality Analysis: | This will be determined by the actions covered in paragraph 2.48. |
| Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title): | n/a |

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name | Job title | Date |
|---------------|--|---------|
| Judith Badger | Strategic Director – Finance and Customer Services | 25/8/22 |
| | | |
| | | |

6. Publishing

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

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

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

| | |
|--|---------|
| Date screening completed | 25/8/22 |
| If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication | |
| Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk | 25/8/22 |

User guidance:

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

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

| Will the decision/proposal impact... | Impact | If an impact or potential impacts are identified | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors. | Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole. | Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts | Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out |
| Emissions from non-domestic buildings? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |
| Emissions from transport? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |
| Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |
| Emissions from housing and domestic buildings? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |
| Emissions from construction and/or development? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |
| Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)? | <i>no impact</i> | | | | |

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

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

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

Supporting information:

| | |
|---|--|
| Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate). | Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance, Finance and Customer Services. |
| Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form]. | |
| If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts. | |
| Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions] | |

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 05 October 2022

Report Title

Councillor Absence

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Hoober

Report Summary

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states if a member of a local authority does not attend a meeting, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of last attendance, they shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.

Councillor Barley has taken extended leave in accordance with the Council's Elected Member Parental Leave Policy which Council approved on 16th September 2019. The policy allows for up to 12 months parental leave to be granted. It was initially anticipated that this would not be more than 6 months. However, the 6 month period ends on 13th October and the report is brought to seek approval for the reason for absence, in line with the Council's Parental Leave Policy.

Recommendations

1. Council approves Councillor Barley's absence in line with the Elected Member Parental Leave Policy.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Council Meeting – 25 May 2022

Cabinet Meeting – 16 September 2019 Recommended Adoption of Policies –
Support for Elected Members
Elected Member Paternity Leave Policy 2019

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Councillor Absence

1. Background

- 1.1 On 16th September 2019 the Council approved an Elected Member Parental Leave Policy.
- 1.2 The policy sets out the support available to Elected Members to enable them to carry out their duties on behalf of residents and includes entitlement to maternity, paternity, shared parental, adoption and fostering leave and relevant allowances.
- 1.3 The policy ensures that Elected Members are able to take appropriate leave and that reasonable and adequate arrangements are in place to provide cover for those in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) during any period of leave taken.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 means that should a Councillor not attend a meeting for 6 months and a reason not be approved by Council before the end of that period then that Councillor ceases to be a Councillor.
- 2.2 Councillor Barley last attended a meeting on 13th April 2022 and as a consequence should Council not approve the reason for absence before 13th October 2022 then Councillor Barley will cease to be a Councillor.
- 2.3 The Elected Member Paternity Leave Policy provides support to elected members to enable them to carry out their duties on behalf of residents whilst undertaking caring responsibilities.
- 2.4 The policy allows for up to 12 months parental leave to be granted.
- 2.5 It is currently planned from September 2022 that Councillor Barley will return to her councillor duties on a phased basis whilst supporting her personal circumstances.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Council could choose not to approve the reason for absence. That course is not recommended as it would not be in line with the Council's Elected Member Paternity Leave Policy.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 No consultation has taken place as the matter is one that is at the discretion of Council.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The decision is activated immediately that it is made.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There is a small additional cost as the special responsibility allowance for the Leader of the Opposition will also be paid pro-rata to Councillor Zachary Collingham.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 These are contained in the body of the Report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults implications arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change arising from 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 to be borne in mind in respect of the recommendations.

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Report Author: Emma Hill Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

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



Councillor Ben Aveyard



Councillor Ian Jones



Councillor Eve Keenan

Covering Blackburn, Ferham, Henley, Holmes, Kimberworth, Masbrough, Meadowbank, Richmond Park and Thornhill

Report to Full Council

October 2022

Ward priorities

- Work with our communities to protect the local environment
- Work with our communities to improve the local environment; this could include tree planting and supporting the development of friends' groups to look after our parks and green spaces
- Support the development of projects and initiatives focusing on arts and culture.
- Continue to support our communities as they emerge from Covid 19 with a particular focus on mental health and wellbeing.

How these ward priorities were agreed

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

- The new Ward boundaries
- The new Ward profile
- The previous Rotherham Ward Plan's priorities and the actions taken to address them
- Feedback from residents and stakeholders
 - o We included an article in our ward e-bulletin asking for feedback on the priorities and what we could do in response
 - o We spoke to a number of organisations, agencies and individuals working and/or living within the ward



How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

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

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

Overleaf are just some of those who care about the Rotherham West Ward, and examples of what we have done together to try and make a positive difference.

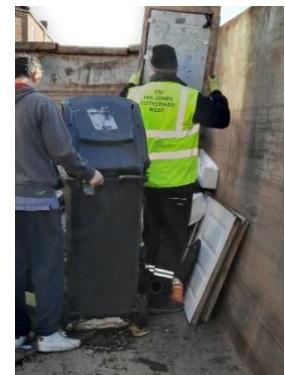
Working in partnership

- Rotherham West Community Action Partnership / Ward Briefing involving a large number of statutory partners from e.g. RMBC, SYP etc
- Rotherfed
- REMA
- Rotherham United Community Sports Trust
- Artful
- South Yorkshire Housing Association
- Rotherham Timebuilders
- Winterhill BMX Track
- Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust
- Local Primary Schools
- Ferham Community Group
- Liberty Church
- Rotherham Sea Cadets
- Rother Phoenix football Club

Progress so far

Work with our communities to protect the local environment

- We have worked particularly hard in the Ferham area.
- A bin amnesty took place last year with the aim of educating residents around recycling and how to use their bins correctly. We made sure that all bins were emptied, including those that were contaminated and identified households that did not have the correct bins so that new ones could be delivered. Due to the nature of the area, all information had to be translated. We undertook a door knocking exercise with a number of partners and a translator to ensure that everyone had the correct information and how to take part.
- We followed this up with a community skip day in February, where residents filled two skips and Waste Management took a number of other items away. The skips were very well received by local residents and we had a very busy morning.



Work with our communities to improve the local environment; this could include tree planting and supporting the development of friends' groups to look after our parks and green spaces

- We have been working alongside several partners to make improvements on the Winterhill site. This has included; Clearance of the Engine Ponds and funding for a throw line, Extensive tree planting and Refurbishment of the BMX track
- A Friends of Masbrough Cemetery group was set up and have been busy tidying up the cemetery at Kimberworth
- There is a MUGA in Ferham Park and we have been looking at funding options to try and install lighting so that it can be used by young people during the winter months
- A number of incidents took place in Bradgate Park and we are working with Police and other partners around the possibility of installing CCTV as well as other measures to ensure local people can feel safe and be safe when using the park.



Support the development of projects and initiatives focusing on arts and culture.



- This year we have funded a number of events/activities that have focused on arts and culture, the most memorable being Light Up the night – an evening event which took place in Ferham Park giving the whole community an opportunity to come together during the winter and enjoy music / dancing alongside arts and craft activities. Children from local schools and clubs took part in lantern making workshops on the run up to the event, on the night the lanterns were used to light the park and a lantern parade took place

- Spring forward – an event which again took place in the park, celebrating all things spring. Families were able to take part in a number of activities including crafts, planting and we were lucky enough to secure Colourscape for the event.
- Ian Mckay VC Memorial Bench – We used some of our ward budget to purchase a memorial bench to celebrate the sacrifice of Ian Mckay who was killed during the Falklands conflict. Ian was a resident of Rotherham West and was awarded the Victoria Cross. The bench was installed in Clifton Park behind the Cenotaph
- Jubilee Mugs – we funded and handed these out to every Primary School pupil in the Rotherham West area as a memento of the historic occasion.



Continue to support our communities as they emerge from Covid 19 with a particular focus on mental health and wellbeing.

- Rother Phoenix FC – We recognise the impact the pandemic has had on our communities, in particular the mental health and wellbeing of young people, we decided to fund the set up and first year running costs of a new football club. The club train on Ferham Park every Saturday morning and around 50 children/young people attend. Local volunteers deliver the activity and we funded the purchase of goal posts and a years pitch hire so that this could go ahead.
- Christmas trip to York – we gave money to Henley Residents Group which is made up mainly of older residents so that they could take a trip to York Christmas Market, this was the first opportunity they had to get together after the pandemic.
- Christmas Tree – After the pandemic we felt that it would be good to give our community something to heighten their spirits



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ROOTHERHAM EAST WARD

Covering East Dene, Eastwood, Eastwood Village, Herringthorpe and Springwell Gardens



Councillor
Wendy Cooksey



Councillor
Rukhsana Haleem



Councillor
Tajamal Khan

Report to Full Council

October 2022

Ward priorities

- ❖ Support initiatives helping Rotherham East recover from the impact of Covid-19
- ❖ Work with internal and external partners to support and deliver initiatives involving local people
- ❖ Respond to crime and anti-social behaviour across the ward
- ❖ Work with local schools to support their aims and aspirations for their pupils and the wider community
- ❖ Support initiatives which bring communities together and celebrate the diversity in Rotherham East

How these ward priorities were agreed

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

- The new Ward boundaries
- The new Ward profile which showed that
 - o levels of recorded crime and ASB in the ward are more than the Rotherham average
 - o the Ward is the second most ethnically diverse with over 25% from BAME backgrounds
 - o the school age population is more diverse too
- The previous Ward Plan priorities and the actions taken
- Feedback from residents and stakeholders
- The progress of ongoing projects
- Our own aspirations for the Ward



How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

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

We Work with communities on the things that matter to them **and** work together to make a difference

We Recognise that there are a wealth of social and community assets that are underutilised

In order to make things happen, **We** support community action

Below are just some of those who care about the Rotherham East Ward and overleaf are examples of what we have done together to try and make a positive difference.

Working in partnership Clifton Learning Partnership (CLP), Mowbray Gardens Library, Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA), Rotherham United Community Sports Trust (RUCST), Wildlife Trust, Local Schools and RotherFed

Progress so far

❖ Support initiatives helping Rotherham East recover from the impact of Covid-19



- **CLP's Social Supermarket** opened in March 2022, and established itself as a valuable resource for local families
- Provides access to affordable food as well as support with other issues e.g. money management, debt advice, isolation
- From September 2022, there will be an increase in access with a doubling of the number of users

❖ Work with internal and external partners to support and deliver initiatives involving local people

- **The Park Road Cholera Burial Ground** was first used during the 19th century when poor sanitation led to regular outbreaks of disease.
- After many years of disrepair and neglect the local community, including Councillors, decided that a more fitting memorial should be created
- After consulting with residents, a plan was drawn up to create a memorial which would be both respectful and nice to walk by. The memorial is now a simple open space, includes an information board outlining the history
- The restoration and the accompanying display has been paid for by Rotherham East ward members' devolved budget.



❖ Respond to crime and anti-social behaviour across the ward

- There is an **Eastwood Village** specific Action Plan which we continue to develop and deliver with partners.
- A recent initiative involved the gating of an alleyway, following concerns of fly-tipping, crime, and anti-social behaviour.
 - We worked with Neighbourhoods, Housing, Planning and the Police's Designing Out Crime Officer
 - Letters were delivered to local households and we met with residents on site – they were universally supportive. A Planning Application was then submitted and approved. The initiative was funded by the Ward Councillors.
 - To further improve safety, we asked for some street lighting repairs and for the redeployment of a CCTV.
- Feedback from local residents has been positive.
- Councillors have also recently been overseeing work by partners to address crime and ASB affecting **RotherFed** at their base in Springwell Gardens. As a result, a new CCTV system will be installed at the building.



❖ **Work with local schools to support their aims and aspirations for their pupils and the wider community**



- **Badsley Moor Primary School (BMPS) Hub** is a long-standing project but appears to be approaching completion. BMPS is situated in what data suggests is a deprived neighbourhood, and comprises a large no of Council properties
- BMPS work with pupils AND parents, helping them to become more involved in their children's learning. The work with parents takes place in the main building but space is limited. We therefore looked at funding for a unit which would be a school resource but also a space which could be used for the benefit of the Parents Group and partners
- A bid was submitted to the Strategic Housing Transformation Fund and £150k was awarded. The bid was seen as meeting several of the Fund's criteria
 - > pioneering, outside scope of the day to day
 - > will support other services to achieve wider benefits
 - > will leave a legacy

- There have been a number of unavoidable delays to the project but work started on site on Monday 5th September 2022 to install the portable unit. The work is expected to be complete in 5-6 weeks.

- **Oral Health Packs** for local primary schools is another project funded by Councillors working with schools
- There has been close working between RMBC and Rotherham NHS to provide packs for schools to ensure every child has access to a toothbrush, toothpaste and the knowledge on the importance of oral health
- This work is currently still ongoing and has received great feedback from both the schools and parents.

❖ **Support initiatives which bring communities together and celebrate the diversity in Rotherham East**

- A **Ramadan Football Tournament** took place in April ran by **RUCST**
- The main aims of the project were to help bring the local community back together after Covid 19 and to celebrate the diversity in Rotherham - particularly in the 3 central wards



- This project was part funded by Rotherham East, Rotherham West, and Boston Castle Councillors.

In summary, we have continued to deliver some significant projects during what has been a challenging period for everyone, but we have worked with communities on the things that matter to them and are making a difference through effective partnership working.

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AUDIT COMMITTEE
28th June, 2022

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr John Barber, Independent Person and Councillors Mills and Wooding.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 15TH MARCH AND 12TH APRIL, 2022

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meetings of the Audit Committee held on 15th March 2022 and 12th April, 2022. It was noted that these had already been considered by Council.

An update was provided regarding Minute No. 100 of 12th April, 2022, regarding the Public Interest Report 21 001 468 completed by the Ombudsman. The Council had received a letter from the Ombudsman indicating they welcomed the action taken and thanked the Council for a comprehensive response and was pleased to inform the Council that they were satisfied and felt the matter was closed.

In response to a query the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services indicated that she would check if all parties had been informed of the resolution and update the Chair outside of the meeting.

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

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

4. 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. 113 (Adult Social Care and Public Health Directorate Risk Register) as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Paragraph 3 (financial information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL SUMMARY 2021-22

The Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager presented the report that summarised the principal risk management activity that has been carried out in Council throughout the past financial year. It covered a wider range of topics than the regular report on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register (which will be presented to the next Committee meeting) and aimed to cover both the movements in strategic risks that had occurred over the period and the key elements of the Council's risk management activity throughout the year.

He highlighted that it was a shorter report than that submitted last year. This was because the impacts of the Covid pandemic had reduced leading to the risk management processes returning to that of previous years. Testing was being undertaken on the online risk management training tool. The Committee was advised that that Internal Audit had completed their annual review of Corporate Risk Management and three out of the four recommendations had already been implemented. The report presented an overall picture of the Council's risk profile which was improving.

It was clarified that each Directorate had one formal Risk Champion, however, some Directorates had chosen to have a Risk Champion in place for specific areas. Whilst the Risk Champion ensured risk registers were updated, it was clarified that the responsibility for the risk stayed with the manager.

In response to a query, the Committee was assured that discussions would be held with the Risk Champion for Children and Young People's Services to consider if further deputies were required for the various functions of that service. It was explained that the title of 'Risk Champion' had been created in 2016, with the Council having 'Champions' in other areas. It was felt that staff felt empowered by the title 'Champion', and it was a role that worked well within the Council.

The Chair raised queries regarding the movement of the Corporate Strategic Risks over the past two years as detailed below:-

- The concern regarding Risk SLT 07, Influenza Pandemic, previously had been due to the risk of contracting flu and Covid at the same time, however, the levels were not at the same height as previously experienced, therefore, the risk level had been reduced.
- Regarding risk SLT03, Tackling Family Poverty it was explained that the risk was being re-written.
- Regarding risk SLT19, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity, it was clarified that whilst this risk was being removed from the Corporate Strategic risk register it was still included on the Regeneration and Environment risk register.

- Although risk SLT34, Impact of EU Trade Deal on the Economy, was being removed from the Corporate Strategic risk register because of the national picture changing, the Regeneration and Environment risk register included several risks relating to the EU trade agenda.
- It was clarified that risks relating to the war in Ukraine had been reflected in other Directorate risk registers where appropriate.

Resolved: That the Audit Committee considered and noted the annual summary of risk management activity.

6. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Consideration was given to a report presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, which summarised the work undertaken by the Audit Committee. Production of this report complied with current best practice for audit committees. It allowed the Audit Committee to demonstrate it had fulfilled its terms of reference and shared its achievements with the Council.

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22 included details of the Committee membership during that period, a summary of the work undertaken, information on any training and development undertaken along with listing the Committee's Terms of Reference.

The Chair said the key findings within the report demonstrated an effective and efficient Audit committee although she expressed a concern regarding the turnover of members on the committee.

Resolved: That the draft Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22 be approved for submission to Council.

7. 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 March to 31st May, 2022, and the key issues that had arisen therefrom. The current position of the plan was outlined in Appendix A to the report.

16 audits had been finalised since the last Committee meeting one of which had received Partial Assurance, 6 had received Reasonable Assurance and 8 had received Substantial Assurance as set out in Appendix B to the report.

Internal Audit's performance against a number of indicators was summarised in Appendix C. Targets were met or very nearly met for all Indicators. The appendix also included comments received from audit clients during the last 3 months.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Management actions were tracked and reported back to Internal Audit.
- Management actions were also followed up within 6 months.
- A large amount of Internal Audit's time had been dedicated to the Covid Grant work with other work reducing, resulting in a reduction in the number of audit days. It was clarified the remaining days were used for other tasks.
- It was confirmed that the Internal Audit performance indicators were on track.

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken since the last Audit Committee, 1st March 2022 to 31st May 2022, and the key issues that have arisen from it be noted.

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

8. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Consideration was given to a report presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, on the role of Internal Audit, the work completed during the 2021/22 financial year and highlighted the key issues that had arisen. It provided the overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the adequacy of the Council's control environment as well as the performance of the Internal Audit function during 2021/22.

Based upon internal audit work undertaken and taking into account other internal and external assurance processes, it had been possible to complete an assessment of the Council's overall control environment. In the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit, the Council had overall an adequate and effective framework of governance, risk management and control during 2021/22.

Appendix 1 of the report submitted included:-

- Legislative requirements and Professional Standards
- The Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the control framework, risk management and governance
- Resources and audit coverage during the year
- Summary of audit work undertaken during 2021/22 including both planned and responsive/investigatory work
- Summary of other evidence taken into account for control environment opinion
- Summary of audit opinions and recommendations made
- Internal Audit Performance Indicators

The Head of Internal Audit's opinion was that there was overall an adequate and effective framework of governance, risk management and control during the majority of the year.

The emergency measures implemented in response to Covid-19 continued during the year. Standards of governance and control were maintained with risk management being utilised to help manage the response.

Internal Audit had not issued any No Assurance audit opinions during the year and had given an opinion of Partial Assurance in 4 areas subject to audit, however, none were considered serious enough for inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement. Action plans had been agreed with management in respect of all final audit reports issues.

During the year, the Audit Team had supported the Finance Department in the processing of Business Support Grant, but this had only totalled 23 days. The unused days were used for investigations, grants and audit work. Overall resource levels provided sufficient capacity to provide an adequate level of assurance and sufficient work was completed to enable the Head of Internal Audit to provide his overall opinion.

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) required that an assessment of the Internal Audit function must be undertaken annually with an external assessment at least every 5 years; in 2020-21 an external assessment was completed which showed general conformance with the standards. A Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP) was put into place during 2021 using the results of the external assessment with the results reported to the Audit Committee in March 2022. 9 of the 11 actions from the external assessment had been implemented along with 3 of the 4 actions from the previous year. An updated QAIP, based on the external assessment, had been produced to maintain and increase the level of conformance within the team.

The Chair queried if Internal Audit worked to external audit standards and if it was a risk if they changed in relation to the identified risk relating to 'Management introduces new systems / Processes with inadequate controls'. The Head of Internal Audit explained that there was a risk, however, it was unlikely. He had a stable, competent department.

In response, the Head of Internal Audit explained they had engaged the services of another local authority's ICT Internal Audit team to complete 2 audits during the year due to a lack of that particular expertise within the department.

The Head of Internal Audit explained that the team's performance against a number of key indicators had been affected by things such as annual leave. Although 3 red recommendations had been made within audits conducted within the Finance and Customer Services Directorate, there were no areas of concern as opinions were provided in relation to each

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 28/06/22

audit. He clarified that planning meetings were held with each Directorate every 6 months, which could trigger more audits in certain areas in comparison with others.

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken during the financial year 2021/22 and the key issues that have arisen from it be noted.

(2) That the overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control within the Council be noted.

9. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

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

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

10. ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH (ACPH) DIRECTORATE RISK REGISTER

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Nathan Atkinson, Assistant Director Adult Care Strategic Commissioning, providing details of the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate.

A detailed breakdown was given of the Directorate's approach to risk management and the efforts to ensure transparency and the understanding of risk management by all staff.

In response to a query further information and assurance was provided on the risks rated red within the Directorate, which included risks, ACHPH-R2, ACHPH-R6,

Resolved: That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

11. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That a further meeting be held on Thursday, 28th July, 2022, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

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AUDIT COMMITTEE
28th July, 2022

Present:- Councillor Baker-Rogers (in the Chair); Councillors Wyatt and John Barber (Independent Person).

Gareth Mills (Grant Thornton) was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mills, Thilina de Zoysa (Grant Thornton) and Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.)

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

16. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

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

17. 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. 25 (Corporate Strategic Risk Register – Appendix 1) as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

18. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral for scrutiny.

19. PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director Financial Services, presented the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts 2021/22 which would be published on the Council's website by 31st July, 2022, alongside the Narrative Report and draft Annual Governance Statement in line with the revised timelines. The period for local electors to exercise their rights to inspect the accounts and supporting records and ask questions of the external auditor would commence on 1st August, 2022, and cease on 12th September, 2022.

The final external audit of the 2021/22 accounts had not commenced at the point the report was written. The Council's external auditors had indicated that they would be able to meet the revised audit deadline of 30th November, 2022. The deadlines had been revised in light of the Covid-19 outbreak. The deadline for the 2022/23 audited accounts and accounts for the following 5 years would be 30th September.

Appendix A to the report was the Narrative Report and Appendix B was the Financial Highlights report which together summarised the key financial disclosures reported in the 2021/22 draft Statement of Accounts (Appendix C) and provided further detail on each of the key financial issues referred to. Appendix D was from Grant Thornton and was titled “Informing the audit risk assessment for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council 2021/22.”

The final unaudited accounts would be presented at the end of September in line with the original timeline. However, Grant Thornton had confirmed that they would complete their audit by the revised audit deadline of the end of November 2022. This provided Members with an opportunity to consider the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts before Audit Committee was asked to formally approve them, post completion of Grant Thornton’s audit, at its meeting in November 2022.

The Committee thanked the officers involved in the production of the Statement of Accounts, which were up to the usual high standards and in line with the timetables.

Discussions ensued on the report and it was confirmed that Audit Committee received updates on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) via their Risk Register updates. The MTFS was reviewed annually by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, Cabinet and Council. Members requested that the MTFS be included on the agenda for an Audit Committee before the year-end. The Assistant Director gave an update on the current financial situation within the Council, with an overspend expected. It was confirmed that the impact of the pay award was not yet known and would be a challenge for the Council.

Resolved:- (1) That the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts 2021/22 be noted.

(2) That a presentation on the Medium Term Financial Strategy be made to the Audit Committee prior to the end of 2022.

20. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22

Consideration was given to the updated 2021/22 draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit. The AGS would be published on the Council’s website alongside the Council’s Statement of Accounts by 31st July, 2022.

Covid-19 continued to have a significant impact during 2021/22. This was reflected within the AGS, which included actions taken in response to the pandemic and lockdown.

During the year the Council had received 2 reports from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman who had found fault by the Council. In addition, an inspection of the provision for children with

Special Educational Needs or Disabilities conducted by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission resulted in the need for a Written Statement of Action, which was submitted jointly by the Council and the area's Clinical Commissioning Group.

The Council also received an adverse audit report from Homes England regarding compliance with the requirements for grant funding. In addition, the Council was made aware of a Health and Safety Executive formal investigation, the result of which was expected later in the year. All of these were included within the AGS, along with the measures put in place to drive the necessary improvements.

The Committee had been informed at the meeting in June 2022 that the Ombudsman was satisfied with the Council's response to one of his reports. David Webster was able to confirm that a letter had been received from the Ombudsman regarding the second report, 20 012 286 (Minute No. 101 of 12th April, 2022 refers). The letter indicated that the Ombudsman was satisfied with the Council's response and has recorded a compliance outcome of 'Remedy complete and satisfied'.

Recommended practice required the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to sign the final Annual Governance Statement prior to its publication.

Resolved:- That the 2021/22 draft Annual Governance Statement be noted.

21. GRANT THORNTON EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021/22

Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton, presented the External Audit Plan in which the Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton, set out the proposed external audit work to be undertaken to form an opinion on the Council's financial statements for 2021/22 and to conclude on whether the Council had satisfactory arrangements in place to secure Value for Money in the use of its resources. The Plan also outlined the areas Grant Thornton had determined to be significant risk for special audit consideration.

The International Standards on Auditing provided guidance on the significant risks which should be considered by auditors, these being risks which required special audit consideration. Grant Thornton had identified the following significant risks, a brief description of each provided within the submitted report:-

- Risk of fraud in revenue and expenditure
- Management over-ride of controls
- Valuation of land and buildings including investment properties
- Valuation of the pension fund net liability

Key issues highlighted within the report included the £2.4m underspend for 2021/22; the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) Deficit; the challenges for 2022/23 and beyond; and Climate Change. The reference to Climate Change looked at the devastating floods in Rotherham in 2007 and 2019 and looked at the Council's carbon emissions targets. It was confirmed that the inclusion of Climate Change in external audit work was not specific to Rotherham.

Discussions were held on the report and in particular, how the external auditors judged financial sustainability.

A proposed fee of £179,188 has been set for 2021/22, compared to £180,939 for 2020/21. The fee for 2021/22 was governed by the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) company set up by the LGA as the successor body to the Audit Commission. Any change to the final fee would have to be agreed by the PSAA and the Council's Section 151 Officer. The fee for 2021/22 reflected the continued increased costs of the external audit function to the Council following the increased level of work and assurance that external audit had to provide at a national level. The reason the fee had reduced slightly for Rotherham was that there had been work done on standardising fees across the sector. An uplift in the cost was to be expected when the new external audit contract was agreed later in the year. Rotherham could expect to know who its external auditor would be for the new contract period by Christmas 2022.

Resolved:- That the external auditor's audit plan for 2021/22 be noted.

22. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2021/22

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Assistant Director Financial Services, Rob Mahon, which detailed how the Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy in March, 2021 and received a mid-year report in November 2021, representing a mid-year review of treasury activity during 2021/22.

The Annual Treasury Management report was the final treasury report for 2021/22. Its purpose was to review the treasury activity for 2021/22 against the Strategy agreed at the start of the year.

The report also covered the actual Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code. Presentation of the report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The Council was required to comply with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Appendix 1 of the report submitted gave a summary of the Prudential Indicators for the Council.

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

- The Treasury Management Strategy reserve formed part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. It was planned that the Council would move away from short term borrowing and look more at longer term borrowing.
- At the end of the financial year 2021/22, the closing Capital Financing Requirement was £52.336m less than that approved in the revised indicator. It was confirmed that the intention was still to deliver the Capital Programme as planned but there could be issues with costs and as such, the viability of schemes could need to be reassessed. Any changes to the Capital Programme would have to be reported through Cabinet and Council.

Resolved:- That the Financial Outturn 2021/22 – Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators be noted.

23. DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT - CENTRAL RESERVE

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the current and projected overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the recovery plans in place to enable Rotherham to operate within its annual allocation and reduce the deficit over future years. The report also outlined the national picture on the High Needs Block as part of the overall Dedicated Schools Grant and the additional funding the Government was investing in education as part of its spending review.

Rotherham had been a relatively low funded authority and had seen significant pressures on the High Needs Block for many years. The High Needs Budget allocation had increased year on year but, partly due to Rotherham's low funding baseline compared to neighbouring boroughs and nationally, the budget uplifts had not been sufficient to match the acceleration in demand and increase in the cost of provision. In 2015/16 the High Needs in-year deficit was £1m, however, since then in the financial years up to 2019/20, the annual High Needs Block deficit had been around £5m with an overall DSG deficit of £19.89m as at the 31st March, 2020.

Following significant negotiations between Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and Department of Education (DfE), a Safety Valve Intervention agreement had been developed to support Rotherham to address its long term issues linked to High Needs funding deficit, including investment from DfE of £20.53m across the 5 years of the agreement. The Council had also requested capital investment to deliver its long term strategic plan and had been awarded £4.3m above the annual High Needs capital allocations (circa £9m, £3m over the next 3

years). Due to the scale and remit of the project, the Council had also requested funding for a team to deliver the project. As part of the agreement the Council would receive recurrent funding of £385k per annum across the next 4 years of the Safety Valve. As part of this investment the Council was also looking at supporting delivery of the project through a dedicated resource to project manage the program and enhance the SEND commissioning offer in the Borough.

The Dedicated Schools Block Central Reserves deficit at the end of the 2021/22 financial year was £12.84m, which after taking account of DSG reserves required in the 2022/23 financial plan was still on target with the DSG management plan.

Following discussions it was confirmed that an annual update on the Dedicated Schools Grant would be provided to Audit Committee. Updates had to be provided to the DFE every year. Officers also confirmed that the Council was on track to meet its targets.

It was agreed that officers would provide the Chair with the figures that showed that the Council could continue to meet the growing need for support whilst reducing the deficit. Discussions were also held on the impact of the withdrawal of the School Block funding.

Resolved:- (1) That the actions being taken to manage the Dedicated School Grant deficit in Rotherham be noted.

(2) That the additional funding allocated to Rotherham through the Department for Education's Safety Valve Programme be noted.

24. UPDATE REPORT ON THE USE OF SURVEILLANCE AND ACQUISITION OF COMMUNICATION DATA POWERS

Bal Nahal, Head of Legal Services, presented an update on the Council's use of surveillance and acquisition of communication data powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA).

As previously with the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC), the Council was required to notify the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office of the number of directed surveillance/CHIS authorisations granted in each financial year. Since the last report, the Council had not used its powers under RIPA to use directed surveillance, covert human intelligence sources or to acquire communications data. A statistical return was completed and submitted to the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office on 9th February, 2022.

Following on from a desktop inspection conducted by the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office, external training was provided to all officers involved or likely to be involved in the use of powers provided under the RIPA legislation. To ensure that the training was up to date and

new staff joining were aware of their roles, a further training session was being arranged. Work was also currently being undertaken to consider how awareness could be widened to reach those that were not actively involved with the legislation on a daily basis. The purpose of this would be to further reduce any potential risk arising from any unauthorised activity.

The RIPA Policy was reviewed by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 21st June, 2021, and was re-adopted. The RIPA Policy has been reviewed and there were some minor changes to personnel.

The Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data Policy had been reviewed and was out of date. The Policy was no longer valid. The legislation was to be reviewed and a decision made as to whether such a Policy was required. The Council did not currently utilise the powers provided under the IPA and the powers were very restricted.

During discussions it was confirmed that it was typical of local authorities not to use the powers as most of the work done did not meet the threshold. It was also confirmed that the need for an Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data Policy would be re-reviewed when the legislation was changed and an update would be provided to the Audit Committee. The Head of Legal Services also confirmed that the changes to sentencing powers for magistrates did not have an impact on the use of surveillance and acquisition of communication data powers.

Resolved:- (1) That the Audit Committee note that the Council had not made use of surveillance or acquisition of communication data powers under the relevant legislation since it was last reported on 21st June, 2021.

(2) That the RIPA Policy with the minor amendments relating to personnel be approved.

(3) That it be noted that the Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data Policy was no longer valid.

25. **CORPORATE STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER**

Simon Dennis, Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager, presented the current Corporate Strategic Risk Register which summarised the current position of the Register and also provided a short summary of the Council's risk management arrangements.

It was reported that although the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had seen risk management play a vital role, remained ongoing, risk management arrangements had now broadly returned to normal. This had been set out in the Risk Management Annual Summary that was presented to the Audit Committee at the meeting in June 2022. The current Corporate Strategic Risk Register had recently been considered by the Council's Strategic Leadership Team (SLT.)

The report detailed the overall arrangements which included:

- Risk Champions, each of whom led on risk for their Strategic Director.
- The Risk Champions, Assistant Chief Executive and the Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager formed the Risk Champions Group responsible for co-ordinating risk management across the Council in normal circumstances.
- Corporate Strategic Risk Register completed following reviews of individual risk by Directorate Leadership Teams. Every risk on the Register was owned by a member of SLT and also appeared on their own Directorate's Risk Register.
- The Strategic Risk Register had been formally reviewed by SLT both at joint SLT/AD Performance Management meetings and at separate SLT meetings. These meetings would continue to review the Register every 3 months.
- It was also reported regularly to the Audit Committee together with the annual "deep dives" of Directorate Risk Registers.
- The Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager, through the Risk Champions, ensured updates were obtained from all risk owners, reviewed each update and drew attention to issues or missing updates.
- The Audit Committee received 2 reports a year on the overall status of the Council's strategic risks. The CSRR (which was attached at Appendix 1) was currently aligned to the Council's current Year Ahead Plan.

The Council's risk profile had been broadly reducing and an increasing understanding of the key risks that needed to be managed at a strategic level was being developed. However, that improvement had inevitably slowed during the pandemic but the overall track in the last 2 years was still an improving one. Since January 2021, 73% of risks monitored at a strategic level had reduced or been removed, just over 6% had remained stable and 20% had increased/were new to the register.

Since the last full update in December 2021, one new risk had been added to the CSRR. That was risk SLT37 and related to the Council's ability to deliver the wider range of projects, schemes and initiatives which it had committed to. There were now 14 risks on the Strategic Risk Register, up from 13 at the last review.

Risk number SLT03 had been rewritten to more accurately reflect the risk that the Council was currently facing relating to pressure on its services in the context of the current cost of living crisis. The previous version of the

risk referred solely to family poverty, limiting its scope and also did not clearly state which business objectives the Council might fail to meet. As a result of a review, the risk had been reframed to specifically refer to the impact of the current cost of living crisis on delivery of the Council Plan (and the associated Year Ahead Delivery Plan). The associated mitigations were similar to the previous risk but had been enhanced to reflect the wider potential impact of this risk.

The risk management process was reviewed by Internal Audit during early 2022. This review compared the Council's arrangements to the requirements of the relevant International Standard, ISO31000. The review once again concluded that substantial assurance could be derived from the controls that were in place. This was the highest assurance level possible. A further review will be carried out in 2023.

Discussions ensured with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Fuel Poverty and Health Inequalities were covered under the cost of living crisis risk on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register. They were however broken down further in the Directorate risk registers.
- Arrangements had been made around emergency planning for future outbreaks of Covid-19 along with monitoring arrangements.
- The risk relating to the EU trade deal had been removed from the CSRR but was still on the Regeneration and Environment Directorate Risk Register. Other Directorates also had matters relating to the EU exit on their Risk Registers.
- Matters relating to the war in Ukraine such as the impact on gas and food were covered under the Medium Term Financial Strategy risk but some further context would be added to make this clearer in future.

It was agreed that going forward the number of each risk would be included within the circles on the Risk Heat Maps. It was also agreed that the Chair would be provided with further detail regarding the EU Exit risks on the directorate Risk Registers.

Resolved:- That the update on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register be noted.

26. EXTERNAL INSPECTIONS, REVIEWS, AND AUDITS UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report, presented by Simon Dennis, Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager, providing details of recent and current external audits and inspections including the details of arrangements that were in place regarding the accountability and governance for implementing recommendations arising therefrom.

Since the last report to Audit Committee in January 2022, 7 external inspections, reviews and audits had taken place and 47 recommendations/areas for improvement had been made, of which 27 had been implemented, 12 were ongoing and 8 had not yet started. The outcome was not yet known for 3 of the inspections and peer reviews conducted.

The report included detail of progress being made in respect of the following specific areas and Directorates:-

- Children and Young People's Services
- Adult Care and Housing
- Regeneration and Environment Services
- Finance and Customer Services
- Assistant Chief Executive

In addition, 3 of the ongoing recommendations relating to external inspections, reviews and audits that took place prior to January 2022 had now been implemented, and 12 remained ongoing, 4 of which were awaiting final sign off. Four previously reported ongoing inspections/audits required no further action due to no recommendations or areas for improvement being identified around the closure of Parkhill Lodge.

Helen Sweaton, Acting Assistant Director of Commissioning and Performance (CYPS), and Monica Green, Assistant Director of Safeguarding (CYPS), attended to respond to questions in relation to the Rotherham Youth Justice Service Peer Review and the Inspecting Local Authority Services for Children (ILACS) Short Inspection (Ofsted.)

In response to comments from the Chair, it was agreed that a further written update would be provided on the 5 areas that were reported as "not yet started" in relation to the Rotherham Youth Justice Service Peer Review and that this information would include updated target dates. In relation to Section 3.7.2 it was confirmed that the one ongoing recommendation was on-going due to multi-agency working and the need to have personally identifiable data which required new legal agreements to be in place.

The Chair made reference to Section 3.10.4 and the Assistant Director confirmed that a lot of progress had been made. Whilst progress had been made against all recommendations, there was a separate list of 34 actions there were being worked through. It was agreed that these would be shared with the Chair.

Resolved:- (1) That the recent external inspections, reviews and audits which have taken place and the progress made relating to ongoing recommendations be noted.

(2) That the governance arrangements in place for monitoring and managing the recommendations be noted.

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(3) That the Audit Committee continue to receive regular reports in relation to external audit and inspections and the progress made in implementing recommendations.

27. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee covering the Period September 2022 – July 2023. The following changes were agreed:

- Presentation of the Final Statement of Accounts – moved from September 2022 to November 2022.
- The addition of the Medium Term Financial Strategy to the plan for prior to December 2022.
- The addition of the Safety Value Update to June 2023.

Resolved:- That the Audit Committee forward plan, as amended, be supported.

28. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to be considered.

29. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Audit Committee be held on Tuesday, 27th September, 2022 at 2.00pm in Rotherham Town Hall.

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**LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
25th July, 2022**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Hughes, Jones and McNeely.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

8. 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).

9. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee, considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to applications for the review/grant of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Messrs. A.Al-G and I.H.

Mr. A.Al-G, together with his 2 GMB representatives, were in attendance.

It was noted that an email had been received from the solicitor representing Mr. I.H. in a criminal matter. The case was not scheduled before Court until later in the year. The solicitor had advised his client not to attend the hearing until after the Court appearance.

Resolved:- (1) That the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. A.Al.G be revoked.

(2) That Mr. I.H. be advised to withdraw the renewal application of his hackney carriage/private hire driver licence. If Mr. I.H. chooses to continue with the renewal application, it should be submitted to the next available meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee for consideration.

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LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
5th September, 2022

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester, Hughes, Reynolds and Wyatt.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

12. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee, considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to applications for the grant/review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Messrs. G.K., S.S. and A.M.

All 3 applicants were in attendance at the meeting.

Resolved:- (1) That the hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Mr. G.K. and Mr A.M. be approved.

(2) That the application for the renewal of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence be approved subject to successful completion of a DVLA driving test.

13. 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 promoters' permits to carry out house-to-house collections:-

| Organisation | Area | Date |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Leukaemia and Myeloma Research UK | Whole of the Borough | Dates to be agreed |
| Cancer Relief UK | Whole of the Borough | Dates to be agreed |

Resolved:- That, in accordance with the provisions of the House to House Collections Act 1939, the above applications submitted by Fundraising Support Ltd. (on behalf of Leukaemia and Myeloma Research UK) and Recycling Solutions N.W. Ltd. (on behalf of Cancer Relief UK) be approved.

PLANNING BOARD
21st July, 2022

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Bacon, Bird, Burnett, Cowen, Elliott, Havard, Keenan and Tarmey.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fisher, Taylor and Wooding.

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

105. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

106. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Burnett declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in application RB2021/2054 (reserved matters application (details of landscaping, scale, external appearance and layout) for the erection of 70 dwellinghouses (reserved by outline R2019/1891) at east of Brecks Lane rear of Belcourt Road, Brecks for Avant Homes Yorkshire) on the grounds of having engaged with local residents and having friends who have moved onto Belcourt Road and left the room whilst the application was discussed and did not observe the vote.

108. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH JUNE, 2022

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 9th June, 2022, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

109. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

110. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

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

In accordance with the right to speak procedure, a number of people attended the meeting and spoke about the following application:-

- Demolition of the existing library, external alterations to the former service centre to provide new library, external alterations to the civic hall, provision of a new children's play area, works of hard & soft landscaping and erection of 49 No. dwellinghouses, creation of access and associated works at two sites off Charnwood Street and Station Street, Swinton for Ben Bailey Homes Ltd (RB2021/0030)

Mr. R. Conroy (Applicant)

- Detached garage at 20B Firbeck Lane, Laughton-en-le-Morthen for Mr. W. Reece (RB2021/0903)

Mr. T. Stanway, Laughton Parish Council (Objector)

- Reserved matters application (details of landscaping, scale, external appearance and layout) for the erection of 70 dwellinghouses (reserved by outline R2019/1891) at east of Brecks Lane rear of Belcourt Road, Brecks for Avant Homes Yorkshire (RB2021/2054)

Mr. D. Cutts (on behalf of the Applicant)

Councillor S. Ellis (Objector)

- Use of dwelling (use class C3) as a children's home for one child (use class C2) at 3 Raven House, Moor Lane North, Ravenfield for Emma Fusco (RB2022/0502)

Mr. and Mrs. Angell (Objectors)

- Change of use to a public house (Use Class Sui Generis), including alterations to external appearance of the building, and provision of associated external seating area at Building B, Deer Park Farm, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh for Deer Park Farm Retail Village (RB2022/0724)

Mr. J. Lomas (on behalf of the Applicant)

Councillor M. Bennett-Sylvester (Supporter)

Mr. Hickman (Objector)

Mrs. G. Hoden (Objector)

A statement was also read out on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Joyce (Objectors).

- Erection of two linked 9.5m prefabricated steel towers at Eagle Platforms, Ryton Road, Anston for Eagle Platforms Ltd. (RB2022/0737)

Mr. D. Stewart (Applicant)
Councillor T. Wilson (Supporter)
A statement was also read out on behalf of Mr. K. Crawshaw (Objector) who was unable to attend the meeting.

(2) That, with regards to application RB2021/0030:-

(a) subject to the Council entering into a legal agreement with the developer under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- A financial contribution of £500 per dwelling towards sustainable travel measures to support the development.
- A financial contribution of £23,600 for the provision of replacement offsite tree mitigation
- A financial contribution of £91,338 towards education provision
- Establishment of a Management Company to manage and maintain the areas of Greenspace on site.
- Affordable Housing provision of 12 units in total. This is broken down as follows:-
 - the provision of 8no. units on site units at Plots 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 48.
 - A commuted sum equating to 60% of the difference between the estimated open market value set out in the viability appraisal submitted by the applicant of 4no. units at plots 35, 36, 38 and 49 and the actual sales values achieved at the point of sale.

(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 and subject to an amendment to Condition No. 2 relating to the up-to-date Landscaping Plan to now read:-

02 The permission hereby granted shall relate to the area shown outlined in red on the approved site plan and the development shall only take place in accordance with the submitted details and specifications and as shown on the approved plans (as set out below):-

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (Drawing numbers | |
| Location plan | SWTC-HLM-00-00-DR-A-00101 Rev P02 |
| Proposed Site Layout | SWTC-HLM-00-00-DR-A-0001 Rev P04 |
| Proposed Site Plan | SWTC-HLM-00-00-DR-L-00001 Rev P07 |
| Landscape | GA SWTC-HLM-00-00-DR-L-0010 rev 01 |
| Soft Landscape - | SWTC-HLM-00-00-SH-L-45102 Rev P01 |
| Planting Schedule | |
| Soft Landscape Plan | SWTC-HLM-00-00-DR-L-45101 Rev P01 |
| Soft Landscape Strategy | SWTC-HLM-00-00-DR-L-45001 Rev P04 |

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| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Civic Centre elevations | SWTC -HLM -01 -00 -DR - A -00301 |
| | Rev P01 |
| New Library elevations | WTC -HLM -02 -00 -DR - A -00311 Rev P01 |
| Street scene | SWTC-HLM-00-00-DR-A-00310 Rev P02 |
| Phasing Plan | SWTC-HLM-00-00-DR-A-00000 P01 |

House types elevations and floor plans

- Garragill 16/D45/38 Rev J
- House type F
- House type F1
- House type E
- House type D1
- House type P
- House type F2
- House type Oxford
- House Type H
- House Type HC

(received 07/01/2021, 09/06/2021, 25/06/2021, 30/09/2021, 15/07/2022).

Reason - To define the permission and for the avoidance of doubt.

(3) That, applications RB2021/0903, RB2021/2054, RB2022/0502 and RB2022/0737 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(4) That, application RB2022/0724 be granted on a temporary basis for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to two additional conditions to now read:-

10

The main entrance door shall not be kept in an open position and the emergency doors shown on the front elevation of the building shall remain closed at all times other than when required in an emergency.

Reason - In the interests of the amenities of local residents.

11

The permission hereby granted shall relate to the area shown outlined in red on the approved site plan and the development shall only take place in accordance with the submitted details and specifications and as shown on the approved plans (as set out below)

(Drawing numbers PL04 Rev A and PL06 Rev A)

Reason - To define the permission and for the avoidance of doubt.

111. UPDATES

The following update information was provided:-

(a) Wentworth Woodhouse

An update was provided on the applications received and those to be submitted for works to restore and regularise the existing facilities as part of the restoration of the main house, gardens, stable block and Camelia House at Wentworth Woodhouse by the Wentworth Preservation Trust.

Resolved:- That the detailed update be received and welcomed.

112. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 11th August, 2022 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

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PLANNING BOARD
11th August, 2022

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Bacon, Bird, Burnett, Elliott, Fisher, Havard and Keenan.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowen and Taylor.

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

113. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

114. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

115. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

116. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21ST JULY, 2022

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 21st July, 2022, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

117. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS (INFORMATION ATTACHED)

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

118. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

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

In accordance with the right to speak procedure, a number of people attended the meeting and spoke about the following application:-

- Demolition of 2 No. bungalows and erection of 8 No. flats at 2 Goose Lane, Wickersley for Habbin Ltd. (RB2021/0401)

Off Camera Speaker (Objector)

Mrs. L. Dagness (Objector)

Mrs. M. Godfrey (Objector)

Mr. J. Thompson (Objector)

Mrs. P. Wright (Objector)

Mrs. D. Stacey (Objector)

Statements were also read out on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. Hammerton and Mrs. Gross (Objectors).

(2) That the Planning Board declare that it was not favourably disposed towards application RB2021/0401 and that it be refused on the grounds that the proposed development, by reason of its combined scale, massing, siting and appearance would result in an excessive form of development that would appear dominant, disproportionate and visually intrusive within the immediate street scene and general character and appearance of the area. As such, the proposal would be contrary to Policies CS28 'Sustainable Design' and SP55 'Design Principles' of the adopted Local Plan, together with Policy GP1 'High Quality Design' contained within the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.

(3) That, application RB2022/0762 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

119. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

120. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 1st September, 2022 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

PLANNING BOARD
22nd September, 2022

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Bacon, Bird, Burnett, Cowen, Elliott, Fisher, Havard, Keenan, Tarmey and Taylor.

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

121. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

122. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

124. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH AUGUST, 2022

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 11th August, 2022, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

125. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

126. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

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

In accordance with the right to speak procedure, a number of people attended the meeting and spoke about the applications below:-

- Subdivision and change of use of building into a coffee shop (Use Class E) and hot food takeaway (Use Class Sui Generis), demolition of front extension and installation of new shop fronts with ramped access and external seating area to Bawtry Road at 186 Bawtry Road Wickersley (RB2021/2130)

Councillor S. Ellis (Objector – on behalf of Wickersley Parish Council)

A statements was also read out on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Haworth (Objectors).

- Display of illuminated signs and non illuminated signs and 1 No. 6m high illuminated Totem sign at 186 Bawtry Road Wickersley Rotherham (RB2021/2131)

Councillor S. Ellis (Objector – on behalf of Wickersley Parish Council)

A statements was also read out on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Haworth (Objectors).

- Demolition of balcony and porch structures and conversion and extension of detached dwelling to form two dwellings, including partial raising of roof height and alteration to elevations to include new window detailing, front porches and eaves dormers, at 3 The Close, Dinnington (RB2022/0201)

Mr. A. Dodwell (Applicant)

Mr. J. Kelwick (Objector)

Ms. J. Warnes (Objector)

- Erection of a convenience store (Use Class E) adjacent to the existing public house (Sui Generis), utilising the existing access, with associated parking and landscaping, and reconfiguration of the public house car park, including additional parking area, The Squirrel 194 Laughton Road, Dinnington (RB2022/0777)

Mr. J. Russell (Applicant)

Parish Councillor D. Smith (Objector)

(2) That, application RB2021/2130 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and also subject to an amendment to the hours in Condition 3 and along with an extra condition (Condition 14) to ensure that the front railings were provided. The conditions now read:-

03

The use hereby permitted shall only be open to customers or for deliveries between the hours of 0800 - 2300.

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Reason - In the interests of the amenities of the occupiers of nearby dwellings and in accordance with the Local Plan.

14

Within 1 month of the date of this decision, details of the railings around the external seating area on the Bawtry Road frontage shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the details shall be implemented within 1 month of their approval.

Reason - In the interests of visual amenity and to prevent unauthorised motorised access to the front of the building.

(3) That with regards to application RB2021/2131:-

(a) the illuminated and non-illuminated signage on the building be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(b) the proposed totem sign be refused for the reason adopted by Members at the meeting and listed in the submitted report.

(4) That, application RB2022/0201 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(5) That, application RB2022/0777 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and also subject to an amendment to the hours in Condition 10 and re-wording of Condition 13 to now read:-

10

The use hereby permitted shall only be open for deliveries and dispatches by Heavy Goods Vehicle's (HGV's) between the hours of 07:00 to 21:00 hrs Monday to Sunday, and all other deliveries shall only take place between the hours of 06:00 to 21:00 hrs Monday to Sunday.

13

The additional security measures to protect the Public House as set out in the submitted Statement on the Future Viability of the Squirrel Public House, shall be retained until the building is brought back into use.

127. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

128. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 13th October, 2022 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

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STAFFING COMMITTEE
19th July, 2022

Present:- Councillor Alam (in the Chair); Councillors Allen, Read and T. Collingham.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Reynolds.

16. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY, 2022

The minutes of the previous Staffing Committee meeting held on 16th February, 2022, were considered.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February, 2022, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18. 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.

19. RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HOUSING

The Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development, introduced the report explaining that it was a key role. The post had been advertised on two occasions, in June 2021 and September 2021, without attracting appointable candidates.

He explained that, although benchmarking of salaries had shown the Council's Assistant Director posts to be competitive, the scale of the role and ambitions for the Council's housing strategy mean that the role is broader in scale than many other local authorities.

The role includes the management of the Council's Housing (circa 20,000 homes), the ambitious growth in Council Housing, the development and delivery of the Housing Strategy for the Borough across all tenures and the associated strategic partnerships both within Rotherham and across South Yorkshire.

He clarified that the recommendation was for the Staffing Committee to approve a market supplement of up to £7,500, in addition to the Assistant Director salary of £91,588.

In response the Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development explained that the market supplement for this position, which was deemed to be at the right level, had been based on a proportion of a market supplement used for another position within the Council.

In consideration of the proposal, it was acknowledged that a principle had been established previously whereby if a vacancy could not be recruited to on two separate occasions, then a market supplement could be considered. This was an important, large-scale function within the Council therefore the request to use a market supplement was considered reasonable.

It was noted that the post would be advertised July and August, therefore, it was suggested that the closing date of the position be extended to enable the maximum time for submission of applications.

In response it was noted that both internal and external candidates would be able to apply for the position.

The Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development, explained that the previous recruitment rounds had attracted candidates who would be stepping up into the role rather than candidates already operating at that level.

It was confirmed that applying a market supplement to this advertisement would not set a precedent to future recruitment, these are decided on a case-by-case basis. It was clarified that market supplements could be removed should the position change for future recruitment.

RESOLVED: That the Staffing Committee agreed to:

- 1. Approve a market supplement of up to £7,500 for the post of Assistant Director of Housing in addition to the Assistant Director salary of £91,558.**

20. URGENT BUSINESS

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

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
15th September, 2022

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Z. Collingham, Griffin, Hughes, Tarmey, Parish Councillors A. Buckley, M. Carroll and R. Swann and also Mr. P. Edler (Independent Co-optee).

Also in attendance at the invitation of the Chair were Mr. P. Beavers and Mr. D. Roper-Newman, Independent Persons.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bacon and Yasseen and Mrs. A. Bingham, Mrs. M. Evers and Mrs. K. Penney.

9. MINUTE'S SILENCE AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE SAD PASSING OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, ELIZABETH II

The Committee stood for a minute's silence following the sad passing of Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II, as a mark of respect to reflect on her commitment to public service and devotion to the nations of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. P. Beavers and Mr. D. Roper-Newman declared personal interests in Minute No. 15 (Re-appointment of Independent Persons) on the basis that they were the Council's current Independent Persons.

Parish Councillor Buckley declared a personal interest in Minute No. 17 (Review of Complaints) on the basis that he had some knowledge of one of the complaints.

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute Nos. 16 and 17 (Whistleblowing and Complaints) on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE, 2022

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th June, 2022.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th June, 2022 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

13. GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Service Manager which set out in detail a possible amendment to the Code of Conduct in respect of the requirement to register Gifts and Hospitality, following the recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public Life Report into Local Government Ethical Standards.

As reported to the Committee at its last meeting Recommendation 6 was for Local Authorities being required to establish a register of gifts and hospitality, with councillors required to record gifts and hospitality received over a value of £50 or totalling £100 over a year from a single source.

At the last meeting the Committee discussed this issue and it was suggested that officers review other Local Authorities' Codes of Conduct, as to the approach which had been taken in respect of this issue. This had been undertaken and the different approaches adopted were set out in the report.

The Committee debated whether to include reference to the requirement to disclose a number of different gifts from the same source which over a certain period exceeded the stated amount.

The Committee noted that Sheffield City Council adopted the period as the four-year term of office and as part of their discussion considered whether that was appropriate, or some other period should be adopted.

Discussion ensued about the terminology and as such a "four year term". It was suggested this be changed to "term of office".

The Committee were minded to make such an amendment and suggested the amended paragraph of the Code of Conduct be worded as follows:-

10.2 I notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any gift, benefit or hospitality with a value in excess of £xx, or accumulatively in excess of £xx from the same source over the term of office which you have been offered as a Member from any person or body other than the Authority within 28 days of receipt.

The Committee were also provided for information and assurance the form by which Members registered their gifts and hospitality and full details were set out in the Members Induction Handbook.

It was also noted that further, periodic reminders in respect of the requirement to register Gifts and Hospitality were provided in the Members newsletter.

The Committee in viewing the Members Induction Handbook and in particular Section 4 – Standards and Ethics noted that in Section 4.2 there was no reference to the Nolan Principles and would prefer to see them included.

In addition, for the purposes of annual updates it was suggested in Section 4.4 the wording “no later than (date)” be removed and it be left for review and sign off within 28 days.

Resolved:- (1) That the amendment to the Members Code of Conduct in respect of the registration of Gifts and Hospitality in respect of cumulative gifts from a single source over a stated period be approved.

(2) That the amendment to the Code of Conduct the wording at paragraph 1.8 with the words “four year term” omitted be adopted.

(3) That the suggested wording amendments to the Members’ Induction Handbook be fed back to appropriate officers.

14. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Service Manager which set out in detail proposed minor amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy following a review of the Policy.

Following the latest review of the Whistleblowing Policy by officers, a small number of minor amendments to the Policy, were proposed (a full copy of the Whistleblowing Policy with suggested amendments in “tracked” version were included as part of the agenda pack) and further amendments were provided at the meeting..

The proposed amendments were “administrative” changes

The legislation referred to in the Policy remained in force and had not been changed. The procedure for dealing with disclosures once they have been received by the Council also remained the same. The telephone numbers and other contact details available for disclosure within the Policy have been checked and were current and as such it was considered that the current Policy, subject to the above amendments, was appropriate and remained fit for purpose.

The Committee sought clarification on whether this Policy included the Town and Parish Councils and were advised the Council had no jurisdiction in this respect and the Town and Parish Councils came under separate legislation.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy be approved.

(2) That subject the Whistleblowing Policy (Appendix 1) be approved.

15. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Service Manager which set out the review of the arrangements for the Council's Independent Persons and recommended the reappointment of the current Independent Persons.

The Council's current two Independent Persons have provided significant contribution to the Council's Standards and Ethics regime, one of them being consulted on all complaints received by the Council as well as providing contributions to policy matters and other issues at meetings.

Given the value of this contribution made by the Independent Persons it was suggested that both Independent Persons be reappointed until the end of the 2023/24 municipal year.

Recommended:- That the current Independent Persons be reappointed until the end of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

16. A REVIEW OF CONCERNs RAISED PURSUANT TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

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

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

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

17. REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Service Manager, detailing the progress with the handling of complaints relating to breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Town and Parish Councillors. The report listed the current cases of complaint and the action being taken in respect of each one.

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

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

18. URGENT BUSINESS

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

19. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee be held on Thursday, 17th November, 2022, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

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