



Council

**Wednesday 12 April 2023
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:- Friday 31 March 2023

COUNCIL

Wednesday 12 April 2023 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
FOSTER, Carole

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

ROTHORPE

BROOKES, Amy C.
MIRO, Firas

ROTHORPE EAST

COOKSEY, Wendy
HALEEM, Rukhsana B.
KHAN, Tajamal

ROOTHERHAM 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 12 April 2023 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 13 - 73)

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 1 March 2023 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

5. PETITIONS

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 MEETING (Pages 75 - 85)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 20 March 2023.

11. NOMINATIONS - MAYOR-ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR-ELECT FOR THE 2023-2024 MUNICIPAL YEAR

To consider nominations and approve the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.

12. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE - IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION (Pages 87 - 99)

To receive an update on the activities of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny bodies in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.

13. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW CULTURAL STRATEGY (Pages 101 - 153)

To note the Cabinet response to the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review of Cultural Strategy.

14. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW MARKETS: ENGAGEMENT AND RECOVERY (Pages 155 - 182)

To note the Cabinet response to the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review of Markets: Engagement and Recovery.

15. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW COVID-19 CARE HOME SAFETY (Pages 183 - 206)

To note the Cabinet response to the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review of Covid-19 Care Home Safety.

16. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR HOOBER (Pages 207 - 208)

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

17. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR WATH (Pages 209 - 210)

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

18. NOTICE OF MOTION - GRANGE PARK - ACCESS

Notice of Motion – Grange Park - Access

To be moved by Councillor Ian Jones and seconded by Councillor Rob Elliott:

That this council notes:

Over the last three decades, patrons of the Grange Park have had unfettered access to all its amenities, its wildlife, its amazing dog walks and its natural beauty. The main demographic of park users is pension aged walkers including ramblers using the trans Pennine trail which crosses the site and the young children from 5 to 15 using the junior football academy. Recent events have now reduced the park to a mucky dirt track and created a dangerous environment for the young footballers, spectators, and walkers alike.

The council believes that:

Since 1929, several access routes have criss-crossed the land and have been used to access the former colliery, the park, and the landfill. Of these routes only four have ever been referred to in conveyancing documents. Currently according to the land registry, no maps are filed against these. In 1973, the Council purchased the land from the NCB which formed part of the old colliery and its access. The land was purchased to form a public park for the recreation of the residents of Rotherham. In 2001, the Council agreed a right of access as part of a lease agreement with Millmoor juniors and resurfacing works were commissioned by RMBC at the request of Millmoor Juniors to complete an accessway which ran along their boundary. It was also used between 1994 and 1997 with the Council's permission, by the current owner of Grange landfill LTD, the then contractor of Watsons Estates to speed up the re-instatement of the toxic tip site. This same site owner is now claiming an access right under the "doctrine of lost modern grant". However, the public of Rotherham West believe that the evidence provided by the company to meet the threshold for a right of access "on a balance of probabilities" the 51% test, has not been reached, however the Council refuses to share the Legal opinions. Despite documentation existing that shows a "legal right of way" existed since the 1930s under the "iron bridge" the company is attempting to confuse the access right, we believe that this is because although legal, it is not in a usable condition.

This council resolves that:

Mirroring the thoughts and wishes of the residents of Droppingwell, Blackburn and Kimberworth, this council should undertake an immediate review of all the evidence provided to the Council by the company and set out in a public

document why they believe it gives the company a right of access under the “doctrine of modern lost grant”. The council should then undertake a public meeting to consult and take on board the vast knowledge of the public, which up to now it has failed to engage or consider. If an undisputable right cannot be proven on balance of probabilities, the Council will request that the company provide any further evidence that they believe proves a right and the Council will set out in a public document why they believe the Company has a right of access if the Council continue to believe that they do have one.

19. NOTICE OF MOTION - TOBACCO CONTROL

Notice of Motion – Tobacco Control

To be moved by Councillor David Roche and seconded by Councillor David Sheppard

This Council notes that:

- There has been a significant reduction in the number of people smoking, and there have been improvements in the services designed to assist with smoking cessation. Rotherham can be very pleased with the progress it has made in areas such as the reduction in the % of pregnant women smoking, in the impact of the new tobacco working group. We understand our progress is better than in many other areas. Despite those, smoking remains the single largest driver of health inequalities and poor health in Rotherham, where – in common with the rest of the UK – it is the leading cause of cancer and preventable and early death. We know that that we have been successful, but we also know there is more to be done
- Preventable disease continues to have a massive impact on the public's health, the NHS and the economy.
- Decades of comprehensive policy action have meant adult smoking prevalence in the UK in 2019 was at a record low at 14.1%, but this masks significant inequality.
- Differences in smoking rates make it one of the leading drivers of health inequalities, responsible for half the difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest income groups in England.
- Smoking is estimated by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) to cost society £17bn annually for England, £2.4bn of which falls to the NHS.
- That through their public health duties, local authorities are responsible for improving the health of their population and do this through services such as stop smoking services and wider tobacco control activities.

This Council:

- Believes that local government must be adequately resourced to fulfil their public health duties and that the Council will make representations through Cancer Research and ASH to push for this to happen. Furthermore as part of this, the Council calls upon the three Rotherham MP's to seek to improve funding for Public Health from the Government
- Supports Cancer Research UK's calls for a Smokefree Fund (a fixed annual charge on the tobacco industry, making the tobacco industry pay for the damage their products cause, without being able to influence how the funds

are spent) to fund local tobacco control work, and urges the UK Government to consider implementing a Smokefree Fund as part of its efforts to reach the Smokefree 2030 target and tackle health inequalities. By supporting this motion we will be joining others in a Cancer Championships network to help to provide more weight and support to Cancer Research UK to achieve their aim

Therefore, this Council will:

- Ask Trading Standards and the Police in Rotherham whether ways can be found to further crack down on illegal tobacco sales. Also to work with Trading standards and Public Health to investigate if anything can be done re the “positive and open “way vaping is advertised/displayed with at the very least calling upon Vapour outlets to consider how they portray their wares that might encourage youngsters to start vaping
- Call upon Children and Young People’s Services to work with schools to see how they can provide further information and preventive work to warn of the dangers of vaping and smoking; in doing so to support youngsters to give up vaping whilst at the same time warning of the dangers of taking up vaping as a choice rather than as a measure to aid smoking cessation
- Calls upon South Yorkshire ICS, to provide more support and a unified approach to those wishing to give up smoking in our region.

Background / supporting information

- The Prevalence of smoking in Rotherham is significantly higher than for all-England. Approximately 16.9% of Rotherham adults (around 35,400 people) were smokers in 2021 compared to 13.0% nationally.
- From 2017-19, there were 1,272 smoking attributable deaths in Rotherham – a rate of 271 deaths per 100,000 population. This is significantly worse than the England rate of 202 or the Yorkshire and the Humber rate of 239 deaths per 100,000 population
- An estimated 13,836 Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in Rotherham were caused by smoking in 2019 alone. This accounts for 16% of all DALYs in Rotherham - making smoking the single greatest contributor to the total burden of disease locally.
- Rotherham performs significantly worse than all-England for most indicators used to monitor the impact of smoking on population health.

Indicator	Rotherham	All England
Smoking attributable hospital admissions: Directly standardised rate per 100,000 population (2019/20)	2,023	1,398
Smoking attributable deaths: Directly standardised rate per 100,000 population (2017-19)	271	202
Smoking at time of delivery (2021/2)	12.8%	9.1%

- Smoking is the single largest driver of health inequalities in England. The

- more disadvantaged someone is, the more likely they are to smoke and to suffer from smoking-related disease and premature death.
- Rates of smoking are considerably higher amongst some groups, including:
 - People who work in routine and manual occupations
 - People from lower socioeconomic groups
 - People with long term mental health conditions
 - People with drug and alcohol addictions
 - People from some ethnic groups, including mixed ethnic groups and white British populations
 - LGBTQI+ people
- Inequalities in Rotherham that are more pronounced than seen nationally. For example, the odds of smoking amongst routine and manual workers in Rotherham are 2.45 times those of the general population, compared to an odds ratio of 2.22 nationally (2020 data).

Local tobacco control

Rotherham has a multi-agency Tobacco Steering Group which oversees delivery of plans to address local tobacco control actions. The action plan and a range of indicators monitoring progress were recently presented to Health and Wellbeing Board in January. The action plan is aligned against five strategic aims designed to deliver a smokefree Rotherham by 2030 (<5% prevalence), which have been based on national evidence of [good practice](#) and recommendations from the Government's [The Khan Review](#):

- Strategy and Coordination.* Deliver a coordinated tobacco control policy, strategy, governance and monitoring system
- Quit for good.* Encourage and support smokers to quit for good
- Enforcement.* Tackle suppliers of cheap, counterfeit, and illicit tobacco and nicotine-containing-products through delivery of effective enforcement
- Reduce variation* in smoking rates by tackling inequalities
- Stop the start.* Reduce the number of people taking up smoking, particularly young people

As part of this work an e-cigarette position statement has been developed to generate consensus on how to ensure that there is access to e-cigarettes as an effective harm reduction tool and quitting aid for existing smokers, without inadvertently contributing to a growth in the uptake of vaping amongst non-smokers (especially children and young people) through normalisation, or glamorisation of vaping.

Smoking cessation services are provided in the community, currently through Get Healthy Rotherham, and also as part of NHS services, including QUIT programme in hospitals and a service for pregnant women. Illicit tobacco work is undertaken through the Trading Standards team.

Investment in tobacco control is highly cost effective. Every £1 spent on smoking cessation services estimated to deliver a saving of £10 in future health care costs and health gains. Despite this, there has been a national and local decline in spending on tobacco control. In Rotherham, spend on tobacco control per head of population fell by 49% between 2013 and 2018 within the

context of overall cuts in PH spending.

20. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 211 - 224)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

21. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 225 - 226)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

22. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 227 - 232)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

23. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

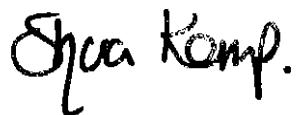
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council 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
Friday 19 May 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 1 March 2023

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

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

132. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had been honoured to meet a diverse range of people from many different backgrounds, including the Sangeet Choir who came to visit the Town Hall and Rabbi Golomb who invited him to visit him at the Sheffield United Synagogue.

133. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Sansome, and Yasseen.

134. COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

135. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 January 2023, be approved.

136. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED that: the following declarations of interest were received:

Agenda Item	Councillor	Interest Type	Nature of Interest
11	Andrews	Non-Pecuniary	Council tenant.
11	Atkin	Non-Pecuniary	Relative is a Council tenant.
11	Bennett-	Non-Pecuniary	Council tenant.

	Sylvester		
11	Cusworth	Non-Pecuniary	Relative is a Council tenant.
11	Elliott	Non-Pecuniary	Rents grazing land.
11	Keenan	Non-Pecuniary	Spouse or partner rents from South Yorkshire Housing Association.
11	Lelliott	Non-Pecuniary	Right of Way access to rear of property.
11	Wyatt	Non-Pecuniary	Rents a garage.

138.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(1) Ms. S. Yousaf referred to Councillor Alam mentioning during the last scrutiny meeting that £10,000 was allocated for a Qibla stone after discussions with the Council of Mosques and, therefore, asked why had RMBC not communicated with the liaison groups, which included the Rotherham Muslim Burial Council. The Qibla stone served no meaningful purpose and the money would be better spent on toilet facilities for all using the cemetery.

Councillor Alam noted the questioner's view on the stone, but confirmed on 24th October, 2019 a feedback action meeting took place at Herringthorpe Cemetery attended by mosques, mosque committees and burial committees and two issues were raised; one was for an independent group to be established to advise Dignity and the other was for an ornament with a Qibla direction. This was a specific request from the community.

In a supplementary question Ms. Yousaf explained things had changed since 2019 and there were a lot more organisations and groups who were members of the liaison group. She asked had the Cabinet Member not considered discussing this with everyone now in 2023 rather than relying on what happened in 2019 and, furthermore, in terms of the Qibla stone technology had moved on and what was required was a compass to see what direction the Qibla was. On this basis the member of the public totally disagreed with the Cabinet Member about spending £10,000 on a Qibla stone.

Councillor Alam further responded and confirmed that in terms of the liaison group all information had been passed onto Dignity who was now responsible for liaising with the community.

(2) Mr. F. Tareen referred to Dignity promising to appoint a Hydrogeologist in October 2022 to investigate the source of the groundwater. RMBC was managing the contract and the current works were being carried out by Dignity. He asked could RMBC confirm whether or not Dignity had instructed a Hydrogeologist and if not, please provide timeframes issued by RMBC to Dignity for this to be carried out.

Councillor Alam explained the question was really one for Dignity as the Council's management of the matter was of the contract and not how Dignity decided to resolve individual issues.

However, he confirmed Dignity have appointed a Hydrologist and a number of inspections have been carried out on site. A monitoring station was also installed as part of the drainage system to enable samples to be taken.

The last two inspections on site were on 12th of January and 6th of February and Dignity have been asked if timescales could be shared with the community and a report of the Hydrologist's results shared publicly when all of the data had been gathered.

In a supplementary question Mr. Tareen explained there were 1,250 community members who signed an objection letter against the planning application submitted by Dignity for the expansion of the Muslim burial area since the prime concern of the community was the water issue and asked if he was right to believe that the report would be published soon by the Hydrologist. If not, could the planning application wait until the report was received.

Councillor Alam confirmed the Chair of Planning was also present today. He confirmed the report would be published and if there were any concerns with the planning application it would be considered by the Board.

(3) Mr. A. Mahmood explained RMBC have to date fined Dignity £395,000 of which £148,000 had been spent so asked what the remaining amount was going to be spent on?

Councillor Alam explained Overall it should be noted that there has been investment of more than £1 million in the Council's cemeteries this year. The Council will keep under review what further capital investment is required and how any further income from Dignity might be used, however the Council will not use public funds to do work that is the responsibility of Dignity.

In a supplementary question Mr. Mahmood asked in light of the planning application being submitted for the extension to the burial ground, which would be filled up very quickly, and in light of so many burial grounds being closed, would it not be prudent for these points to contribute to locating another piece of land close to where Herringthorpe Cemetery was and investing in that.

Councillor Alam confirmed that under the contract the Council needed to provide the land and the developments run by Dignity, but the Council was waiting for a thirty year plan and review from Dignity regarding burial sites in Rotherham.

(4) Mr. A. Azam explained that at the Cabinet meeting on 23rd January, 2023 it was recorded as “Bereavement Services will commission an independent expert on the bereavement facilities available in Rotherham. Plus, “Associated community work” costing £20k.” He, therefore, asked could the Cabinet Member please share what this “Associated Community Work” was and give a breakdown of how much was being spent with whom?

Councillor Alam explained the Council’s Budget report, being voted on later this afternoon, included an amount of £20,000 for Bereavement Services to commission an independent report plus any community engagement and communication if the recommendations were to visit other good practice sites in the country, which may have a cost. It was hoped this amount would cover all the engagement going forward from the recommendations of the independent review.

In a supplementary question Mr. Azam assumed this would be all Council expenditure and no other parties. He referred to the name of Mohamed Omer being aired at a scrutiny meeting in December as an initiative that was being pushed by the Council. This then appeared in the Advertiser as well and this raised numerous questions and anxiety in the Muslim community. It was assumed that before going to press all key tasks would be completed and then this would not be viewed as an equality tick box. To this end apart from saying this year could the Cabinet Member share the exact dates when Mohamed Omer would be undertaking his review, the terms of reference and when would that report be issued.

Councillor Alam considered it to be healthy for an independent person to come and look at the Council’s services and for information Mr. Omer was a leading expert on burials and on advising Ministers and the Cardinals’ Office and actually chaired the National Muslim Burial Council. He also had authority and ran a large award-winning Muslim burial cemetery so for the Council to have him here to look at services and improvements. The month of Ramadan was fast approaching so it was hoped his involvement would commence immediately after Ramadan.

(5) Ms. N. Khan confirmed she attended the last Council meeting in November, 2022 where Councillor Alam promised to meet. She asked, therefore, could she have a definitive date to have a face-to-face meeting as she felt let down by RMBC as promises have been made several times and nothing had been arranged apart from a disappointing email being received which made no sense.

Councillor Alam explained since the start of this governance process he was keen to make sure the Council had ongoing monitoring contract work with Dignity’s engagement. The plan at the moment was for Dignity to meet all stakeholders, the community and friends of cemeteries as there had been some blurring of responsibility in the past because of the delivery of the contract by Dignity. It was for Dignity to meet with community sectors, organisations and others and hopefully when the work

of Mohamed Omer commenced he would be also be able to engage the community too.

In a supplementary question Ms. Khan explained her request was still the same. She did not wish to meet with Dignity or Mr. Omer, but was simply asking for her local Councillors, as a grieving daughter, to meet and sit and listen to her about the problems the community had. The only way the Council would hear what the community had to say was by meeting rather than waiting for Dignity or Mr. Omer.

Councillor Alam was in a similar position with family members being buried in the same place, but pointed out due process must be followed as part of the 35 year contact signed in 2008. The Council were holding Dignity to account with service delivery which could be undermined if the Council started having meetings and conversations about issues, the governance arrangements would decrease and the holding of Dignity to account would be difficult. In terms of stakeholder engagement if Dignity were not undertaking this property then there would be financial penalties so the governance processes must be made clear.

139. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

140. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader opened his statement by welcoming the newly elected member for Keppel Ward, Councillor Carole Foster to the Council.

He also highlighted the following:

- that planning permission had been granted for a new café at Thrybergh Country Park and for the first phase of a regeneration project at Rother Valley Country Park to create a new Village Centre with new waterfront buildings, cycle hub and improved car parking.
- A new battery manufacturing centre was being created by Ultimate Battery Company in Thurcroft which would create 500 jobs. This followed a significant business investment award made towards the end of 2021.
- The new Rothercard scheme was approved, and tens of thousands of local residents will have access to the discounts from April.
- The cost-of-living summit was in development and was expected to take place on 16 March, but more details would follow.
- Referring to the protest outside of the Holiday Inn on 18 February, he noted that the divisive politics of racial hatred were not welcome here. The government should note that it was no good for anyone to have desperate people, seeking sanctuary in this country, trapped in hotels for months on end. The government must move more quickly to ensure the national asylum system was fit for purpose.

- A year had passed since the war in Ukraine had begun and he was very proud that Rotherham had opened its homes and hearts to people from Ukraine and who were doing good work for the Council.

Councillor Foster was welcomed to the Council by a number of the members.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester thanked the Leader, noting that members of the SEND Youth Club at Dalton had been able to choose where to spend the free school meals vouchers. He had found being part of the Rothercard review very rewarding and thanked, Councillors Sheppard, McNeely, Cooksey, and but queried going forward if there was a way of understanding how residents interact with services through using things such as the Rothercard service to monitor access?

The Leader welcomed the progress made with the meal vouchers. He acknowledged the benefits being able to understand how residents interacted with the Council's services. The principle, that people regardless of their incomes and backgrounds are able to enjoy the full range of services, particularly the cultural services that make a difference in people's lives is right and should be part of the work going forward.

Councillor Ball noted that the Council had been successful in attracting funding for Rother Valley Country Park and queried if this would be shared across the rest of the borough. He felt there was no priority given to peripheral towns and villages. The Leader indicated the challenge of how to ensure that all parts of the borough were getting access to investment opportunities was fair. It was why some funding had been moved into neighbourhood budgets, it was why the Council had tried to build multi-agency neighbourhood teams to ensure all members were getting access to those services and were able to respond to the needs of those areas. It was the reason the Towns and Villages fund had been brought forward to get some physical regeneration into towns and villages across the borough, however there was pressures on available budgets across the board.

Councillor A Carter indicated the Liberal Democrat group agreed with the Leaders views regarding the protest on 18 February.

141. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

Resolved:

That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 23 January and 13 February 2023 be received.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Allen

142. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2023-24

Further to Minute No.118 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2023, consideration was given to the report that proposed the Council's Budget and Council Tax for 2023/24.

In moving the budget report, the Leader thanked all members who had worked so hard to put together the proposals for this year. He thanked Judith Bader and the Finance team, Chief Executive and Senior Leadership team who commitment and professionalism served our borough so well. He looked back to when the last budget was set, which was three Prime Ministers, three Secretaries of State and five Housing Ministers ago in the wake of the Covid pandemic.

He noted the first Prime Minister declared social care to be fixed through a levy, which the second one cancelled. The second local government minister said there was fat to trim, with the third being forced to bail out councils in trouble. The second Prime Minister delivered what was called a 'true Tory budget' which the third one making us all pay for it. Councils across the country were facing the most challenging financial environment in the history of local government.

He commented that Thurrock issued a Section 114 notice three months ago and were now looking at a 10% council tax rise. Slough a 10% rise and Croydon as much as 15%. If the Council had gone with the council tax proposed by the opposition last year, then it would be imposing the highest council tax increase in the country. Instead, due to the choices made, the Council's was the third lowest increase of any upper tier authority in Yorkshire and was below the government's referendum cap saving the typical household £85 over the period.

He explained that additional funding was available for Adult Social Care to ensure services remained sustainable and for helping providers to increase basic rates of pay for staff who carried out such critical work. Home care services were being prioritised with an above inflation increase in spending, at a time when hospital beds were under incredible pressure.

Last year investments were made in street cleaning with more Street pride staff working on the streets since the start of austerity. This investment meant that 160 more roads had been repaired and the number of potholes had reduced by 60% since 2015.

He said that extra money had been put into youth work, which was taking place regularly now, in Parkgate, Dinnington, Kimberworth, Maltby and Blackburn.

He felt this was a budget that protected the basic services that residents relied on, and this was the choice being made during the meeting.

He explained that investments were being made in the following areas:

- Household Waste Recycling Centres,
- New bin lorries for household waste collections,
- Maintenance equipment for street scene services and green spaces,
- Urban parks and woodlands,
- Rother Valley Country Park, referring to the new café, events space, car parking and cycle hub,
- Centenary way,
- Minor road improvements
- Traffic light improvements,
- Support to South Yorkshire's bus services.

The cost of rising inflation, energy costs and an unfunded national pay settlement hadn't been met by the increases from central funding. As such difficult decisions on cuts and savings needed to be made whilst trying to protect frontline services. If those difficult decisions weren't taken further difficulties would arise.

There was increased demand for support from food banks and Christmas hampers. It was proposed to extend the free school meal holiday voucher scheme for a further twelve months. Further investment would be made to the Council's Energy Crisis grants, the Household Support Fund, the discretionary housing payments, and the Council Tax Support funds.

He noted the Council's Employment Solutions Team had helped more than a thousand local people into work or training. The amount of money the council spent in the local economy had nearly doubled in the last three years. The Towns and Villages Fund had been extended.

In seconding the budget report Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance, passed on his thanks to those who'd worked tirelessly to get to this position. The focus had been around putting the residents of the borough first and through prudently managed finances the Council had been able to propose a number of investments.

He noted that it was clear that the savings presented a challenge to the council including requiring new ways of working however there was a determination of ensure no one was left behind and the most vulnerable did not suffer.

At this point it was moved by Councillor A Carter and seconded by Councillor Tarmey: That the Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 report be accepted as proposed, except for the following amendments to:

1. Appendix 2 Proposed Revenue Investments 2023/24, for a total reduction of the base budget of £89,000 in 2023/24. The total reduction in base budget in subsequent years from 2024/25 onwards of £26,000:

- 1.1. 23/24 R&E1 – Rotherham Markets Redevelopment – Trader Incentives. Remove this £167,000 investment proposal.
- 1.2. 23/24 R&E2 – Narrow Access Vehicle Resource Requirements. Defer this £63,000 investment proposal to the 2024/25 budget.
- 1.3. 23/24 FCS2 – Customer & Digital Programme. Reduce this budget proposal from £118,000 to £80,000 per year.
- 1.4. Add a new permanent revenue investment proposal for 2023/24 – Delegated Tree Maintenance Fund to the value of £59,000. This investment is to be delegated as a specific ward budget (£3,000 for 3-member wards, and £2,000 for 2-member wards) used for the purpose of maintaining existing trees or planting new trees.
- 1.5. Add a new revenue permanent investment proposal 2023/24 – Universal Youth Work to the value of £70,000. The additional investment is to be used for the purpose of expanding Voluntary & Community Sector commissioning.
- 1.6. Add a new permanent revenue investment proposal 2023/24 – Staffing Costs of Brinsworth Community Library to the value of £50,000. The additional investment is to be used for the purpose of reimbursing Brinsworth Parish Council of the staffing costs for Brinsworth Community Library.

2. Appendix 3A to 3D Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26:

- 2.1. Change budgets for the following investments, for a total reduction in 2023/24 of £21,835,761 and a total reduction in 2024/25 of £8,937,825:
 - 2.1.1. Capital Investment RVCP Car Parking Payment Stations. Remove this £75,000 investment proposal. This is split by £50,000 reduction to £0 in 2023/24, and £25,000 reduction to £0 in 2024/25.
 - 2.1.2. Capital Investment Traffic Management Act 2004 Part 6 - Moving Traffic Enforcement – Set up costs. Reduce the 2023/24 budget to £120,000 (from £150,000) and reduce the 2024/25 budget to £200,000 (from £250,000). Funding removed for the proposed Wood Lane, Brinsworth bus gate scheme. The other schemes in the proposal are to be continued.
 - 2.1.3. Capital Investment Traffic Signal Improvements. Reduce the 2023/24 budget to £100,000 (from £200,000). Reduce the 2024/25 budget investment to £200,000 (from £400,000).
 - 2.1.4. Capital Investment Bus Route Improvements. Reduce the 2023/24 budget to £50,000 (from £100,000). No change to the 2024/25 budget investment of £231,000.
 - 2.1.5. Capital Investment Markets Redevelopment. Remove this investment proposal, with a reduction of £21,345,761 for 2023/24 and £8,902,825 for 2024/25.

- 2.1.6. Capital Investment Bereavement Services Investment. Reduce the 2023/24 budget to £128,000 (from £148,000). Funding removed from the Independent Report – Mohammed Omer (£20,000).
- 2.1.7. Capital Investment Narrow Access Vehicle Resource Requirements. Reduce the 2023/24 budget to £0. Defer this £240,000 investment proposal to the 2024/25 budget.
- 2.2. Add or increase budgets for the following investments, for a total increase of £4,498,960 in 2023/24 and a reduction in 2025/26 of £1,700,000 that is re-profiled for delivery in 2023/24.
 - 2.2.1. Capital Investment Boroughwide Tree Planting & Maintenance Programme. Increase the 2023/24 budget to £59,000 (from £0). This investment is to be delegated as a specific ward budget (£3,000 for 3-member wards, and £2,000 for 2-member wards) used for the purpose of maintaining existing trees or planting new trees.
 - 2.2.2. Capital Investment Ward Budgets. Increase 2023/24 budget from £7120 to £100,000 for each of the two member wards, at an additional total cost of £1,486,080.
 - 2.2.3. Capital Investment Ward Budgets. Increase 2023/24 budget from £10,680 to £150,000 for each of the three member wards, at an additional total cost of £1,253,880.
 - 2.2.4. Capital Investment – Building Decarbonisation. Accelerate the planned programme by bringing forward to 2023/24 £1.7m of investment currently allocated in 2025/26 (reducing the 2025/26 spend to £0). This will result in a total investment in 2023/24 of £4,371,811 in this scheme.
3. Excluding the removal of the Markets Redevelopment project, the financing impact of the remaining reductions and proposed investments is a £0.3m increase in the annual borrowing costs for the Council from 2024/25 onwards. There are currently £918,000 of sunk costs associated with the proposed removal of the Markets Redevelopment scheme (2.1.5 above). These costs would be charged to revenue and funded from the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve. The revenue saving of £0.7m per year from 2024/25 as a result of the reduced financing costs of this scheme will be used to cover the additional £0.3m per year financing costs associated with the investment proposals at 2.2 above. The remaining £0.4m per year will be used to replenish the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve and ultimately support the Council's Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

In moving the amendment Councillor, A Carter stated that this had been put forward in the context of years of overspending on budgets. He acknowledged there had been unexpected pressures however it was part

of the problem. Big changes were needed with a view to keeping the Council Tax as low as possible. The decision making should be brought closer to the residents enabling them to have a say what happens in their local area. He felt the Council was far too reactionary in tackling anti-social behaviour. It was felt that increased funding for youth work would enable partners to work with the Council as needed rather than when things were out of control.

It was felt that adding pay stations to a country park that people had to drive to was wrong. He agreed with the premises of improving bus routes however this should be the responsibility of South Yorkshire's Mayor.

In seconding, the amendment Councillor Tarmey indicated he felt the proposed budget meant borrowing to achieve what residents wanted. There was a need to accept that online shopping had replaced the need for some of the shops and markets in the town centre. Residents had indicated they did not travel to the town centre but wanted to see investment in their local towns and villages.

He believed there was a demand for a cleaner and greener borough with residents unhappy with the state of trees in the more rural parts of the borough. Regarding bereavement services, residents were being told what was needed for cemeteries, however it was felt that more attention should be paid to the views of residents and implementing the proposals already agreed.

In response to the proposed amendment Councillor Lelliott explained the budget proposed investments in children, schools, services, and economic development. The proposals for investment in the town centre had drawn in investments. Lots of consultation had been carried out on the town centre proposals. Local businesses depended upon the investment being made.

Councillor Roche noted that Brinsworth Parish Council were increasing their precept but with the proposed amendment also seeking additional funding for Brinsworth. He clarified that all members were able to submit a number of proposals for road schemes each year.

Councillor Wyatt indicated he was against the amendment. He noted that nationally markets were experiencing hard times but there was a need to look at the sustainability of the trader base. Traders needed to be support through the period of change and the current building needed renovation. Markets were a historic tradition and if support wasn't provided a significant investment would need to be passed back.

The Leader explained that all parts of the borough were treated equally. He understood the principle of the proposed amendment around transferring funding from central decisions into decisions made within the wards however it contained two problems. The first was the expectation that all members would underspend by £66,000 in terms of capital

expenditure for this financial year in each ward. The second was to say that the benefits of making changes to improve the bus services and improve road layouts would be felt by all residents. If it was down to the individual wards to help, these things would not benefit everyone in the borough. Returning the funding from the bid for the market and central library development could lead to those proposals not being fulfilled.

Councillor Allen indicated that residents would be appalled if the funding for the markets and central library development was returned to the Government.

Councillor Cusworth indicated the proposed amendment did not indicate what their proposals for the town centre were. Rotherham had been a market town for a long time, and it brought a diversity of people and goods to the town, whilst creating access to goods at a reasonable rate during the cost of living crisis.

Councillor Ball indicated that the redevelopment of the markets had been a long-established plan therefore now was not the time to change plans where significant investment had been made. He was unable to support a uniformed approach to funding.

Councillor Sheppard explained the number of visitors to Rother Valley County Park was increasing therefore there was a need for the car parks to be ready to accommodate the additional visitors.

Councillor Z Collingham noted that the amendment called for more trees and more revenue investment for Brinsworth Parish Council but did not mention anything about council tax.

Councillor Reynold believed that the town was not thriving however no towns were. There was a need to move with the time, the style of markets had changed. The town centre needed to be rebuilt.

Councillor Wilson said she had used the market in the town centre for years and it had been her saviour. She still used it now because she wanted to support local businesses. She accepted that it was not where it should be however businesses were working hard in the town and the markets itself to address this. She believed that markets elsewhere were thriving due to regeneration.

Councillor Beck believed that the Council involved everyone in decisions. All Members were asked what roads they would like improved in consultation with residents. There were many different examples of how the Council sought direct involvement from its members.

Councillor Atkin said the markets were there for people who needed things and the traders would suffer whilst the work was undertaken so needed support.

Councillor Miro explained he was not against the investment in the town centre however it had found little to make him want to visit it. He felt he would be able to accomplish more within his ward if more funding was available for ward budgets.

In response to the points raised in the debate on the amendment, Councillor A Carter indicated that many of the big businesses had left the town centre. He believed that markets were a failing industry and only a minority of residents used the town centre. There was a need to move with the times. He was pleased that visitor numbers were increasing in Rother Valley Country Park but queried if that was the right thing to prioritise.

On being put the vote the amendment was lost.

At this point it was proposed by Councillor Ball and seconded by Councillor Mills:

Budget and Council Tax for the 2023/24 Financial Year

That the Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 report be accepted as proposed, with the exception of the following amendments:

1. Reduce the proposed Council Tax increase from 4% to 2%, with the proposed 2% increase being made up of a 2% increase through the Adult Social Care precept (ringfenced for adult social care).

The reduction in the proposed level of Council Tax increase from 4% to 2% will create a budget shortfall of £2.4m for 2023/24, £2.5m for 2024/25 and £2.6m for 2025/26. For 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 this will be funded by £7.5m from the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve.

2. Remove the Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme from the Budget proposals for 2023/24 and 2024/25. In 2023/24 this will reduce the call on the Household Support Fund by £1.2m and it is proposed that this funding is now used to provide grants to households to enable the acquisition and installation of solar panels on their properties to reduce the impact of energy bills.

The grant scheme for solar panels will be accessed via an application process, with a potential grant award of up to £3,000 towards the acquisition and installation of solar panels. It is anticipated that around 400 households can be supported through this fund. Applicants applying must demonstrate that they are suffering financial difficulty due to the impact of rising energy costs or be referred into the scheme through the Council's debt advice provision through the Advocacy and Appeals service.

For 2024/25 the removal of the Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme will reduce the Council's proposed call on reserves by £1.9m (£1.2m Local Council Tax Support Grant reserve and £0.7m Collection Fund Income Guarantee Grant Reserve).

3. Increase the budget in 2023/24 by £0.5m for street cleaning and by £0.7m for road repairs and maintenance. These additional areas of expenditure total £1.2m for 2023/24 and will be funded by the £1.2m Local Council Tax Support Grant Reserve that was planned for use in 2024/25 leaving the £0.7m Collection Fund Income in reserve for future use.
4. Allocate £460k of the £8.799m Fleet Replacement Programme within the capital programme 2023/24 specifically for the purchase of 20 small electric vehicles to accelerate and support the climate emergency motion that Council passed.

In moving the amendment Councillor Ball thanked the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services and her team. He felt this amendment was fairer for all and provided further funding for those services such as litter and potholes. There was a need to be fair to everyone in the borough who was going through difficult times. The amendment provided solar energy for homes and increased the number of electric vehicles. It also opened up opportunities for apprenticeships.

In seconding, the amendment Councillor Mills noted the need to support and remove financial pressures for residents.

Councillor Wilson queried who the amendment was support by not increasing council tax. The spirit in which the solar energy proposal was presented was understood however it was queried how some residents, who could need the scheme, would be able to afford or qualify for the grants.

Councillor Pitchley felt that by removing the local council tax support scheme, not all residents would be able to afford the proposal. More facts were needed for it to be fully considered.

Councillor Sheppard queried why the proposal was being offered to those who had the least to be able to fund it for the benefit of others.

Councillor Tarmey felt the amendment was not fiscally responsible, that it put more pressure on debt and raided the reserves. Renewable energy was support but removing funding from a vital council tax support fund, which supported lots of people, could not be supported. The planning system should be looked at to mandate developers to install solar panels.

Councillor Hoddinott said she was proud that Rotherham had a good scheme that supported people of working age and it was vital that support was provided to them and other residents who needed it most.

Councillor Beck could not support the amendment due to the removal of the local council tax support scheme. The amendment would make poor people poorer. The amendment was not fair for all.

Councillor Baker-Rogers would not support the amendment. The proposal regarding solar panels could put residents in debt and stop others from moving home for 10 years.

Councillor A Carter opposed the amendment indicating a better proposal would be to install solar panels on homes the Council already owned. The reserves should not be used to freeze council tax.

Councillor Roche felt the amendment was unfair and took away subsidies from those who needed them. Reducing council tax would not help the poorer families and would build up future problems.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester said there was a need to find other ways to fund their proposals as people in his ward had gone without food and heat for days and there was an increase in the number of people who sleep rough.

The Leader believed this would create a £2.5m deficit each year. If the aim was to provide a lower council tax rise the proposals should indicate how this would be met.

Councillor Z Collingham said the amendment proposed a smaller council tax rise. The national situation was unprecedented, and this was one mechanism the council had that had the ability to affect everyone's lives. Every household did matter. The amendment was financially sound and putting funding into road repair and road cleaning mattered to people.

Councillor Lelliott felt the amendment was taking support away from those who needed it most.

In response to the points raised in the debate on the amendment, Councillor Ball asked that all Councillors who had supported the proposed council tax increase should be prepared to go back to their residents to explain why they are being asked to contribute more when they're struggling to get by. The national government had supported the most vulnerable households in recent years through cost-of-living payments, benefit uplifts and energy support. Funding was also provided to the Council via the Household Support Fund to further help those in need the most. People in the borough needed to feel that they could contribute, that they could hold the Council to account for the services it provided. Many of those households were already in receipt of significant council tax support. There was a need to remain fair and mindful of the many households who were not eligible for council tax support. The approach in the borough had brought long term hard with too much short termism and a lack of strategic vision. Continued parking charges had led to the

collapse of the town centre. The PFI contract costing nearly £5 million per year, with an on average 31% occupancy rate was sighted as a failure. The amendment showed that the people of Rotherham believed in fairness and should be included in the budget.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

The meeting now discussed the original substantive motion that had been moved by the Leader and seconded by Councillor Alam.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester indicated he felt the scrutiny process of the budget had gone backward and asked that consideration be given to holding full member seminars with the relevant directors to consider the budget proposals. He noted that most of the pressures on the budget were external and queried if there were any inefficiencies. He asked how inefficiencies were addressed. There was an immediate need to address those inefficiencies across the borough and provide support now.

Councillor Roche welcomed the proposals, indicating there was a clear need for the additional funding in Adult Social Care. The number of people requiring care was growing year on year along with the existing pressures of staff retention. The Government asked local councils how much was needed to support adult social care and a £7 billion shortage was identified across the country.

Councillor Sheppard noted that through investment the borough would see continual improvement on a proactive and reactive basis, for example the investment would continue to ensure historic landmarks such as Waterloo Kiln were restored.

Councillor Beck explained that investment was being made in the Household Waste Recycling Centres across the borough. This was part of a wider project to bring services in house including ensuring those staff working on the sites were directly employed by the Council. Equipment was being modernised including purchasing two narrow access bin lorries to create improved accessibility within the more rural areas.

Councillor Cusworth supported the budget noting the increase demand on children's services. The cost-of-living crisis was putting pressures on families with there being a national increase in instances of domestic and substance abuse. More children were being admitted to the care system however through creative ways of managing budgets a cohort of children in care were brought back into the borough. The Council was able to intervene in situations earlier through investment into family conferencing. The free school meal vouchers had been a lifesaver for many, and that support was needed now.

Councillor Allen noted that one of the priorities in the Council was ensuring every neighbourhood was a great place to live and there was a need to continue to improve neighbourhoods. The Council was not

proposing to implement the maximum 5% council tax increase. She offered praise and thanks to both the corporate and directorate finance team. She also thanked her Cabinet colleagues, in particular Councillor Allam for the intensive work undertaken to create the proposals.

Councillor Lelliott said the Council was supporting the most vulnerable whilst also freezing car parking fees, continuing with free parking and freezing taxi licencing costs. Investment was being made in the outlying towns across the borough through the Towns and Villages fund.

Councillor Wilson indicated she felt the budget covered aspects such as building for the future and creating opportunities through investment proposals.

Councillor Tarmey expressed his concerns around the lack of cost control and felt the budget could be overspent.

Councillor Baum-Dixon opposed the budget. He felt the budget had been written by officers, for officers, with no drive to do things differently and believed the taxpayer of Rotherham would pay for it. The Council needed to have the courage to look for savings all of the time rather than when it was in a crisis. He explained that he had not supported the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner percept rise. He felt the Council needed the ambition to innovate and try something different.

In response to the issues raised in the debate the Leader acknowledged that the engagement from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the budget proposals had been less than in previous years. This was due to additional funding being provided by Government late in the budget setting process. In response to the points made on interim savings, the Council was able to defer some spending for some time, on vacancies for instance, however when those savings were made permanent, that could then have an effect on service delivery. The Leader concluded his remarks in commending the proposed budget to members.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, and the Council's Constitution, a recorded vote was taken for this item as follows:

For: Councillors Alam, Allen, Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, Baker-Rodgers, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Bird, Brookes, Browne, Clark, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth, Elliott, Ellis, Foster, Griffin, Haleem, Havard, Hoddinott, Hughes, Jones, Keenan, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Monk, Pitchley, Read, Roche, Sheppard, Taylor, Wilson, and Wyatt.

Against: Councillors Bacon, Ball, Barley, Baum-Dixon, Burnett, A. Carter, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Fisher, Hunter, Miro, Reynolds, Tarmey, Thompson, and Tinsley.

Abstentions: None

Resolved:

That Council

1. Approves the Budget and Financial Strategy for 2023/24 as set out in the report and appendices, including a basic Council Tax increase of 2% and an Adult Social Care precept of 2%.
2. Approves the proposed extension to the Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, that will provide up to £117.60 of additional support to low-income households most vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills as described in section 2.5.11-14.
3. Approves the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2025/26, as described within section 2.6.
4. Approves the Reserves Strategy as set out in Section 2.9 noting that the final determination of Reserves will be approved as part of reporting the financial outturn for 2022/23.
5. Notes and accepts the comments and advice of the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer), provided in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as to the robustness of the estimates included in the Budget and the adequacy of reserves for which the Budget provides (Section 2.14).
6. Notes the feedback from the public and partners following the public consultation on the Council's budget for 2023/24 which took place from 19 December 2022 to 22 January 2023, attached as Appendix 10.
7. Approves the proposed increases in Adult Social Care provider contracts and for Personal Assistants as set out in Section 2.4.
8. Approves the revenue investment proposals set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 2.
9. Approves the Council Fees and Charges for 2023/24 attached as Appendix 7.
10. Approves the revenue savings proposals set out in Section 2.8 and Appendix 4.
11. Approves the application of the Business Rates Reliefs as set out in Section 2.10, in line with Government guidance.
12. Approves the proposed Capital Strategy and Capital Programme as presented in Section 2.12 and Appendices 3A to 3F.

13. Approves the Treasury Management matters for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 9 of this report including the Prudential Indicators, the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Investment Strategy.
14. Approves the Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2023/24 (Appendix 5).
15. Approves that the projected 2022/23 revenue outturn overspend will be funded from the Council's corporate reserves as indicated within section 2.9.
16. Approves that any variation in the assumed Public Health Grant will be reflected in the Budget once notified.
17. Approves the recommendation to continue with the principles and measures adopted since April 2020 to make faster payments to suppliers on receipt of goods, works and services following a fully reconciled invoice as described in section 2.11.
18. Approves that the Capital Programme Budget continues to be managed in line with the following key principles:
 - i. Any underspends on the existing approved Capital Programme in respect of 2022/23 be rolled forward into future years, subject to an individual review of each carry forward to be set out within the Financial Outturn 2022/23 report to Cabinet.
 - ii. In line with Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules 7.7 to 7.11 and 8.12, any successful grant applications in respect of capital projects will be added to the Council's approved Capital Programme on an ongoing basis.
 - iii. Capitalisation opportunities and capital receipts flexibilities will be maximised, with capital receipts earmarked to minimise revenue costs.
19. Approves the Statutory Resolution of Council Tax for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 6, incorporating precept figures as advised by South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the Town and Parish Councils within the Borough.

143. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RENTS AND SERVICE CHARGES 2023-24

Further to Minute No. 122 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2023, consideration was given to the report which was seeking approval for the proposed values of the housing rents, non-dwelling rents, District Heating and service charges and the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2023/24.

The report was also considered alongside the HRA Business Plan report for 2023/24.

The council was required to produce an annual business plan that covered a 30-year period. The plan was refreshed annually. The key priorities that influenced the plan remained largely as they were previously. These were:

- Investing in future housing growth.
- Replacing homes lost through Right to Buy.
- Maintaining Decent Home standards and service standards.
- Ensuring compliance to statutory functions, part of which was achieving energy performance C across the housing stock.
- Sustaining the current levels of investment in front line services.
- Safeguarding and supporting the most vulnerable tenants.

A critical consideration of the plan was to set the rents at a level to enable the Council to meet those priorities and ensure long term viability over the plan.

A significant change that the plan responded to this year was the national introduction of the social rent cap had set rents at a maximum of 7%. The report was very clear on what could and could not be achieved. The proposed way forward meant there would be no cuts to existing housing stock, there would be no reduction to current build standards, there would be continued delivery of new homes to replace those lost through right to buy.

The proposal within the report was that dwelling rents were increased by 7% which included shared ownership. A 6% increase to service charges, which included garages and parking. District heating costs were proposed to in-line with national Government's proposed dual fuel cap.

It was recommended to support the proposals presented at the meeting.

In seconding the reports Councillor Allen explained the Council was legally required to review rents and make such changes as required. The circumstances everyone found themselves in were significant, challenges from increasing gas and electricity costs and high inflation. The Authority had a duty to balance the financial considerations as affected by those considerations and then impact on tenants. Under the proposal of a 7% increase, the average weekly rent would increase by £5.54 per week.

The Council had 19,807 properties and 16,227 of those households, who were in receipt of benefits would not be directly affected by those rent increases. Similarly on the district heating charges, there was an increase, but the increase would remain within parameters that all other tenants were experiencing. She explained that there were some drop-in sessions planned for residents to talk about what support was available around the district heating charges.

She explained that other options had been considered. A 5% increase had been considered. The difference between a 5% and a 7% increase was significant. If the Council levied a 5% increase it would not raise enough income to cover inflationary costs, it would mean that the Council would be able to deliver far less in terms of affordable housing and it would be delivered to a lower specification. A 7% increase gave the Council the ability to deliver a further 140 houses, bringing the total to around 700 in the years up to 2029. It also allowed continued investment in housing growth and allowed achievement of the energy rating across the borough and to maintain the work carried out on decent home standards. It also allowed the Council to sustain current levels of investment in frontline services.

The business plan was about promoting growth rather than managing decline and it was for that reason she was seconding the proposals of the two reports.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester explained he would not be voting on the proposals as he was a council tenant. His questions related to charges to tenants in bungalow complexes linked towards neighbourhood centres. Considering the changes to fees for those, for example fees of £10.60 per hour for a commercial body to book those centres. He queried if that was a commercial rate in terms of what people were paying into those. Was that enough to cover the costs and ensure that people did not have to pay on top of the rents to take part in activities. He asked if a specific review could be carried out into the overall package that people pay for these centres to ensure it met the requirements and was efficient.

Councillor Tinsley expressed concern with the unit rises for district heating and he queried if last years tapered increase was short sighted. He was pleased to know that community engagement sessions had been arranged to inform and highlight the areas of support that residents could receive.

Councillor Reynolds expressed a need for a review of this because a number of residents lived in sheltered accommodation with many rules and regulations imposed on the rooms, visitors, and priority around booking rooms. He felt this needed to be brought up to date to follow proper procedures.

In response to the discussions Councillor Brookes acknowledged that she would provide information on the collection of the extra fees, and this response would also include intelligence around the best commercial price. In conclusion she noted that the key thing regarding district heating was that there would be parity across all the tenants.

Resolved: That Council approved:

1. That dwelling rents are increased by 7% in 2023/24 (Option 1) in line with the latest Government policy on rents for social housing

which caps rent increases to 7% for 2023/24.

2. That shared ownership rents are increased by 7% in 2023/24 (Option 1) as per the increase on Council dwelling rents.
3. That there is a 6% increase in charges for garages and parking spaces, communal facilities, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities.
4. That the Council retain the Energy Bill Relief Scheme amounts to offset some of the deficit incurred in cushioning tenants from energy price rises.
5. The unit charge per Kwh is increased by 186.43% and weekly prepayment charges are increased by 44% to 150%, depending on property size, for District Heating Schemes in 2023/24 (Option 1) to enable the Scheme to break even in the long term.
6. Approve £2.593m 'cushioning' effect that the Council has put in place through the District Housing Scheme for 2023/2024 (which was £1.65m in 2022/2023).
7. Approve the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2023/24 as shown in Appendix 2.
8. That the Council retain the policy of realigning rents on properties at below formula rent, to the formula rent level when the property is re-let.

Moved by: Councillor Brookes

Seconded by: Councillor Allen

144. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - HRA BUSINESS PLAN 2023-24

Further to Minute No. 123 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2023, consideration was given to the report which explained that the Council was required to produce a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan setting out its investment priorities over a 30-year period. The report also provided a detailed technical overview of the current position and the reason for changes to the Business Plan.

The report was also considered alongside the Housing Revenue Account Rents and Service Charges 2023/24.

The council was required to produce an annual business plan that covered a 30-year period. The plan was refreshed annually. The key priorities that influenced the plan remained largely as they were previously. These were:

- Investing in future housing growth.
- Replacing homes lost through Right to Buy.
- Maintaining Decent Home standards and service standards.
- Ensuring compliance to statutory functions, part of which was achieving energy performance C across the housing stock.
- Sustaining the current levels of investment in front line services.
- Safeguarding and supporting the most vulnerable tenants.

A critical consideration of the plan was to set the rents at a level to enable the Council to meet those priorities and ensure long term viability over the plan.

A significant change that the plan responded to this year was the national introduction of the social rent cap had set rents at a maximum of 7%. The report was very clear on what could and could not be achieved. The proposed way forward meant there would be no cuts to existing housing stock, there would be no reduction to current build standards, there would be continued delivery of new homes to replace those lost through right to buy.

The proposal within the report was that dwelling rents were increased by 7% which included shared ownership. A 6% increase to service charges, which included garages and parking. District heating costs were proposed to in-line with national Government's proposed dual fuel cap.

It was recommended to support the proposals presented at the meeting.

In seconding, the reports Councillor Allen explained the Council was legally required to review rents and make such changes as required. The circumstances everyone found themselves in were significant, challenges from increasing gas and electricity costs and high inflation. The Authority had a duty to balance the financial considerations as affected by those considerations and then impact on tenants. Under the proposal of a 7% increase, the average weekly rent would increase by £5.54 per week.

The Council had 19,807 properties and 16,227 of those households, who were in receipt of benefits would not be directly affected by those rent increases. Similarly on the district heating charges, there was an increase, but the increase would remain within parameters that all other tenants were experiencing. She explained that there were some drop-in sessions planned for residents to talk about what support was available around the district heating charges.

She explained that other options had been considered. A 5% increase had been considered. The difference between a 5% and a 7% increase was significant. If the Council levied a 5% increase it would not raise enough income to cover inflationary costs, it would mean that the Council would be able to deliver far less in terms of affordable housing and it would be delivered to a lower specification. A 7% increase gave the Council the ability to deliver a further 140 houses, bringing the total to

around 700 in the years up to 2029. It also allowed continued investment in housing growth and allowed achievement of the energy rating across the borough and to maintain the work carried out on decent home standards. It also allowed the Council to sustain current levels of investment in frontline services.

The business plan was about promoting growth rather than managing decline and it was for that reason she was seconding the proposals of the two reports.

Resolved: That Council:

1. Approved the proposed 2023-24 Base Case Option 1 for the HRA Business Plan.
2. Reviewed the Plan annually to provide an updated financial position.

Moved by: Councillor Brookes

Seconded by: Councillor Allen

145. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS

Consideration was given to the report which detailed how under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Local Authorities had the duty to allocate seats to political groups and set out the principles to be followed when determining such allocation, following formal notification of the establishment of political groups in operation on the Council.

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

The allocation of seats must follow two principles:

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

There were presently 4 political groups in operation on the Council – the Labour Group (majority), Conservative Group (opposition), Liberal Democrat (Lib Dem) Group and Rotherham Democratic Party (RDP) Group – with 2 non-aligned councillors (members who are not in a political group).

The Political Balance of the Council had changed due to a by-election in Keppel Ward which took place on 26 January 2023.

There were 149 seats available on committees, boards and panels and under the calculation the Labour Group is entitled to 86 seats, the opposition Group (Conservative) 43 seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 10

seats, the Rotherham Democratic Party Group 5 seats. The seats allocated to the non-aligned councillors is 5.

Resolved: That Council agreed:

1. To note the new political balance of the Council as a result of the by-election.
2. That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees.
3. To agree the amendment of appointments of members to Committees, Boards and Panels to reflect the change in political balance as notified by Group Leaders and as detailed below:

NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND PANELS: as agreed:

Audit Committee

Councillor Sheila Cowen – to be removed

Councillor Tony Browne - to be added as a member and as vice chair

Councillor Charlie Wooding – to be removed

Councillor Simon Ball – to be added

Health Select Commission

Councillor Carole Foster – to be added

Councillor Charlie Wooding – to be removed

Improving Lives Select Commission

Councillor Ian Jones – to be removed

Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers – to be added

Licensing Board

Councillor Ian Jones – to be removed

Councillor Carole Foster – to be added

Licensing Committee

Councillor Ian Jones – to be removed

Councillor Carole Foster – to be added

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Councillor Tom Collingham – to be removed as vice-chair

Councillor Joshua Bacon – to be added as vice-chair

Councillor Sheila Cowen – to be removed

Councillor Tony Browne - to be added as vice-chair of Audit

Planning Board

Councillor Charlie Wooding – to be removed

Councillor Simon Ball – to be added

Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Tom Collingham – to be removed

Councillor Joshua Bacon – to be added

Substitute Member

Councillor Lee Hunter – to be added

Moved by: Councillor Allen

Seconded by: Councillor Read

146. CALENDAR OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THE 2023-24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Consideration was given to a report, submitted in accordance with the rules of procedure as detailed in the Council's Constitution, that set out the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

Resolved: - That Council approves the calendar of meetings for the 2023-24 municipal year.

Mover: - Councillor Allen

Seconder: - Councillor Read

147. AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

Mover:- Councillor Baker-Rodgers

Seconder:- Councillor Cowen

148. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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

Mover: Councillor Roche

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

149. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

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

Mover: Councillor Ellis

Seconder: Councillor Hughes

150. PLANNING BOARD

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

Mover: Councillor Atkin

Seconder: Councillor Bird

151. STAFFING COMMITTEE

Resolved: That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee on 13 February 2023 including approving the Pay Policy Statement 2023-24 for publication under Chapter 8 of the Localism Act 2011 be adopted.

Mover: Councillor Alam

Seconder: Councillor Allen

152. 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

153. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

Councillor Burnett asked with the Police Precept increasing, could both Police Representatives inform the Council how they voted and the reasons for doing so?

Councillor Haleem thanked Councillor Burnett for his question.

At the Police and Crime Panel meeting held on Friday, 3rd February, 2023, seven of the eight Members present voted to support the policing element of the Council Tax precept for 2023/24.

Councillor Baum-Dixon was the only member present to vote against the proposal.

Councillor Haleem confirmed she voted in favour because more Police were needed on the streets. The Commissioner's proposal would mean seventy-five more Police in Rotherham in the coming year giving:-

- Thirteen more Police in Neighbourhoods Teams.
- Four more response officers.
- Thirteen more in investigations, including the Vulnerable Persons' Unit.
- Plus another forty-five student officers.

It also meant the whole of South Yorkshire, including communities, would benefit from one hundred and eighty-eight new force-wide posts which meant more to tackle off road bikes, more dog handlers, more mounted police, more firearms officers and more to tackle online sexual offences – something Conservative members would have been expected to support.

Residents indicated in the consultation what they want to see. The Conservative Government promised them to the country. Seeing Conservative Councillors undermine their own Government's commitment

to more Police for the second year running, and in doing so making communities less safe, was deeply disappointing.

In a supplementary question Councillor Burnett explained that a large portion of the South Yorkshire Police precept missed a couple of claims from the Hillsborough disaster and child sexual exploitation failures in Rotherham. With this in mind how comfortable was the Spokesperson on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel with Rotherham residents paying the price and the Council Tax for South Yorkshire Police's failures. Surely this was not fair.

Councillor Haleem confirmed she was comfortable with the Finance Team and the Police as they had more knowledge, the skillset and experience for the decisions they have made.

As a Point of Order Councillor Baum-Dixon wished to place on record that the original question asked for both South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel Representatives to inform the Council how they voted and the reasons for doing so. Councillor Haleem had been able to put across why she had voted in the way she did and indicated how Councillor Baum-Dixon had voted, but Councillor Baum Dixon wished to advise the Members present and the residents of Rotherham on the reasons why he voted the way he did.

The Mayor advised the Point of Order had been noted and that the question had been answered by the Designated Spokesperson for the Police and Crime Panel, who was also the Chair.

In a further Point of Order Councillor Bennett-Sylvester disagreed with the Mayor and confirmed the question had actually been to both Representatives. In the answer Councillor Baum-Dixon was specifically mentioned and under Standing Orders Councillor Baum-Dixon should have the right to reply when so mentioned.

With competing ideas it was only fair that all Members should hear when both Members were elected as Rotherham's Representatives of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

To provide some clarity the Monitoring Officer confirmed he would follow this up in writing after the meeting on what the Mayor had ruled on, what advice he had been provided to the Mayor and that this was not a matter for debate.

154. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

(1) Councillor Hoddinott asked what were the range of parish council tax rises - highest and lowest - for the forthcoming year?

Councillor Alam confirmed the highest percentage increases were for

Wales Parish at 39.65% and Brinsworth at 23%. In cash terms, the biggest increase (£38.95 for a Band D property) would be in the Brinsworth parish. The lowest was actually a reduction and was Laughton-en-le-Morthen at -6.18%.

A full list of changes to parish precepts would be supplied in writing.

In a supplementary question Councillor Hoddinott welcomed the information in writing and was amazed at the range. She, therefore, asked, given the discussion that had taken place earlier on the agenda and the squeeze on households, if the Cabinet Member believed Parish Councils should also take responsibility to ensure they did not pass on large rises to residents.

Councillor Alam agreed with Councillor Hoddinott and confirmed Parish Councils did need to take some responsibility to ensure people were not penalised more. This information would be fed back to Parish Councils.

(2) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked what had been the total cost so far to the HRA of providing hard standings, screening and any other capital works for communal bins linked to the pink bin changes of 2019?

Councillor Brookes explained the total costs charged to the Housing Revenue Account for works to provide hard standings, screening and associated ground works to accommodate communal bin provision to Council homes was £2,641,669.

The works have improved the waste facilities across 273 apartment blocks covering 1821 individual properties equating to a cost of £1,450 per property.

(3) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked how many incidents have there been this last financial year of the caretaking service clearing fly tips and excess rubbish from around communal bin areas and have these incurred any extra costs to housing?

Councillor Brookes confirmed to date, this financial year, the estate caretaking service has attended to ten incidences where excess waste or tipped items had to be removed from communal bin areas. The associated extra cost to the service was £16,411.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester referred to his own experiences of having to contact relevant staff due to inconsiderate waste being discarded and believed these communal areas were being targeted and a magnet for fly tipping and non-residents' cross-contaminating bins etc.

The pink bin changes were brought in during 2019 on the back of the change to kerbside plastic so asked was it time for a review of the operation, the caretaking staff looking after them and best results from the

service. In addition, not making residents having to look at eyesores as a result of non-residents coming and using and abusing the service.

Councillor Brookes was unable to accurately say when that contract was up for renewal, but would investigate and come back to Councillor Bennett-Sylvester.

(4) Councillor Jones in November asked the Cabinet Member why RMBC had not ever registered Phase 1 of Watsons Tip as contaminated. In his reply he said it was not the Council's responsibility and that the Environment Agency should be contacted so asked was this still the Cabinet Member's opinion?

Councillor Beck confirmed it was.

In a supplementary Councillor Jones confirmed that in an effort to be open minded to other people's opinions, he had contacted both an Environmental Solicitor and the Environment Agency's Specialist Landfill Team Manager and both were of the opinion that it was the Local Authority's responsibility to list the site on the Contaminated Land Register. The only two organisations that could do this were the Environment Agency and the Council, so unless the Cabinet Member could suggest anyone else to contact, when would the Council carry out its duty of care to the residents and, over thirty years later than it should have, register the land.

Councillor Beck explained the Council was prevented from listing the land as a result of the legislation. It clearly set out in the statutory guidance that the listing of land as contaminated should be a last resort and the legislation specifically exempted the listing of land in certain circumstances, one of which was where the land was subject to an Environmental Permit, as was the case here. Any ongoing future regulations and management of the site was the preserve of the Environment Agency who were responsible for this.

(5) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked would the Cabinet Member please take this Member's recommendation that the recent Rothercard review should be used as a case study for Member Development as an example of good practice for how to conduct service reviews.

Councillor Allen also praised the work of not only Councillor Bennett-Sylvester, but Councillors Cooksey, McNeely and Sheppard.

Councillor Allen was happy to arrange for a discussion to take place at the next Member and Democratic Panel on 22nd March, 2023 to discuss learning from the review and the best way in which to share the case study with all Members.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester praised the process and the direct focus and the openness that had taken place with

the candidates and officers. This had facilitated attention to the issues and how best to take these forward. As an involved Member he found it of great value and an overall great experience.

Councillor Allen was glad that Councillor Bennett-Sylvester found the way in which the cross-party review was conducted to be an example of good practice.

(6) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester explained that since the discussion at the September Improving Places Select Commission asked what work had been done at looking at the possibility of redistributing neighbourhood CIL monies from Zone 1 charging areas to more deprived neighbourhoods?

Councillor Allen explained that following the discussion at the Improving Places Scrutiny Commission in September, 2022 the Neighbourhoods Team, together with Planning colleagues, have started to explore alternative approaches for distributing Local CIL in non-parished areas of the borough. This had included approaching Sheffield City Council to consider whether their approach would be suitable for Rotherham. It was noted, however, that the implications would have to be considered of their approach and redistribution carefully and discussions were certainly not at that stage yet. More work was needed to be done and Councillor Allen confirmed she would be happy to come back and share this work at Improving Places Select Commission in due course.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester welcomed the work and highlighted the point that 15% was a return back within a good Neighbourhood Policy. It was just the situation regarding zoning where 15% of Zone 1 Policies, which was over £60 sqm, was a lot more than for the deprived neighbourhoods, but he welcomed this approach.

Councillor Allen had no comment to make.

(7) Councillor Jones pointed out that at the entrance to Grange Park RMBC had a CCTV camera installed on the lamp column, so asked could the Cabinet Member please confirm how many requests for downloads had been received from South Yorkshire Police from that camera in the last two years.

Councillor Alam confirmed the Council had not received any requests for downloads. However, the Police were able to access cameras directly in order to access footage.

In a supplementary question Councillor Jones had received a slightly different answer to the one given and believed there had been one request for a download from that camera which was taken at the time the gates were demolished on the site. At that time the camera was not working.

The camera was bought as a partnership between the wards of Keppel and Rotherham West to detect criminal behaviour such as the demolition of the gates. However, last year in Rotherham West there was a problem with drug dealing, violent behaviour including assault and a camera was requested which took sixteen weeks to be installed. During this time Rotherham West offered to buy Keppel out of their share of the camera and redeploy it to that area for the crime prevention, but was told that Members had refused the offer and insisted that the camera stayed in that location.

The Cabinet Member was, therefore, asked if it was thought this was a good use of public resources and money.

Councillor Alam explained that if the camera was purchased by two Wards then it should be up to the Elected Members where this was located. If the majority of Members wanted the camera to stay where it was then this should be supported.

(8) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked how did the new car parking charges for Thrybergh Country Park agreed (presumably) today compared to the return bus fare for a family of two adults and two children visiting the park from say Dalton.

Councillor Sheppard explained the service had contacted First Bus to determine the likely cost of travel from Dalton to Thrybergh by bus for two adults and two children. The operator had advised that the cheapest ticket would be a Family First Group Ticket which was priced at £9.00 if purchased via the app or £10.00 if purchased at the point of travel – this ticket covered up to five people and would allow for unlimited travel throughout the day.

In contrast if a family of four were to travel from Dalton to Thrybergh Country Park by car the likely cost of petrol based on a standard family car would be estimated at 63p per journey x 2 = £1.26 and parking was proposed in Fees and Charges at £2.50 per day. Therefore, the total expected cost of travel by car was estimated at £3.76.

The Council was committed to ensuring that all of its parks and green spaces were accessible to all residents, particularly those with low income and was proud to offer a high-quality experience at Thrybergh Country Park that remained affordable in this difficult and challenging economic climate.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester explained that if people did not have travel to access the site, then the X78 route covered not only Dalton but a range of deprived communities where it left the borough at Meadowbank. The Cabinet Member was asked if he could continue to look at the priority to find ways to ease access to the park for people travelling by public transport and to look at ways to improve crossing the A630 which not only made a physical, but also a financial

barrier for people travelling there by public transport.

Councillor Sheppard, as a fellow user of public transport, acknowledged the difficulty in finding the cheapest fares in the myriad of tickets that were available. Sadly, Rotherham was not successful as a region in the bid for transport to have the tap-on, tap-off that some other areas had and would have been a great way of accessing so many different spaces knowing the cheapest price for a ticket was being obtained.

(9) Councillor Jones asked with the re-opening of Grange Landfill from March 2023 did the Council have a road safety plan to tackle the 100 plus 30 tonne lorries that would be using the south bound A629.

Councillor Beck confirmed the Council had already considered implications arising from the operation of the site and had introduced a restriction on turning right out of the site. The Council would continue to review road safety requirements across the Borough and would take heed of any new information should it come to light. Moving forward the Council would continue to look at ways at improving road safety as the site becomes into operation.

In a supplementary question Councillor Jones confirmed he had hoped to have heard about a comprehensive plan to safeguard both the children of Thorpe Hesley Primary School and the residents along the A629 in general. Basically the “no right turn” sign actually put people on the A629 and not away from it. During the Clean Air Action Zone consultation Councillor Jones took the opportunity to ask officers to put weight limits on all linking roads that run through Rotherham West Ward. This was done to keep lorries away from local primary schools and residents. He asked why was the opportunity not taken by anyone else to drive through road safety measures that could have been enforced under this national legislation.

Councillor Beck confirmed that as part of the current Clean Air Zone controls were put in place on Upper Wortley Road which related to northbound HGV movements from Rhymers roundabout (Tesco).

Any southbound prohibition would need to be considered as a new scheme, funding found and a new process in place. This would be kept under regular review in conjunction with local Members. The road safety programme would enable Ward Members to feed in any issues so technical officers could understand the full picture and he encouraged Councillor Jones to keep doing so.

(10) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked according to visitor surveys what percentage of visitors to Thrybergh Country Park do so by public or sustainable travel methods?

Councillor Sheppard explained In the latest visitor survey (2019) 10% of visitors to Thrybergh Country Park did so via public or sustainable travel

methods.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester explained he had people in his Ward where car ownership was much lower than the 90% who were travelling by car. He asked if this could be looked at in the next financial year for planning general improvements to enable people to walk, cycle and get to that park by other means. Already one footpath had been looked at, but stressed that people who did not own a car should be able to access their local park. This is more so when considerable investment had been to facilitate a new car park at the site.

Councillor Sheppard was always happy to promote many of sustainable ways of accessing country parks and green spaces and stressed the figures for Clifton Park were 31% and Rother Valley Country Park were 25% (2022 survey results).

Councillor Sheppard explained it did have an impact which bus services were available to enable people to travel by sustainable methods, but the Cabinet Member was always happy to look at other ways to improve.

(11) Councillor Jones explained in 1990 the Council's Environmental Health Department found lethal amounts of heavy metals, later described as "toxic" at a Kimberworth site. He asked what measures would the Council expect to be in place to safeguard children in this area and notify residents to stay away.

Councillor Beck understood the 1990 report did not reference "lethal" or "toxic" levels of materials as had been suggested. He again outlined the Environment Agency were responsible for regulating the site, including any risk associated with contamination.

In a supplementary question Councillor Jones clarified that the actual levels mentioned on the 1990 report were classed as adverse to human health. They have since been revised and levels were now classed as lethal and were also described in a later report by the Planning Inspectorate as being toxic. The site had no signage to make anyone aware that it was toxic and so did not have the two metre high chain link fence and three strands of barbed wire that it should have had put in place after that enquiry. This was a planning condition and not one done by the Environment Agency. The site only had an intermittent fence around the site that anyone could easily access and for over thirty years due to the site not being monitored, managed or enforced which had put residents at an enhanced cancer risk who had walked over that site for generations. Councillor Jones, therefore, asked when was the Council going to do the planning enforcement on this site.

Councillor Beck confirmed he would look into any ongoing planning enforcement opportunities, but was assured that where there was cause or need the Council have responded to any issues accordingly.

Referring back to the contaminants the report in 1990 which showed 'above trigger levels' of contaminants which may pose a hazard to health, which the Council took note of as they did of the Planning Enquiry in 1992.

The Council continued to raise these issues with the Environment Agency and would continue to monitor progress.

It was the Environment Agency's role to regulate this site and any associated risks of contamination.

(12) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester confirmed that until 19th March Clifton Park Museum was hosting an excellent exhibition by the Silverwood Colliery Heritage Group. He asked what was the general strategy for supporting such groups and ensuring mining heritage was permanently remembered.

Councillor Sheppard also placed on record his thanks and appreciation to the Heritage Group for the excellent display, which was well worth a visit for the next two weeks. He confirmed the Museums, Arts and Heritage service worked closely with local communities and interest groups across the borough to ensure that its exhibition and events programme and collection represented the interests, history and heritage of a diverse range of communities.

The Rotherham Collection had a substantial collection documenting Rotherham's rich industrial heritage which was displayed in both permanent displays within Clifton Park Museum, and as part of temporary exhibitions such as the current exhibition celebrating the Silverwood Colliery.

The service would work with the group to consider how the exhibition could be developed into a larger show for the main temporary exhibition spaces and how objects from this project could be acquisitioned to the Rotherham Collection on a permanent basis.

Any Members visiting the test spaces on the first floor of the Museum would have seen the diverse collections and exhibitions on display. It really was a fantastic place to visit and interact and hopefully all Members would continue to support it.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester paid tribute to those involved in the display for their passion and making sure these stories were told, which was fantastic. One of the ambitions was to find a permanent home for the memorabilia and asked on behalf of Noma Platt, former Youth Worker, whether as part of Parkgate 200 the former miners/youth centre, which had fallen into some disrepair externally, the wider mining community could look to saving it in collaboration with other celebrations.

Councillor Sheppard pointed out that whilst the building would be unable to host anything as part of the 200 year celebration he appreciated the sentiment believed responsibility lay with CISWO, the building owners.

In terms of the exhibition it was excellent and anything that could be done by the service to assist in finding a permanent home the Cabinet Member was more than happy to collaborate to assist.

(13) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked what was the cost to service for dealing with escaped pigs in Thrybergh before Christmas and have the Council any hope of recovering any such costs?

Councillor Beck confirmed it was quite bizarre to receive the email about pigs being loose in Thrybergh. The Council incurred a small cost for the hire of the fencing used to contain the pigs, but largely costs have been incurred through the officer time spent dealing with the issue on behalf of local residents.

It would take some considerable work to identify these costs accurately, but it was estimated to be in the region of £1,500 to £2,500.

Recovering costs could be a challenge in such cases, but officers do pursue this wherever possible.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester pointed out this was an example of an over-stretched service going against antiquated legislation in something that was really a community concern, especially with regards to the grave yard at Thrybergh. He paid tribute to Lewis Coates and Emma Ellis who had to leave dealing with a case of illegal dog breeding in the borough to look out for this.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked that his comments be passed on and that when services were cash-strapped and come across bizarre incidents, then efforts should be made to recover costs where possible.

Councillor Beck, thanked Councillor Bennett-Sylvester with whom he had communicated with at the time, especially with damage to the grave yard. He confirmed he would gladly forward on the comments and hopefully would not see a repeat of an incident such as this ever again.

(14) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester referred how on 23rd December the Member of Parliament for Rother Valley tweeted support for a woman breaching a PSPO who was looking to intimidate women accessing abortion services in Birmingham. He asked could the Cabinet Member give assurance that should the need arise, this Council would also use PSPO's to protect women's rights to access health care.

The Leader confirmed there were specific circumstances for when PSPOs should only be used and each case would have to consider on a case by case basis.

The Council would look to take the necessary steps as far as it could to protect women from abuse and harassment and if this was to access health care, then the Council would.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester believed this to be a very worrying trend in politics in terms of the far right taking control of the Conservative Party launching what could be termed as culture wars. Basically as a Christian people were taught to pray privately and not on street, not intimidate others and make a decision on what could be the worst time of their lives. He asked for assurances that should these kind of attempts to weaponize religion by the right that the Leader would offer support in making sure services for people were properly protected.

The Leader confirmed Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was correct and that the thrust of what he was saying was to protect people's essential rights. He was also correct that there was a political trend to use some of these movements which seemed to originate on the other side of the pond in terms of political life here in Britain.

The Leader was more confident that the reach was limited and people were more likely to have more common sense and be more confident in their religious beliefs and reasons in this country than our friends on the other side of the world. He agreed everyone needed to be vigilant where this affected people's lives and religion.

(15) **Councillor Castledine-Dack** asked following the tragic death of a teenager on Laughton Common Road, would the Council consider implementing a proper footpath along this increasingly-popular walking route

Councillor Beck confirmed this was a very distressing incident and also referred to another on Swinstone Hill Road a few weeks after. All thoughts remained with the family and friends of those who die. As was the case with any road traffic collision which resulted in loss of life or serious injury, the Council was working with road safety partner organisations to analyse the circumstances that led to the incident and identify any patterns and possible causes.

Until the outcome of the South Yorkshire Police investigation and the Coroner's Report was received it would not be appropriate to comment on the specific details involved today, or in regard of any possible improvements to the route, but the Cabinet Member gave his assurance he and the service would consider the findings carefully.

In a supplementary question Councillor Castledine-Dack confirmed she would pass this information on to the families concerned, but appreciated the Cabinet Member was limited as to what he could say at this stage. She just wanted to raise on their behalf their concerns about using this

route to walk between Laughton Common and Thurcroft. It was a national speed limit road, there was no footpath and limited lighting, but asked in terms of looking at forward strategy whether this could be looked into and placing this formally on record.

Councillor Beck confirmed he would and would offer support to the family. He acknowledged the petition that was circulating which he would respond to in due course. This week he had asked officers of the Council and those of the Safer Road Partnership to look at some awareness raising as a Local Authority to ensure similar incidents did not occur anywhere else in the borough or further afield. Both incidents took place in and around the Dinnington area were very similar in nature.

(16) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked the Leader to report on actions by this Council in dealing with the recent protest by fascists seeking to intimidate refugees in Manvers and the larger counter protest by local patriots looking to defend this country's values of decency and tolerance.

The Leader confirmed the Police were the lead partners when managing any protest activity. The Council worked closely with the Police to respond to any requests for services and in this case by supporting proactive actions around potential road closures, access to any CCTV assets, support during the planning process as well as updating local Councillors and engaging with the Community. On the day of the protests the Council worked in the Police command suite with a strategic lead based at Riverside House.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester turned the Leader's attention to a conversation they had had previously about language use and detail deliberately chosen in the question. He was proud of the indecent intolerance, but when there were some Elected Members stating that the Council should not be dealing with wider problems and discussing issues such as Rwanda and deportation or hate crime. He reiterated those discussions did have repercussions locally and even the current Leader of the Opposition had raised the question of being able to give addresses. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester himself had given his address and was yet to hear anything. He wished to point out that national issues were still worth discussing as national politics impacted locally.

The Leader agreed with Councillor Bennett-Sylvester and over the past twenty years it had shown the world was a very small place. The consequences of events thousands of miles away have repercussions here within twenty hours of travel. It was correct that the way Members conducted themselves, the language used and the way to approach discussions, which were sometimes difficult, was important. This often reverberated out into communities and people had legitimate differences, but this should be dealt with in a way that was respectful.

(17) Councillor Jones referred last year he twice asked the Cabinet

Member to confirm the status of the access road at Grange Park. In his last response he said that the Council owned the land, but not the surface of the road so asked did he still stand by this comment.

Councillor Beck confirmed he did.

In a supplementary question Councillor Jones confirmed that since the last meeting he had provided the Council and the Action Group Solicitor with a document which brought into question the validity of the site owner's claim to a right of access. As part of the follow up work aerial photographs and maps have been examined to prove that the Council laid the road as part of the site remodelling in around 1976 to incorporate a car park. This work was undertaken by a Council contractor. He also had sight of the reinstatement plan for Phase 1 done by the current owners of the site which again clearly showed the operator installing a temporary whole road from the site to join the same tarmac road. This was back in 1992. Again the Action Group have supplied this information to the Council. He, therefore, asked could the Cabinet Member please tell him when the Council was going to stop playing games on the ownership of the road and start seriously looking at legal action to stop the trespass and unregulated use of the accessway owned by the Council.

Councillor Beck was only able to comment on the up-to-date legal position. He reiterated that the access road to the Grange Landfill site is on land owned by the Council and the owner of the tip had a right of way over the land. The Council had a duty not to obstruct the use of the access way, but it had no duty whatsoever to maintain the access route in a useable condition. The Council was not, therefore, responsible for the access road itself.

(18) Councillor Castledine-Dack asked what steps was the Council taking to engage with businesses and residents about the future of Dinnington High Street.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed the Council set out a strong case for investment in Dinnington in its Levelling Up Fund Bid. The bid set out proposals to tackle blight and create a new commercial square linking the parking areas, bus station and residential areas to the high street. Disappointingly, the Government decided not to support the bid.

The bid was developed in consultation with, and the express support of, local Ward Members, Dinnington St John's Council and the local MP, representing local community interests including residents and local business owners. Information from Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Plan was used along with analysis from the Round 1 bid, and data collected locally, in order to develop proposals that were reflective of local priorities.

Since the announcement that the Government had not backed the bid, the

Council had been working to understand what other funding options may be available for the area.

It was hoped and expected that the development of proposals outside the constrained and artificial windows of Government funding competitions would allow further involvement of residents and local businesses in shaping plans.

(19) Councillor Castledine-Dack asked would the Council invite Ed Clancy, South Yorkshire Active Travel Commissioner, to visit the villages of Dinnington ward including Laughton Common, Laughton-en-le-Morthen, Firbeck, Letwell and Carr, to see the challenges residents have in safe cycling and walking in their localities.

Councillor Beck confirmed yes, he would be happy to invite Ed Clancy to visit the Borough, to see some of the work done and share future plans which included Dinnington.

In February this year the Council adopted a new Cycling Strategy which set out ambitious plans for improving cycling and walking for across the Borough which would benefit local communities in providing accessible, low-cost travel solutions while also helping improve public health and the environment.

The Council had been busy in recent years delivering cycling schemes such as the dedicated cycle lanes on Fenton Road, the new segregated cycle lanes on Sheffield Road which would link up with further phases to connect the centres of Rotherham with Sheffield.

In addition, only a few days ago the Council submitted a further bid for over £926,000 funding under the Government's Active Travel 4 programme which once awarded would provide further funding to develop active travel proposals including in Wath, Maltby - and indeed Dinnington. There would be a period of consultation that Members and residents could feed into which would be further developed.

155. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items to consider.

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

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: clrsaghir.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

8th March 2023

Councillor Emma Hoddinott
Elected Member

Via email: cllremma.hoddinott@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Hoddinott

Question submitted to Council – 1st March 2023

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 1st March regarding Parish Council Tax rises. As agreed, I said I would provide the full list of changes to parish precepts which you can find in the table below:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>2023/24 Band D £</u>	<u>% Change in Band D Parish Precept</u>
Anston	134.24	-0.21%
Aston-Cum-Aughton	82.93	9.68%
Bramley	70.43	4.79%
Brampton Bierlow	70.10	0.71%
Brinsworth	208.07	23.03%
Catcliffe	123.68	9.16%
Dalton	77.51	0.00%
Dinnington	108.22	1.34%
Firbeck	62.84	0.99%
Gildingwells		0.00%
Harthill-with-Woodall	95.10	1.15%
Hellaby	44.35	3.50%
Hooton Levitt	0.00	0.00%
Hooton Roberts	19.83	2.26%

Laughton-En-Le Morthen	88.32	-6.18%
Letwell	39.78	13.03%
Maltby	64.33	9.17%
Orgreave	44.34	7.00%
Ravenfield	47.20	6.00%
	60.34	3.40%
Thorpe Salvin	87.10	4.69%
Thrybergh	83.89	0.01%
Thurcroft	84.25	9.80%
Treeton	58.03	-5.91%
Ulley	124.73	8.02%
Wales	130.75	39.65%
Waverley	63.47	-2.66%
Wentworth	41.15	-1.70%
Whiston	69.82	-0.37%
Wickersley	75.07	11.59%
Woodsetts	123.76	-4.82%

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

Councillor Amy Brookes – Cabinet Member Housing

Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE
Tel: (01709) 23566
E-mail: amy.brookes@rotherham.gov.uk
Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Our Ref: AB/LH **Direct Line:** 23466 **Extension:** 23466 **Please Contact:**
Councillor Amy Brookes

17th March 2023

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Bennett-Sylvester

Council Meeting – Wednesday 1st March 2023

Further to your supplementary question with regard to the Estate Caretaker Service contract, I can advise as follows.

The Estate Caretaker Service is provided by Mears and Equans, as part of the repairs and maintenance contracts we have with them. The current contracts commenced on 1st April 2020, for a period of five years to April 2025, with the contract term then being extendable, by mutual agreement, on a year by year basis, for a maximum of five further years.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Amy Brookes
Cabinet Member for Housing

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

Riverside House

Main Street

Rotherham

S60 1AE

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

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

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

8th March 2023

Councillor Ian Jones
Elected Member

Via email: cllrian.jones@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Jones

Question at Council – Wednesday 1st March 2023

Further to your question at Council on the 1st March 2023, I undertook to investigate your reference to the planning permission requiring fencing and wire to be in place. I have spoken with the relevant colleagues who have confirmed no such planning requirement exists. I have attached the permission for your reference.

After the public Inquiry in 1992 the restoration proposals of Phase 1 were submitted to the Council. These were accepted and as the Council has consistently stated, were treated as a minor amendment to the planning permission as it essentially approved the finished levels different to what had been approved in 1958. As part of the restoration proposals, it states:

Site Office, Security and Management

A site office will be provided in order to keep and maintain records of site operations. Prior to the importation of materials the site perimeter will have installed a two metre high chain link fence surmounted by three strands of barbed wire. The entrance will be fitted with lockable steel gates which will be locked outside the hours of operation. An identification board will be positioned to the North of the access gates. The site will be managed by an authorised supervisor who will be in attendance for the duration of the works and will be responsible for all site activities.

There is no planning condition that requires any of this to be provided and its purpose was to keep the site secure during the restoration works. It is assumed that together with the site cabin, it was erected for the duration of the operation and subsequently removed once the restoration works were completed.

I hope the above information is helpful, and if you have any further relevant information or questions then please do let me know.

Yours sincerely



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

This form should be completed and sent to the

Borough Engineer,
Municipal Offices,
Rotherham.

Wendy

FOR OFFICE USE ①

Application No. 182-57

Date received 4-3-57

Date ack'd 5-3-57

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

Deferred

BY COUNCIL

21 MAR 1957

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO DEVELOP LAND*

To the Rotherham County Borough Council.

I/We wish to make an "outline" application for permission to erect the building(s) described herein and shewn on the attached site plan.

Permission granted.

BY COUNCIL

23 JAN 1958

I/We apply for permission to carry out the development described in this application and on the attached plans and drawings.

I/We apply for approval with respect to the matters reserved in the permission granted under paragraph 5 (2) of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1950 on an "outline" application No

(Signed)

George L. Watson

Date

4.3.57

If signed by an Agent: Name of Agent

Profession

Address of Agent

Telephone Number

* NOTE: Subject to the provisions of Section 12 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, "development" includes the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or other land.

Delete whichever lines are inapplicable.

PART I. - GENERAL.

(In this part the word "land" includes any buildings thereon.)

(1) Name and address of applicant (IN BLOCK LETTERS).

Surname (state whether Mr., Mrs. or Miss)..... *WATSON'S ESTATES LTD*

Other names.....

Postal Address..... *GRANGE FARM, KIMBERWORTH*..... *ROTHERHAM*

Telephone number.....

(2) (1) Particulars of the applicants' interest in the land (e.g., owner, lessee, prospective purchaser, etc.) (ii) If the applicant is a prospective purchaser or lessee of the land, state whether the vendor or lessor has consented to the proposed development.	<i>OWNER</i>
(3) Address or location of the land to be developed, in sufficient detail to enable it to be readily identified.	<i>LAND AT REAR OF GRANGE COLLIERY</i>
(4) Describe briefly the proposed development including the purpose for which the land and/or buildings are to be used. If they are to be used for more than one purpose, give details. See note (b).	<i>To increase the height by the appropriate amount to conform with the levels of the adjoining land.</i>
(5) State the purpose for which the land and/or buildings are now used, and if used for more than one purpose, give details.	<i>Tipping permission granted.</i>
(6) State whether the proposed development involves the construction of a new, or the alteration of an existing access to or from a highway. If so, state the purpose for which the new or altered access is required.	<i>NO</i>

PART III. - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED ONLY IF THE APPLICATION IS FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING.

(If there is more than one building, give separate particulars for each)

(7) Is the site within a layout plan for which permission has been granted by a Local Planning Authority? If so, state the number and date of permission.	
(8) If the building is to be used wholly or partly for residential purposes, state : (i) the number of habitable rooms. See note (c) below; (ii) the total floor area of the non-residential part, if any. See note (d) below.	
(9) If the building is to be used wholly or partly for industrial or commercial use, state : (i) the nature of the proposed industry or business, including, if for industrial use, a brief description of the type of processes to be carried on; (ii) the total floor area. See note (d) below; (iii) the intended provisions for the loading and unloading of vehicles; (iv) if for industrial use, the means of disposal of any trade refuse or trade effluents.	

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE IN COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

(a) An "outline" application may be made for permission to erect buildings subject to the subsequent approval of the siting, design or external appearance of the buildings or the means of access thereto; in which case a site plan only need be submitted with a description of the buildings.

(b) If the application relates to the erection of an industrial building which will have an aggregate floor space exceeding 5,000 sq. ft., the applicant must attach a Certificate issued by the Board of Trade certifying that the proposed development can be carried out consistently with the proper distribution of industry.

(c) A kitchen should be regarded as a habitable room if it is capable of being used as a living room as well as a kitchen, but not otherwise.

(d) The floor area of a building should be taken as the sum of the roofed areas of the buildings at each floor level, including all wall thicknesses, corridors, staircases and basements.

(e) If the application relates to the winning and working of surface or underground minerals, attach details to this application stating :

- (i) the type of minerals to be extracted;
- (ii) the estimated quantity to be extracted yearly;
- (iii) the method, direction and estimated rate of working;
- (iv) how it is proposed to deal with overburden, and the proposals (if any) for the treatment of the land after extraction, and
- (v) in the case of surface working, the estimated maximum depths of the excavations.

182/57

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In place of the site and layout plan detailed below, plans should be attached to the application on a scale appropriate to the development (normally 25" - 1 mile), showing the land to which the application relates, together with any adjoining land in the same ownership; the area, if any, already excavated; the sites of existing and proposed buildings, tips, and means of access; and any proposals for the planting or restoration of trees.

(f) If the application relates to any other type of development to which Part II of this form or note (e) do not apply, a brief explanation, with plans of the proposed development, should be attached to this application.

NOTES ON THE ACCOMPANYING PLANS
(one copy required)

Plans should be drawn or reproduced in a clear and intelligible manner on suitable durable material, and should be signed on every sheet by the applicant or by his agent.

I. SITE PLAN

(1) A site plan should be attached to all applications and should be drawn on a scale appropriate to the development (e.g., 25" - 1 mile or 6" - 1 mile), showing the land to which the application relates coloured pink, any adjoining land in the same ownership coloured blue, and sufficient details to identify the site in comparison with the Ordnance Survey Map of the same scale. The Corporation should be consulted in any cases of doubt as to which scale is appropriate.

II. LAYOUT PLAN.

(2) A layout plan, which is intended to enable the Corporation to examine the layout of the proposed building development in relation to the layout (either existing or intended) of the land surrounding the site, should be attached to all applications (except an "outline" application) for permission for building development. The plan should be drawn to a scale of not less than 1 : 1250 and should show:

- (a) the boundaries of the land to which the application relates, and the existing and proposed layout thereof, including any proposed division of the land into plots;
- (b) the position of all existing and proposed buildings, roads, streets, and carriage-ways thereon (distinguishing existing from proposed), indicating for proposed buildings the maximum height for each building, and the levels and widths of any proposed roads and streets;
- (c) the proposed use of each building and any land not built on;
- (d) if the layout is for residential development, the maximum number of habitable rooms;
- (e) if the layout is for commercial or industrial development, the maximum floor area;
- (f) approximate land surface contours at 10 feet vertical intervals, unless the site is flat land;
- (g) the approximate lines of water supply pipes, and of drains and sewers, giving sizes and gradients, with reference to any existing services in the locality;
- (h) the situation of the land in relation to the nearest public road;
- (i) the position and width of all means of access to roads, distinguishing between existing, alteration to existing and proposed access;
- (j) any trees or natural features distinguishing between those to be preserved and others.

III. BLOCK AND BUILDING PLANS.

(3) Block and Building Plans should be attached to all applications (except an "outline" application) for the erection, rebuilding or alteration of a building. The Block Plan should be drawn to a scale of not less than 1" - 44 ft. and the Building Plans to a scale of not less than 1/8" - 1 foot, except for large buildings, where after consultation with the Corporation a scale of not less than 1/16" - 1 foot may be used.

(4) BLOCK PLANS should show :

- (a) the boundaries of the plot;
- (b) the position of existing and proposed buildings;
- (c) position and width of existing and proposed means of access;
- (d) existing and proposed drains, manholes, septic tanks, cesspools, indicating the size, depth and inclination of any drains and means of ventilation, and distinguishing in all cases existing from proposed works.

(5) BUILDING PLANS should show :

- (a) the materials to be used;
- (b) the colour of the external walls and roofs;
- (c) a plan for the roof and for each floor;
- (d) elevations of all sides of the building excluding party walls; and
- (e) the level of the ground floor, and of the site in relation to the level of the adjoining street or streets.

Conditions.

1. Runches permission under previous application 302-55.

2/3 Tipping to be carried out by progressive advance from a single point providing not more than 15 acres is out of cultivation at any one time.

4. The top soil is to be removed and stored.

5. Sub soil and top soil to be replaced as portions are fully tipped.

6. Tipping to levels shown on plan.

6.b. no tipping on area coloured yellow and hatched yellow until area coloured green red and hatched blue has been completely tipped and soiled.

Alick Watson Ltd.

Directors :

A. Watson (Chairman)
H. A. Watson
S. E. Watson
G. G. Watson

CONTRACTORS

GRANGE FARM . . . DROPPINGWELL
ROOTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE

Telephone
Rotherham
3664

Jan 28/58

The Borough Engineer
Rotherham

Tip at Droppingwell Road

Dear Sir

As requested in your planning permission No 182/57 .
We elect to substitute the new planning permission for the old
permission No 302/55

Yours faithfully

George G. Watson

Watson

299

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM.

Serial No. 182/56

(as appld.)

Date 23.1.58.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT) ORDER,
1948. 1950.

To Messrs. Watson's Estates Ltd.,
Grange Farm,
Kimberworth,
ROOTHERHAM.

The Council of the County Borough of Rotherham acting as the local planning authority have considered your development application numbered as above for permission to **increase the height and extend the industrial tip at Droppingwell Road.**

and have decided to grant permission subject to the conditions on the attached sheet.

The Council's reason(s) for deciding to refuse permission are as follows:—

As per attached sheet.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
ROOTHERHAM.

Town Clerk.

For Notes see o

GOALS, ROLES/OUT OF BOUNDARIES

GENERAL DIVISION (GENERAL DIVISION) OTHER
COUNCIL AND COUNCIL DIVISION DIVISION (GENERAL DIVISION) OTHER

NOTES. Descriptions and illustrations naturally belong to the notes of the species.

NOTES

(1) THIS FORM RELATES TO PLANNING CONTROL ONLY. Any other statutory consent necessary must be obtained from the Council, The Central Land Board or other appropriate authority.

(2) If the applicant is aggrieved by the decision of the Council to refuse permission for the proposed development, or to grant permission subject to conditions, he may by notice served within one month of receipt of this notice, appeal to the Minister of Town and Country Planning in accordance with Section 16 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. The Minister has power to allow a longer period for the giving of a Notice of Appeal and he will exercise his power in cases where he is satisfied that the applicant has deferred the giving of notice because negotiations with the Council in regard to the proposed development are in progress. The Minister is not, however, required to entertain such an appeal if it appears to him that permission for the proposed development could not have been granted by the Council, or could not have been so granted otherwise than subject to the conditions imposed by them, having regard to the provisions of Section 14 of the Act and of the Development Order and to any directions given under the Order.

(3) If permission to develop land is refused, or granted subject to conditions, whether by the Council or by the Minister, and the owner of the land claims that the land has become incapable of reasonably beneficial use in its existing state and cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development which has been or would be permitted, he may serve on the Council a purchase notice requiring the Council to purchase his interest in the land in accordance with Section 19 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

(4) In certain circumstances, a claim may be made against the Council for compensation, where permission is refused or granted subject to conditions by the Minister on appeal or on a reference of the application to him. The circumstances in which such compensation is payable are set out in sections 20 and 79 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM.

Serial No. 182/58
(as appln.)

Date 23.1.58.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT) ORDER,
1948. 1950.

To Messrs. Watson's Estates Ltd.,
Grange Farm,
Kimberworth,
ROtherham.

The Council of the County Borough of Rotherham acting as the local planning authority have considered your development application numbered as above for permission to increase the height and extend the industrial tip at Droppingwell Road.

This order of Council is made in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (General Development) Order, 1948, and have decided to grant permission subject to the conditions on the attached sheet.

This order of Council is made in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (General Development) Order, 1948, and have decided to grant permission subject to the conditions on the attached sheet.

The Council's reason(s) for deciding to—
refuse permission
to grant permission subject to conditions as follows:—

As per attached sheet.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
ROtherham.

John Hendon
Town Clerk.

For Notes see o

(7)
182/57.

(a) Permission granted to tip industrial waste on the land coloured green, red and hatched blue on the plan attached to this consent subject to the following conditions:-

1. The commencement of development pursuant to this permission shall be deemed to revoke permission number 302/55 dated 27th May, 1955, and the developer shall notify the Borough Engineer of Rotherham in writing if and when by so commencing development he elects to substitute this permission for the said permission number 302/55.
2. Tipping operations shall be carried out (in regular layers if so desired) only by progressive advance from a single point of commencement.
3. Tipping operations shall be so arranged that not more than 5 acres of the land referred to shall be out of cultivation at any one period.
4. The whole of the soil is to be removed from the area before tipping is commenced and is to be stacked separately for restoration.
5. As from time to time substantial portions of the site become fully tipped, sub-soil to a minimum depth of 9" shall be spread evenly on the finished portion, evenly covered with the appropriate quantity of top-soil and restored to agricultural use.
6. Tipping on the areas coloured green, red and hatched blue is to be completed to the levels shown in red ink on the plan, the surface of the tip levelled and the slopes on the areas hatched blue trimmed to even grade and the surface and slopes soiled before any tipping on the area coloured yellow is commenced.

(b) Permission granted to tip industrial waste on the area coloured yellow and hatched yellow on the plan annexed to this consent subject to the following conditions:-

1. This permission shall not be operative until restoration of the areas coloured green, red and hatched blue on the said plan has been completed as aforesaid.
2. Tipping operations shall be carried out (in regular layers if so desired) only by progressive advance from a single point of commencement.
3. Tipping operations shall be so arranged that not more than 5 acres of the land referred to shall be out of cultivation at any one period.
4. The whole of the soil is to be removed from the area before tipping is commenced and is to be stacked separately for restoration.
5. As from time to time substantial portions of the site become fully tipped, sub-soil to a minimum depth of 9" shall be spread evenly on the finished portion evenly covered with the appropriate quantity of top-soil and restored to agricultural use.

6. The finished surface of the tip shall be levelled off to the levels shown in red ink on the plan and the slopes indicated on the areas hatched yellow trimmed to even grades.

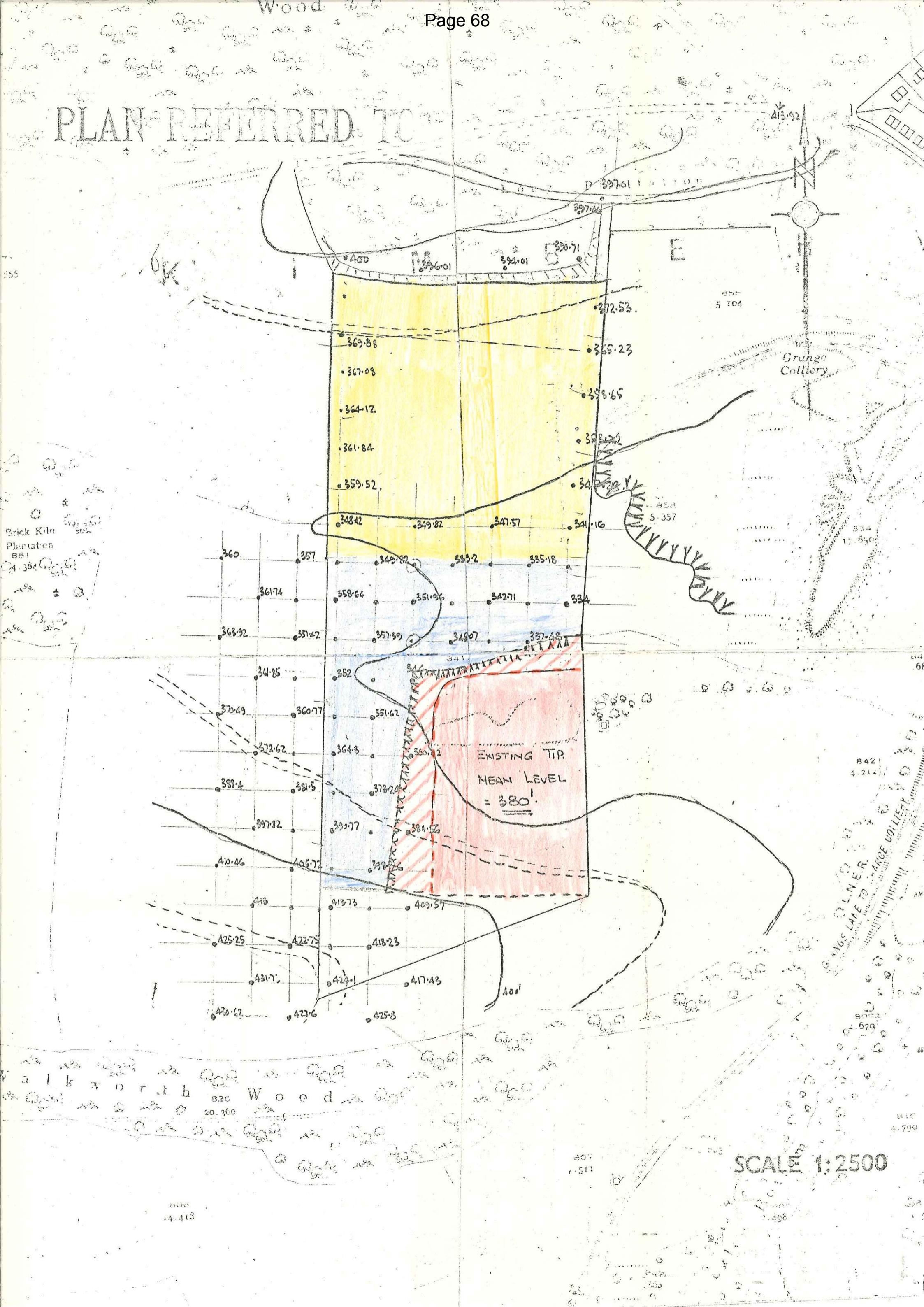
Reasons for conditions:-

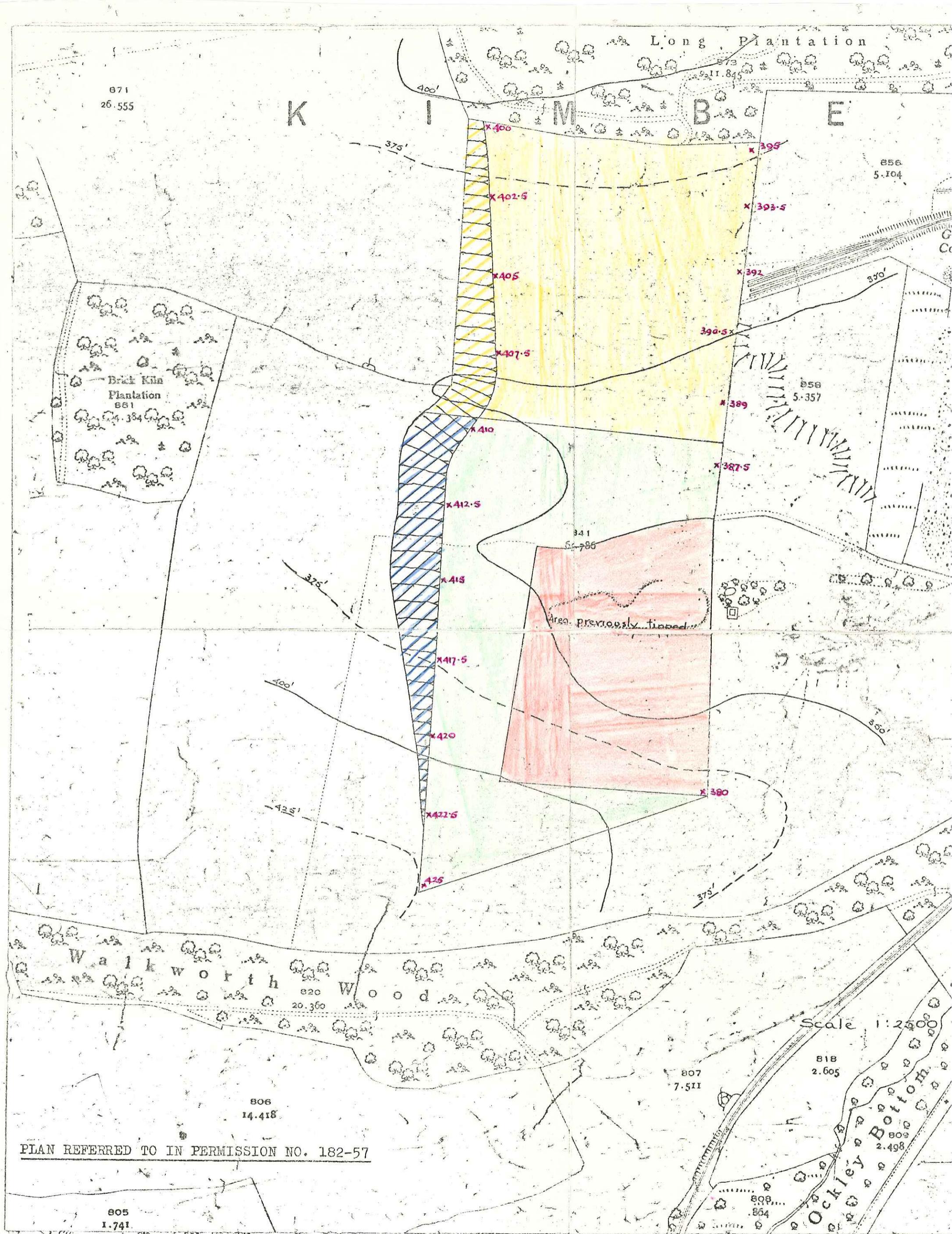
- i. To preserve the amenities of the area.
- ii. To limit the area not in agricultural use during the period tipping is in progress.
- iii. To reinstate the land to full agricultural use after tipping is completed.

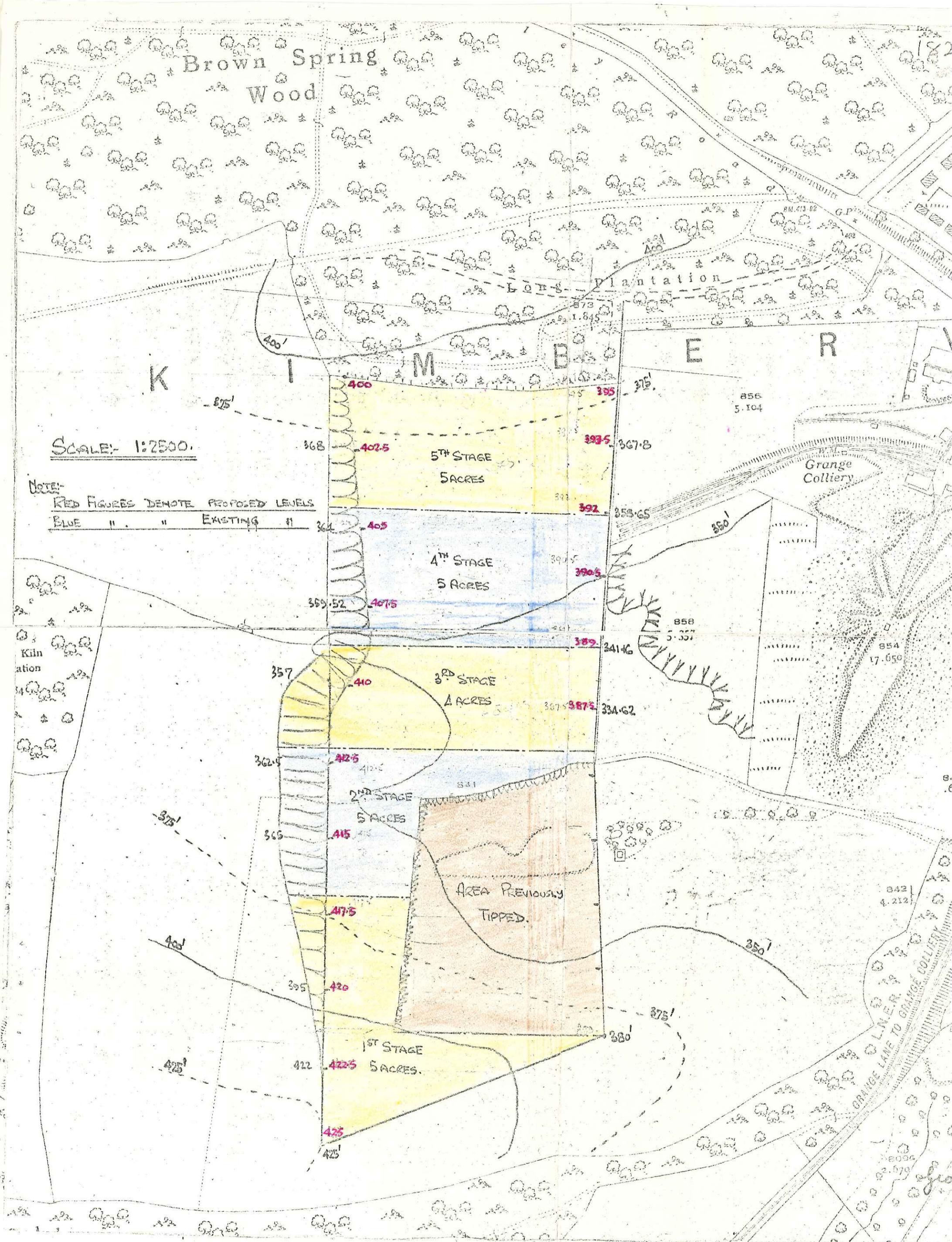


A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "John Beddoes", with a horizontal line underneath it.

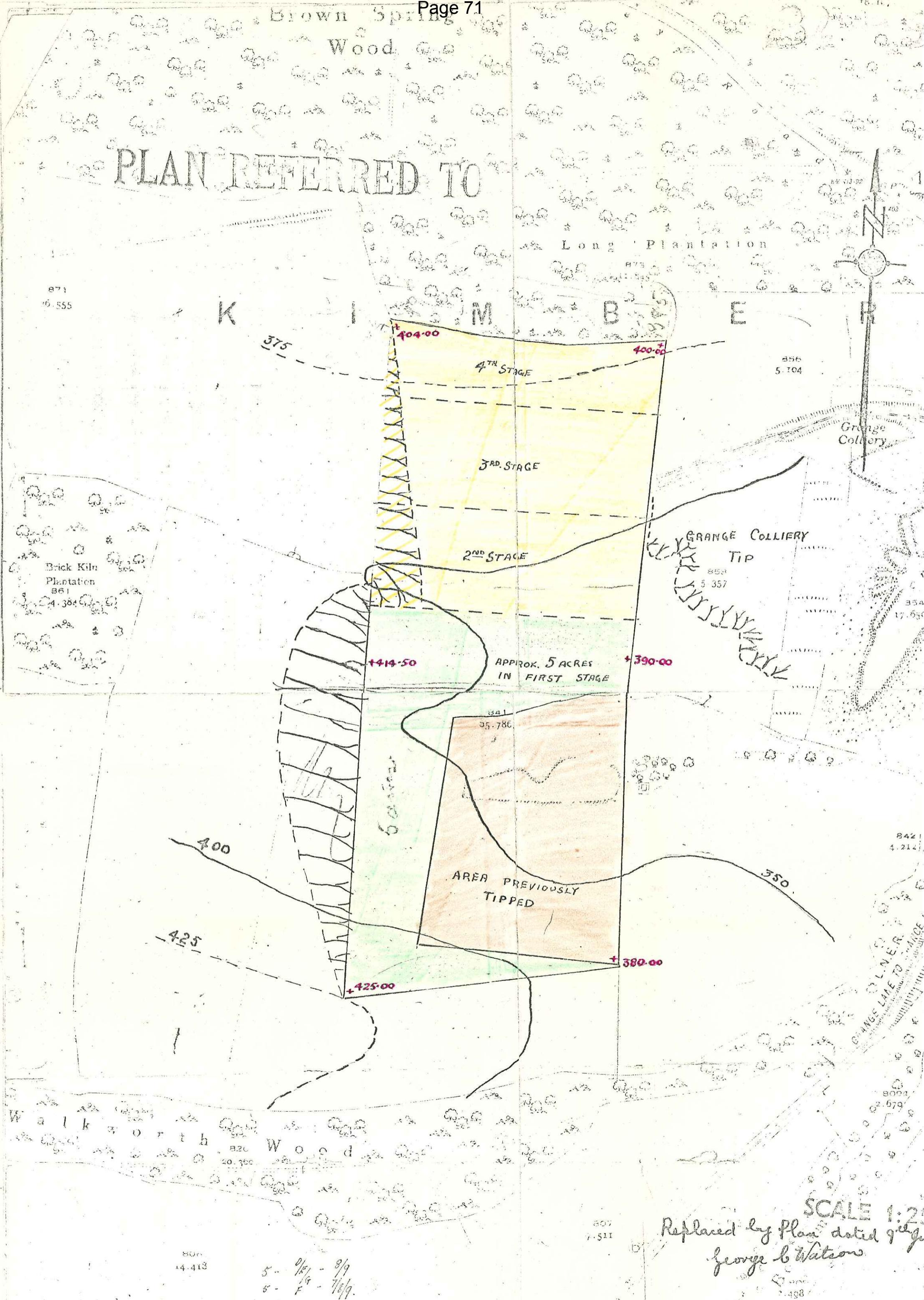
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THE CABINET
Monday 20 March 2023

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roche.

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

132. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A question was received from Mr Smith who wanted to know when the Masterplan for Dinnington Town Centre would be available?

The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment explained the plan had been put on hold whilst a bid for the Levelling Up fund had been submitted, this was to enable the Council to submit a higher bid. It was explained that Masterplans took around 6 months to a year to complete.

In his supplementary, Mr Smith noted he had received emails from the Assistant Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport saying consultation with the Town Council would be undertaken in February 2023 however there had been no contact. He queried why there had been no consultation with Dinnington Town Council if the plan was in draft.

The Assistant Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport explained this was interlinked with the Levelling Up fund bid so it was prudent to keep the Masterplan in draft.

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment confirmed that the engagement with members and others in the locality would take place however the Council was still awaiting details of the criteria and funding from the Government which will also need to be considered as part of that engagement.

A question was received from Councillor Tinsley who noted that Dinnington and Wath had been successful in their bids for the Levelling Up fund, it was asked if the allocated £2m from the Towns and Villages fund be allocated to fund improvements in places like Maltby, Thurcroft and will Maltby high street very much on the agenda locally, will meaningful discussions be held on the Masterplan improvements for Maltby high street?

The Leader responded to explain that the funding for that project had been set aside when the Levelling Up fund wasn't available. Now the Levelling Up fund was available the Council needed to work through the implications to understand what may happen with that funding. The intention through the Towns and Villages fund was to give special priority to that area. There was a great deal of uncertainty at the moment in terms of understanding all the implications around the funding available for that area.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley noted that Masterplans could take up to twelve months to create and queried if Maltby's Masterplan was underway?

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment explained that Maltby's Masterplan was underway. The details could be shared in a matter of weeks to enable discussions to begin.

A question was received from Councillor Ball who mentioned that Riverside House cost taxpayers around £5m per year, he asked if it was acceptable to have an average occupancy rate of 31%?

The Leader explained following the pandemic the world of flexible working had moved on at pace. A policy was in place that regulated how services operated. Further work would be undertaken on this which would be considered by the Staffing Committee when completed. The occupancy rate would rise over time however the key thing was that services were delivered effectively for the public.

133. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 February 2023 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

134. 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.

135. LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

Consideration was given to the report submitted which summarised the achievements of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme as set out in the Cabinet Report "*The transformation of services and support for people with a learning disability*" in May 2018.

The report was asking Cabinet to note the achievements made to date, in particular Conway Crescent, as a respite service that was really well received. The report mentioned some of the community services that had

been developed over the years, along with the plans for Castle View, for those people with high support needs.

It was also recognised that people with a learning disability did not enjoy and equal life on every level, including equal life changes with the rest of the community.

The Council wanted to build on the success and work undertaken so far and refresh the strategy for 2023 and beyond. In order to achieve this there was a need to co-produce that vision with young adults, their families, parents, carers, and people with learning disabilities and providers who were delivering those services on the Council's behalf.

It was anticipated that the new strategy would have a strong focus on how people with a learning disability were supported to become more independent in all areas of life.

Some of the key areas to the strategy were around how and where to live, considering how people lived, what type of supported accommodation did they need. It focused on employment and training opportunities, which was key for people with a learning disability. Consideration to be given on how they got around the borough including how they got to work in terms of travelling. It focused on advocacy and support around people making their own decisions, which was vital, along with being active members of the community. Enabling them to have the ability to contribute to what was going on in their community.

The recommendations were then proposed.

The Leader noted the significant changing in how those services were delivered over the course of the last few years, which it was believed, had realised benefits for service users and their families. It was acknowledged that it had been a big change for a lot of people, which had been at times a difficult change. The way the service had delivered had changed quite dramatically. The fact that the disadvantage was still too great was key to this proposal, to assist people with learning disabilities to be full members of the community. It was a substantial period of consultation that would enable the Council to further explore the next steps to progress.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the achievements and ongoing progress of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme as set out in the Cabinet Report "The transformation of services and support for people with a learning disability – May 2018".
2. Approved a minimum 90-day period of co-production to establish the views and needs of people with a learning disability, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding the future vision and strategy for people with a learning

disability.

3. Agreed to receive a further report in late Autumn 2023 proposing a refreshed strategy for people with a learning disability in Rotherham.

136. CABINET RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CARE HOME SAFETY

Consideration was given to the report that provided a Cabinet response to the recommendations from the spotlight review carried out by Health Select Commission on Covid-19 Care Home Safety.

The Health Select Commission was thanked for conducting the review and the resulting recommendations. It was worth noting what Rotherham had a mixed care home market with 94% of care homes being run through the independent sector and of those the Council purchased around 35% of the care home bed capacity. The remaining market was made up of NHS funded placements, through continuing health care or step-down bed, along with a significant amount of self-funded beds. There were also some out of area funded placements as well. This demonstrated how much interaction the Council had with the independent sector. The Council also had 6% of its own care home provision, which provided significant during the pandemic in terms of providing flexibility to needs.

The section was responding to multiple commercial drivers as well as responding to the CQC and the input from the Council strategically.

The Council continued to work closely with the sector in terms of all safety measure, not just pandemic related. In terms of any further Health and Wellbeing Board reviews of the pandemic, the Council would be happy for those to be considered for future scrutiny reviews.

Resolved: That Cabinet endorsed this response to the Health Select Commission's spotlight review and accepted the recommendations.

137. MODERN SLAVERY ANNUAL TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

Consideration was given to the report which provided the annual update in relation to the activities of the Council and its partners, in seeking to both address and prevent modern slavery. The report focussed on actions following the resolution passed by Council to adopt the Co-operative Party Charter against Modern Slavery on the 25th July 2018 and in-particular on actions since the last annual report presented to Cabinet on 24th January 2022.

A scrutiny spotlight review had been carried on the Council and partners response to modern slavery in Rotherham. The review generated several recommendations which would be considered and once approved incorporated into the action plan. The Chair and members of OSMB were

thanked for their work in this area.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership measured progress throughout the year.

A large part of the work associated with this was around the procurement arrangements and how the Council worked with its contractors and suppliers to ensure that modern slavery did not exist within its supply chains. There was more work to be done going forwards, around expertise for staff, to ensure they could investigate those supply chains and understand what the information may mean in terms of the risks of modern slavery. There was also a need to educate officers and the wider public about what might constitute risk in terms of modern slavery and where to report those issues to including the support available to those victims.

Resolved: that:

1. Cabinet noted the progress made to date.
2. Cabinet agreed for the current Transparency Statement 2022/23 to remain in place in 2023/24.

138. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY 2023 - 2026

Consideration was given to the report which introduced the proposed Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2026, which explained how the Council and its partners would address the challenges of homelessness and rough sleeping, by focussing on six key priorities:

1. Make homelessness a rare occurrence by focusing on prevention and early intervention.
2. Minimise the use and improve the quality of temporary accommodation and end the use of hotels.
3. Increase access to affordable housing options.
4. Improve access to housing support, employment and health services.
5. Support people with complex needs.
6. End rough sleeping in Rotherham.

It was clarified this was the Council's second strategy with the first being published in 2019. The six priorities built upon the success of the last three years. It was highlighted that over the last three years the Council had reduced the number of rough sleepers counted from 16 in 2019 to zero. Other successes were the number of units available for homelessness accommodation had increased. Supported housing had increased including use for victims of domestic abuse. A new model for supporting young homeless people aged 16-25 had been co-designed.

The pathways in the service for vulnerable people had been improved including those for people leaving prison and hospital. The main aim of the strategy had been around prevention but also included recovery measures where needed. Partnership working was key, and the strategy was around strengthening those partnerships. Another key aspect was around reducing expensive temporary accommodation, including hotel use.

The level of engagement sought during the consultation process was highlighted. The 'Everyone In' programme during the pandemic showed what could be achieved when the Government assisted with funding. A key aim was that homelessness was something that people did not have to face in Rotherham, including working with those at risk of losing their properties to ensure suitable temporary accommodation was available.

It was noted that the pressure on homelessness services was growing long before that particular Government initiative. The rough sleeper count was good news, but it was a snapshot, but the Council was aware that there were people who spent nights on the streets in Rotherham and the Council would continue to work with them.

The partnership working element of the strategy was highlighted. The complexity of needs was growing in the borough and the partnership working with agencies and the voluntary sector was vital.

Housing first was an amazing project and the work being done with the boroughs young people was welcomed.

Resolved: That Cabinet approved the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023 - 2026.

139.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which identified opportunities for joint action on the climate and nature crises in 2023 and expanded the programme's remit to include climate change adaptation and cohesion with a nature restoration programme.

The Council declared a climate emergency in October 2019. The report covered three main areas, it showed progress made, the actions around decarbonisation and single use plastic.

Key actions for next year included the decarbonisation and retrofitting of the Council's housing stock. Along with further actions on single use plastics including training for staff. More vehicle charging points and the role out of carbon literacy training. A medium and long term action plan would be developed.

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 including an additional recommendation regarding the 'Bin App' which was seeking that, details of the uptake of the Bin App be circulated to members of OSMB. It was clarified that this information had already been provided.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the Climate Change Action Plan in Appendix 2 including nature crisis and adaptation actions, noting the key achievements and opportunities summarised in Appendix 1 and sections 2 and 5 of this report.
2. Approved the Single Use Plastic Action Plan in Appendix 4.

140. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND 2023/24

Consideration was given to the report which provided recommendations for a provisional allocation of the £4.978m. Any variations arising from actual spend under each of the provisional allocations would be managed through adjusting the allocation made towards the Energy Crisis Support Scheme.

The report also provided the Council's proposed use of the business rates levy surplus distribution, announced by Government alongside the final local government finance settlement 2023/24. The Council's allocation from the business rates levy surplus distribution was £538,415 and related to the financial year 2022/23. It was proposed to use the resource to support the Council's current Energy Crisis Support Scheme, which allowed residents of the borough to claim £400 support towards the cost of their energy.

The funding meant that the Council could commit to a further year of the free school meal vouchers, that further funding was available to go towards the energy crisis grant. The Council could continue to support the council tax support top up fund and the ability to continue with the Christmas hampers and additional support for care leavers with their household costs.

Resolved: That Cabinet agreed:

1. That provisional allocations of the Household Support Fund Grant of £4.978m be made as follows:
 - a. £2.5m for food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals for school holidays up to and including Easter 2024.
 - b. £1.2m to cover the estimated costs of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme.
 - c. £0.4m additional funding to top up the Council's Discretionary Housing Payments fund.
 - d. £0.563m to support applications from households for assistance with cost-of-living increases, through the

Council's Energy Crisis Support Scheme.

- e. £180k to provide additional tinned food to supplement the supplies available for crisis food parcels provided by local food banks and Community Food Members. This sum would also assist with supplies to social supermarkets, which is a supplement to the Crisis Support service level agreement.
- f. £90k 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.
- g. £45k to support local VCS organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas / New year through a supplement to the Crisis Support service level agreement.

2. To delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, to determine revised and final allocations for the Household Support Grant to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of Household Support Fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the approved provisional allocations.
3. £150,000 cost of living crisis grant funding from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority is used to top up the allocation to Discretionary Housing Payments; of which, £50,000 will be utilised in the current financial year and the remaining £100,000 in 23/24.
4. Approved use of the Council's Business Rates, Levy surplus distribution allocation of £538,415 to be used to support Energy Crisis Support Payments in 2022/23.

141. SOCIAL VALUE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which set out the key achievements over the year to the end of November 2022 and identified priority areas of work for 2023. Those priorities would further embed social value to secure the best possible outcomes and returns for the people of Rotherham.

It was clarified that it was the third year of progress reporting on the social value policy. The purpose was to ensure the Council was spending more money in the local economy and to ensure that the Council was getting the maximum value from its suppliers and to ensure the Council was tackling poverty and encouraging use of the real living wage.

The Council was slowly starting to see the benefits increase over time and it did show that the overall spend with third party suppliers within the borough had nearly doubled over the past three years

It was explained that a correction within the report summary was needed

to confirm that more than £13m had now been secured from Council contracts, rather than the £113m listed in the summary.

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.

Resolved:

1. That the annual report is received noting the increased social value commitments along with outcomes achieved.
2. That Cabinet agreed the following key priorities for 2023 include:
 - a. Continue to embed the foundations of strong social value delivery through contract manager and supplier learning and development, tools and evaluation.
 - b. Support new and existing businesses to enter into new markets, from which the Council buys goods and services through the work of Rotherham Investment and Development Office and meet the buyer events.
 - c. Hold a Social Value celebration event for suppliers to showcase impact and inspire others.
 - d. Formally launch Rotherham Social Value Anchor Networks to raise awareness and engagement of more partners.

142. FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the Financial Inclusion Plan. The Plan detailed the support available to the residents of Rotherham.

The UK was facing the highest inflation rates in over 40 years leading to significant increases in the prices of food, heating, and clothing and the Council had strategically used its Household Support Fund to help those most in need to help.

The aim of the plan was to continue to help residents and tenant to improve their quality of life by maximising their income, increasing levels of education and improving their potential to gain employment.

The plan would be implemented by the Financial Inclusion team within the Housing Service, but it would also have access from all directorates to ensure the council was offering services to all residents.

The plan could not stand alone in delivering solutions; therefore, it was a co-ordinated approach that brought together the wider council services, partners and agencies which would achieve greater success.

This was part of wider wrap around support for all residents of the borough, so that people who wanted to get into work could be helped

along every step of the way, through the support of the Employment Solutions team.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approved the Corporate Financial Inclusion Plan 2023-24

143. FLEET REPLACEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which considered options to implement a long-term phased approach to the procurement, operation, maintenance, replacement, and disposal of Council fleet vehicles, which were essential tools in delivering services across the Borough.

The report detailed the current vehicle assets owned or leased by the Council and proposed a Fleet Replacement Plan to make best use of the available Capital funding, with a view to supporting the Council's commitment to net zero by 2030.

It was a significant report due to the amount of investment in replacing, modernising and renewing just over a third of the council's fleet. The council operated and ran around 337 vehicles and through the report it was proposing to replace 119 of those, 64 of which were proposed to be electric vehicles.

The two main ways this had been approached was replace many of the vehicles that were leased or hired along with purchasing 16 bin lorries that the council leased.

The proposal supported the Council's climate change agenda and it wanted to embrace all different types of renewable options available.

A huge amount of work had been undertaken with colleagues in procurement in finance had been undertaken during the development of these proposals.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process. The Board was pleased to see the significant investment that would benefit everyone in the borough. The Board fully supported the recommendations.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the approach to fleet replacement, which refreshes 35% of the current fleet by 2025/26 that works towards the Council's strategic objective of achieving 'Net Zero' status by 2030, and Borough wide by 2040.
2. Noted the intention to strengthen centralised fleet management,

including Council-wide requests for additional vehicles, acquisition, disposal, maintenance, and redeployment of assets to ensure best utilisation and value.

3. Delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the S.151 Officer, and Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment to enter into the necessary procurement agreements to effect the delivery of the report objectives.

144. 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.

145. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday 24 April 2023, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 12 April 2023

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Update

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

Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor

01709 254352 or katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk

Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor

Wards Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this report provides an update to Council of the activities and outcomes of Overview and Scrutiny activity at the Council. This report highlights the work of Improving Places Select Commission from June 2022 through March 2023, and the work of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in February and March 2023.

Recommendations

1. That the report be noted.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Update from Councillor Ken Wyatt, Chair of Improving Places Select Commission

Appendix 2 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Programme of Work

Appendix 3 Improving Places Select Commission Programme of Work

Background Papers

Agendas and Minutes of OSMB meetings, January 2023 to present.

Agendas and Minutes of IPSC meetings, June 2022 to present

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Overview and Scrutiny Update

1. Background

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules require a regular update to Council on the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- 1.2 The previous update to Council in January 2023 focussed on activities and outcomes of Health Select Commission and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. This update will focus on activities and outcomes of Improving Places Select Commission and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This report is intended as a summary of highlights and outcomes and is an indicative rather than definitive account of recent scrutiny work, which aims to hold the Council and key partners to account for decision-making, policy development, and performance. The report summarises information that is already in the public domain regarding progress, changes, or improvements resulting from recommendations and feedback provided by councillors on scrutiny committees. These include Health Select Commission, Improving Lives Select Commission, Improving Places Select Commission, and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- 2.2 Although this report emphasises results, scrutiny is chiefly a discursive process rather than a product. For further insight into the process of overview and scrutiny, the archive of public meetings webcasts, reports submitted for scrutiny, and minutes of discussions leading to recommendations are available on the Council's website.

Items considered for scrutiny are added to the Work Programme based on three criteria:

1. Does the topic relate to a priority in the Council Plan 2022-2025?
2. Can the scrutiny process make a difference or add value?
3. Is the topic important to Rotherham residents?

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The report is submitted for information.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The report is submitted for information.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The report is submitted for information.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no Human Resource implications directly arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for Children, Young People, or Vulnerable Adults directly arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications directly arising from this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no climate or emissions implications directly arising from this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners directly arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor

Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor

Report Author: Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor

01709 254352 or katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk

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

An Update from the Chair of Improving Places Select Commission

Together with the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), Cllr Maggi Clark, I have been invited as Chair of Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC), to provide an update in respect of recent outcomes achieved by both overview and scrutiny Committees of the Council.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

The Board's recent focus of work has been pre-decision. In February, OSMB considered the Budget proposals and Council Tax for 2023/24; Housing Revenue Account and Housing Rents and Charges. March's agenda considered Climate Change Action Plan and Annual Report; Modern Slavery Annual Transparency Statement; Social Value Annual Report and Fleet Replacement Plan.

In respect of the budget proposals, the Committee maintained a 'big picture' view of the financial pressures affecting the council and provided challenge to how these might impact on existing budgets and budget setting for future years as well as understanding the proposals about prudent levels of reserves. The Board challenged the assumptions underpinning the budget, their alignment to Council Plan themes and proposals for the level of council tax. In particular, Members probed the thinking that lay behind the main savings proposals to establish if these would be of detriment to existing services. For example, during the discussion on Early Help savings, assurances were given that one-off savings could be made without significant impact on the service, with a further commitment given that this would be subject to review.

Areas for additional investment such as Household Waste Recycling Sites, Markets and Customer Services had been considered previously by the Committee as part of pre-decision activity and also subject to in-depth scrutiny work (as detailed later in the report). These contributed to the themes of a cleaner, greener environment, expanding economic opportunity, and one Council approach.

Mindful of pressures on household budgets, in respect of the proposals for housing rent and charges, the Board asked consideration be given to whether additional measures, such as tenancy advice and support, could be introduced to mitigate the impact of rent increases for residents who are particularly vulnerable to changes in rent levels (for example recipients of Personal Independence Payments and Disability Living Allowance for children). The Board also asked that consideration is given to developing a communication strategy, including drop-in sessions, to raise awareness of changes to the district heating charges and support available to households.

It was noted that progress was being made in the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan – of particular interest to the Board was the engagement of the Youth Cabinet on this priority area, with each of their recommendations from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge being actioned. Linked to this work were plans to replace fleet vehicles to ensure that these were sustainable and contributed to net-zero targets.

Recommendations from its previous scrutiny of social value activity had also been implemented, with a focus on providing case studies to communicate successes.

Lastly, the Board considered the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement. The recommendations from OSMB's spotlight review will be fed into an action plan to promote inter-agency collaboration.

Improving Places Select Commission

I have also been invited to provide an update on the recent scrutiny work undertaken by the members and co-optees who serve on Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC). The Commission works cross-party to improve the environment for Rotherham residents. This involves closely examining the services and policies that are in place to make the borough a better place to live. The remit of Improving Places spans several themes of the Council Plan 2022-2023 as it works to hold the Council's decision-makers to account for delivering on its objectives. The programme of scrutiny work includes

- examining issues that are important to local communities,
- receiving assurances that people are safer and able to live well by having access to good quality housing,
- ensuring that people have access to libraries and cultural activities,
- that economic opportunity is expanding,
- and that we are working toward a cleaner greener living environment.

Every Neighbourhood Thriving: Working with Communities on things that matter to them and ensuring local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces.

To help The Council ensure every neighbourhood is thriving in Rotherham, Scrutiny has supported the Council to achieve its objective of working with local communities on the issues that are important to them. The Council has been responsively working with communities on the delivery of the Bereavement Service Contract, which returned for scrutiny in December 2022, with several members of the public taking part in the challenge to decision-makers by asking questions. The outcome led to recommendations for greater communication around how the Council and the contractor are upholding their duties under the Equality Act 2010, and around the five-year maintenance plan. IPSC also had overview of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report, which showed the Council's progress in delivering objectives associated with the neighbourhood working model. The forward work programme will also include scrutiny around on road safety, a topic suggested by community members through a recent petition.

Response was received from Cabinet regarding a previous spotlight review of the Cultural Strategy, which sought to ensure local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces. The review sought assurances that barriers were addressed so that families who may have experienced isolation and financial changes as a result of the pandemic could access cultural events near where they live. In response to the recommendations, the range of activities tailored for young people

has been expanded with young people from low-income communities a priority. The expanded range of activities includes swimming and water safety programmes across the borough, in response to increased popularity of wild swimming. The new events programme will ensure that a variety of activities are delivered in a range of locations including specialist culture and leisure venues as well as community settings. The Leisure Team are working with colleagues in Children and Young People's Services and other partners on the Cultural Partnership Board to explore the feasibility of a wider scheme of access to leisure centres for young carers which could be rolled out in readiness for the summer holidays.

People are Safe, Healthy and Live Well: People have access to good quality housing

IPSC seeks regular assurances that services are working to keep people safe and that people are able to live well by having access to good quality housing. IPSC has just completed a review of the impact of Selective Licensing in the borough which facilitates a scheme of inspections to raise housing standards within the private rented sector by addressing potential hazards and reducing organised crime. The forthcoming report on the findings of the review, to be received by IPSC on 9 May 2023, will provide an assessment of the effectiveness of the scheme at its halfway point and issue recommendations to help maximise effectiveness going forward.

IPSC recently made recommendations with a view to clarifying the placement and maintenance programme for defibrillators located in Council-owned buildings, ensuring life-saving equipment is ready to use in an emergency.

IPSC scrutinised the response of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service to a review by the Rotherfed Tenant Scrutiny Panel in 2021, recommending that the Service re-enforce communication to show how feedback from tenants is heard implemented, using a "You said, We did" approach. Scrutiny found that the Service is close to achieving the target 97% of repairs done "right first time."

Following on from the previous Rotherfed tenant scrutiny review in 2020, IPSC continued its dialogue with the Aids and Adaptations Service, which empowers people to live independently in their homes for as long as they can. Future scrutiny will monitor and the ongoing progress of the Service in autumn 2023 regarding backlog clearance. A vital link in releasing hospital capacity and delaying entry to social care, this Service is expected to grow in demand over time. Future scrutiny will seek assurances that the Service has capacity to respond to the changing needs of residents.

IPSC undertook further work on the theme of improving communications with tenants. Councillors fed into a draft tenant engagement framework at an early stage. IPSC also scrutinised the response to the latest Rotherfed Tenant Scrutiny Panel Review, which focussed on communications. IPSC also had overview of progress in implementation of the Housing Strategy and Housing Development Programme. I would like to thank Rotherham Federation of Communities and the two co-opted members of IPSC for strengthening the representation of the Council's partnership with Rotherfed in improving services and policies that improve living environment for Rotherham residents and ensuring the voices of tenants are heard.

IPSC scrutinised the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy, making recommendations that early intervention and prevention be prioritised within the updated strategy, and that the strategy revision be expedited. As a result, the revised strategy, emphasising early intervention and prevention, was submitted to Cabinet on 20 March 2023. IPSC members noted that, in response to scrutiny recommendations in 2021 around sustainability of the Service, staff posts that were previously temporary were made permanent. This meant that the Service had been able to retain skilled and experienced staff and has been in a stronger position to respond to the impact of the pandemic and rising costs of living on community members at risk of homelessness.

Expanding Economic Opportunity:

IPSC has had continued overview of the implementation of the range of interventions associated with the Town Centre Masterplan. An area of regeneration in the Town Centre which became a focus of a review was Markets. Councillors sought assurances that following the pandemic the Markets were being supported to recover from the pandemic and that the plans for redevelopment would continue to grow economic opportunity for Rotherham Residents. The Cabinet's response to the recommendations has shown the Service is at work engaging with stakeholders to make the redesigned Markets as welcoming as possible to traders and shoppers alike.

In IPSC's early 2022 findings from its spotlight on external funding, the development team were commended for their ambition to maximise the impact of external funding. A further outcome of the spotlight was that ISPC's findings from its review of markets were fed back to the development team to aid in formulating future bids which included markets. The recent news of Rotherham's successful levelling up bid for £20 million is a testament to the hard work and tenacity of the Service.

Previous scrutiny of the Indicative Programme of Highways and Roads Maintenance has led to continuation of councillor-suggested roads being included in the 2023/34 Highway Repair Programme. If the required funding becomes available, the Service will seek to provide Members with the opportunity to nominate footways to be included in the Highway Repair Programme. Further, regular communication around multihog schedules has been reinstated, and ward councillors and Neighbourhoods Teams have a direct line to highway inspector contacts. Councillors were also invited to a site meeting and included in an ongoing trial of new materials to repair footways around mature trees on Toll Boar Road, Swinton.

A Cleaner Greener Local Environment:

Over the last 18 months, scrutiny has held decision-makers to account regarding the Council's response to the Environment Act 2021, especially as regards the local approach to household waste recycling and improvements to the biodiversity in the natural environment. Another change ushered in by the new legislation involves the Council's duty to improve the natural environment by 10% by November 2023.

The Council resolved in May 2022 to declare a nature crisis in Rotherham. In support of this declaration, scrutiny has agreed to undertake a review of the state of biodiversity in Rotherham. The review will consider strategic approaches already in place and

propose any additional interventions that can help the Council achieve its nature recovery targets.

Recently, IPSC has commented on the Draft Enviro-Crime Plan at an early phase to shape how the Council approaches enforcement, prevention, and education around environmental offenses. Following an in-depth look at fly-tipping, recommendations were made to help prevent contaminated bins, accept vans at household waste recycling centres, and facilitate community skips. IPSC agreed that litter picking volunteers should be recognised in a special way, as their contribution makes a huge difference in beautification of the borough. IPSC will continue to monitor the Council's response to the Environment Bill 2021 and the pilot scheme bringing the customer interface of household waste recycling under the administration of the Council.

IPSC continues to have overview of Flood Alleviation works as well as the Self-management of Allotments through strong partnership links with the Rotherham Allotments Alliance. Actions taken in response to an internal review of the Tree Programme will also be considered for scrutiny in May 2023. IPSC will continue to have overview of these areas as they contribute to the Council's Climate Action agenda and their role in promoting biodiversity.

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham has accomplished much within the past several months to support delivery of the Council's objectives in relation to economic opportunity, safety, quality housing, and a cleaner environment. These efforts seek to make Rotherham a better place to live for all residents. Overview and Scrutiny has held decisionmakers to account and worked to ensure services and policies are responsive to the needs of Rotherham residents in a fast-changing world.

Cllr Ken Wyatt

Chair of Improving Places Select Commission

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Appendix 2: Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2022-23

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
11 May 2022	Petition – Improve Road safety on Cumwell Lane Town Deal and Levelling Up Fund: Update and Implementation Household Support Fund
27 May 2022 – Special Meeting	Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership CSE Review Final Report.
15 June 2022	Finance Update Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (2022/2025), Action Plan 2022/2023 and Annual Report (2021/2022) Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership CSE Review Final Report. Operation Linden
6 July 2022	Annual Housing Development Report 2022-23 Children's Commissioners Takeover Challenge - Climate Change
14 September 2022	Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report July 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 Household Support Fund
12 October 2022	Foster Carer Fees and Development of In-House Retention Offer Proposals for Day Opportunities for People with High Support Needs Forge Island Implementation Scrutiny Review – Cultural Strategy Scrutiny Review – Markets Engagement and Recovery
1 November 2022	Modern Slavery – Spotlight Review
16 November 2022	Pre-decision Scrutiny Items Social Value Mid-Year Review
1 December NEW	Cumwell Lane Petition - update Complaints Annual Report
14 December 2022	Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report Establishment of a Financial Abuse and Exploitation Service for Rotherham Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report. Scrutiny Review Recommendations - COVID-19 Care Home Safety

19 January 2023	Future Provision for Household Waste Recycling Centres Rothercard Medium Term Financial Strategy Update
8 February 2023	Budget and Council Tax Report 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Rents and Service Charges HRA Business Plan
7 March 2023	CYPS Performance monitoring Workshop session
15 March 2023	Climate Change Action Plan and Annual Report Modern Slavery Annual Transparency Statement Social Value Annual Report Fleet Replacement Plan Local Government Association Customer Services Peer Challenge
19 April 2023	TBC Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Access to Primary Care Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Spotlight Review Modern Slavery
10 May 2023	TBC

Items for Scheduling

CYPS Invest to Save	To scrutinise the impact of “Invest to Save” initiatives across CYPS
Cost of Living	Work Commencing December 2022 - Focus on energy efficiency; financial inclusion; crisis food support (specifically social supermarkets); school uniform (working with the Youth Cabinet); and communications, awareness and targeting
Adult Care Services Commissioning	To look in further detail the commissioning process for adult care services. Requested at the 9 February 2022 meeting.
Notice of Motion - Byelaws	Referred from the Council Meeting 30 November 2022 (TBC May 2023) Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider within its work programme the listed potential actions, making any recommendations they deem necessary, and require the proposer of this motion to be part of this Scrutiny activity:
July 2023	Children’s Commissioner’s Take Over Challenge

Appendix 3: Improving Places Select Commission – Work Programme 2022-23

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
07 June 2022	Draft Enviro-Crime Plan Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Markets Engagement and Recovery
19 July 2022	Tenant Scrutiny Review - Housing Repairs and Maintenance Aids and Adaptations Update
20 September 2022	Neighbourhood Working Annual Report Draft Tenant Engagement Framework Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy Update
25 October 2022	Flood Alleviation Update
Autumn 2022 Review	Impact of Selective Licensing
13 December 2022	Bereavement Services Annual Report Town Centre Update Allotments Update Council-owned Life-Saving Equipment
07 February 2023	Fly Tipping
Spring 2023 Review	Nature Recovery
21 March 2023	Housing Strategy and Development Update Tenant Scrutiny Review – Communications
09 May 2023	Tree Programme Update Environment Bill 2021 - Update Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Impact of Selective Licensing

Items to be scheduled:

Planning White Paper
Rent arrears
Anti-social behaviour workshop
Markets update
Improved road safety and Cumwell Lane update

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**Public Report
Council**

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 12 April 2023

Report Title

Cabinet Response to the outcomes from the Scrutiny Review - Cultural Strategy.

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Chris Siddall. Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships

01709 822478 or Chris.Siddall@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough -Wide

Report Summary

To report on the response to the findings and recommendations from the spotlight review jointly undertaken by Improving Places Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission on 2 February 2022.

Recommendations

1. That Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review - Cultural Strategy at Appendix 2.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review – Cultural Strategy

Appendix 2 – Response to the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Appendix 3a – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part A

Appendix 3b – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part B

Appendix 4 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Rotherham's Cultural Strategy 2019-2026 – Cabinet 10/06/2019

Cultural Strategy Implementation – Improving Places Select Commission 08/12/2020

Minutes of Improving Lives Select Commission – 03/05/2022

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12/10/2022

Minutes of Cabinet meeting – 19/12/2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Cabinet – 13 February 2023

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12 October 2022

Improving Lives Select Commission – 03 May 2022

Cabinet – 19 December 2022

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Cabinet Response to the outcomes from the Scrutiny Review - Cultural Strategy

1. Background

- 1.1 Rotherham's Cultural Strategy was agreed by Cabinet on 10 June 2019. On 19 December 2020, the most recent progress on the implementation of the Strategy was scrutinised at Improving Places Select Commission, and it was agreed by Members of Improving Places Select Commission in July 2021 that, in view of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural offer in the Borough, there was the need for a spotlight review.
- 1.2 Acknowledging the positive benefits of events and culture to wellbeing and education, the purpose of the review was to obtain assurances that the local offer was responsive to the changing needs of communities and promoted inclusive access to cultural activities in the Borough. This review examined elements which intersect three objectives included in the Council Plan 2022-23: local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces; children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go, and; inequalities are addressed, and nobody is left behind.
- 1.3 Members of Improving Places Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission met with Culture, Sport and Tourism Service Leads and the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion. The review was undertaken by Councillors Pitchley, Atkin, Cooksey, Keenan, Griffin, Havard, McNeely, and Sansome.
- 1.4 The resulting recommendations were endorsed by Improving Lives Select Commission on 3 May 2022 on behalf of both scrutiny commissions which conducted the spotlight. The recommendations were subsequently endorsed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 12 October 2022 and presented to Cabinet on the 19 December 2022.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The responses to the recommendations are set out in Appendix 2.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The recommendations and corresponding actions are designed to give Members the assurance that their concerns have been considered.
- 3.2 It is recommended that Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review - Cultural Strategy at Appendix 2.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Details of consultation have been set out in the relevant sections of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1 and in Appendix 3b – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part B.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Cabinet's responses to each of the recommendations and associated timescales are detailed in Appendix 2.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Financial implications are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

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

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 As the purpose of the spotlight review was to provide reassurance that children and young people and vulnerable groups were prioritised within Rotherham's cultural offer, it is envisaged that there will be a positive impact on these sectors of the community as a result of this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Details of any implications are listed within the Initial Equalities Screening Form (Part A) and Analysis (Part B) completed and included in Appendix 3a and Appendix 3b.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report as recorded at Appendix 4.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Implications for partners are set out in the main sections of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Cabinet's recommendations listed in Appendix 2 of this report have considered the risks and mitigations associated with all proposed actions.

Accountable Officer(s)

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director, Regeneration & Environment
Polly Hamilton, Assistant Director, Culture Sport and Tourism

Report Author: Chris Siddall. Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships
Chris.Siddall@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 13 February 2023

Report Title

Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review - Cultural Strategy

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Chris Siddall. Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships
01709 822478 or Chris.Siddall@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Rotherham's Cultural Strategy was approved by Cabinet on the 10 June 2019 following over 20 months of workshops, engagement and consultation. The Strategy was facilitated by the local Cultural Partnership Board working together to make sure that as many people as possible who live in Rotherham can take part in high quality cultural, leisure and sporting activities.

A Scrutiny spotlight review took place with Council Officers on the 2 February 2022. The summary of findings and recommendations from the meeting jointly undertaken by Improving Places Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission were presented to Cabinet on the 19 December 2022. This report sets out the proposed Cabinet response to the findings and recommendations from the spotlight scrutiny.

Recommendations

1. That the Cabinet response to the Scrutiny Review Recommendations (as set out in Appendix 1) for the Cultural Strategy be approved.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Response to the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Appendix 2a – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part A

Appendix 2b – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part B

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Rotherham's Cultural Strategy 2019-2026 – Cabinet 10/06/2019

Cultural Strategy Implementation – Improving Places Select Commission 08/12/2020

Minutes of Improving Lives Select Commission – 03/05/2022

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12/10/2022

Minutes of Cabinet meeting – 19/12/2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12 October 2022

Improving Lives Select Commission – 03 May 2022

Cabinet – 19 December 2022

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to The Cultural Strategy**1. Background**

- 1.1 Rotherham's Cultural Strategy was agreed by Cabinet on 10 June 2019, and various aspects of the delivery of the Strategy have returned to Scrutiny for monitoring of implementation progress on several occasions. On 19 December 2020, the most recent progress on the implementation of the Strategy was scrutinised at Improving Places Select Commission, and it was agreed by Members of Improving Places Select Commission in July 2021 that, in view of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural offer in the Borough, progress on the implementation of the Strategy would be prioritised for a spotlight review.
- 1.2 Acknowledging the positive benefits of events and culture to wellbeing and education, the purpose of the review was to obtain assurances that the local offer was responsive to changing needs of communities and promoted inclusive access to cultural activities in the Borough. This review examined elements which intersect three objectives included in the Council Plan 2022-23: local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces; children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go; and inequalities are addressed, and nobody is left behind.
- 1.3 Members of Improving Places Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission met with Culture, Sport and Tourism Service Leads and the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion. The review was undertaken by Councillors Pitchley, Atkin, Cooksey, Keenan, Griffin, Havard, McNeely, and Sansome.
- 1.4 The resulting recommendations were endorsed by Improving Lives Select Commission on 3 May 2022 on behalf of both scrutiny commissions which conducted the spotlight. The recommendations were subsequently endorsed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 12 October 2022 and presented to Cabinet on the 19 December 2022.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 An initial presentation was made to the spotlight review members on the 2 February 2022. It highlighted the purpose of the Cultural Strategy, its priorities and make-up along with a number of project examples where protected characteristic groups had been priorities for activity. Finally, the presentation reflected on areas of self-improvement.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 sets out the recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board which endorsed the findings from the spotlight review at a meeting on the 12 October 2022. A proposed response has been provided for work that has taken place along with proposed timescales for those that are still outstanding or need on-going consideration.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Option 1 – that Cabinet approves the proposed responses to the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1. This is the recommended option.
- 3.2 Option 2 – that Cabinet does not accept the proposed responses as set out in Appendix 1. This is not recommended.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 There has not been consultation on the proposed responses to the recommendations other than appropriate Council Officers.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The spotlight review recommendations were considered by OSMB at the 12 October 2022 meeting and were received by Cabinet on the 19 December 2022. This report provides the proposed Cabinet responses to each of the recommendations and has associated timescales attached as detailed in Appendix 1. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet formally consider its response to its recommendations, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
- 5.2 The timetable for implementing the recommendations is set out in Appendix 1.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The delivery of the recommendations will be done from existing budgets. If additional funding is required, applying for external grants is possible from stakeholders with a shared interest in supporting the work, such as Arts Council England, South Yorkshire MCA and Sport England.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. However, where there is a need to procure goods, services or works in the delivery of the recommendations, this must be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 As the purpose of the spotlight review was to provide reassurance that children and young people and vulnerable groups were prioritised within Rotherham's cultural offer, it is envisaged that there will be a positive impact on these sectors of the community as a result of this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed, along with an action plan, set out in Appendix 2a Equalities Impact Assessment Part B. The delivery of the action plan will have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Whilst there are no direct measurable implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report, by the mere nature of creating more activity within the community, this may negatively impact on CO2 emissions due to increased vehicular travel and opening of buildings and facilities.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Consideration will be given to the impact the recommendations have on Cultural Partnership Board members and partner organisations. In order to achieve the most comprehensive coverage across Rotherham, the Council will need support from its partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Officers have regard to the risks and mitigation factors associated with the spotlight review on the topic of The Cultural Strategy and have made recommendations accordingly.

14. Accountable Officers

Polly Hamilton, Assistant Director, Culture Sport and Tourism
 Leanne Buchan, Head of Creative Programming and Engagement
 Chris Siddall, Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	30/01/2023
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	24/01/2023
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	26/01/2023

Report Author: Chris Siddall, Head Of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships

01709 822478 or Chris.Siddall@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review - Cultural Strategy.

	Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response (detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)	Accountability	Target date for completion (if applicable)
1.	<p>That the following recommendations from the review be received:</p> <p>a) That the range of available activities tailored for young residents of the Borough be prioritised for expansion.</p>	Accepted	<p>That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/OSMB meeting.</p> <p>Services across Culture, Sport and Tourism work on an annual basis to deliver a wide range of activities for young people across the borough. A number of examples are already in existence such as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts Awards activity delivered in school holidays - The Museums, Arts and Heritage Team deliver an early years programme - Saturday Stories take place for free on a weekly basis <p>The team have senior officer representation on the Holiday Activity Fund steering group to help direct the work of the scheme always seeking to expand its reach. A number of externally funded schemes such as the WEuro legacy programme, Active Through Football Community scheme in Maltby, Kimberworth Park and Eastwood deliver to young people in priority communities. The Children's Capital of Culture programme planning will gain pace over the coming year with young people from low-income communities a priority.</p>	Polly Hamilton and Leanne Buchan	On-going
	<p>b) That consideration be given to how best to expand access, especially for young people, to recreational swimming in the Borough, whilst protecting against hazards.</p>	Accepted	<p>That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/OSMB meeting.</p> <p>All swimming programmes within RMBC facilities support Drowning Prevention Week and deliver outdoor water safety briefings. Wild swimming has increased in popularity over recent years and as a result work has commenced to explore a recreational offer within Country Parks. Additional signage has been installed in country parks and blue spaces to inform the public of dangers of swimming in open water. Ulley Country Park has put in place additional measures on the bridge to safeguard people accessing the water.</p> <p>Further work will take place throughout 2023 to build on awareness and education on the aforementioned initiatives.</p>	Chris Siddall	July 2023
	<p>c) That the service liaise with Children and Young People's Services to develop a system to help young carers more easily access opportunities for leisure and culture-related respite.</p>	Accepted	<p>That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/OSMB meeting.</p> <p>Young Carers are able to access leisure provision when accompanying the person they are caring for via the Rothercard Scheme. However, this currently does not provide free access. The Leisure Team are committed to exploring this opportunity within the centres and work will build upon the Looked After Children scheme. Dialogue has begun with colleagues in Children and Young People's Services and other partners on the Cultural Partnership Board to explore the feasibility of a wider scheme which could be rolled out in readiness for the summer holidays.</p>	Chris Siddall	June 2023
	<p>d) With a view to expanding access, that consideration be given to hosting cultural events at alternating and varied locations and venues throughout the Borough where appropriate.</p>	Accepted	<p>That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/OSMB meeting.</p> <p>A number of initiatives are already in place across the borough in Libraries, for example Fun Palaces and Maker Spaces.</p> <p>All 15 libraries and Maltby Leisure Centre are supporting the Warm Welcome initiative.</p> <p>Herringthorpe Stadium, in partnership with Rotherham Harriers, is seeking to introduce a new Athletics Academy.</p> <p>Flux Rotherham, a consortium project between Voluntary Action Rotherham, Grimm and Co, RMBC, and Wentworth Woodhouse, is currently delivering a range of activities available to young adults in Maltby, Swinton, Wath, Ferham and Eastwood.</p> <p>Moving Rotherham, the borough's strategic partnership for Physical Activity is refining its future priorities and this recommendation can be fed into planning.</p>	Leanne Buchan	On-going

Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	Accountability	Target date for completion (if applicable)	
		<p>Holiday Activity Fund initiatives are expanding all the time and again, this recommendation will be fed into the steering group agenda.</p> <p>The Children's Capital of Culture programme offers an exciting opportunity for the future to build a wide range of activities for children and young people. Plans are in development and this recommendation will ensure that the new programme is delivered across a range of geographical locations, in specialist cultural and leisure venues as well as community settings.</p>			
2.	That Cabinet formally consider its response to the above recommendations by February 2023, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.	Accepted	That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/ OSMB meeting.	Paul Woodcock	February 2023

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: Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review - Cultural Strategy.					
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Culture, Sport and Tourism				
Lead person: Chris Siddall Head of Sport, Leisure & Strategic Partnerships	Contact number: 01709 822478				
Is this a:					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Service / Function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other
If other, please specify –					
Cabinet response to the recommendations made in the Scrutiny Review of the Cultural Strategy					

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

To Screen the report that outlines recommendations from the scrutiny spotlight review undertaken jointly by Improving Places Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission. The aim of the review was to obtain assurances that, following the isolation associated with the pandemic and growing financial pressures on families, the Council's Cultural Strategy is responsive to these challenges. The issues raised by the commissions at the spotlight meeting and the

Appendix 3a

recommendations made by The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be forwarded to Cabinet for a response.

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
<p>Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? It is anticipated that the proposals will affect young people in the borough in a positive way. Many new activities have commenced across a range of services, but there are still more to be delivered in the coming year and beyond. Locally delivered, place- based activity will aid accessibility and support local businesses and organisations.</p>	x	
<p>Could the proposal affect service users? The proposal will affect service users as an improved offer will be worked up across a number of departments and external organisations.</p>	x	
<p>Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? Activities will be offered for young people across a range of protected characteristics. Activity will not discriminate. Many of the anticipated sessions will take place in communities of low income and be priced accordingly (with many being FOC) with a view to being as inclusive as possible. Care will be taken to consider items such as gender, religious beliefs, timings and location.</p>	x	
<p>Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? Extensive consultation was carried out at the time of producing the Cultural Strategy- with some 2000+ people engaged. The strategy considers all members of the Rotherham community and seeks to address issues in a considered manner. Game Changer targets are in place to focus direction and priorities.</p>		x
<p>Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? There are no implications to consider within this area.</p>		x
<p>Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?</p>	x	

Appendix 3a

Additional and focussed activity could increase opportunities for staff members to develop their work experience. Any additional activity would be done within current HR working guidance.		
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
N/A		

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?**

During the production of The Cultural Strategy a wide range of organisations and individuals were included and an Equalities Impact Analysis was produced at the time. The Cultural Partnership Board draws from a variety of sources with representation of people from protected characteristics. In addition, many of the organisations involved work directly with people from a cross section of the community and attend in order to represent their views. Additional activity for young people will take into account of a number of factors such as price, location, time of day, gender and culturally specific considerations.

- **Key findings**

Following the Scrutiny review a number of recommendations have been made. The Service has created an action plan as part of the EIA to address these. It will be maintained as the recommendations evolve and highlight where widening access may be required and involve other partner organisations. This will link into the EIA for the Cultural Strategy. The delivery of the recommendations from the review will have a positive impact on many local groups such as women and girls, young people, children/ families on low income and BAME groups to name a few.

- **Actions**

An action plan has been developed (as part of the EIA Part B) to address the areas recommended. It is envisaged that the Service will work with the wider Council and community/voluntary partners in order to deliver the full set of actions and utilise the framework of the Cultural Strategy to base this upon.

Appendix 3a

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	4 th January 2023
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	10 th January 2023
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Chris Siddall Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Polly Hamilton	Assistant Director – Culture Sport and Tourism	06/01/23

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	10/1/2023
Report title and date	13 th February 2023 Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Cultural Strategy
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	12 th October 2022 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – The Cultural Strategy 19 th December 2022 Cabinet meeting minutes
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	06/01/23

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: Spotlight Review - The Cultural Strategy		
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): Monday 9 th January 2023		
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	Service area: Culture, Sport & Tourism	
Lead Manager: Chris Siddall. Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships	Contact number: 01709 822478	
Is this a:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify		

Appendix 3b

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)
Gina Szumski	RMBC Libraries	Operational Manager
Sarah Christie	Children's Capital of Culture, RMBC	Programme Manager
Chris Siddall	Sport, Leisure & Strategic Partnerships	Head of Sport, Leisure & Strategic Partnerships
Leanne Buchan	Creative Programming & Engagement	Head of Creative Programming & Engagement
Zoe Oxley	Operations & Business Transformation	Head of Operations & Business Transformation

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)
<p>The Rotherham Cultural Strategy 2019 – 2026 has an overarching mission to:</p> <p>‘Get more people, more active, creative and outdoors, more often’</p> <p>in recognition that levels of participation and physical activity generally track at 10% below the national average. The accompanying Equalities and Inclusion Assessment for the report, noted that “Talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not”.</p> <p>From the Scrutiny Spotlight Review, undertaken jointly by Improving Places Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission, the following recommendations were agreed for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the range of available activities tailored for young residents of the Borough be prioritised for expansion. b. That consideration be given to how best to expand access, especially for young people, to recreational swimming in the Borough, whilst protecting against hazards. c. That the service liaise with Children and Young People’s Services to develop a system to help young carers more easily access opportunities for leisure and culture-related respite. d. With a view to expanding access, that consideration be given to hosting cultural events at alternating and varied locations and venues throughout the Borough where appropriate. <p>Each of the recommendations have been considered, in order:</p> <p>A. That the range of available activities tailored for young residents of the Borough be prioritised for expansion.</p>

Appendix 3b

Many services across Culture, Sport and Tourism (e.g. libraries, museum, green spaces, etc.) are free at the point of access and offer experiences for children and young people of all ages.

In 2025 Rotherham will become the world's first Children's Capital of Culture. Services across Culture, Sport & Tourism are building partnerships with a range of young people's support services, cultural and sport organisations, and working with children and young people to co-produce services, and activities. Examples of this work to date include:

Children's Capital of Culture 2025 (CCoC)

Children's Capital of Culture is working with teams across the Council (e.g. Neighbourhoods, Public Health, Early Help, Culture Sport & Tourism, etc) and with organisations across the wider borough (e.g. schools and colleges, voluntary and community sector organisations, businesses), in partnership with children and young people, to develop and deliver a large and diverse range of activities in which to participate.

Phase One ('Starting the Conversation: 2021-22') of the project, included:

- A wide range of skills and talent development opportunities, including a Young Producer traineeship programme which supported 57 16-25 year olds to access paid traineeships of which 70% went on to further education or employment in Rotherham.
- Delivery of free creative programmes that enable young people to achieve their Arts Award, a nationally-recognised qualification. In 2022 CCoC supported 61 young people to achieve this award.
- Delivery of a 'Go See' programme that supports marginalised and underserved children and young people to access high-quality cultural activity, including young people with protected characteristics (including BME, young people, SEND young people, LGBT+ young people, and young parents). In 2022, 86 children and young people and 39 adults in their lives took part in 10 Go See visits.
- Delivery of a wide range of public cultural events and activities, e.g. the UKCRF demonstrator programme (a borough-wide series of events and festivals delivered by the Young Producers in partnership with 'host' cultural organisations which reached nearly 22,000 people), and included events at Magna, Gullivers, Wentworth Woodhouse and community locations such as Thurcroft.

Phase One of the project had over 90,000 participating children, young people, parents and carers, and wider communities, with 1,330 children and young people taking part in consultations sessions to inform the next chapter of this programme.

In terms of governance, Children's Capital of Culture is steered by a Programme Board consisting of members of the Council, local Voluntary and Community Sector, and local business community. Two young people (25 and under) sit on the Programme Board, ensuring youth voice shapes the direction of the project at all levels.

Events

The Events Team aims to ensure that its events are inclusive and welcoming to all but has been working with the Children's Capital of Culture team to improve its provision for young people over the last twelve months which has included:

- UPLIFT Rotherham Skate & Art Festival - Launching a new concept in February 2022 as part of the Children's Capital of Culture launch programme February 2022 launch festival, this event focused on creating a Town centre provision which specifically targeted children and young people. The event was co-produced with Childrens' Capital of Culture young producers and included a pop-up skate park, workshops, stalls and music programme. The event was attended by 2,776 and will return to the Town Centre 5th-7th April this year.
- WOW Festival – Trialled as part of the cultural programme for the UEFA Women's Euros, WoW Festival focuses on celebrating women, girls and non-binary communities whilst highlighting specific issues and challenges faced by these communities. A strand of the festival known as 'Wowzers' saw 3 young producers curate talks and workshops from the perspectives of young women, girls and non-binary perspectives. This event will return on 10th June 2023 but relocate to the Rotherham Town Centre
- Rotherham Show – Attracting between 60,000- 80,000 visitors each year, Rotherham Show is one of the region's largest cultural festivals. A dedicated children and families area has been established within the show hosting activities, workshops and experiences for children, young people and their families. The 2022 show included children's theatre performances from Wrongsemble and LAS Theatre alongside a giant Fish Mobile sculpture which was created a part of the Children's Capital of Culture programme. An evaluation of the show in 2022 shows a slight increase in attendance from young people aged 16-24 from 7.5% of the audience in 2021 to 9% of the audience in 2022.
- During the summer of 2022 four Women's Euros matches took place at the New York Stadium. As part of the local offer a comprehensive legacy programme was developed and continues to be delivered until 2024 (current cycle). To date 586 young people have engaged with community activities, an additional 1,200 girls have attended "Kicks Sessions" and the new emerging talent centre for girls was three times oversubscribed. 8 new "Wildcats" sessions (5-11year olds) have been established in low- income areas such as Herringthorpe, Maltby, Clifton and Aston.

Museums, Arts & Heritage

Covering Clifton Park Museum, Boston Castle and five heritage sites, the Museums, Arts & Heritage service delivers a range of activities for children and young people included in school and informal learning provisions.

The Audience Finder data shows that visitors to Clifton Park Museum who are under 16, grew from 45% in 2021 to 59% in 2022 as a result of initiatives such as the National Lottery Heritage Funded Young Roots Programme and the reintroduction of Nelson's Cub Club for young families. In addition to the visitors surveyed as part of Audience Finder, the museum also hosts 24 school visits each year connecting local school children to their heritage through collections and

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exhibitions. In 2021/22 the service also invested in co-production with children and young people hosting nine young people aged 16-25 as part of the Kickstart programme. Working alongside the Children's Capital of Culture team in 2022 the service worked with a team of three Young Producers to co-create an exhibition for the launch of the Children's Capital of Culture initiative.

The last six months has seen the service develop a focus on early years working with children aged 0-5 and their wider intergenerational families.

Currently delivered:

- Nelson's Cub Club – A fortnightly family session for toddlers and their adults. These workshops utilise objects from the collection and storytelling to support cognitive development and learning in early years.
- Sparking Wonder – An innovative programme of early years interventions which will inform the core early years offer within the museum and across the heritage sites over the coming years. This project works with specialist practitioner Ealine Burke, who is a leading consultant on health and wellbeing in early years alongside Liz Pemberton who runs The Balck Nursery Manager and specialises in anti-racist practice in early years. This targeted programme works with families from birth the age five to develop learning resources for each stage and tackle social issues affecting the wider family unit during this development period.
- In addition other families have included people from Roma and Pakistani families at Ferham school with 79 participants (including artists and schools support staff)
- Strategic Partnerships – As a result of recently funded programmes partnerships have been formed with a targeted groups including BME Young Carers which support families from BME backgrounds who have caring responsibilities to both experience workshops and events as a family and also to provide respite opportunities for both the parents and siblings of families with caring needs.

Rotherham Music

Each year the Rotherham Music service supports 3,886 children and young people to learn to play a musical instrument in formal classroom settings. A further 1,310 children and young people received additional private tuition of which 50 have SEND additionality.

The service recently implemented a new management team structure including the post of Community Music Manager who will have responsibility for a developing an out of school offer and supporting children, young people and their families to access music provision all year and in community settings.

This model will be trialled in February half-term later this year with a new out of school programme featuring:

- Large scale interactive installation, Light Organ ([LIGHT ORGAN | Akeelah Bertram](#)) which will be in place throughout the week of the half term holidays at Rotherham Minster

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- Supporting Light Organ programme which will include a mixed care home and young person's choir, content creation workshops for children and finale artist collaborative performances.
- Pop Up & Play will include a series of curated pop-up performances from young Rotherham and South Yorkshire musicians and bands in every day spaces including the Bus Interchange, Parkgate Shopping Centre, Clifton Park & Rother Valley Park Run, Nova City Skate Park, Jump Inc and Big Apple Play City.
- Sounds Showcase will take place on 19th February as a 'battle of the bands' style contest at The Bridge Inn celebrating young musicians who will perform a set each with industry judges selected a band/musician to perform as part of the UPLIFT skate and arts festival.
- AR Music Workshops – starting in February working with schools and community groups AR workshops will take place in Swinton, Aston and Town Centre using AR technology to create locality-based soundscapes. The intention is for this to be used as an R&D programme for a potentially larger project

Four paid internships supported by Children's Capital of Culture via UK Shared Prosperity Fund have been offered to 16-25 year olds to support this programme.

Rotherham Theatres

The theatre is developing a new business model which will see it move from a solely commercial focus to a mixed model of commercial activity balanced with engagement and outreach. Whilst this model is in development the theatre has been testing engagement programmes with children and families including:

- Saturday Stories – The service has secured Arts Council England funding to trial a free, monthly family programme throughout 2023 on the first Saturday of every month.
- Pay What You Can – Supporting low-income households to access high-quality theatre provision through a Pay What You Can scheme which is a donation model or free to those households who cannot afford theatre experiences. The shows including music, drama and family performances and to date 191 PYWC tickets have been taken with 167 of those associated with the family performances. The average ticket price across these shows was £7 and the average donation made from PWYC tickets was £4.25 with some audiences attending for free, most paying around half the value and a few paying almost double the suggested ticket price.

Green Spaces

In July 2021, Yorkshire Sport Foundation formed a partnership with the Council and "Make Space for Girls", a charity set up to campaign to make parks and public spaces more welcoming to teenage girls. There was little research to understand if parks were truly inclusive spaces, and somewhere teenage girls felt they could visit and be active. According to the most recent Sport England Children and Young People Active Lives Survey girls enjoy sport and exercise far less than boys. This means it is therefore vital to understand what more can be done to increase activity levels among girls.

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Girls use parks less and face many barriers to exercising. This historically comes from a lack of understanding of their needs in park design and the way society sees and treats them when they get there. As a result, this limits girl's right to enjoy the wealth of health and wellbeing benefits of being active in the great outdoors. Key findings note:

1. Parks need to provide a clean, cared for and attractive space with at least basic facilities for girls to feel comfortable.
2. Promoting physical and emotional safety in parks is particularly important for girls as engaging in physical activity significantly increases their emotional vulnerability.
3. Developing spaces in which harassment, scrutiny and judgement are minimised will support more girls to feel comfortable when exercising in parks.
4. Equalising and promoting usage of specific exercise spaces for girls will create a more inclusive environment where both girls and boys feel they are welcome.
5. Actively promoting purposeful activity and organised opportunities for girls to exercise in parks, with more guidance on how space/equipment can be used is essential to encourage girls
6. Creating more playful, exciting and adventurous ways to get active, and involving girls in shaping activities and designing spaces will increase relevance and appeal.

The Green Spaces service manages 35 play areas across the borough which incorporate everything from Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), traditional play equipment such swings, roundabouts and slides, infant cycle courses, large scale bespoke adventure playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment. This provision provides a free, accessible and inclusive resources for communities and families local to where they live. Alongside this the service also offers a chargeable service to Parish Councils to support the maintenance of Parish-owned play areas.

In order to address historically low levels of physical activity and participation, reduce childhood obesity and respond to the identified priorities of children and young people across the borough, the Council's Green Spaces Strategy highlights the need for every child to live within 400m (5 minutes' walk) of a good-quality, equipped play area. The team are currently rolling out the Play Area Improvement Programme, which seeks to ensure that the borough's play areas are fit for purpose, inclusive and accessible to all children and young people.

The programme will see the introduction of accessible play equipment for the first time, including British Sign Language Panels and Accessible Swings in seven play areas across the borough.

Cycling activities are taking place for young people at Winterhill BMX Track through the club. Weekly coached sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays see 30- 50 young people in attendance along with Saturdays attended by between 10-30 young people. In addition, a monthly Sunday session is attended by the Olympic Squad Talent Team.

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Sitwell Cycling Club deliver “learn to ride” activities at Herringthorpe Stadium on a weekly basis on Saturday mornings. The sessions attract between 10- 20 participants.

Libraries

15 Rotherham Libraries welcome children from the very earliest months of life, helping parents and carers to support them as they grow and learn. Libraries provide a range of activities and events which introduce, extend and refresh the library experience for children. The Children’s Promise, developed by Libraries Connected (a membership organisation advocating for the power of libraries, representing heads of library services in England, Wales and N. Ireland) and the Association of Senior Children’s and Education Librarians (ASCEL), underpins the six Universal Offers and ensures that children are actively involved in decisions about the services that affect them as well as being offered opportunities to volunteer.

The promise includes the following goal:

“Every child and young person in libraries is inspired to read for pleasure, has access to a diverse range of materials, can engage in a variety of digital activities and can take part in activities that improve their well-being”.

In order to ensure that Rotherham Library Service continues to develop its Children’s Promise, a self-assessment tool is being developed by (Association of Children’s and Educational Libraries) ASCEL. This will be continually used to measure the service and identify areas of improvement.

Current service delivery includes:

- A wide range of modern and appealing books for Children and Young People along with Reading Well collections (books to support mental health and well-being). Books available in a community languages.
- Author Events.
- Weekly Rhyme Time sessions are held in all libraries to encourage sharing stories, rhymes and songs.
- Chatter books sessions for 7- to 11-year-olds to read and talk about the books.
- Free Computer and internet access.
- Participation in national and regional reading events that encourage participation, such as the Summer Reading Challenge, Winter Mini Reading challenge.
- Young people can take part in volunteering activities such as the Summer Reading Challenge.
- Provision of Makerspaces within libraries on a permanent and pop basis in order to provide a range of STEAM related activities.
- Creative Writing Competition (planned for Spring 2023)
- Homework clubs and code clubs
- Childrens theatre
- Fun Palaces
- Schools’ Loans Service
- Rotherham Loves Reading campaign

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- Music events and operatic performances
- Art exhibitions
- School holiday activities, events and promotions
- Bookstart scheme delivering free books and gifts to children at key ages, inspiring a love of reading from birth. Libraries are partnered with Early Years, Schools and Health Care professionals to deliver the scheme.

Leisure Centres

Rotherham's leisure centres are strategically located across the borough in line with Sport England's leisure planning guidance. These centres are sited within a 20-minute drive time of all members of the community. The four sites are mostly to be found in areas where families have a low income, with Rotherham Leisure Complex situated in Rotherham's most ethnically diverse community.

The leisure centres deliver a range of programmes and opportunities for young people that include, swimming (including lessons), teen gym, trampolining, gymnastics, racket sports as well as hosting local sports club's activity. Places Leisure have formed a strong partnership with Rotherham United Community Sports Trust and deliver as part of the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) scheme during Christmas, Summer and Easter Holidays. For the first three quarters of this financial year the centres have received 472,344 visits from young people. The leisure membership figures stands at 11,820 individual young people. Places Leisure are always keen to develop new activities and the introduction of a "sports van" scheme will be expanded in 2023 as part of an outreach programme to introduce more young people to physical activity.

B. That consideration be given to how best to expand access, especially for young people, to recreational swimming in the Borough, whilst protecting against hazards.

Leisure Centres and Country Parks

Rotherham Leisure Centres deliver an annual programme of swimming lessons in both curriculum time for schools and evenings/weekends to children and young people. The schemes incorporate educational sections on the safety of outdoor swimming with Drowning Prevention week promoted each summer. The centres distribute activity sheets, quizzes, word searches and other fun resources to aid learning. The centres have always been supportive of promoting the Council's messaging on safe swimming and the Council and Places Leisure will work together to consider ways to expand these resources to reach more young people.

Places Leisure and the Council have been developing an offer for Looked After Children (LAC) to access free swimming at all of the 4 sites. The scheme commences from the 9th January and will be monitored as part of a pilot scheme for 6 months in order to assess uptake. It is hoped this scheme will continue indefinitely. As part of the scheme during 2022 a number of LAC were taught to swim free of charge through external grant funding secured. Means tested free swimming for under 8 is still available at all of Rotherham's leisure centres.

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Thrybergh Country Park has supported open water swimming for a number of years. Partnering “Swim Your Swim”, activity is available on Saturdays 2-4pm (Summer) 2-3pm (Winter) and Wednesdays 3-8pm (Summer). Children from the aged of 8 can swim with Swim Your Swim as long as they can demonstrate a good swim technique and are accompanied by a parent or guardian who is a competent swimmer themselves. This supported programme is seen as a key activity for aiding those who wish to swim “wild” in a safe environment.

Thrybergh Country Park is also host to the Swim England Open Water National Age Group Championships in August. This past year individual age groupings from 12-18 years (male and female) took place along with 19 years + open age category. A total of 258 individuals entered.

C. That the service liaise with Children and Young People’s Services to develop a system to help young carers more easily access opportunities for leisure and culture-related respite.

There are close working relationships between Culture, Sport & Tourism and Children & Young People’s Services at an operational level across a range of services. Although there are some good examples of partnership working across the two services listed below, the process of developing the Equalities Impact Assessment has highlighted that these relationships could be formalised to provide greater and more strategic benefit.

Examples of current areas of joint working to support Young Carers between Children & Young People’s Services and Culture, Sport & Tourism include:

- CCoC has worked closely with Barnardo’s Young Carers group, including running in-depth consultation sessions with the group that will help increase the accessibility of CCoC and partners’ programme delivery. CCoC has also supported the group to access different cultural activities, e.g., theatre performances. A Barnardo’s staff member sits on the CCoC Programme Board, advocating for the children and young people they work with.
- Members of Young Carers Council now sit on Rotherham Youth Cabinet, a group that shapes Council strategy and policy. This includes Young Carers feeding into the Rotherham Youth Cabinet manifesto, which is steering large-scale initiatives for children and young people including CCoC.
- Activities for young carers are not currently free within leisure centres in general, however in 2019 a package was agreed whereby all Rotherham young people on Barnardo’s case load were offered free swimming until their 18th birthday. This scheme was subsequently interrupted by the pandemic and will be picked up as part of the action planning.
- The Museums Arts & Heritage Services has been working with Rotherham United CST on a BME Young Carers project. Four sessions have taken place to date engaging 108 participants (including artists and BME Young Carers Support Staff).

Leisure Centres

Places Leisure had several conversations pre-covid to permit Young Carers up to the age of 18 access swimming for free at all sites. This project was never finalised due to the pandemic and will need picking up as part of the action plan.

D. Expanding access and hosting cultural events at varied locations across the borough

Several initiatives are already in place across the borough in Libraries, for example:

- Fun Palaces
- Makerspaces
- Author visits
- Children's theatre sessions
- Warm Welcome spaces

In addition to the core library offer that is tailored to each individual community and their priorities. In the 2021-2026 Library Strategy, the priorities of the Library Service are aligned to the wider Culture, Sport and Tourism service and as such, Libraries have pledged a commitment to contribute to the Cultural Strategy outcomes, whereby a programme of cultural and artistic activities and events will be delivered to provide everyone with the opportunity to enjoy some form of creative experience, utilising CST venues to host such events. Diversity and equality go hand in hand with arts and culture, as they encourage individuals from every background and ability to realise their true potential therefore contributing to citizens' artistic and cultural talent.

The Arts Council England 'Creative Case for Diversity' is a way of exploring how arts and cultural organisations and artists can enrich the work they do by embracing a wide range of influences and practices. The Library Strategy recognises that libraries are a critical link between Rotherham communities and the wider cultural agenda. The location of libraries within the heart of communities affords the ideal platform to develop this piece of work.

Libraries occupy a position of trust within local communities, with a customer base which strongly values local proximity and the diverse offer which is available. The thriving neighbourhood strategy works in tandem with the library service offer within a neighbourhood setting. This allows the service to tailor community activities with the demographic of each specific community where it is located. As such, the Children's Capital of Culture programme offers Libraries and the communities in which they are located, an exciting opportunity for the future to build a wide range of accessible activities for children and young people to be delivered at the heart of local communities.

The extensive consultation carried out to achieve the current Library Strategy highlighted that Libraries are falling short in terms of registering and retaining young people aged 0-3, 12-17 and 18-25. It is widely known across Libraries that these groups are specifically hard to engage with, so an action plan was

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developed to ensure that these gaps in engagement are addressed and retained. This includes:

- Carrying out benchmarking with other Library services and learning from areas of excellence
- Working with HR to consider how to improve recruitment practice in order to encourage more applications from young people
- Working with Health Visitors and Children's Centres/ local nurseries to encourage 0-3 into Libraries
- Reviewing stock and checking that books and resources meet the needs of our residents at every age.
- Carrying out further work in schools to promote Libraries and reading for pleasure
- Holding focus groups with teenagers and young adults to explore potential barriers/interest
- Working as part of the Children's Capital of Culture partnership to improve the quality and reach of the library activities programme.
- Delivering capital improvements to Kiveton Library to enable co-location with Early Help.
- Exploring joint working opportunities with Early Help and RoSIS, RNN Group and VCS.

Children's Capital of Culture (CCoC) is one of seven Game Changers in the Rotherham Cultural Strategy. Children's Capital of Culture (CCoC) has a KPI of delivering high-quality cultural activity for and with children and young people aged 0-to-25 across all 25 of Rotherham's wards during its festival year (2025).

Work towards this goal has already begun:

- During Phase One of the project ('Starting The Conversation: 2021-22'), in-depth, in-person consultation work with 1,330 children, young people and communities took place in 13 of Rotherham's 25 wards
- During Phase One of the project cultural activity delivery took place in 16 of Rotherham's 25 wards.

This programme of cultural activity was free to access, and additional funding was available for individual participants' and key groups' access costs (e.g. transport, childcare, PA support) to further remove access barriers. Promotional materials were translated into different languages (Urdu, Slovak and French) to increase participation from communities who do not speak English or speak English as an Additional Language. At all events that weren't drop-in (e.g. durational workshop programmes, events that are signed up for in advance), details of participants' access requirements and/or additionalities were securely gathered in advance in order to make adaptations to ensure their needs are met.

Following consultation work with community partners, CCoC has delivered specific target programmes for children and young people with different identified protected characteristics (e.g., SEND young people, BME young people, LGBT+ young people). During Phase Two of the project ('Making It Happen: 2022-24'), CCoC will build upon this initial work by extending the project's geographic reach, ensuring

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that high-quality cultural activities take place across the whole of Rotherham. Work so far includes:

- CCoC have begun and continue to present at ward meetings for all wards who name work with children and young people as one of their priorities, in order to gain an informed understanding of that locality and their young population's needs, and to plan cultural activity and event delivery accordingly. Work will continue in partnership with the Neighbourhoods team and grassroots community partners to host cultural activity in venues across Rotherham that are accessible to a wide range of different participants.
- CCoC are piloting a project with Rotherham Music that will create a "digital map" of all 25 wards in Rotherham; this will be created by and with children and young people. The pilot for this project is in two areas where there has been no CCoC delivery so far (Swinton and Anston), as well as delivering in low-income areas and areas of high ethnic diversity (Boston Castle and Rotherham East) where work has previously been done. Children and young people in these areas will participate in free creative workshops, and see their localities celebrated through an innovative "digital map" that can be accessed by a global audience. Activities will take place in a wide range of venues, including schools, youth centres, boxing gyms, and other community spaces.
- CCoC is researching a potential 'Community Champions' programme which will support and empower community members to deliver cultural activity relevant to their local youth population. CCoC has consulted with Leeds 2023 regarding running this kind of programme.

Flux Rotherham is a new initiative, funded by Arts Council England, which is enabling creative activities to take place across the borough and in areas which have traditionally had limited engagement in the arts and culture.

Over the last 12 months the **Events Team** have partnered with **Flux Rotherham** to support the development of community-led across the borough. Working with provision that is already embedded in the community at Ferham and Wath alongside supporting events organisers at Maltby, Swinton and Wentworth to develop and scale up annual events through the Rotherham Events Safety Advisory Group.

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

Culture, Sport & Tourism services respond to local need and demand which is based on the context and experience of children and young people living in Rotherham today. Statistics show that:

- There are an estimated 57,453* children and young people aged 0-to-18 living in Rotherham (*The Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year estimate 2020, published June 2021).
- At the end of December 2021, 2,583 children and young people in Rotherham aged 0-to-25 had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (approx. 3.2% of the Borough's 0-to-25 population).

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- As of the January 2021 school census, 45,189 children and young people were attending Rotherham's schools. Rotherham's schools identify a relatively high rate of pupils with any Special Education Needs (17.8% - which is 1.5% above the national average).
- Of Rotherham's 16-to-17 population, 91.10% are participating in education or training, while 4% are Not in Education or Employment (NEET). The destinations of the other 4.6% of 16-to-17 year olds are now known (data updated June 2021).
- 91.9% of the overall Rotherham population are White British, while 8.1% of the population have BME identities. The percentage of BME inhabitants is significantly higher in both the centre of Rotherham Borough, and in its young population. For example, 34.8% of pupils living in Boston Castle ward are White British, while 65.2% are non-White British.
- Only half of children in Rotherham (51.1%) are active outside of school for 30 minutes or more
- Borough wide child obesity in reception year is 11%, slightly higher than the national average of 10.4%

Data from the 2017 **Active Lives Survey** showed that:

- 51.3% of people locally compared to 61.8% nationally engaged in more than 150 minutes of physical activity weekly
- 37% of people in Rotherham are inactive (less than 30 mins pw) against the national average of 25.7%.

More recent data from the Active Lives Survey in 2021 shows:

- Only half of children in Rotherham (51.1%) are active outside of school for 30 minutes or more

However recent public health data shows that:

- Borough wide child obesity in reception year is 11%, slightly higher than the national average of 10.4%

In addition to the above general context the recent **Rotherham Voice of the Child Lifestyle Survey 2022**, was shared with all students in Year 7 (ages 11-12) and Year 10 (ages 14-15), receiving responses from 4,548 students in total out of a possible 6,973: this is a 65% participation rate. In terms of protected characteristics the survey demonstrated:

- 72.6% (3301) describe themselves as White British (compared to 77.2% in 2019).
- 23% (1045) describe themselves as from a Black or Minority Ethnic group (BME), compared to 17.6% in 2019.
- 4.4% (202) preferred not to disclose information about their ethnicity.
- 54 out of 75 looked after children in Year 7 completed the survey (72%) and 58 out 96 (60%) completed the survey in Year 10.
- In total, 20.8% of respondents reported having a long- term illness, health problem, disability or medical condition. Of these, a further 839 provided further information, with the top 3 reported conditions being: asthma/breathing and fatigue, autism and mental health problems.

The survey also asked specific questions about engagement with and participation in culture and leisure activities with the following results:

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- 34% report engagement in physical exercise compared to 17% in 2021.
- 32% report engagement in outdoor activities, compared to 16% in 2021.
- 22% of students say they exercise 6 to 7 times a week, compared to 20.5% in 2022.
- 6% (199) of students say they never take part in any exercise, compared to 4.3% in 2019

There was an 80% response rate to the questions about engagement with the Council's cultural and leisure provision. Of these:

- 72.5% have visited country parks
- 67% have visited leisure centres
- 56% have visited urban parks
- 61% of Y7s have visited Clifton Park Museum, compared to 55% of Year 10s.
- 55% of Y7s have visited a library, compared to 37% of Y10s.
- 36% have been to the Civic Theatre.

However, there is a need to cross-reference these findings with the equalities and ward information in order to check if there is a correlation between low levels of engagement and protected characteristics and geographical location.

Both **Libraries & neighbourhood Hubs, Events, Children's Capital of Culture and Museums, Arts Heritage** do collect more detailed data regarding protected characteristics although these are not always cross referenced e.g. while the data will show the number of visitors and participants from BME backgrounds and the age profile of visitors, it does not show the number of BME children and young people who visited and/or participated in activities delivered by these services

Libraries & Neighbourhood Hubs

Over the last 12 months:

- 970 children aged 0 - 4 and 6569 children aged 5 - 15 have borrowed a book or other library material
- Over 30000 visits have been made to libraries
- 740 children completed the Summer Reading Challenge

As a key element of the Library Review which informed the current 5- year **Library Strategy**, a three-phase consultation was carried out. The Assessment of Local Need was used to identify local need, including the general and specific needs of children who live, work and study in the borough. It provided accurate data to inform the consultation and subsequent Library Strategy. The first phase of consultation was carried out in April 2019, followed by consultation on more detailed proposals in May 2019, followed by the final phase of consultation and engagement in April 2020. Detailed proposals were shared, including identification of potential improvements to services and efficiencies, in the context of a refreshed Library Strategy. This allowed the service to identify if there is a fair representation within the local libraries to reflect the population by area. By identifying these areas for improvement, this allowed the service to target the key gaps in service engagement and formulate an action plan to address these.

Children's Capital of Culture 2025

Between August 2021 and September 2022 1,330 people took part in in-depth, in-person consultation workshops with CCoC. Of these:

- 3.7% were under 7 (aged 3-to-6)
- 37.1% were aged 7-to-11 (Key Stage 2)
- 36% were aged 11-to-16 (Key Stage 3 & 4)
- 9.3% were aged 16-to-25 (post-16)
- 1.8% were aged over 25
- 3.3% attended youth groups with a mixed junior intake (spanning ages 5-to-14)
- And 9.3% attended youth groups with a mixed senior intake (spanning ages 11-to-25)

Of these 1,330 people, 511 partially or fully completed evaluation and data collection postcards.

- 260 of the participants gave information about their ethnicity. 50.6% listed their ethnicity as 'White British', 'English' or 'White', while 50.4% listed other ethnicities ('Pakistani', 'Slovenian', 'Mixed' and 'Pakistani British' were the most represented groups in this 50.4%)
- 444 of the participants gave information about their gender. 52.5% indicated they were female, 54.5% indicated they were male, and 3% indicated they had other gender identities.

Of the 57 young people who took part in paid Young Producer traineeships with CCoC:

- 15 listed their gender as 'Male, and 38 listed their gender as 'Female'. 5 young people did not list their gender.
- 40 listed their ethnicity as 'White', 7 listed their gender as being from different BME groups (including 'Asian', 'Asian British', 'African', 'Black British', 'Caribbean' and 'Multiple Ethnic Groups'). 10 did not list their ethnicity.
- The Young Producers were recruited from 20 of Rotherham's 25 wards.
- 14 of the young people were care-experienced
- All the young people were aged 16-to-25

During Phase One of CCoC, consultation and engagement activity took place in 16 of Rotherham's 25 wards.

Events

Whilst audience attendance data is collected, demographic data is not collected at all events. The event with the most detailed data on equalities is collected for Rotherham Show which has the following audience demographic data:

- Average 60/40 split in gender in favour of women is consistent across the years
- Attendance from 16-24 year olds is consistently lower but did grow from 7% to 9% year on year
- The proportion of families with children visiting the show (51% had more than one child in their party in 2022) which is considerably higher than the

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32% of households in Rotherham who have a dependent child living at home

- 39% of visitors in 2022 has at least one child aged under 5 in their party; 60% had at least one child aged 5-11 in their party; 41% had at least one child aged 12-16 in their party
- 65% of the audience attendance is from Rotherham with 24% was from the wider region and 11% outside of the South Yorkshire area.
- Visitors are staying longer at the show, in 2021 34% stayed 2-3 hours with 41% staying 3 hours or more. In 2022 24% stayed three hours with 71% staying 3 hours or more
- The ethnicity of the audience roughly tracks the ethnic breakdown of the local population year on year with 2022 's audience identifying as: White British: 91%; Asian or Asian British: 5%; Black British:1%; Mixed heritage: 3%

It is known that children and young people attend other events, for example 250 children and young people took part in Rotherham 10k in 2022, however there is no demographic data collected for these events.

Museums Arts & Heritage

Clifton Park Museum undertakes an Audience Finder Visitor Service annually through the Audience Agency. The survey uses standardised methodologies to enable the service to benchmark against previous year data and national and regional census data. The survey is collected using a systematic sample size and is undertaken for a full financial year. The data can be viewed throughout the year, to enable the service to build up an understanding of visitors throughout the year. This data is for visitors to Clifton Park Museum only and does not include targeted outreach and engagement with community groups or school visits. The data for 2022/23 is not a full year of data, as the year runs from April through to March, but is useful in providing an important snapshot into the current changing visitor profile of the Museum.

The Audience Finder data does not include the age breakdown of children, so this data is collected manually at the entrance. Data was not collected in this format during 2021/22 due to Covid measures still being in place. Table 1 shows the data on age profile of visitors so far this financial year:

Table 1: Audience Age Groups (From April 2022)

0-5	17%
6-18	25%
18-49	47%
55 or older	11%

Children under 5 years and adults over the age of 55+ are target audiences for the service. Through ongoing engagement through its Nelson's Cub Club programme and intergenerational family learning offer, these audiences are starting to grow.

Table 2 is taken from the Audience Finder survey and shows a sharp increase this year of female visitors. This could be due to the temporary exhibition 'Grass Roots

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to Glory – Our Story so Far' which celebrated the untold story of women's football in Rotherham.

Table 2: Gender		
	2022/23	2021/22
Female	77%	33%
Male	23%	67%
Other	0%	0%

Table 3 shows that the service has seen an increase over the last year of BME audiences. This is due to the ongoing targeted engagement with BME communities and individuals to empower them to share their stories and collections with us. This ongoing engagement is continuing through the development of the Early Years Programme in which anti-racism practices are being embedded as the service co-creates the programme with BME families and recruits artists who reflect the diversity of the families it works with.

Table 3: Ethnicity		
	2022/23	2021/22
Asian or Asian British	11%	5%
Black or Black British	3%	1%
Mixed: Multiple Ethnic background	0%	3%
White	81%	90%
Other	6%	1%

The BME population of Rotherham more than doubled between 2001 and 2011, increasing from 10,080 to 20,842. 8% of the population belonged to ethnic groups other than White British in 2011 (6% were from non-white groups), well below the English average of 20%. The white minority ethnic population (almost all European) was 2,368 in 2001, rising by 82% to 4,320 in 2011.

Table 4 shows the slight increase in visitors who consider themselves to be disabled or a long-term health condition. The service has undertaken an access audit for Clifton Park Museum to understand and mitigate some of the access challenges faced by some audiences. This work is ongoing and will also see the introduction of a Changing Places facility at Clifton Park Museum in 2023.

Table 4: Identify as D/deaf, disabled or living with a long-term health condition		
	2022/23	2021/22
Yes	7%	6%
No	93%	94%

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

Consistent collection of equalities and demographic data across all services

Some services within Culture, Sport & Tourism have data collection and analytics systems that are well developed and are able to better monitor and support targeted audiences, where others have historically lacked the systems and process to gather this information. The following services do not collect or hold equalities information regarding age, ethnicity or gender:

- Green Spaces
- Rotherham Music
- Rotherham Civic Theatre

Leisure Centres ensure all participants are logged as members- whether paying or non -paying. However, not all equalities data is captured by Places Leisure as a company and this is reflected locally. Future actions will require further exploration of the ability to collect member data relating to disability and ethnicity.

The **Children's Capital of Culture (CCoC)** programme is in its infancy having delivered one year of public engagement activity following its launch in February 2022.

At the start of the CCoC project, the CCoC delivery team undertook in-depth consultation with local children and young people about how they wanted to be worked with. Young people demonstrated a very clear adverse reaction to personal characteristic-based audience segmentation (e.g., that they didn't want to be 'pigeon-holed' based on their identities). In respect of this, CCoC only undertook a limited collection of demographics data from the over 99,000 participations its activities had during Phase One of the project.

Though it is understandable that young people feel reluctant to share by demographics data, this means it difficult to accurately measure the breadth and reach of CCoC activities, including whether participants are reflective of the diversity of Rotherham's communities and whether the programme is meeting the needs of participants with protected characteristics. An evaluation of the UK Community Renewal Funded programme to support young people aged 16-25 to undertake paid traineeships found that many were unwilling to disclose details regarding personal characteristics such as gender identity or neurodiversity until trust had been built with their host organisation. This resulted in the data mis-representing the cohort as this data is collected at the start of employment. The cohort was known to have a high proportion of trans and non-binary young people however employment data collection only offers the option of 'male', 'female' or 'prefer not to say', as such this data could not be captured.

CCoC did not collect data from the Young Producer cohort pertaining to sexual orientation, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity. There is a balance between ensuring that young people do not feel "over-scrutinised" and/or pressured to disclose personal information and ensuring data is collected robustly to enable enactment of effective equality and diversity measures.

As the programme develops an Evaluation Framework will be required which is both respectful of the wishes of children and young people and the data they wish to share, whilst enabling the service to ensure that there is an appropriate level of representation and reach within marginalised groups.

Ability to identify and effectively reach Young Carers

Whilst there are some known networks for Young Carers such as Barnardo's in Rotherham and links via the Early Help team, it is recognised that often young carers don't identify themselves as such and would not see themselves as caring for a relative in order to categorise themselves in this way.

Through relationships that the CCoC programme has built with Early Help, it is clear that schools and colleges where a close relationship is built between teachers and students is often the best route to identifying young carers. The service needs to build closer links with adults in the lives of children to gather better data and document the true number of young carers who could benefit from the support offered by cultural venues and partners.

Data-driven engagement and participation programmes and sharing best practice

For services where data is captured more effectively, such as **Libraries & Neighbourhood Hubs** and **Museums, Arts & Heritage** it is clear to see high levels of engagement with communities including:

- Women and Girls (Libraries & Neighbourhood Hubs)
- Children 0-11 (Libraries & Neighbourhood Hubs; Museums, Arts & Heritage)
- Adults aged 55+ (Libraries & Neighbourhood Hubs; Museums, Arts & Heritage)
- BME Communities (Museums, Arts & Heritage)

These two services are more developed in their programmes and have worked hard to embed themselves with key target communities through aligning their needs with other Council departments, such as Early Help and RoSIS to engage with young people. This also means strengthening the contribution services can make to the wider strategic priorities of the Council and the voluntary and community sector, such as working with **Places Leisure** to engage young people with the co-located library at Maltby providing an ideal opportunity to reach users of the leisure centre. In turn the library can enable Places Leisure to reach those who might not otherwise engage with their services, helping to increase levels of physical activity which can improve health outcomes in the borough.

The best practice models and data collection within these services can be shared across Culture Sport & Tourism helping to develop consistent methodologies and case studies for engagement and participation programmes in other areas of the service.

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

The **Cultural Strategy** report to Cabinet in June 2019 included an Equalities Impact Assessment and the **Cultural Partnership Board** has an action plan which includes a section on Equalities. This is monitored at each meeting with partners asked to update in time to discuss any issues by exception. In addition, the Board are currently working up an additional suite of KPI's as mentioned in the action plan.

An evaluation and monitoring framework is being developed for **Children's Capital of Culture** and this will enable us to track the change that young people want to see against a baseline. This will be cross-referenced with the **Rotherham Voice of the Child Lifestyle Survey**, which also provides useful annual data about children and young people's participation in leisure and culture and information about some, but not all, protected characteristics.

The Culture Sport and Tourism service produces quarterly monitoring reports in partnership with the Council's performance Team. This data however, is patchy in terms of equalities and work is ongoing to build a more comprehensive set of KPI's and produce new method statements for data collection.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	<p>Library Services consultation: (list as per Library Strategy EIA)</p> <p>Children's Capital of Culture: consultation with young people undertaken in 2017, 2018, 2021 & 2022</p> <p>Museum, Arts, Heritage: Qualitative focus groups and workshops and Audience Finder Surveys 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.</p> <p>Events: Event evaluations for UPLIFT Skate & Arts Festival (2022), WoW – Women of the World Festival (2022) and Rotherham Show (2019, 2021 & 2022)</p> <p>Engagement with Young Inspectors programme from Events, Rotherham Civic Theatre, Green Spaces, Museums, Arts & Heritage, Children's Capital of Culture.</p>
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	<p>Staff across Culture Sport Tourism (CST) were consulted in the early stages of the Cultural Strategy's production via the Operational Managers Group. In addition, 3 workshops took place with officers</p>

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	<p>across the Council with representation from Adult Social Care, Children and Young People's Services, Corporate Communications, Public Health, Regeneration and Environment.</p> <p>The CST team met as part of the monthly Operational Manager Group meetings in January 2022 and discussed the collation of KPI's and measuring performance. This included a mini workshop on how to measure and collect the relevant information.</p> <p>Library Strategy Consultation 2020.</p> <p>There are a number of established Working Groups which bring officers from across the service and beyond the Council together to undertake delivery of major programmes. These groups are focused on operational delivery but also offer an opportunity for staff to share their views and expertise. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Water Safety Group • Women's Euro22 Leagcy • Rotherham Show Community Production Board • Rotherham 10k Town centre road race • The "Big Active Conversation" network
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4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

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

Given the Scrutiny Review lines of enquiry, this section focuses on the above protected characteristics in relation to children and young people.

There has been significant expansion in the availability of activities for children and young people at Council facilities such as the **museum**, **libraries** in general, and the work on the **Children's Capital of Culture**. This increase has also seen improvement in the variety of the activities on offer. The breadth of partners delivering quality work with children and

young people has also increased through organisations such as **Flux Rotherham, Gullivers, Grimm and Co, Magna and Wentworth Woodhouse**.

Age: The data held in relation to young people notes there is evidence of take up across the different age groups 0-25, but this is not consistent at each age group and not consistent across all wards within the borough. Therefore, there is still work to do.

Disability: In terms of disability provision, this is not consistent. Whilst partners have worked to ensure activities, events and venues are inclusive and accessible (for example, through provision of Changing Places facilities, sensory spaces and mobility support) there is still more to be done if activities are to accommodate the needs of people with a range of physical disabilities, learning disabilities, sensory conditions, neurodiversity and mental health conditions. Once again, working with experienced partners in Children and Young People's services and community partners such as SENSE and Artworks Rotherham, to develop targeted activity.

Sex: Provision for women and girls has been one of the major recent successes. The legacy work relating to the **Women's Euros 2022** and the subsequent **WoW Festival** (now biannual) have provided the resource and profile to engage with many young women and girls to understand what provision they would like to participate in, provide the opportunity to trial new ideas and fund new activity. This work will continue and partners will also investigate the need for targeted work with boys where there is low take-up of provision.

Gender Reassignment and Sexual Orientation: A number of “go see” visits have taken place with Early Help groups as part of the **Children's Capital of Culture** programme and the **WoW Festival** specifically targets LGBTQIA+ groups. This is another area where further consideration needs to be given.

Race, Religion and Belief: Provision considering race, religion and belief have made positive strides forward with specific provision targeting young carers at the museum (and their families) and local community groups available as examples of best practice. The Cultural Partnership Board has invited 3 new members from BME communities as advocates for young people and the creative industries.

Significant efforts to target priority communities where historical uptake in activity has been low have been made. An example of such provision is through **Flux Rotherham**, who have managed to engage with a variety of communities from a geographical perspective. Suitable facilities and locations from which to operate in all wards are just a couple of the limiting factors at play.

Culture Sport and Tourism and the **Cultural Partnership Board** still recognise that whilst significant progress has been made since 2019, there is still a long way to go. **Children's Capital of Culture** is an important vehicle for change.

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

Affordability and available resources: partners recognise the need for events and activities that are free or very low cost, but this has to be balanced against the need to

make available resources stretch. External funding has been critical in bringing in new investment to make new, free or low cost, activity take place.

Transport and travel still play a huge factor and the current cost of living crisis is not helping with an already struggling community.

Variety and volume: Levels of provision overall are still lacking, this includes variety both in terms of the activity and the location geographically. Significant sums of external grant funding have been obtained in recent times, but this only goes to highlight how much ground Rotherham needs to make up - with Active Lives data and Voice of the Child Lifestyle demonstrating there is still more work to do to increase the scale and diversity of the offer and meet the needs and aspirations of local young people.

Lack of suitable high quality specialist provision: Ward based provision for culture, sport and the arts can be challenging if the right facilities and suitable locations don't exist. This is not an easy problem to overcome, and CST officers and partner organisations have had to be creative in where activity is delivered. This is obviously not a "quick fix" but the Council's capital improvement programme has made significant steps forward and will play a part in providing facilities for the future. Libraries and parks continue to have an important role at a neighbourhood level.

Normalising and valuing participation in culture, sport and physical activity

Local leaders and adults in the lives of children and young people still need to be vocal about normalising engagement. Local communities will only "know what they know" and many programmes over the past year have started to use the community champion model: for example, Moving Rotherham Partnership has worked with senior officers/ leaders to help influence positive messaging.

Understanding the Value and Impact of Culture, Green Spaces and Physical Activity

A significant outcome from the Covid-19 pandemic was that people began to better understand the important role culture plays in society, particularly in relation to health and wellbeing. As Rotherham continues its recovery from the pandemic, culture has an important role to play in inclusive economic growth, developing skills, confidence, community cohesion and civic pride.

Insufficient Marketing and Communications: Communities and groups still don't know where to find out about activity and more consistent, creative ways of reaching residents need to be developed. Furthermore, as the industry itself recovers, generating sales and other trading are increasingly important to creating an sustainable and resilient sector.

Data gathering analysis and reporting: Consistency around data is still an issue. There is a need to develop this further across Council services and with the wider Cultural Partnership Board, Public Health and CYPS. Work is required with services that are less developed in their improvement journey: for example Green Spaces, the Music service and the Theatre.

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

Scale, variety and choice The CST service is working hard to improve the variety of the offer through providing more choice on how and where people are able to participate: there has been a significant improvement in the scale of the offer as a consequence of Gullivers, Wentworth Woodhouse, Flux Rotherham and funded

Quality There are a number of organisations that are genuinely leading the way in relation to work to engage young people and those who would otherwise not take part: for example Grimm and Co, Rotherham Museum, CCoC and Flux. Partnership-working has improved significantly and best practice is being shared. This is resulting in better quality engagements with young people.

Improved libraries and other spaces and places The Council's Capital programme for libraries has enabled better quality, more welcoming environments in local neighbourhoods. Developments at Gullivers, Wentworth Woodhouse, Grimm and Co, Rotherham Civic Theatre, Herringthorpe Stadium, Clifton Park Museum and play facilities across the borough have significantly improved the quality of the offer.

Better Reach through More Targeted Activities Good work has taken place to identify gaps in beneficiaries and deliver targeted activities which meet the needs and aspirations of , reach an agreement to support Looked After Children with a VIP free offer to access provision at all 4 local leisure centres.

Consultation, Data and Evaluation The quality of the data and insight/evaluation that has been undertaken more recently is much improved. Services generally now have a much better understanding of the needs of young people and other vulnerable communities. Positive examples can be found within the Moving Rotherham Board, CCoC Board and Cultural Partnership Board. These boards have enabled good practice to be shared.

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

The majority of Culture, Sport and Tourism provision is universal, and the challenge is to ensure that gaps are filled rather than excluding sectors of the community.

The development of Children's Capital of Culture initiative as the driving game changer for the Cultural Partnership Board provides significant opportunities for CYP, however the programme also recognises the importance of adults in the lives of young people. This ensures that adults across the borough have the opportunity to be included. Another good example of this is Flux Rotherham, which secured investment of £2m for creative activities with post 16 residents. This has enabled communities across the borough to experience and participate in a wide range of Arts and Cultural activities.

Moving forward, all partners recognise the importance of working with people with protected characteristics in addition to the wider community.

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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: Spotlight Review - The Cultural Strategy
Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment; Culture, Sport and Tourism
Lead Manager: Chris Siddall, Head of Sport, Leisure & Strategic Partnerships
Summary of findings:
<p>The Culture, Sport and Tourism (CST) Service within the Council deliver and facilitate a wide range of activities for children and young people across the borough. The various teams have different levels of resource from which to actively engage with the community and rely heavily on attracting additional funding from external resources. The service coordinates the borough's Cultural Partnership Board and Moving Rotherham Board and oversee the delivery of the Cultural Strategy. Its mission to 'Get more people, more active, creative and outdoors, more often' is in recognition that levels of participation in cultural and physical activity generally track at 10% below the national average. An extensive range of partners support the strategies delivery and relationships have been built over significant periods of time to ensure commitment and joint working is at its most productive.</p> <p>This report highlights the many ways in which young people are presently engaged in culture, however it also acknowledges weakness in certain areas, in particular around data collection, evidencing attendance from for example, BAME communities and those with a disability. In the main, this is due to funding partners not requiring this information and the complexities around the data collection itself. It is worth noting, however that CST are currently reviewing their performance monitoring with a view to capturing this additional information.</p> <p>Strides have been made in recent months on inclusive offers for swimming in the borough's leisure centres, but the service is aware there is still work to do- particularly relating to young carers.</p>

The report highlights the extensive measures the Children's Capital of Culture Programmes is taking to engage with a wide variety of young people from all backgrounds and communities. Libraries remain a vital resource in ensuring people are able to access, in the main, free services, locally. The borough's leisure centres, museum and heritage sites also support an extensive and varied network of activity.

The report finally concludes with an assessment on how it meets the needs of people with protected characteristics, the barriers it faces and has produced a robust action plan from which to measure and report upon the recommendations of the Spotlight review in a smart and timely manner.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
A. That the range of available activities tailored for young residents of the Borough be prioritised for expansion.		
• Develop an evaluation and monitoring framework for Children's Capital of Culture 2025 to track the change that young people want to see and monitor progress against these factors	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	June 2023
• Audit of provision and usage from across Cultural Partnership Board to better understand current provision and any equalities cold spots	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	June 2023
• Create a Task & Finish Group from the Cultural Partnership Board to support the development of a children and young people build-up programme for Children's Capital of Culture 2025	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	March 2023
• Develop a new data dashboard for CST and the Cultural Partnership Board of consistent KPI's, building on best practice	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	April 2023
• Work with HR to consider how to improve recruitment practice in order to encourage more job applications from young people	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO, C	April 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Health Visitors, Early Years and Children's Centres/local nurseries to encourage 0-3 into Libraries. Identify particular opportunities where a library is co-located 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO, C	May 2023
B. That consideration be given to how best to expand access, especially for young people, to recreational swimming in the Borough, whilst protecting against hazards		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a programme of swimming lessons at Open Water sites to incorporate a water safety module 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	December 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out free swimming provision for Looked After Children in all leisure centres 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the water safety resource pack from leisure centres to include key water attractions in the borough through Discovery Days at Country Parks e.g., Thrybergh, Ulley and Rother Valley 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	May 2023
C. That the service liaises with Children and Young People's Services to develop a system to help young carers more easily access opportunities for leisure and culture-related respite		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Children & Young People's Services to formalise delivery of cultural and sport services for young people from marginalised backgrounds e.g., young carers 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate a cultural offer working in partnership with local authority teams and the Young Carer's Service provided by Barnardo's. This is to include training on identifying Young Carer 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	March 2023
D. Expanding access and hosting cultural events at varied locations across the borough		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Task & Finish Group from the Cultural Partnership to support the development of a children and young people build-up programme for Children's Capital of Culture 2025 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	March 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Rotherham Events Safety Advisory Group to consider a programme of training and development for local event organisers 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	June 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Culture, Sport and Tourism Service are in the process of developing a Major Events Strategy. The strategy will also consider legacy and impact on local residents- broader than the event itself. 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO	December 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work as part of the Children's Capital of Culture partnership to improve the quality and reach of the library activities programme 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO, C	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out benchmarking with other LAs/partners and organisations in order to learn from areas of excellence 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO, C	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with CYPS to cross-reference data in the Voice of the Child Lifestyle Survey related to equalities, geographical residence and cultural and leisure engagement 	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO, C	June 2023

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Polly Hamilton	Assistant Director for Culture, Sport & Tourism	11 th January 2023
Paul Woodcock	Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment	12 th January 2023
Cllr Dave Sheppard	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion	12 th January 2023
Chris Siddall	Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships	11 th January 2023
Leanne Buchan	Head of Creative Programming and Engagement	11 th January 2023
Zoe Oxley	Head of Operations & Business Transformation	11 th January 2023

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	11 th January 2023
Report title and date	Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review - Cultural Strategy 13 th February 2023
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	11 th January 2023

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APPENDIX 4

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Impact	Additional activities within communities have the potential to generate the requirement to open facilities for longer hours	The impact will be minimal as many of the buildings utilised will already host other sessions/ activities. However, there may be circumstances where increasing the opening hours is required.	Care can be taken to ensure buildings are only heated and lit for the times specifically required to deliver the activity.	Monitor timings heating and lighting is utilised.
Emissions from transport?	Impact	Additional activities within communities have the potential to generate increased traffic from those wishing to attend activities.	The impact will be minimal as we only envisage a small number of vehicles per week would be used to transport participants to activities.	Deliver activities within a local area. Promote active travel measures such as cycling and walking to activities	Potential to monitor the number of cars used to transport participants to and from venues/ activities.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No Impact	NA	NA	NA	NA
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No Impact	NA	NA	NA	NA

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

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

This report outlines the issues raised at scrutiny spotlight review by the ILSC/ IPSC and the recommendations made by The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. Overall, it is envisaged that the recommendations will have little to no impact on carbon emissions for the Council and the town. There are some measures identified that will potentially mitigate against increased emissions, but this is difficult to quantify with only minimal monitoring measures in place.

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

Additional activities within communities have the potential to generate the requirement to open facilities for longer hours- Ensure utilised buildings (if appropriate) are heated and lit for the appropriate times of the activities.

Additional activities within communities have the potential to generate increased traffic from those wishing to attend activities. - Encouragement of participants to travel to activities by active travel methods

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Chris Siddall, Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships Culture, Sport and Tourism, Regeneration & Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	None
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 12 April 2023

Report Title

Cabinet Response to the outcomes from the Scrutiny Review - Markets: Engagement and Recovery Strategy

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager

simeon.leach@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Boston Castle

Report Summary

To report on the response to the findings and recommendations from the Improving Places Select Commission spotlight review of Rotherham Markets carried out during 2022.

Recommendations

1. That Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations as detailed in the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Appendix 2 – Equalities Screening Form (Part A) and Analysis (Part B)

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Cabinet – 23rd February 2023

Improving Places Select Commission – 7 June 2022 Scrutiny Review

Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12 October 2022 Scrutiny Review

Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Cabinet -19 December 2022 Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Cabinet – 23 February 2023

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

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1. Background

- 1.1 This report responds to the recommendations from the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Spotlight Review of Rotherham Markets agreed by Improving Places Select Commission on 7 June 2022. The Spotlight Review examined the recovery and regeneration of the markets in Rotherham Town Centre, post pandemic.
- 1.2 Members undertook a site visit to tour the Markets Complex before a discussion with officers and other stakeholders regarding the current situation facing the Markets and the proposals for their redevelopment.
- 1.3 During the site visit and discussions IPSC Members identified the Market rules and regulations as an area they wished to review in greater detail. A subsequent meeting was held on 19 July 2022 to consider opportunities to update and simplify the rules and regulations.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the recommendations following the Improving Places Select Commission's review of the Markets' and the proposed response for Council to consider, which was approved by Cabinet on 23rd February 2023.
- 2.2 The recommendations, set out below, were developed subsequent to meetings with Officers with responsibility for the management and operation of markets in Rotherham, as well as representatives of the National Association of British Markets (NABMA) and National Market Traders Federation (NMTF).
- 2.3 The recommendations from the IPSC are:
 - a) That face-to-face consultations and clear communication be prioritised in all interactions with vendors and traders.
 - b) That the service consult case studies and resources available in the libraries of NABMA and NMTF to inform the redevelopment of Rotherham markets.
 - c) That the service re-evaluates the support offer for new vendors, in consultation with the NABMA and NMTF, with a view to encouraging more new vendors to continue trading beyond the six-month introductory period.
 - d) In view of relevant expert advice in respect of sustaining a market during redevelopment works, that retaining traders through the redevelopment phase be considered top priority.
 - e) That any redesign of markets spaces duly considers usability and aesthetics, consulting market research to optimise spaces for inclusiveness and accessibility, and to make the offer especially attractive to students and young people.
 - f) That consideration be given to how the redesign and operation of the markets may best cater to the needs and interests of younger

generations by strengthening links with Rotherham College, North Notts College and Dearne Valley College (RNN Group) student populations and extending opportunities to new entrepreneurs through the Young Traders Scheme.

- g) Recognising that the town centre markets represent a unique and distinct community of buyers and sellers with its own accompanying needs and character, that consideration be given to the ongoing management resource required to sustain the markets economy successfully over the long term.
- h) That consideration be given to design and development choices that would help the markets to incorporate cashless, up-to-date approaches to commerce that their potential customers expect.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council note the Cabinet response to outcomes from the Scrutiny Review - Markets: Engagement and Recovery Strategy set out in Appendix 1.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Details of consultation have been set out in the relevant sections of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The recommendations will be reviewed and implemented over a period of time, with a number likely to be part of the wider redevelopment project. The timetable for implementing the recommendations is set out in Appendix 1.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 Financial implications are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.
- 6.2 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report other than that the improvements identified will help commercial arrangements positively for markets.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no material legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

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 arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Details of any implications are listed within the Initial Equalities Screening Form (Part A) and Analysis (Part B) completed and included in Appendix 2.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report as recorded at Appendix 3.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Implications for partners are set out in the main sections of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Cabinet's recommendations listed in Appendix 1 of this report have considered the risks and mitigations associated with all proposed actions.

Accountable Officer(s)

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director, Regeneration & Environment

Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning Regeneration and Transport

Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 13 February 2023

Report Title

Cabinet Response to the Scrutiny Review - Markets: Engagement and Recovery Strategy

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager
simeon.leach@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Boston Castle

Report Summary

This report responds to the recommendations from the Improving Places Select Commission spotlight review of Rotherham Markets carried out during 2022. The review examined the recovery and regeneration of the markets in Rotherham Town Centre.

Members undertook a site visit to tour the markets complex, viewed the areas for redevelopment, and met relevant Council officers and other stakeholders. This included a presentation illustrating the current situation facing the Rotherham Town Centre and Markets post-pandemic, opportunities for improving day to day engagement and communications and an outline of plans for redevelopment of the markets complex to re-invigorate supply and demand between sellers and buyers by attracting a new demographic to experience the markets.

A subsequent meeting was held in July 2022 to discuss the Markets' rules and regulations and how they could be updated and made more fit for purpose. The summary of findings and recommendations from the review were presented to Cabinet on the 19th December 2022 and this report proposes the responses to the recommendations.

Recommendations

1. That the Cabinet response to the Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery be approved.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review – Markets: Engagement and Recovery
- Appendix 2 – Equalities Screening Form (Part A) and Analysis (Part B)
- Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Improving Places Select Commission – 7 June 2022 Scrutiny Review

Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12 October 2022 Scrutiny Review

Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Cabinet -19 December 2022 Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review - Markets: Engagement and Recovery Strategy**1. Background**

- 1.1 This report responds to the recommendations from the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Spotlight Review of Rotherham Markets agreed by Improving Places Select Commission on 7 June 2022. The Spotlight Review examined the recovery and regeneration of the markets in Rotherham Town Centre, post pandemic.
- 1.2 Members undertook a site visit to tour the Markets Complex before a discussion with officers and other stakeholders regarding the current situation facing the Markets and the proposals for their redevelopment.
- 1.3 During the site visit and discussions IPSC Members identified the Market rules and regulations as an area they wished to review in greater detail. A subsequent meeting was held on 19 July 2022 to consider opportunities to update and simplify the rules and regulations.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the recommendations following the Improving Places Select Commission's review of the Markets' and the proposed response for Cabinet to consider.
- 2.2 The recommendations, set out below, were developed subsequent to meetings with Officers with responsibility for the management and operation of markets in Rotherham, as well as representatives of the National Association of British Markets (NABMA) and National Market Traders Federation (NMTF).
- 2.3 The recommendations from the IPSC are:
 - a) That face-to-face consultations and clear communication be prioritised in all interactions with vendors and traders.
 - b) That the service consult case studies and resources available in the libraries of NABMA and NMTF to inform the redevelopment of Rotherham markets.
 - c) That the service re-evaluates the support offer for new vendors, in consultation with the NABMA and NMTF, with a view to encouraging more new vendors to continue trading beyond the six-month introductory period.
 - d) In view of relevant expert advice in respect of sustaining a market during redevelopment works, that retaining traders through the redevelopment phase be considered top priority.
 - e) That any redesign of markets spaces duly considers usability and aesthetics, consulting market research to optimise spaces for inclusiveness and accessibility, and to make the offer especially attractive to students and young people.

- f) That consideration be given to how the redesign and operation of the markets may best cater to the needs and interests of younger generations by strengthening links with Rotherham College, North Notts College and Dearne Valley College (RNN Group) student populations and extending opportunities to new entrepreneurs through the Young Traders Scheme.
- g) Recognising that the town centre markets represent a unique and distinct community of buyers and sellers with its own accompanying needs and character, that consideration be given to the ongoing management resource required to sustain the markets economy successfully over the long term.
- h) That consideration be given to design and development choices that would help the markets to incorporate cashless, up-to-date approaches to commerce that their potential customers expect.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Option 1 – that Cabinet accepts the recommendations set out in Appendix 1 and provides a response to those recommendations. (Recommended option).
- 3.2 Option 2 – that Cabinet does not accept the some or all of the recommendations set out in Appendix 1. This is not recommended, especially as it could have a negative impact on the future operation of the Markets and delivery of the redevelopment.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 NABMA and NMTF both contributed to the IPSC review.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The recommendations will be reviewed and implemented over a period of time, with a number likely to be part of the wider redevelopment project. The timetable for implementing the recommendations is set out in Appendix 1.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 Where there is a need to procure goods, works or services to support the recommendations detailed in this report this must be undertaken in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.
- 6.2 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report other than that the improvements identified will help commercial arrangements positively for markets.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no material legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

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 arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Equalities Screening Form (Part A) and Analysis (Part B) completed and included at Appendix 2.

10.2 The Market is intended to provide an inclusive, safe and welcoming environment for all users. It is recognised that the building structure and mechanical services are aging and in need of investment to provide services suitable for users.

10.3 Consultation has been carried out with stakeholders and information from those consultations will be used to inform the redevelopment designs and future operations.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report as recorded at Appendix 3.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Council are working closely with RNN to ensure links are made between the Markets, the College and its students.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The future of the Markets is inextricably linked to the successful redevelopment. **Mitigation** – the redevelopment is being led by RIDO and overseen by the Markets Board. Relevant issues raised by the IPSC will be fed into this process.

13.2 Already difficult trading conditions will be made more difficult/complicated by the impact of the redevelopment. **Mitigation** – A support package for traders is being developed. The aim of the redeveloped Markets is to have a more attractive proposition for both customers and traders.

14. Accountable Officers

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director, Regeneration & Environment

Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning Regeneration and Transport

Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	30/01/23
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	24/01/23
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	25/01/23

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	Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	Accountability	Target date for completion (if applicable)
1.	That the following recommendations from the review be received: a) That face-to-face consultations and clear communication be prioritised in all interactions with vendors and traders.	Accepted	The Market Service has regular communication and face-to-face interaction with both traders and customers. In January 2023, the Council re-launched The Voice meetings (in-person) for market and town centre traders, and regular communications with traders are planned throughout the preparation and delivery of the markets' redevelopment. A regular Market Service newsletter will commence Spring/Summer 2023 aimed at traders and customers.	Dean Thurlow – Markets Service Manager	On-going 31/06/23
	b) That the service consult case studies and resources available in the libraries of National Association of British Markets (NABMA) and National Market Traders Federation (NMTF) to inform the redevelopment of Rotherham markets.	Accepted	A number of external organisations have been consulted to inform the redevelopment programme, including both NABMA and the NMTF. For example, NABMA raised previous examples they were aware of where issues arose from keeping traders in situ while works were carried out. This was fed into planning for the works programme. There has also been communication with a number of other areas that have redeveloped their Markets, for example, a visit has been made to Barnsley Markets to see what they have done and any lessons that can be learned. Others case studies that have been consulted include Doncaster, Sheffield and Leicester.	Dean Thurlow, Markets Service Manager and Tim O'Connell, Head of RiDO	Some already completed, but still on-going
	c) That the service re-evaluate the support offer for new vendors, in consultation with the NABMA and NMTF, with a view to encouraging more new vendors to continue trading beyond the six-month introductory period.	Accepted	A high proportion of traders fail to continue trading once the reduced rent offer ends. RiDO Business Support Advisors offer one-to-one mentoring to all new businesses in the Markets, to help them prepare for the move to full rent payments and the impact of the difficult trading conditions at the current time, which is being felt by the whole retail sector. Further discussions on rent incentives and for businesses during the redevelopment period are being held, which may assist weekly-let tenants to trade beyond the initial six-month period.	Tim O'Connell, Head of RiDO Tim O'Connell, Head of RiDO in consultation with Finance	Ongoing 31/02/2023
	d) In view of relevant expert advice in respect of sustaining a market during redevelopment works, that retaining traders through the redevelopment phase be considered top priority.	Accepted	As the economic and social heart of the town centre, supporting a substantial number of local small scale independent retailers and local jobs, the Council's objective is to enhance existing facilities to create a key hub for the local community, providing space to shop, meet and relax, for both local residents and visitors. Proposed works would create a modern, efficient facility that reflects its primary purpose to serve as a place for small business owners to trade and engage with customers, whilst also including elements of flexible space, suitable for easy adaptation to host temporary and changing uses. Retaining traders throughout the redevelopment process has been a key consideration throughout the planning and design period. A temporary market space proposal has been developed and is due to be presented to all Market traders in early 2023 for consideration. The Council is also currently preparing a support package to last throughout the construction programme and if approved will be shared in detail with traders.	Tim O'Connell, Head of RiDO Tim O'Connell, Head of RiDO in consultation with Comms	On-going Q1 2023/24
	e) That any redesign of markets spaces duly consider usability and aesthetics, consulting market research to optimise	Accepted	The need to address existing accessibility issues was identified early in the design process and included as a key component in the design brief prepared and shared with the external design team.	Tim O'Connell, Head of RiDO	On-going

	Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response (detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)	Accountability	Target date for completion (if applicable)
	spaces for inclusiveness and accessibility, and to make the offer especially attractive to students and young people.		<p>This identified a need to not only improve the accessibility of entrances to the complex, but also movement and useability throughout the complex itself.</p> <p>Rotherham College and young people are highlighted as key stakeholders in the 'Markets Consultation Strategy' document. Early engagement took place with these stakeholders at the concept design stage and further engagement has taken place at key stages throughout the design period.</p>		
	f) That consideration be given to how the redesign and operation of the markets may best cater to the needs and interests of younger generations by strengthening links with Rotherham College, North Notts College and Dearne Valley College (RNN Group) student populations and extending opportunities to new entrepreneurs through the Young Traders Scheme.	Accepted	<p>Young people, especially from the RNN town centre College site, have been identified as essential for the sustainable success of the redeveloped Markets. Increasing their use of the building as both customers and tenants is being pursued in a number of ways, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening up the rear of the Markets through demolition of the former Charter Arms and its replacement with quality public realm. This will open up both the view and access to the Markets for students. - College courses that can tap into the activities that will take place during the redevelopment. i.e. courses in construction, marketing, etc. - Discussions are taking place with the College about a potential presence in the Food Court when redevelopment is complete. 	Tim O'Connell, Head of RiDO	On-going
	g) Recognising that the Town Centre markets represent a unique and distinct community of buyers and sellers with its own accompanying needs and character, that consideration be given to the ongoing management resource required to sustain the markets economy successfully over the long term.	Accepted	<p>The feasibility of a number of new Markets (for example Farmers' Markets, etc.) are being explored alongside the existing markets in the outdoor covered area and on the street, building on the success of current provision such as the Tuesday Street Market and the Bazaar.</p> <p>The redevelopment work will provide new equipment and an improved electricity supply, which is vital to attract some markets, especially food, to come to Rotherham.</p>	Dean Thurlow, Markets Service Manager and Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager	On-going
	h) That consideration be given to design and development choices that would help the markets to incorporate cashless, up-to-date approaches to commerce that their potential customers expect.	Accepted	<p>A digital "change" project identified various improvements to provide a more digital and cashless service offer, for the Markets. However, the current IT infrastructure has made implementation of parts of this problematic. An improved IT network is part of the redevelopment project and will allow these changes to be implemented.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Markets Service are looking at what changes can be made in the short term, whilst recognising the changes and potential disruption for traders to manage as the redevelopment works are undertaken.</p>	Dean Thurlow, Markets Service Manager	On-going + 2025/26 for new IT network

Appendix 2a

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: Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review – Markets: Engagement and Recovery	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: RiDO
Lead person: Simeon Leach	Contact number: 0794 990 1043
Is this a: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other </div> If other, please specify -	

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

The report setting out the review of Rotherham Markets by the Improving Places Select Commission, their subsequent recommendations made to Cabinet and Cabinet's response to those recommendations.

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		
N/A		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The Markets are open to all residents and visitors to the borough and need to be welcoming and accessible to them all to ensure that the impact on the Service and the wider town centre is maximised.

IPSC have highlighted that the Markets need to be as attractive as possible to young people.

- **Key findings**

The redevelopment of the Markets gives the Council the opportunity to improve and widen the Markets' offer and make it more attractive, accessible and relevant to as wide a range of groups and communities as possible

- **Actions**

Addressing existing accessibility issues was identified early in the design process and included as a key component in the design brief prepared and shared with the external design team, this identified a need to not only improve the accessibility of entrances to the complex, but also movement and useability throughout the complex itself.

The Market Service will attempt to attract a range of businesses that will cater to all Rotherham residents.

An Asian Bazaar is held in the Outdoor Covered Market every Thursday, the Council will be considering how to build on this and explore other similar events.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	31/01/2023
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Simeon Leach Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Simeon Leach	Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager	05/01/23

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	09/01/2023
Report title and date	Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review – Markets: Engagement and Recovery - 13 th February 2023 Cabinet
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 equality@rotherham.gov.uk	09/01/2023

Appendix 2b

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: Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Review. Markets: Engagement and Recovery	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 12 January 2023	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Planning Regeneration and Transport
Lead Manager: Simeon Leach	Contact number: 0794 990 1043
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)
Tim O'Connell	RiDO	Manager
Simeon Leach	RiDO	Economic Partnerships & Startegy Manager

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
<p>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.)</p> <p>The objective is to provide a modern and flexible facility that operates efficiently for traders and service providers and is capable of meeting current and future demand from customers across Rotherham and visitors to the town. It is recognised that it is important that operations and redevelopment are informed through consultation with relevant local stakeholders</p> <p>The following key stakeholders, have been identified for the Rotherham Markets:</p> <p>Market Traders (both indoor and outdoor)</p> <p>Market Customers</p> <p>Library Users</p> <p>Neighbouring Businesses</p> <p>College (Owners and Students)</p> <p>Highways, Utilities and Infrastructure Providers</p> <p>Markets and Libraries Staff</p> <p>Other RMBC Staff</p> <p>Elected Members</p> <p>National Association of British Markets (NABMA) and National Market Traders Federation (NMTF).</p>
What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)
Contextual information from a range of sources, including the Council Plan consultation:

Population

- Rotherham has a population of 265,000 of which 2,662 are resident in the town centre (mid-2020 estimates taken from ONS)
- The population is ageing; Rotherham has 52,000 people aged 65 years or over or 19.7% of the population, above the national average of 18.4%. The population aged over 65 is projected to increase to over 21% by 2026, with the largest increase being in the number of people aged over 75.
- Rotherham's BAME population is very concentrated in the inner areas of the town whilst the outer areas were 96% White British in 2011. 42% of BAME residents live in areas that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country and for some groups the figure is higher. This compares with the Borough average of 19.5%.
- The age and gender profile of the town centre population is set out below

Age range	Male	Female	TOTAL
0-15	248	221	469
16-29	380	303	683
30-44	464	280	744
45-64	364	159	523
65+	124	119	243
All Ages	1,580	1,082	2,662

Health and Wellbeing

- Rotherham had 56,588 people with a limiting long-term health problem or disability in 2011, with 11.3% saying this limits their activity a lot, compared with the average of 8.3% nationally.
- In the Council Plan consultation, in response to the question on what would have the biggest positive impact on wellbeing and quality of life, men (30%) and those without a disability (27%) were more likely to state environmental improvements (23% overall), while more women and those with a disability stated 'More things to do in the community' (16% women, 22% with disability, 13% overall).

Economy

- Rotherham has a polarised geography of deprivation and affluence with the most deprived communities concentrated in the central area whilst the most affluent areas are to the south, although the overall pattern is complex.
- In the consultation for the Council Plan, 45% of respondents stated there were not enough job opportunities in their area, as opposed to 19% who stated there were enough. Those with no disabilities were more likely to state there were enough job opportunities in their area (21%) than those with disabilities (15%), with female

respondents more likely to be unsure about the opportunities (37%), than men (32%).

A common theme from consultation has been a desire to see Rotherham town centre vibrant, flourishing, clean, safe and attractive to all. There were many suggestions as to how this may be achieved including incentives such as free parking, reduced rents to encourage a wide range of shops and businesses, improved safety and security measures in certain areas, plus investments made to attract families with children, and young people into the town centre. Street scene matters were also frequently mentioned for the town centre and across the borough.

Many expressed a desire for a wider range of “decent” shops, more activities for families with young children, and greater accessibility for disabled and those with sensory impairments.

Of the children and young people consulted, young people wished for Rotherham town centre to be a place that people want to visit, for there to be more shops, activities, and places for young people to go. They also spoke about wanting to feel safe and secure in the town centre.

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

There are footfall figures for usage of the Markets, but no further detail on the demographics of these users

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

It is proposed to establish and feedback process for when the site has been completed 3+ months using both surveys and face to face meetings with representative groups. This is to be included in the action plan as part of this assessment.

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

A number of consultations have been undertaken between 2018 and 2022

Rotherham Markets: Past, Present and Future
Exhibition Date: 29 May to 15 June 2018 Location: Indoor market

RMBC & RNN Group - Town Centre - Student Focus Group Date: 6th November 2019 Location: UCR

Occupants of the Rain Building – Carers corner, NHS Mental Health, Credit Union Date: 6th November 2019 Location: Rain building

Project Market Redevelopment, Rotherham Date: 9th March 2020, Location: Clifton Park, Rotherham

Market Redevelopment meeting with traders Date: 10th March 2020, Location: Town Hall, Rotherham

	<p>Public Information Event Date: Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th September 2021 Location: Rotherham Show</p> <p>Public Information Event Date: Monday 1st to Friday 5th October Location: Rotherham Indoor Market stall, Tuesday Street Market stall and stand on Effingham Street.</p> <p>Markets Workshops Date: Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st October 2021 Location: Rotherham Indoor Market</p> <p>Estates Team Portfolio Consultation Date: Wednesday 27th October 2021 Location: Rotherham Indoor Market</p>
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	<p>A number of consultations have been undertaken between 2018 and 2022 and there is cross service staff engagement through working groups and a Markets Project board.</p> <p>Cultural services Date: 15th November 2019 Location: RSH</p> <p>Utilities Team Date: 21st November 2019 Location: Riverside House</p> <p>Estates Team Date: 19th July 2021</p> <p>Markets workshops Date: Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st October 2021 Location: Rotherham Indoor Market</p>

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

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

In progressing design consideration has been given to the needs broad range of groups of people including those with protected characteristics who will use the development for purposes outlined below to ensure that the proposed development promotes inclusion:

- Visitors to the buildings and customers/members of the public accessing services
- Workers/employees using the buildings
- People using the associated public realm
- People using the neighbouring commercial units

Feedback from consultations has been considered by the design team and aspects of the design have been developed in response to these considerations to ensure that all people have free access to use the development.

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

The Market is intended to provide an inclusive, safe and welcoming environment for all users of the development. It is recognised that the building structure and mechanical services are aging and in need of investment to provide services suitable for users

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

The Markets and Library Redevelopment project will be a landmark scheme in the wider regeneration of Rotherham town centre. The building form and design approach seeks to provide safe and accessible spaces for all that are integrated with public realm within the wider urban fabric of Rotherham, connecting the with the Town Centre. This will encourage residents and visitors to explore Rotherham Town Centre by creating a public realm and building design solutions which visually entices the visitor or passer-by to explore and linger. This strategy will result in improved crossflow of people resulting in improved footfall and retention of people

Relocation of the Library, potential for events and improvements in the physical fabric of the building to support retailers to trade more successfully will enhance the existing offer within the town centre for communities and groups. This will promote new investment whilst also supporting existing businesses within the town centre and encouraging greater use by all groups within the local community.

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

The project is expected to be neutral in terms of community relations.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Review. Markets: Engagement and Recovery
Directorate and service area: R&E
Lead Manager: Simeon Leach
Summary of findings:
The Market is intended to provide an inclusive, safe and welcoming environment for all users of the development. It is recognised that the building structure and mechanical services are aging and in need of investment to provide services suitable for users. Redevelopment of the market provides an opportunity to enhance the market offer to different groups and communities and feedback from consultations is considered by the design team and informing aspects of the design.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Further consultation with protected characteristic groups	All	Ongoing
Provide information from consultation with protected characteristic groups to the design team to inform consideration of final detailed design proposals	All	05/23
Include protected characteristic groups in consultation to inform the design of a customer feedback process following opening of the scheme	All	12/23

***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
Simon Moss	Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport	13/01/23

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	13/01/23
Report title and date	Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Review. Markets: Engagement and Recovery 13 February 2023
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	12/01/23

Appendix 3

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
		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	
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:

This report outlines the issues raised by the IPSC's review of the Markets and the recommendations that they made to Cabinet. While the overall operation of the Markets has an impact on Carbon emissions and the redevelopment project should provide ways to reduce these, those activities are outside the remit of this report and will be picked up as part of those individual projects and any approvals they require.

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

There are no impacts on emiissions from this report and the recommendations of the IPSC

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager, RiDO, Regeneration & Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	None
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 12 April 2023

Report Title

Council Response to Spotlight Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health

Ben.anderson@rotherham.gov.uk

Steph Watt, Head of Adults Commissioning (Joint Commissioning), SYICB (Rotherham Place) / RMBC

steph.watt@nhs.net

Karen Smith, Strategic Commissioning Manager (Joint Commissioning), RMBC / SYICB (Rotherham Place)

karen-nas.smith@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides a Council response to the recommendations from the spotlight review carried out by Health Select Committee on Covid-19 Care Home Safety.

Recommendations

1. That Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety at Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Review – COVID-19 Care Home Safety

Appendix 2 - Part A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Appendix 3 - Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Covid-19 Care Home Safety: January 2023 Cabinet Report of Health Select Commission Spotlight Review.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Cabinet – 20 March 2023

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Council Response to Spotlight Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety

1. Background

- 1.1 Health Select Commission undertook a Spotlight Review of Covid-19 Care Home Safety and presented the following recommendations to Cabinet on 23rd January 2023:
 - 1.2 1. That the following recommendations from the review be received:
 - a) That the learning from the pandemic and ongoing needs in respect of care home safety be noted.
 - b) That the service consider how the Council may help support recruitment and retention within the care sector.
 - c) That consideration be given to how best to retain, where possible, the benefits of supportive models such as regular engagement, access to training/guidance and the IMT approach, which were adopted during the pandemic.
 - d) That outcomes of forthcoming reviews by the Health and Wellbeing Board on learning from the Pandemic be considered for scrutiny.
 2. That Council formally consider its response to the above recommendations by March 2023, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
- 1.3 In response to Recommendation 2 above and in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules this paper provides response to the Spotlight Review Recommendations 1(a) to 1(d).

2. Key Issues

2.1 Learning from the Pandemic and Ongoing Needs

In response to recommendation 1(a) Council notes the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review and the learning from the pandemic and ongoing needs in respect of care home safety.

2.2 Recruitment and Retention within the Care Home Sector

In response to Recommendation 1(b) Council can report that the adult social care workforce training programme will continue in 2023/24 including running sector-based academy recruitment programmes involving Job Centre Plus, Free2Learn, Princes Trust and the Housing Inspire and Pathways Team. As part of the academy, where potential candidates express an interest in working in adult social care, employers are invited to talk about their organisation's job vacancies and job interviews are held.

2.3 Communication and Ongoing Support for Care Homes

In response to Recommendation 1(b) Council can also report that the Adult Social Care Commissioning and Finance Team have undertaken work on the Fair Cost of Care exercise and developed a draft Market Sustainability

Plan. The final Market Sustainability Plan will be completed and submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care by 27th March 2023.

2.4

Good Practice and Regular Engagement

In response to Recommendation 1(c) Council can give assurance to Health Select Committee that consideration has been given to the best ways to retain good practice from the pandemic response. Relationships with Care Homes and Registered Care Home managers were strengthened during the pandemic and these stronger relationships continue to be built on as we face other issues together for the care sector. Maintaining those relationships and regular engagement with the sector is helping to address the ongoing challenges.

2.5

Forthcoming Reviews of the Pandemic

In response to Recommendation 1(d) Council agrees that any forthcoming Health and Wellbeing Board reviews of the pandemic or pandemic learning to be considered for scrutiny.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Council endorses this response to the Health Select Commission's spotlight review.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Public Health, Commissioning, Finance, Legal and Learning and Development have contributed towards this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The accountability for implementing recommendations arising from this report will sit with Cabinet and relevant officers.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Fee rates provided to care homes have been informed by discussions with providers and the fair cost of care exercise and completed as part of the budget setting process.

6.2 There are no procurement implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Under s5 of the Care Act 2014 the Council has a statutory duty to promote an effective and efficient market of care and support services, also referred to as 'market shaping'. This includes both ensuring the sustainability of the market and fostering a workforce able to deliver high quality services.

8. Human Resource Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications directly arising from the report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults directly arising from the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The recommended proposals have positive outcomes on equalities for residents in care homes. These proposals will ensure safe, quality and sustainable services can continue to be delivered.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no climate or emissions implications directly associated with this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. There are no implications for partners directly arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no identified risks within the report.

Accountable Officer(s)

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health

Steph Watt, Head of Adults Commissioning (Joint Commissioning), SYICB (Rotherham Place) / RMBC

Karen Smith, Strategic Commissioning Manager (Joint Commissioning), RMBC / SYICB (Rotherham Place)

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 20 March 2023

Report Title

Cabinet Response to Spotlight Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health

Ben.anderson@rotherham.gov.uk

Steph Watt, Head of Adults Commissioning (Joint Commissioning), SYICB (Rotherham Place) / RMBC

steph.watt@nhs.net

Karen Smith, Strategic Commissioning Manager (Joint Commissioning), RMBC / SYICB (Rotherham Place)

karen-nas.smith@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides a Cabinet response to the recommendations from the spotlight review carried out by Health Select Committee on Covid-19 Care Home Safety.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet endorses this response to the Health Select Commission's spotlight review and accepts the recommendations.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Review – COVID-19 Care Home Safety

Appendix 2 - Part A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Appendix 3 - Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Covid-19 Care Home Safety: January 2023 Cabinet Report of Health Select Commission Spotlight Review.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Cabinet Response to Spotlight Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety

1. Background

- 1.1 Health Select Commission undertook a Spotlight Review of Covid-19 Care Home Safety and presented the following recommendations to Cabinet on 23rd January 2023:
 - 1.2 1. That the following recommendations from the review be received:
 - a) That the learning from the pandemic and ongoing needs in respect of care home safety be noted.
 - b) That the service consider how the Council may help support recruitment and retention within the care sector.
 - c) That consideration be given to how best to retain, where possible, the benefits of supportive models such as regular engagement, access to training/guidance and the IMT approach, which were adopted during the pandemic.
 - d) That outcomes of forthcoming reviews by the Health and Wellbeing Board on learning from the Pandemic be considered for scrutiny.
 2. That Cabinet formally consider its response to the above recommendations by March 2023, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
- 1.3 In response to Recommendation 2 above and in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules this paper provides response to the Spotlight Review Recommendations 1(a) to 1(d).
- 1.4 It should be noted that Rotherham maintains a mixed Care Home market. A significant majority of Care homes (94%) in Rotherham are run by independent sector providers, and while the Council works closely with those providers and can influence the market, there are other commercial and regulatory influences on them. The Council has a legal duty under the Care Act 2014 to carry out market shaping to understand the local market and stimulate a diverse range of care and support services to ensure that people and their carers have choice over how their needs are met. This also ensures that the care market remains vibrant and stable.
- 1.5 Historically the Council was the dominant purchaser of care home places. However, over the last 5 years the position has shifted substantially, and the Council is now financially supporting 35% of placements. This has happened due to an increase in the number of Continuing Health Care fully funded placements, self-funders, out of borough placements and NHS commissioned step-down beds.
- 1.6 As part of the mixed market in Rotherham, the Council is also a provider of Care Home facilities. This proved extremely valuable during the pandemic, giving greater flexibility in terms of our response to the pressures faced by the system.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Learning from the Pandemic and Ongoing Needs

In response to recommendation 1(a) Cabinet notes the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review and the learning from the pandemic and ongoing needs in respect of care home safety.

2.2 Recruitment and Retention within the Care Home Sector

In response to Recommendation 1(b) Cabinet can report that the adult social care workforce training programme will continue in 2023/24 including running sector-based academy recruitment programmes involving Job Centre Plus, Free2Learn, Princes Trust and the Housing Inspire and Pathways Team. As part of the academy, where potential candidates express an interest in working in adult social care, employers are invited to talk about their organisation's job vacancies and job interviews are held.

2.3 Communication and Ongoing Support for Care Homes

In response to Recommendation 1(b) Cabinet can also report that the Adult Social Care Commissioning and Finance Team have undertaken work on the Fair Cost of Care exercise and developed a draft Market Sustainability Plan. The final Market Sustainability Plan will be completed and submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care by 27th March 2023.

2.4 The Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund was announced by Central Government on 16th December 2021. The primary purpose of the fund is to support Local Authorities to prepare their markets, including the care home market, for reform and to support Local Authorities to move towards paying providers a fair cost of care. The funding provided to the care home market of £305k for 2022/23 also contributed towards recruitment and retention within the care sector.

2.5 The Government requires local authorities to prepare markets for wider charging reform and thereby increase market sustainability. As a condition of receiving future funding, local authorities will need to evidence the work they are doing to prepare their markets. Adult Social Care have now submitted cost of care reports including a provisional Market Sustainability Plan to the Department of Health and Social Care on 14th October 2022.

2.6 Meetings have also been held with owners / directors of companies between May 2022 and January 2023 which gives providers an opportunity to provide feedback on proposed fee rates and the draft market sustainability plan.

2.7 Good Practice and Regular Engagement

In response to Recommendation 1(c) Cabinet can give assurance to Health Select Committee that consideration has been given to the best ways to retain good practice from the pandemic response. Relationships with Care Homes and Registered Care Home managers were strengthened during the pandemic and these stronger relationships continue to be built on as we face other issues together for the care sector. Maintaining those

relationships and regular engagement with the sector is helping to address the ongoing challenges.

- 2.8 Provider forums with registered managers and meetings with owners / directors are held to contribute to development initiatives, influence new policy, provides an opportunity to discuss strategic and operational concerns / issues, agree actions and share good practice with each other and key stakeholders.
- 2.9 Similarly, the approach to Covid-19 outbreak management developed through the pandemic continues to be followed both in response to Covid-19 and to other communicable disease outbreaks in care homes.
- 2.10 At present due to low prevalence rates, Incident Management Team (IMT) meetings have been stood down, although a range of measures and thresholds have been developed for meetings to reconvene if this is required. This includes prevalence rates higher than 2%, where there is a point at which the Trust are no longer able to cohort patients safely, 10% of care homes beds are closed due to outbreaks and three or more commissioned homes providing step-down beds have outbreaks leading to discharge pressures. Public Health respond to requests to set up IMT's if these thresholds are met and deemed necessary.

2.11 Forthcoming Reviews of the Pandemic

In response to Recommendation 1(d) Cabinet agrees that any forthcoming Health and Wellbeing Board reviews of the pandemic or pandemic learning to be considered for scrutiny.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Cabinet endorses this response to the Health Select Commission's spotlight review.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Public Health, Commissioning, Finance, Legal and Learning and Development have contributed towards this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The accountability for implementing recommendations arising from this report will sit with Cabinet and relevant officers.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Fee rates provided to care homes have been informed by discussions with providers and the fair cost of care exercise and completed as part of the budget setting process.

- 6.2 There are no procurement implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Under s5 of the Care Act 2014 the Council has a statutory duty to promote an effective and efficient market of care and support services, also referred to as 'market shaping'. This includes both ensuring the sustainability of the market and fostering a workforce able to deliver high quality services.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications directly arising from the report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults directly arising from the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The recommended proposals have positive outcomes on equalities for residents in care homes. These proposals will ensure safe, quality and sustainable services can continue to be delivered.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no climate or emissions implications directly associated with this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners directly arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks identified within this report.

14. Accountable Officers

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health

Steph Watt, Head of Adults Commissioning (Joint Commissioning), SYICB (Rotherham Place) / RMBC

Karen Smith, Strategic Commissioning Manager (Joint Commissioning), RMBC / SYICB (Rotherham Place)

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	06/03/23
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Judith Badger	02/03/23

(S.151 Officer)		
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	20/02/23

Report Author(s):

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health
Ben.anderson@rotherham.gov.uk

Steph Watt, Head of Adults Commissioning (Joint Commissioning), SYICB (Rotherham Place) / RMBC
steph.watt@nhs.net

Karen Smith, Strategic Commissioning Manager (Joint Commissioning), RMBC / SYICB (Rotherham Place)
karen-nas.smith@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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APPENDIX 1
Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review – COVID-19 Care Home Safety

	Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	Accountability	Target date for completion (if applicable)
1.	<p>That the following recommendations from the review be received:</p> <p>a) That the learning from the pandemic and ongoing needs in respect of care home safety be noted.</p>	Accepted	<p>That Cabinet accepts and notes the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/OSMB meeting.</p>	Ben Anderson, Scott Matthewman and Steph Watt	Ongoing
	<p>b) That the service consider how the Council may help support recruitment and retention within the care sector.</p>	Accepted	<p>That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/OSMB meeting.</p> <p>The adult social care workforce training programme will continue in 2023/24 including running sector-based academy recruitment programmes involving Job Centre Plus, Free2Learn, Princes Trust and the Housing Inspire and Pathways Team. As part of the academy, where potential candidates express an interest in working in adult social care, employers are invited to talk about their organisation's job vacancies and job interviews are held.</p>	Nigel Mitchell	Ongoing
	<p>c) That consideration be given to how best to retain, where possible, the benefits of supportive models such as regular engagement, access to training/guidance and the IMT approach, which were adopted during the pandemic.</p>	Accepted	<p>That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/OSMB meeting.</p> <p>The Adult Social Care Commissioning and Finance Teams have undertaken work on the Fair Cost of Care exercise, developed a draft Market Sustainability Plan and submitted cost of care reports to the Department of Health and Social Care on 14th October 2022.</p> <p>Meetings have been held with owners / directors of companies between May 2022 and January 2023 which gave providers an opportunity to provide feedback on proposed fee rates and the draft market sustainability plan. A final market sustainability plan will be submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care by 27th March 2023.</p> <p>Relationships with Care Homes and Registered Care Home managers were strengthened during the pandemic and these stronger relationships continue to be built on as we face other issues together for the care sector. Maintaining those relationships and regular engagement with the sector is helping to address the ongoing challenges.</p> <p>Provider forums with registered managers and meetings with owners / directors are held to contribute to development initiatives, influence new policy, provides an opportunity to discuss strategic and operational concerns / issues, agree actions and share good practice with each other and key stakeholders.</p> <p>The approach to Covid-19 outbreak management developed through the pandemic continues to be followed both in response to Covid-19 and to other communicable disease outbreaks in care homes. At present due to low prevalence rates, Incident Management Team (IMT) meetings have been stood down, although a range of measures and thresholds have been developed for meetings to reconvene if this is required. This includes prevalence rates higher than 2%, where there is a point at which the Trust are no longer able to cohort patients safely, 10% of care homes beds are closed due to outbreaks and three or more commissioned homes providing step-down beds have outbreaks leading to discharge pressures. Public Health will respond to requests to set up IMT's if these thresholds are met and deemed necessary.</p>	Steph Watt, Gioia Morrison and Karen Smith Steph Watt, Gioia Morrison and Karen Smith Steph Watt and Karen Smith Steph Watt and Karen Smith Ben Anderson	14 th October 2022 27 th March 2023 Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing

	Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	Accountability	Target date for completion (if applicable)
	d) That outcomes of forthcoming reviews by the Health and Wellbeing Board on learning from the Pandemic be considered for scrutiny.	Accepted	<p>That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/OSMB meeting.</p> <p>Cabinet agrees that any forthcoming Health and Wellbeing Board reviews of the pandemic or pandemic learning to be considered for scrutiny.</p>	Ben Anderson, Scott Matthewman and Steph Watt	Ongoing
2.	That Cabinet formally consider its response to the above recommendations by March 2023, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.	Accepted	That Cabinet accept the recommendation from the Spotlight Scrutiny/OSMB meeting.	Ben Anderson, Scott Matthewman and Steph Watt	Ongoing

APPENDIX 2.

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: Cabinet Response to Spotlight Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Commissioning
Lead person: Karen Smith	Contact: Karen-nas-smith@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Other </div> </div>	
If other, please specify	

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

The Cabinet report is in response to recommendations from Scrutiny around how the Council will continue to support recruitment and retention within all independent sector care homes for older people in Rotherham.

The Council will also continue to provide support to all care home providers such as regular engagement, access to training/guidance and the Incident Management

Team (IMT) approach, which were adopted during the pandemic.

The Council will also continue to engage with all care home providers on the Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability Plan.

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?	Yes	
Could the proposal affect service users?	Yes	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	Yes	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		No
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		No
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		No
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
Not applicable.		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The proposal for the Council to continue to support recruitment and retention within independent sector care homes for older people will have a positive impact on the future delivery of maintaining safe, quality services to provide care and support to predominantly older people (65 years and over) with physical disabilities / long term health conditions.

The proposals will continue to have a positive impact on all residents and staff members in care home for older people (65 years and over) in Rotherham, regardless of their protected characteristics.

The adult social care workforce training programme will continue in 2023/24 and will be available to all staff members working in care homes for older people, regardless of their protected characteristics.

The proposal for the Council to retain the benefits of supportive models such as regular engagement, access to training/guidance and the Incident Management Team (IMT) approach, which were adopted during the pandemic will also continue to have a positive impact on residents and staff members in care homes, regardless of their protected characteristics.

The Fair Cost of Care exercise and Market Sustainability Plan will also continue to provide additional financial support to the care home sector to continue to provide safe, quality, and sustainable services for residents with complex health and social care needs, regardless of protected characteristics.

The recommended proposals have positive outcomes on equalities for residents in care homes.

There are no further actions required to mitigate any impacts, therefore an Equality Analysis Form (Part B) is not required.

These proposals will ensure safe, quality and sustainable services can continue to be delivered.

- **Key findings**

There is a commitment within Rotherham to sustain and maintain the care home market through the Fair Cost of Care exercise and Market Sustainability Plan, including regular engagement with the care home market.

This commitment is also enshrined within Section 5 of the Care Act 2014 as the Council has a statutory duty to promote an effective and efficient market of care and support services, also referred to as 'market shaping'. This includes both ensuring the sustainability of the market and fostering a workforce able to deliver high quality services.

- **Actions**

No actions required.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Not applicable
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	Not applicable
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Not applicable

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Scott Matthewman	Interim Assistant Director, Commissioning	09/02/2022
Steph Watt	Interim Head of Adults Commissioning	09/02/2022

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	9 February 2023
Report title and date	Cabinet Response to Spotlight

	Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet – 20 March 2023
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement <u>equality@rotherham.gov.uk</u>	10 February 2023.

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APPENDIX 3.

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from transport?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

There are no climate or emissions implications directly associated with the proposals within the Cabinet report.

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

Not applicable.

Supporting information:

Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Karen Smith Strategic Commissioning Manager (RMBC / SYICB (Rotherham Place) Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	Cabinet Response to Spotlight Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety
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]	



Councillor
Emily Barley



Councillor
Denise Lelliott



Councillor
David Roche

Report to Full Council

April 2023

Hoober ward priorities

- Improving road safety
- Addressing environmental issues and making good use of green spaces for everyone
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Improving wellbeing by bringing people together whilst addressing loneliness, isolation and mental health

How these ward priorities were agreed

We used a range of information to inform our ward priorities for the Hoober Ward, including:

- The new ward boundaries and the new ward profile including the previous Hoober ward priorities and the actions taken to address them
- Feedback from residents and stakeholders. We included an article in our ward e-bulletin asking residents for feedback on the priorities and what we could do in response. We also spoke to several organisations, groups and individuals working and/or living within the ward

How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Our approach to neighbourhood working is centred around the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy. This involves putting our community at the heart of everything we do. We do this through:

- Working with communities on the things that matter to them
- Listening and working together to make a difference

We seek to ensure:

- Neighbourhoods are safe and welcoming with good community spirit
- Residents use their skills and assets to contribute to the outcomes that matter to them

Progress so far

1. Improving road safety

We have raised a number of road safety issues highlighted to us by residents. Several solutions are now being explored and considered as part of the Local Neighbourhoods Road Safety Scheme Fund. Once more details are available, residents will be consulted. Further solutions to improve road safety have included us mobilising speed activation signs in key locations in the ward and supporting local schools with parking buddies.

Development and investigation will commence in the upcoming financial year for a pedestrian crossing at Cortonwood for the benefit of making it easier, quicker and more widely possible to cross the road.

We have also been working with South Yorkshire Police who have carried out several speed watches in the ward. These have been organised in locations highlighted by residents, following concerns about speeding vehicles in those areas.

2. Addressing environmental issues and making good use of green spaces for everyone

We have been working to support a community group who wish to help turn an existing green space into a community garden for everyone to enjoy. An initial draft masterplan was produced for the site, and we consulted with residents. We continue to work with the group and the Greenspaces team to finalise the plans, taking into consideration the feedback from residents.

A green space and shop frontage on Masefield Road, next to the junction of Christchurch Road, West Melton, will be improved through the Council's Towns and Villages Fund. Following consultation with residents, plans are underway for new pathways, a seating area, planting, new surface, bollards and a Christmas tree. The improvements will enhance the area and provide a focal point for the community. This will be a space for everyone to enjoy.

Wildflowers have been planted in several locations in the ward to enhance existing green spaces, whilst helping to improve the environment. Funded by ward councillors, the planting has been welcomed by the community and a new planting location has been identified for 2024.

As Councillors, we support local groups who take an active role in looking after the area and environment. Another example of this is the Wath, West Melton and Brampton Litter Picking Group. The group are regularly in the ward and can be seen picking up litter. We were able to support the group with more litter picking equipment, which was needed for new volunteers coming forward to help.

Other initiatives we have been involved in include blitz days (street cleaning initiatives), community skips days and new tree planting scheme.

3. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Multi agency walkabouts, local drop-ins and door knocks have been carried out in the ward by councillors and partners. This has helped identify issues, provide reassurance to residents, and build relationships with key partners and the community.

We produced a 'Know Who to Call' leaflet, which provides useful contacts details for people to get in touch with councillors, Council teams and key partners such as South Yorkshire Police. The leaflets were delivered in various locations in the Ward.

A new ward mobile CCTV camera has also been purchased through the ward budget to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

4. Improving wellbeing by bringing people together whilst addressing loneliness, isolation and mental health

As councillors, we have supported numerous groups in the ward that provide activities and events that help improve wellbeing by bringing people together. Just some of the initiatives, events, and activities we have supported included: an Easter trail, summer fun days, local food banks, the installation of a community defibrillator, a line dancing group, Christmas celebrations, family Christmas disco, community Christmas trees and even being Santa.

During the Queens Jubilee celebrations we were able to support several groups across the ward with funding that enabled them to put on free events for the community.

We also organised a Winter Information event alongside community groups, and organisations by providing lots of information stalls with useful advice, support and sign posting for local residents during the current Cost-of-Living crisis.

WATH WARD

Covering Newhill and Wath upon Dearne



Councillor
Alan Atkin



Councillor
Sheila Cowen

Report to Full Council

April 2023

Ward priorities

- Address crime and anti-social behaviour
- Help maintain an attractive and welcoming environment
- Improving and enhancing community facilities and green spaces, to ensure they are well used and accessible to all
- Explore opportunities to enhance Wath town centre

How these ward priorities were agreed

We used a range of information to inform our ward priorities for the Wath ward. This includes data and information from the new ward profile, the changes in the boundary, the previous ward priorities and the actions taken to address them.

We also consulted with partner agencies, local organisations, and community groups to understand key issues and priorities in the ward.

We asked residents for feedback on the ward priorities and what we could do in response by attending local events and promoting this in our ward e-bulletin.



How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Our approach to ward working is centred around the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy by putting our community at the heart of everything we do by:

- Working with communities on the things that matter to them
- Listening and working together to make a difference

We seek to ensure our:

- Neighbourhoods are safe and welcoming with good community spirit
- Residents use their skills and assets to contribute to the outcomes that matter to them

Progress so far

Addressing crime and anti-social behaviour

Our ward was successful in securing funding from the Safer Streets Fund 2 project, to help address crime in a couple of areas in the ward. The funding allowed additional mobile CCTV to be purchased, and SmartWater to be offered to local residents by South Yorkshire Police. We supported community safety events to raise awareness of crime and anti-social behaviour and we distributed free community safety items.

As councillors, we organise regular walkabouts and carried out door knocks with partners in the ward. This has helped identify issues and together we have worked with the community taking a problem-solving

www.rotherham.gov.uk/wath-ward

approach to tackle local issues. We have worked together with partners and the community to mobilise ward CCTV to tackle anti-social behaviour, identified key locations for the ward for speed activation signs to discourage speeding, funded parking buddies for a local primary school, installed new signage, installed drop curbs and road markings to improve road safety and provided funding so a local community organisation can be more secure.

Help maintain an attractive and welcoming environment

Through 3 blitz days (street cleansing initiatives) and community skips days organised within the ward, we have encouraged a cleaner and safer environment, helping to make the ward more attractive and welcoming for everyone. Our local litter picking group the Wath, West Melton and Brampton litter pickers have been instrumental in keeping our streets clean and tidy. The group have highlighted several litter hotspots and we worked with the Street Cleansing team to secure new bins in key locations, all thanks to the group.

As part of the Council's commitment to increasing urban tree coverage across Rotherham to mitigate climate change and improve biodiversity, new trees have been planted at Newhill Park. The trees have been selected with the principle of 'right tree, right place', ensuring the tree will grow to a suitable size for the area and maximise the benefits that trees bring. We are currently working with the Greenspaces team and have identified other locations for new trees following consultation with local residents.

Improving and enhancing community facilities and green spaces, to ensure they are well used and accessible to all

The Wath skate park has always attracted budding skateboarders and scooter users. We have continued to support the site to ensure it remains a well-used and popular location for young people. This involved making more improvements, with a new grind rail.

We have also worked with Wath Cricket Club to help secure funding for a newly resurfaced car park. Wath running track is due to be resurfaced in spring 2023. Local organisations were passionate about seeing this track brought back to life and we were delighted to be able to provide match funding through our ward budget.

We continue to support local community facilities to enhance and improve their offer to ensure they are well used and remain accessible to all. Manvers Lake is a beautiful location offering many activities from walking to water sports. We have continued to support the Trust with funding for new throw line signage for the lake to help keep users safe. Montgomery Hall is another community facility we have been able to support with funding along with the foodbank that operates from the hall. We were also pleased to support Community Connect CIC with funding for a new sensory garden. Other groups that we supported included Wath Allotment group, Raising the Rafters and The Rainbow Project.

Explore opportunities to enhance Wath town centre

As Councillors, we continue to support the heart of our community, Wath town centre. Through consultation with local businesses and residents we helped to shape the bid proposal that the Council put together for Levelling Up money for improvements to the town centre. Unfortunately, the Council was unsuccessful in this bid, but we continue to explore other options with officers.

Through regular walkabouts organised with partners, we have made improvements to the town centre, from the removal of old garages on the car park, to working alongside businesses, South Yorkshire Police and the Community Protection team to design out crime in the town centre.

Saturday markets has been a new addition to Wath town centre, and we continue to support the stallholders and promote the markets to ensure our town centre is thriving.

Working with the Wath Events team, we have helped to organise community events in our town centre. As the restrictions of covid were lifted, we supported the group with events again. We organised a lovely fun-filled family event in Wath town centre for the Queens Jubilee celebrations. Christmas 2022 saw the return of the Christmas lights switch-on event with rides, stalls, music and entertainment for all the family.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
14th March, 2023

Present:- Councillor Baker-Rogers (in the Chair); Councillors Ball, Browne and Wyatt together with Mr. J. Barber (Independent Person).

Gareth Mills and Thilina De Zoysa (Grant Thornton External Auditor) were also in attendance.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mills.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

75. COUNCILLORS BALL AND BROWNE

The Chair welcomed Councillor Ball to his first meeting of the Audit Committee and Councillor Browne who had re-joined the Committee as Vice-Chair.

76. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting nor had any questions being received in advance of the meeting.

77. 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. 79 (Children and Young People's Services Directorate Risk Register – Appendix 1) as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

78. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH JANUARY, 2023

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 10th January, 2023.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

79. RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Nathan Heath, Acting Strategic Director Children and Young People's Services, presented a report providing details of the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Children and Young People's Services Directorate.

The Directorate level Risk Register currently had 5 risks items listed of which 2 were also included on the Corporate Risk Register:-

- CYPS01 (SLT01) - Keeping Children, Young People and Families safe from harm
- CYPS02 (SLT04) – Maintaining sustainable improvement in Children and Young People's Services with a challenging budget position

CYPS risks were discussed and reviewed at the CYPS Assurance Board meeting on a quarterly basis with escalations reviewed as exception outside of the reporting cycle. Each Assistant Director was accountable for managing a Service Risk Register which was formally monitored and reviewed with their senior managers on a monthly basis. Discussions with regard to risk were held every week in management meetings.

Following the retirement of the previous CYPS Directorate Risk Champion, the Department Business Services Manager was to be appointed as the new Directorate Risk Champion. A development plan had been created for the new Risk Champion including accredited Institute of Risk Management training at the end of March 2023 and would also form part of a corporate network alongside other officers responsible for risk management across the Council.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- There were a number of areas of external scrutiny within CYPS including Ofsted
- Close working relationship with the Youth Justice Board
- In an attempt to mitigate the risk of high budget deficit in SEND funding, arrangement with the DfE to develop provision in Rotherham and increase the number of mainstream resource places. Number of ongoing projects including the rebuilding of Newman Lower School
- Progress made on the oversight of the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) to move to a piece of work with the DfE and the National Health Service England Improvement later in the year to understand what the legacy looked like in terms of the new SEND inspection regime next year

- Some of the actions in the WSOA had been completed/would be within the timescale set
- Given the challenges both regionally and nationally with regard to SEND, it would be an area of ongoing review
- By nature there were CYPS risks every day and managing vulnerabilities in a defined way. Wider oversight mechanisms gave assurance at another level. There was a strong culture of practice learning embedded and audit used to cross check Service records as well as assurance days/performance clinics
- Through the statutory partnerships, external organisations were held to account
- Although no specific risk included on the register for Looked After Children, they were at the core of all the risks
- Appropriate benchmarking took place with other Directorates to ensure risks were appropriately scored

Resolved:- (1) That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Children and Young People's Services Directorate, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

(2) That consideration be given by the Directorate to the inclusion of a risk for Looked After Children and that a view be taken from the Corporate Parenting Panel on this possible addition to the register.

(Appendix 1 was considered in the absence of the press and public in accordance with Paragraph 3 of the Act (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information/financial information)

80. VALUE FOR MONEY OPINION 2021-22

Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton, presented the external auditor's 2021-22 annual report for Value for Money (VFM). Under the National Audit Office Code of Practice, external auditors were now required to consider whether the Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Auditors now reported in more detail on the Authority's overall arrangements as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in arrangements identified during the audit.

Grant Thornton had identified risks in respect of:-

Financial Sustainability

- No significant weaknesses in arrangements identified but an improvement recommendation made
- The Authority had maintained a steady financial position which had improved in the past 2 years.

Conclusion

- Overall satisfaction that the Council had appropriate arrangements in place to ensure it managed risks to its financial sustainability
- No risks of significant weaknesses identified
- One improvement recommendation in respect of refining arrangements for monitoring of the Capital Programme to ensure the spend profile and timing of capital expenditure remained accurate and supported delivery of the Programme and Council Plan

Governance

- No significant weaknesses in arrangements identified but an improvement recommendation made

Conclusion

- No significant weaknesses identified in respect of the Council's governance arrangements
- Overall satisfaction that the Council had appropriate arrangements in place including for budget setting and risk management
- One improvement recommendation to draw out in the Corporate Risk Register and associated published risk management reporting, the degree of risk appetite and the possible upside of taking on a degree of managed risk

Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

- The ongoing significant weaknesses in arrangements as at 31st March, 2022, regarding the SEND report

Conclusion

- Overall satisfaction that there were appropriate arrangements in place in relation to improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness except for arrangements in implementing Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Reforms as set out in the Children's and Families Act 2014
- Under the terms of the NAO's VFM guidance, Grant Thornton considered it appropriate to still report that the SEND system in Rotherham as a significant weakness in the Council's arrangements as at 31st March, 2022. The resultant key recommendation made in 2020-21 remained relevant to the 2021-22 VFM work, however, the actions taken by the Council during 2022-23 would be considered as part of the 2022-23 VFM work later in the year

- As at December 2022, the Health and Safety Executive had not formally reported any decisions/conclusions relating to their investigation of November 2021. The Council had taken pro-active improvement action to address the informal feedback received from the HSE. No further work would be performed until the investigation was completed and the HSE published a final report
- The Council was named the 'most improved Council in the country' at the Local Government Chronicle Awards in 2022
- One improvement recommendation that consideration should be given as to whether the KPI performance report could be streamlined to provide more summarised and integrated performance, finance and risk reporting. Consideration should also be given to reducing the volume of KPIs and targets to a more manageable level to assist clearer reporting of actions for any KPIs/targets not delivering

The report also included an update on the progress made to date with regard to previous recommendations.

This report concluded the 2021/22 audit work and would expect to issue the audit certificate at some point during the month.

The Chair thanked all who had been involved in the production of the Value for Money report.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Levels of useable reserves – Rotherham was compared to other metropolitan councils in England (32) of which it was at the lower end. It was recommended that reserves be at 5-10%; there would be concern if the level was below 5% of the Authority's General Fund balance
- The recommendation made regarding the reporting of Capital Projects was not unique to Rotherham. However, work was being undertaken to change the reporting to be by themes rather than by Directorates

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

81. **CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2022-23**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Rob Mahon, Head of Service, on the closure of the accounts 2022/23.

The Council had successfully met the 2018/19 timeframes in closing its accounts after the decision to bring forward the timetable for the publication of local authorities' financial statements. However, due to the unprecedented circumstances, the closure of accounts deadlines had been extended for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment Regulations 2022) came into force on 22nd July, 2022 and extended the deadline for the publication of final audited accounts to 30th November for 2021/22 accounts and then 30th September for 2022/23 accounts and the following 5 years. Therefore, the deadline for publishing unaudited accounts had reverted back to the 31st May for the 2022/23 accounts.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, confers on local electors the right to inspect the accounting records, books, deeds, vouchers, contracts, bills and other documentation relating to the financial year in question. It also gave them the right to question the auditor about the accounting records or make a formal objection on a matter of public interest or because they thought an item of account may be unlawful. Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, local electors could only exercise their rights of inspection and to question the auditor or make formal objections for a single period of 30 working days commencing the day after the unaudited accounts had been published. In order for the inspection period to commence, the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report (introduced by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015) would need to be published alongside the Council's unaudited financial statements on the Council's website. The timetable for preparing the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report was, therefore, being co-ordinated with the publication of the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts to meet this requirement.

A decision had been made to further delay the implementation of IFRS16 within Local Authorities until 2024/25. This disclosure would see the removal of operational leases, with lessees expected to recognise all leases on their balance sheet as a right of use asset and a liability to make the lease payments. Although implementation of the standard has been delayed until 2024/25, there would be the need for an assessment of the impact of the new standard as part of the 2023/24 accounting process.

Major changes to service delivery that had taken place in 2022/23 would also have a bearing on the financial statements including the continuing effect of schools converting to academies.

The Council's Statement of Accounting Policies (Appendix B) was reviewed and updated where necessary.

There was a national issue with Local Authority treatment for infrastructure assets. This related to the way components of infrastructure expenditure were derecognised when new expenditure was incurred. A statutory override had come into effect in December, 2022, allowing local authorities to assume that the carrying amount to derecognise was zero enabling external auditors to give an unqualified audit opinion on the Council's accounts. This override was in force until 31st March, 2025 and the Council would utilise this override again for the 2022/23 accounts. The Council was working to assess the processes that needed to be put

in place to ensure the treatment of infrastructure assets was compliant when the statutory override expired.

Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton, informed the Committee that a guarantee could not be provided that the external audit work would start by the end of September as a result of the issues previously raised in the external audit market in the public sector. A significant number of 2021-22 local government audits were still ongoing. This had been impacted by the decision to continue the Clinical Commissioning Groups until 30th June, 2023, resulting in approximately 100 part-year accounts for the NHS and 42 part-year accounts for Integrated Care Boards needing to be undertaken by the same auditors who carried out local government audits.

He would be confident of concluding Rotherham's external audit work by the end of November as had happened in the previous 3 years. There were discussions ongoing nationally around how achievable the 30th September date was for 2023 and could possibly be some movement on the date.

There should be no significant impact on the Council by this delay. If the September deadline remained, the Account and Audit Regulations required the Council to post on its website proof of the accounts with a statement to the effect that the audit was ongoing and expected to conclude by the end of November due to resource expectations of the external auditor.

Resolved:- (1) That the key accounting issues and main changes to the accounts in 2022/23, as listed in Appendix A submitted, be noted.

(2) That the Council's revised Account Policies, attached at Appendix B submitted, be noted.

(3) That Grant Thornton submit a progress report to the next meeting of this Committee setting out the planned timetable from June to November, 2023.

82. CLOSURE OF THE ACCOUNTS 2022/23 - TIMETABLE

Consideration was given to a report presented by Rob Mahon, Head of Service, setting out the timetable for the production of the financial statements which had to be approved by the Audit Committee by 30th September, 2023, based on the revised Regulations to be implemented for 6 years (2022-23 and 2027-28).

The amended Regulations required:-

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 14/03/23

- Interim audit of the Council's accounts – to be confirmed by Grant Thornton
- Unaudited accounts, Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement to be submitted to Audit Committee on 7th June, 2023
- Public Inspection of Draft Accounts – 1st-10th June, 2023
- External Audit of the Council's Accounts – June to September, 2023
- Audit Accounts, Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement submitted to Audit Committee on 26th September and published by 30th September, 2023
- Council's Value for Money Audit completed – to be confirmed by Grant Thornton

Further to Minute No. 81 above, Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton, informed the Committee that it had been anticipated that the statutory date would slip back to November but had not as yet. The continuation of the Clinical Commissioning Groups' audits for a 3 month period had had a significant impact on public sector external auditors' ability to deliver the 2021-22 audit work. The number of local authority audits across the country still continuing was a lot higher than had been expected with some of the local team in Yorkshire helping to conclude audits outside of the Yorkshire region when they would have been progressing the planning of the 2022-23 audits.

Accordingly, the timetable set out above was amended as follows:-

- External Audit of the Council's Accounts – ~~June to September, 2023~~ – July to November, 2023
- Final Accounts, Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement – expected to be signed off 30th November, 2023
- Council's Value for Money Audit completed – January 2024 Audit Committee

Resolved:- That, as amended at the meeting and set out above, the timetable for the production of the Council's financial statements be noted.

83. 2023 ANNUAL PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Karen Middlebrook, Head of Procurement, presented an update on some of the key activity delivered in the last 12 months by the Procurement Team to ensure robust procurement activity was undertaken across the Council. The report highlighted:-

- The Team had continued to provide professional support to Services to procure their contractual requirements in a manner compliant with the legislation and/or the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules whilst ensuring social value commitments were secured and value for money achieved

- Supporting the major regeneration capital procurement projects and likely to continue for the forthcoming 12 months. The increased regeneration programme had created additional resource pressure on the Procurement Service with options being considered as to how best manage that pressure whilst still delivering a high quality service
- Analysis pre-procurement undertaken of the current supply market given the challenging and changing economic landscape with high inflation, shortages of supply and labour within the supply chain and the risk of financial collapse of suppliers within some industries

It was noted that the Procurement Team was closely monitoring the progress of the Procurement Bill. Since the previous update, the Bill had moved from the House of Lords and was in the Report Stage of the House of Commons for further debate and amendments with Royal Assent anticipated in late spring. It was complex legislation with much of the detail surrounding the new regime sitting within secondary legislation, statutory and non-statutory guidance which was not yet drafted and would be the subject of further consultation. The Cabinet Office had committed to providing a 6 month lead-in period before the new regime took effect which would commence after the final version of the secondary legislation was laid in Parliament. Therefore, it was anticipated that the 'go live' of the new Regulations would come into effect Spring 2024 at the earliest.

Discussion ensued with the following issues clarified:-

- Following the decision of YPO to withdraw from food procurement, work had taken place with Facilities Services and alternative procurement arranged. A single contract had been awarded which would come into effect from the beginning of April so there should be no disruption to service provision
- Consultation had taken place on the Procurement Bill. There was a regional Strategic Procurement Group that had been invaluable. There was regular attendance by the Cabinet Office who provided an update. This had given a real insight into what some of the training offer may be
- As part of pre-procurement activity the Team worked with the respective Service to get an understanding of the contract and the best way to award the contract to achieve the best outcomes. It could also lead to achieving an increased service offer following early market engagement and being clear with the market what the expectations were prior to the issuing of a tender

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

84. AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Further to Minute No. 48 of 29th November, 2022, David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, submitted a report detailing a proposed update to the Committee's Terms of Reference in light of recent Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance.

Published in October, 2022, CIPA published 'Audit Committees' Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police', an update of 2018 guidance, in 2 parts. The first was written for Audit Committee Members with the second being a supplement aimed at officers responsible for guiding the Audit Committee.

Following the guidance was not a statutory requirement but was regarded to be good practice. The key issues were as follows:-

- The guidance recommended that the use of substitutes be avoided as they were less likely to have received relevant training. However, in Rotherham it was felt that allowing substitutes would ensure Members were fully involved in the work of the Committee, spreading knowledge of its work and broaden the number of Councillors trained in its work. Only those Members that had been trained would be able to act as substitutes
- Many of the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference formalised current practice at the Council. However, it proposed:-
 - increasing the number of independent members from one to 2
 - inclusion of reviews of risk registers to bring into line with current practice
 - review of compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code
 - to deal with any matters referred to Committee by the Statutory Officers
 - more indepth review of the Annual Governance Statement
 - monitoring of the arrangements/preparations for financial reporting
 - receive reports on progress in implementing actions from external inspections and audits
 - provision of free and unfettered access for the external auditors to the audit Committee Chair and the opportunity to meet privately with the Committee
- Proposal to maintain the current arrangements of the Committee approving the final Statement of Accounts

The proposal of an additional Independent Member and use of trained substitutes was supported.

Resolved:- (1) That the updated Terms of References for the Audit Committee be noted.

(2) That an invitation be extended to the Monitoring Officer to attend meetings of the Audit Committee and that the Chief Executive continue the current practice of her annual presentation on Governance, Audit and Risk.

(3) That the updated Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee be referred to the Constitution Review Working Group for consideration and in turn Annual Council for adoption.

85. 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 December, 2022 to 31st January, 2023, and the key issues that had arisen therefrom.

The current position with regard to the revised plan was outlined in Appendix A to the report. In the last month 5 audits had been added to the plan as a result of planning meetings with Directorate Leadership Teams (this was amended to 4 at the meeting). In the year to date, the Department had delivered 802 days of productive work showing as on target for the year as a whole.

8 audits had been finalised since the last Committee meeting 4 of which had received Reasonable Assurance and 4 receiving Substantial Assurance as set out in Appendix C to the report.

Internal Audit's performance against a number of indicators was summarised in Appendix D. All targets had been met apart.

It was noted that there were presently 7 actions that had been deferred from their original due dates. The position would be monitored and any issues reported.

It was suggested that there should be an audit of Looked After Children given that there were audits for SEND and Youth Offending.

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken between 1st December, 2022 to 31st January, 2023, and the issues that had arisen therefrom, be noted.

(2) That the information contained regarding the performance of Internal Audit and the actions being taken by management in respect of their performance be noted.

(3) That discussions take place with the Acting Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services regarding the possible inclusion of a Looked After Children audit in the Internal Audit Work Plan.

86. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL PLAN 2023-24

Consideration was given to the Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24 presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit. The report explained Internal Audit's approach to the development of the Plan, as well as detailing the specific activities Internal Audit planned to review during the year. It reflected a comprehensive risk assessment process including discussions with Strategic Directors and Assistant Directors to obtain their views of key risks and areas for audit coverage.

It was designed to enable the Head of Internal Audit to give his annual opinion at the end of the year on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and the control framework. The Plan would remain flexible and reviewed during the year to ensure it remained relevant.

The Plan had been prepared after a full refresh of the 'audit universe' and a thorough review of the Council's risk register as well as taking into account:-

- The Council's Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan
- Reports by management to the Audit Committee on the management of risk
- Cumulative audit knowledge and experience of previous work undertaken
- Discussions with Strategic Directors and Assistant Directors
- Knowledge of existing management and control environments
- Professional judgement on the risk of fraud or error
- Examination of Corporate Plans
- Review of external inspection report

The Plan remained flexible and would be revised to take into account any significant emerging risks facing the authority and would be subject to 6 monthly reviews in consultation with Strategic and Assistant Directors.

It was noted that, as in previous years, the technical audits of IT systems would be conducted by Salford City Internal Audit Services who specialised in this field of work.

It was clarified that it had been some time since there had been an audit conducted of Cemeteries and Crematorium Services. It had been discussed at the respective Directorate Leadership Team and not considered for inclusion in the Audit Plan.

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 be approved.

(2) That further discussions take place as to the possible inclusion of a Cemeteries and Crematorium Services audit in the 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan.

87. INTERNAL AUDIT QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS

Consideration was given to a report presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, which detailed how Internal Audit was a major source of assurance to the Council on the framework of control, risk management and governance. It was, therefore, important that it operated in conformance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

An external assessment was completed in November 2020 and self-assessments completed in 2022 and 2023 using a checklist developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

In 2022 the Council's Audit Service was found to conform overall with PSIAS with conformance with all standards, the Code of Ethics, Core Principles, Definition and Mission Statement. All individual tests showed conformance except for one relating to the use of computer aided audit techniques. 9 of the 11 actions from the external assessment had been implemented along with 3 of the 4 actions from the previous year.

The position against the 2022 Improvement Plan and current plan were attached at Appendix A of the report submitted. The actions were to enhance performance and guard against a loss of capability and capacity if staff members left. They did not affect the standard of work carried out by the team.

The action plan would continue to be implemented during 2023-24.

It was noted that action 1300 was only partially completed. This was due to the timescale allocated to an audit that sometimes overran for reasons not always within the control of Internal Audit. It was hoped that this would be tightened up in the future.

Resolved:- The production and ongoing implementation of the QAIP based on the internal self-assessment be noted.

88. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee covering the period June, 2023 to March, 2024.

Following the discussion at Minute No. 81 above with regard to Grant Thornton unable to meet the September deadline, the Plan would be amended to read “November” for the submission of the audited final statement of accounts and External Audit findings (ISA260)

Resolved: That the Audit Committee forward work plan, as amended above, be approved.

89. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral.

90. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to report.

91. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Wednesday, 7th June, 2023, commencing at 2.00 p.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

**LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
20th February, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Hughes, Jones, McNeely and Monk.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

31. 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).

32. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to applications for the grant/renewal of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Messrs. O.M., N.N., I.I., A.T., and A.F.

Mr. O.M. was in attendance together with an interpreter.

Messrs. N.N. and A.T. were in attendance with their respective Trade Union representatives.

Mr. I.I. was in attendance.

Mr. A.F. was in attendance with his Trade Union representative and supporter.

Resolved:- (1) That the application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. O.M. be approved with a written warning regarding compliance with Policy requirements.

(2) That the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. N.N. be renewed with a written warning regarding compliance with Policy requirements.

(3) That the application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. I.I. be approved.

(4) That the application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. S.T. be refused.

(5) That the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. A.F. be renewed subject to the successful completion of a DVLA driving test within 4 weeks of the date of the decision notice and a written warning regarding compliance with Policy requirements.

33. 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
Unicare Ltd.	Whole of the Borough	20 th February-31 st December, 2023
Unicare Ltd.	Whole of the Borough	1 st January-31 st December, 2023

Resolved:- That, in accordance with the provisions of the House to House Collections Act 1939, the above applications submitted by Unicare Ltd., on behalf of Childhood Cancer Parents Alliance and Yorkshire Children's Trust, be refused.

**PLANNING BOARD
23rd February, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Bird, Burnett, Cowen, Elliott, Fisher, Havard, Keenan, Tarmey and Taylor.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bacon and Wooding.

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

161. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

162. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

163. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fisher declared a personal interest in application RB2022/1460 on the grounds that his wife was employed by the NHS and who may use this facility.

164. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH JANUARY, 2023

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 12th January, 2023, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

165. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no deferments or site visits recommended.

166. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the applications below:-

- Reserved matters application details of landscaping, scale, access, external appearance and layout for the erection of 46 dwellinghouses (reserved by outline RB2021/0060) at land to rear of 166 Swinston Hill Road, Dinnington at land rear of 166 Swinston Hill Road, Dinnington for Hooper Urban Partnerships (RB2022/0880)

Ms. S. Rose (Applicant)

- Siting of caravans to provide staff living accommodation at Glades Nursing Home, Falcon Way, Dinnington at Glades Nursing Home, Falcon Way, Dinnington for Conniston Care (RB2022/1460)

Mr. P. Milner (Objector)

Parish Councillor D. Smith (Objector)

Ms. S. Peat (Objector)

Mr. R. Daine (Objector)

Mr. M. L. Wright (Objector)

Mrs. G. Turner (Objector)

(2) That, with regards to application RB2022/0880:-

(a) The Council enter into a Deed of Variation legal agreement with the developer under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following as per agreed on RB2021/0060:-

- Financial contribution of £500 per dwelling towards sustainable travel measures to support the development (£23,000).
- Financial contribution of £2,369 towards improvement to bus stop 35841 controlled by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to support the development.
- Financial contribution of £750 towards the installation of a kissing gate on adjacent footpath (Dinnington Footpath No. 13).
- Financial contribution of £390.69 per dwelling (£16,591.74) in respect of the installation of equipped play on the adjacent green space (Swinston Hill Recreation Ground) and £2,450 towards ongoing maintenance costs.
- Establishment of a Management Company to manage and maintain the areas of Greenspace on site.
- Requirement to provide 100% affordable housing.

(b) subject to the satisfactory signing 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 amendments to:-

Condition 1 – to add in the relevant plan suffixes.

Condition 3 – remove as the requirement to provide 100% affordable housing would now be secured by the Deed of Variation.

Condition 2 and renumbered Conditions 3, 10, 11, 12 and 15 – to remove the words “unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority”.

(3) That the Planning Board declare that it was not favourably disposed towards application RB2022/1460 and that it be refused on the grounds that the proposed development, by virtue of the accommodation not being suitable for the occupiers resulting in the public benefits of the scheme not outweighing the less than substantial harm to the significance of the listed building. The exact wording for this reason for refusal to be agreed in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Board.

167. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

168. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 16th March, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

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PLANNING BOARD
16th March, 2023

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Bacon, Elliott, Keenan, Tarmey and Taylor.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Cowen and Fisher.

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

169. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

170. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

171. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

172. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY, 2023

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 23rd February, 2023, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

173. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no deferments or site visits recommended.

174. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following person attended the meeting and spoke about the application below:-

- Application to vary Condition 2 (approved plans) imposed by RB2020/1860 at land south of Wood Lane, Treeton for Jones Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd. (RB2022/1639)

Mr. T. Adair – Treeton Parish Council (Objector)

Statements were read out by the Presenting Officer in relation to objections by Treeton Parish Council and a collective response from local residents for the applications below:-

- Application to vary Condition 05 (window details) imposed by RB2020/0414 at former Treeton Youth Enterprise Centre, Church Lane, Treeton for Mr. P. Westwood (RB2022/0800)
- Application to vary Condition 2 (approved plans) imposed by RB2020/0414 at former Treeton Youth Enterprise Centre, Church Lane, Treeton for Mr. P. Westwood (RB2022/1101)

(2) That application RB2022/0800 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That application RB2022/1101 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report, subject to the substitution of Drawing Number FS06/6 Rev B (Received 05/08/2022) with Drawing Number FS06/6 Rev C (received 15/03/2023) which showed reduced proposed rendering, as set out at the meeting by the Presenting Officer.

(4) That consideration of application RB2022/1639 be deferred to allow the Local Planning Authority to consult with the applicant on options in relation to this matter. Should the matter for resolution be in line with the suggestions of the Planning Board the application be granted in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Board.

175. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

176. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 6th April, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.