

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

**Date and Time :-** Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 10.00 a.m.  
**Venue:-** Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.  
**Membership:-** Councillors Clark (Chair), T Collingham (Vice-Chair), Baker-Rogers, Baum-Dixon, Burnett, A Carter, Cooksey, Cowen, Elliott, Pitchley, Wyatt and Yasseen.

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

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

### AGENDA

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

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

#### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 July 2022 and 14 September 2022 (Pages 5 - 19)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 6 July 2022 and 14 September 2022 and to approve them as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

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

#### 4. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

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

#### 5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

### Items for Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In accordance with the outcome of the Governance Review in 2016, the following items are submitted for pre-scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting on XX. Members

of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

**6. Proposals for Day Opportunities for People with High Support Needs (Pages 21 - 93)**

To consider a report which proposes a new service model regarding 'day opportunities for people with high support needs'.

Portfolio Holder – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health  
Strategic Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**7. Forge Island Final Delivery Arrangements (Pages 95 - 132)**

To consider a report which sets out a recommended delivery approach to allow the Forge Island scheme to progress to the construction phase.

Portfolio Holder: Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy  
Strategic Directorate: Regeneration and the Environment.

**8. Fostering Fees and Allowances 2022 (Pages 133 - 181)**

To consider a report seeking approval to revise and increase the 'offer' for Foster Carers regarding the fees and allowances that they receive.

Portfolio Holder: Cabinet Member for Children and Young People  
Strategic Directorate: Children and Young People's Services

**For Discussion/Decision:-**

**9. Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Cultural Strategy (Pages 183 - 187)**

To consider the findings and recommendations from Improving Places Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission's scrutiny of the Cultural Strategy.

**10. Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Markets: Engagement and Recovery (Pages 189 - 199)**

To consider the findings and recommendations from Improving Places Select Commission's scrutiny of Markets Engagement and Recovery.

**For Information/Monitoring:-**

**11. Work Programme (Pages 201 - 208)**

To consider the Board's Work Programme.

**12. Work in Progress - Select Commissions**

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

**13. Forward Plan of Key Decisions - 1 October 2022 - 31 December 2022 (Pages 209 - 216)**

To review and identify items for pre-decision scrutiny from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions covering the period from 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022

**14. Call-in Issues**

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

**15. Urgent Business**

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

**16. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on Wednesday 16 November 2022 at 10.00am at Rotherham Town Hall.



**SHARON KEMP,  
Chief Executive.**

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**Wednesday 6 July 2022**

Present:- Councillor Clark (in the Chair); Councillors T. Collingham, Baum-Dixon, A Carter, Cooksey, Elliott, Pitchley, Wyatt, Yasseen and Tinsley.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Baker-Rogers and Cowen.

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

**60. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2022 AND 27 MAY 2022**

Regarding the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2022 the following was noted:

- Minute Number 30, Petition - Improve Road Safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane. The progress report on the implementation of the proposals outlined would be submitted to OSMB within six months' with another progress updated report being submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission within twelve months.
- Minute Number 30, Petition - Improve Road Safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane. A request had been made for a Road Safety Seminar to be arranged on road safety issues. Clarification was sought that this seminar had taken place.
- Minute Number 33, Work Programme. It was still the intention to hold a face-to-face meeting to discuss the work programme and a date would be circulated in due course.

Regarding the minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2022, the following was noted:

- Minute Number 42, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership – CSE Review Final Report. The Anti-Poverty Strategy was a topic that was being added to the Improving Lives Select Commission work programme.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 11 May 2022 and 27 May 2022 be approved as a true record.

**61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**62. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

There were none.

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

The Chair advised that an appendix linked to Minute 64 contained exempt information, however, the meeting remained open to the public and press throughout.

**64. ANNUAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT REPORT - 2022/23**

The Chair noted that Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and Paul Walsh, Interim Assistant Director Housing and Jane Davies, Head of Strategic Housing and Development in attendance.

This report details progress made against the Council's Housing Development Programme and proposed new projects for 2022/23. There are a number of schemes that have previously been presented to Cabinet and renewed approvals are being sought for sites in East Herringthorpe, Thrybergh, Wingfield, Eastwood, Kiveton Park, Thurcroft, and West Melton amongst others not listed. The two new sites proposed for development are Carver Close, Harthill and Warden Street in Canklow.

The Head of Strategic Housing and Development explained that the annual report set out the performance to date against the Council's ambitious housing development programme along with seeking further approvals to continue to deliver Council homes. The report gives an overview of progress against previously approved schemes. The report set out the number of homes the Council had already delivered or committed to delivering. Since January 2018 to end of June 2022 the Council had built or committed to build 608 homes, comprising of 350 homes for council rent, 133 for council shared ownership, 125 homes for sale to allow cross subsidisation of receipts to allow further development of council homes.

The report also noted the number of homes the Council had enabled to be built. Not the council's own delivery but through its strategic enabling role the Council made significant contribution to hitting Rotherham's overall housing requirements. Since 2018 the Council had enabled more than 500 homes to be delivered.

A survey of customers of new council homes had been introduced to learn from their experiences, repeat what's working well, consider how developments may need to be changed to meet needs, along with working with colleagues in Public Health to consider ways the longer-term outcomes for communities from the homes being delivered could be evaluated.

The report noted the various risks associated with new housing development, specifically, rapidly increasing costs, which makes it challenging to deliver. The report also proposed some new schemes.

The following was raised/responded to during discussions:

- Further information on the number of bungalows built would be provided outside of the meeting.
- The majority of the council homes were for council rent with a smaller number becoming shared ownership homes.
- A wide range of sites were considered across the borough with consideration being given to the demographics of the ward. Work was also undertaken with developers to influence the nature of the homes being provided.
- It was clarified that detailed assessments and business cases were carried out for each site considered.
- Social value information was captured.
- The programme was diverse encompassing both smaller and larger sites.
- It was understood that further engagement with communities and ward members could be undertaken with the Neighbourhoods team to increase the current engagement levels.
- Members providing information on potential sites was welcomed.
- The management of waste from the sites was controlled through the contract and information regarding the carbon impacts of a site was considered on a scheme-by-scheme basis.
- It was felt that carbon impact information should be known in advance and presented up front.
- Regarding incorporating less fossil fuel usage in development going forward it was explained that work was being undertaken with a focus on future proofing.
- Mixed ownership was welcomed but what was the commitment for larger developments to get a cross section of mixed ownership. It was clarified that mixed acquisitions helped to address this. There was a focus on rent for smaller sites however mix of sites and types were considered to create mixed diversity.
- There were lots of small developments within the programme and the Council worked closely with planners to ensure the schemes were appropriate for the area.
- The delays had impacted the costs for some sites being developed but had not impacted the quality of the developments.
- The allocation policy ensures that homes are allocated to people from the housing register.
- The majority of sites were included in the Local Plan with the exception of some of the smaller sites.
- The team worked collaboratively across the Council regarding housing development including working closely with colleagues from Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate ensuring consideration is given to any specific requirements or adaptations.
- A wider Council approach is adopted for all schemes with robust business cases giving consideration to all available data.
- The Council's existing housing stock is brought up to the required standards and any adaptations would be tailored to the needs of the resident.

The Cabinet Member for Housing expressed support for the Council's Housing Development Programme and confirmed that the Council was in control of its housing stock.

**Resolved:** That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed:

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That further work be undertaken to characterise the environmental impacts of construction projects including waste management within the Carbon Impact Assessments.

## 65. **CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONERS TAKEOVER CHALLENGE - CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Chair explained that the Children's Commissioner's Takeover held on 16 March 2022 was Chaired by Josie Brown, Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC). RYC chose climate change as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was one of the key priorities in their manifesto for 2022 and identified through consultation. The Chair requested that her thanks were recorded regarding alumni, Amelia Ashton, who was a member of the RYC for many years for her kind message.

The Vice Chair said it had been a pleasure to chair the meeting, to see the passion the Youth Cabinet (YC) have, their ideas and their challenge to Officers. The topic considered was climate change and the RYC made the following recommendations:

1. That Youth Cabinet are invited to visit the Waste Treatment Centre at Manvers.
2. That the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment meets with members of the Youth Cabinet to discuss plastic waste / pollution and action to minimise single use plastics.
3. That the Assistant Director for Education works with the Youth Cabinet to look at the feasibility of developing an environmental awards scheme for schools.
4. That Council officers work with the Youth Cabinet to strengthen its engagement strategy with young people, specifically young people of BAME communities or other hard to reach groups.
5. That Council officers work with the Youth Cabinet on widening carbon literacy training/awareness.

The Chair explained that this was on the Forward Plan for September and the recommendations were that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board receive the report and recommendations outlined in Appendix 1 along with agreeing the report and recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for response.

**Resolved:** That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

- Received the report and recommendations outlined in Appendix 1.
- Agreed that the report and recommendations be forwarded to

Cabinet for response.

**66. WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23**

The Board considered its Work Programme.

The following items were due for consideration at the September meeting:

- Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report.
- July 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report, this item would be considered as pre-decision scrutiny.
- Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25, this item would be considered as pre-decision scrutiny.
- Household Support Fund, it was proposed that a briefing on this item to be provided by Wednesday 7 September 2022 (report circulated by email).
- Towns and Villages Fund, it was proposed that a briefing on this item to be provided by Wednesday 7 September 2022 (report circulated by email).

The Social Value Mid-Year Review was due to be considered at the October meeting. The Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report was due to be considered at the November meeting.

The Chair explained that discussions had been held with the Assistant Chief Executive, who was the Boards Link Officer regarding holding a meeting to cover the cost-of-living crisis including food banks. It was proposed that this matter could be facilitated during October either in the scheduled meeting or by holding an additional meeting.

**Resolved:** - That the Work Programme be approved.

**67. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS**

The following updates were received from each of the select commissions outlining current areas of work.

It was noted that an additional Improving Places Select Commission meeting would be held to consider the Market Regulation document.

The Health Select Commission had received the report from RDASH.

**Resolved:** That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board noted the updates provided.

**68. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 JUNE 2022 TO 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Board considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 June 2022 to

31 August 2022.

It was explained that an updated on the Household Support Fund and the Towns and Villages Fund be in the form of briefings, rather than forming part of the formal meeting. These would be received a week before the next OSMB meeting to provide members with an opportunity to feed into the Cabinet meeting.

**Resolved:** - That the Forward Plan be noted.

**69. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no call-in issues.

**70. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items.

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

**Resolved:** That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held at 10am on Wednesday 14 September 2022 at Rotherham Town Hall.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**Wednesday 14 September 2022**

Present:- Councillor Clark (in the Chair); Councillors Baum-Dixon, Baker-Rogers, Cooksey, Elliott, Tinsley and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Councillors T. Collingham, A. Carter, Cowen, Pitchley and Yasseen.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:

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**72. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2022**

**Resolved:** That with the inclusion of Councillor Wyatt's apologies, the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 15 June 2022 be approved as a true record.

**73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**74. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

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

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

There were no exempt items on the agenda.

**76. COUNCIL PLAN AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN, UPDATE FOR APRIL TO JUNE 2022**

The Leader of the Council introduced a report which set out the Council's vision for the Borough and priorities for residents and communities. The Plan provided the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.

Formal progress reports were considered by Cabinet every three months, with the first report presented in June 2022. This second report focussed on activities in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan up to end July 2022. It was noted that of the 92 priorities, 83% were achieved or on target with only five being more than three months delayed.

The Leader gave a brief overview of progress and areas of concern in the each of the key themes, drawing attention to the detailed performance narrative contained in the report. It was highlighted that performance was light largely on target and those activities that were delayed would be on

track by year end.

The Chair opened the discussion to Board Members. It was acknowledged that considerable progress was being made, however residents were raising concerns about issues which were not on track and clarification was sought on how these could be prioritised.

It was highlighted that the issues referred to were reflected in the plan, with examples given of enforcement action across a range of measure including environmental crime. Progress had also made in improving the road network although it was acknowledged that this was an ongoing challenge.

Clarification was sought how to balance demand for community hubs to be more accessible against financial and staffing constraints. For example, it was asked if more use of volunteers may support greater flexibility. It was outlined that volunteering opportunities were available however, there was also a commitment to ensuring that facilities were professionally led. The current financial pressures meant that careful consideration had to be given to opening hours.

It was noted that facilities were now open on the same basis as pre-pandemic so groups could utilise facilities as before. It was acknowledged that usage had dropped off across the Borough and work was underway to understand the reasons behind this. It was further noted that because of the rise in energy costs, libraries may be used as warm spaces. It was therefore important that they remained as accessible as possible.

Further details were sought on performance in respect of average call waiting times, with members of the Board giving examples of performance not meeting customer expectations. The Leader outlined mitigations including identifying peak times to maximise staffing and piloting call-back in some services. It was recognised that long waiting times could be frustrating so were encouraging customers to call at less busy times or use web-facilities if possible. It was noted that some complex calls could take longer to process which added to wait times.

The wider roll out of the call-back facility was being considered in other services such as Adult Social Care service. However, this was dependent on having sufficient capacity to ensure customer calls can be returned promptly.

It was suggested that a significant proportion of member casework could have been resolved had the customer been able to contact the service more easily by telephone. It was observed that the website was not always easy to navigate and some of the service description was not in plain, easy to understand language. An anecdotal example of inappropriate call-handling was given leading to a call being ended before the customer was passed onto the correct services. The Chief Executive gave assurance that there was a commitment to high standards of



customer care and an expectation on staff to be ambassadors for 'one council' regardless of the services area they worked in.

It was noted that while some staff worked remotely, the Council provided a full suite of services, including face-to-face at Riverside House or other service centres. Customers should experience the same standard of service regardless of where staff were located. The Chief Executive reiterated the commitment to visibility of staff and resident engagement.

In response to a query regarding the Town and Villages Fund, it was outlined that monthly meetings should be taking place with ward members to keep them up to date with progress. It was noted that some developments, such as road traffic schemes, may require more time to cost and consult partners.

It was noted that changes to staffing in green spaces would lead to improvements over the winter months. Members should have been contacted by Area Managers to identify priorities and planned work. A greater number of services were now provided at a community level and was anticipated that this would lead to a better understanding of issues in the local areas.

In respect to raising the profile of fostering in the Borough, further details were sought if the local authority was identifying best practice from elsewhere. The Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services outlined that work was ongoing to develop options for the in-house foster care support offer. It was noted that the recruitment of in-house foster carers was a nationwide issue which had been exacerbated by the pandemic. It was noted that the numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children had risen and a briefing was requested to enable members to understand associated pressures.

The Chair drew attention to some areas of concern, relating to engagement with domestic abuse services, perceptions of women's safety in public spaces and the gender pay gap. She asked that the issue regarding domestic abuse be referred to Improving Lives Select Commission to be considered as part of its work programme. It was outlined that the pay gap did not refer to women getting paid less for the same job as men, however, the disparity may be due to structural inequalities in the labour market such as more women working part-time or assuming caring responsibilities. It was noted that women of South Asian heritage were less economically active in the Borough compared with White British women. It was acknowledged that it would take some time to effect change however, it was noted however, that greater numbers of women were being recruited to middle and senior management positions and work was ongoing to encourage girls to pursue careers in non-traditional areas such as science and engineering.

The Chair commented on the format of the report and the detailed information therein. For ease of navigation, Board Members asked for a

summary sheet to be included in future iterations.

**Resolved:**

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That consideration be given to the format of future reports to provide an infographic overview of progress and challenges as part of an executive summary.
3. That Improving Lives Select Commission considers the measures relating to domestic abuse referrals.
4. That a briefing is circulated to members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Improving Lives Select Commission on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children placed in Rotherham.
5. That further work be undertaken to address the issues raised by members in relation to improving call-handling.

**77. JULY 2022/23 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance introduced the report, setting out the financial position as at the end of July 2022 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first four months of 2022/23.

As of July 2022, the Council estimated an overspend of £11.4m for the financial year 2022/23. Whilst the core directorates services had a forecast year-end overspend of £7.4m on the General Fund, there was £4.0m of estimated unbudgeted cost resulting from the wider financial impact of the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy price increases excluding the estimated impact of the 2022/23 pay award. This additional financial challenge had been factored into the current forecast following a review of the impact of these pressures on the current year and Medium-Term Financial Planning.

Whilst the energy price rises and inflation would have an impact the Council's costs in the provision of services there would be some mitigation in future years by increased core funding as business rates income was indexed to the rate of inflation. It was expected that the period of high inflation will last for around two years before it returned to a more normal level although there this would have a compounding impact. As such the Council faced significant financial pressures that will need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and through significant use of the Council's reserves. There was no indication as yet as to whether additional funding will be provided to local authorities as part of the financial settlement for 2023/24. It was noted that a budget update was expected shortly and further financial planning would take place following the announcement from the Treasury.

The Chair invited Board Members to question the report. It was noted that

the report also referred to a larger overspend and sought clarification on the differential. It was noted that the pay award had not yet been agreed, however, figures would need to be revised in future reports to reflect the pressure once it had been finalised. Assurance was given that regular monitoring and planning was taking place to reflect changes and market fluctuations.

It was noted that savings were to be delivered in children services. Given the changing financial situation were these on track or was there a need to re-profile how they were to be achieved? It was outlined that careful monitoring was taking place however, it was difficult to reduce costs of placements because of demand across the country. It was noted that the Borough was one of few local authorities to reduce the numbers of children in care. Other developments included building in-house residential placements and increase regional working to manage commissioning costs.

Further clarification of the £9m overspend in relation to the market redevelopment project and what steps were being taken to ensure that it was still viable and delivered value for money for Rotherham residents. The Leader outlined that work was underway across all capital projects to examine if savings could be made without making significant changes to the service. In terms of the market project shortfall, approximately £5m could be supported through South Yorkshire Combined Authority funding and alternative grant funding streams could be utilised for the remaining balance. While inflationary pressures were anticipated in budget setting, these were not to the same extent as now experienced. Services were being asked to identify funding from other projects which were a lower priority to enable the delivery of higher priority schemes. It was felt that the market redevelopment scheme was an important part of the wider town centre regeneration and would deliver value for money. The Chief Executive outlined that the scheme had met all the viability requirements set out by Government to secure external funding streams from the "Future High Streets Fund" and due diligence was being satisfied.

The Chair of the Improving Places Select Commission had undertaken a focussed review of the market service and commented that current provision was reaching end of life. He reiterated the importance of the markets as part of the town centre masterplan.

Clarification was sought about the slippage in relation to fleet management costs and what mitigations were in place. It was outlined that this was not a cost pressure but rather had not yet been spent. It was highlighted that there had not been a robust plan in place to renew the fleet to make best use of green technologies and secure value for money. The service had been tasked to develop an action plan to identify options. It was noted that progress was likely to be made with small fleet vehicles in the first instance. A request was made for an update to be provided to scrutiny on progress.

**Resolved:**

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That a further update is provided to scrutiny on the fleet management vehicle purchase project.

**78. SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2022-25**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance introduced the report. The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP), of which the Council was a key statutory partner, had agreed a new Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan, setting out priorities and commitments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. The previous Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2018-21 was extended for an additional year to 31 March 2022 due to Covid pandemic pressures and impacts on crime and community safety. The plan guided the partnership in delivering significant work to protect vulnerable children and adults, build safer and more cohesive communities and tackle domestic abuse and serious and organised crime.

Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility to prepare an annual strategic assessment to identify community safety priorities across the local area, develop a partnership plan and co-ordinate activities to address the priorities. There was also a requirement to consult and engage with communities, ensuring that their views are taken into account when identifying local priorities.

The plan outlined a number of key priorities based around the following four themes:

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

It was outlined that the process and priorities were intelligence led and was informed by data and risks identified using the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) thematic tool and Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment.

The Chair invited questions from Board Members. Clarification was sought on the consultation process and how groups were selected and what consideration had given to consult with other groups of disabled people, for example people with autism. It was outlined that groups were identified through Voluntary Action Rotherham and other established networks. Whilst Members welcomed that groups had been consulted with, it was felt that future consultation should be wider to capture the views of under-represented groups including black and minority ethnic communities and young people. It was noted by the Cabinet Member that a consultation plan had been drawn up and activities were delivered to try

and capture views, including speaking to students from a special school to inform the Hate Crime Panel and engagement with Rotherham United to address mental health issues. The plan also utilised findings from Council Plan consultation and information from ward plans.

Further details were asked about consultation on rural crime and engagement with individuals across different locations. Examples were given of engagement with the Parish Council Network and the use of ward plans to better understand local issues and inform priorities.

It was stressed that tackling serious violence was a priority regardless of the gender of the perpetrator or victim. However, it was acknowledged that violence against women and girls was largely committed by male perpetrators and therefore the Partnership was developing strategies to address this and women's safety. It was noted that there had been reports of disabled people experiencing hate crime and some made be vulnerable to criminal exploitation such as modern slavery. Assurance was sought that the partnership was aware of these issues.

An issue was raised about vulnerable adults with poor mental health and a history of substance misuse and if there was a clear pathway for them to access services. A review was underway to ensure that the right support was in place at the right time and comments from members on what works well/gaps in services were welcomed.

Assurance was given that quantitative data was monitored to ensure that services demonstrated continuous improvement. This would be reported on when the Board considered the Annual Report at its November meeting.

The Chair asked for clarification about the risk of online radicalisation and how this is prioritised in the Prevent action plan. The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Community confirmed that the Partnership had good oversight informed by intelligence and South Yorkshire Police had developed a local profile in line with its duties. It was noted that as with other areas of online crime, online radicalisation had increased over the pandemic.

The Chair asked what was different in this plan compared with previous iterations. It was outlined that some previous priorities continued to feature however there were some changes to priorities to reflect legislative changes such as serious violence and domestic abuse. The plan would also be delivered over a three-year period.

The continued focus on child sexual and criminal exploitation was welcomed. Clarification was sought about of the threat of acquisitive crime and if this impacts negatively of an individual's perceptions of safety and well-being. The MoRiLE assessment looked at the impact on the wider community and how the Partnership responded so there was confidence that this would be picked up. The Cabinet Member also cited ongoing

engagement with health partners and voluntary sector organisations. In addition, there would be a light touch refresh of the plan each year there would be an opportunity to review actions in light of developments.

**Resolved:**

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That wider engagement takes place to inform future and refreshed plans, including rural communities, disabled people, minority ethnic communities and those with other protected characteristics.

**79. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Senior Governance Advisor gave an update on the Board's work programme, drawing attention to the following areas:

- Items for the pre-decision scrutiny meeting to be held on 12 October 2022 and future agendas
- Modern-slavery spotlight review
- Monitoring arrangements of recommendations arising from Operation Linden
- Cost of living crisis – scrutiny activity
- Nature emergency – Improving Places Select Commission would undertake this work

**Resolved:** - That the Work Programme be approved.

**80. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS**

**Improving Lives Select Commission** considered the Rotherham Local Area Special Education Needs and Disability – Written Statement of Action Update and Looked After Children Draft Sufficiency Strategy. The Board was advised that the Commission would be considering the Draft Early Help Strategy at a workshop meeting to be held on 21 September 2022.

**Improving Places Select Commission** would be undertaking a focussed review on the effectiveness of selective licencing scheme.

**Health Select Commission** future work programme would include scrutiny of medicine management and child and adolescent mental health services.

**81. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

The Board considered the Forward Plan of Key Decision 1 September 2022 to 30 November 2022.

**Resolved:** - That the Forward Plan be noted.

**82. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no call-in issues.

**83. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items.

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

**Resolved:** That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 12 October 2022 at Rotherham Town Hall.

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

**Report Title**

Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs

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

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**Report Author(s)**

Julie Moore, Head of Service – Provider Services

[Julie.moore@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.moore@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The Council's ongoing commitment to the transformation of Learning Disability Services continues with this report, which proposes a new service model regarding 'day opportunities for people with high support needs' including the building of a new day centre facility in Canklow to replace the existing Learning Disability Day Service.

Outlining the outcome of the 90-day public consultation - this report takes into account the views and comments of all those who have taken part in the consultation process. This includes the people who are directly affected by any potential changes.

Ongoing engagement will continue throughout the build and service design process with co-production being at the heart of a successful new model.

The Council has already committed £2.1m in capital funding to ensure the best possible facilities can be provided.

**Recommendations**

1. Cabinet acknowledges the outcome of the 90-day consultation exercise which established the views and needs of users of the current learning disability day service, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding the future service offer for people with high support needs.

2. Cabinet agrees the recommended proposals for a new service offer as detailed in sections 1 and 3 of this report, including a new building at Warden Street in Canklow, complemented by community outreach

### **List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Report: Consultation Findings  
Appendix 2 Service Options Appraisal  
Appendix 3 Site Options Appraisal  
Appendix 4 Part A - Equality Analysis Screening  
Appendix 5 Part B - Equality Analysis Form  
Appendix 6 Carbon Impact Assessment Form

### **Background Papers**

The Transformation of Services and Support for People with a Learning Disability - Cabinet and Commissioner's Decision-Making Meeting 21 May 2018

Proposals for the REACH Service and approval to undertake 90-day consultation exercise - Cabinet – 20 December 2021

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

No

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

No

## **Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 A consultation exercise carried out in 2017 laid the foundations for a Learning Disability Transformation Programme, (The Transformation of Services and Support for People with a Learning Disability - Cabinet and Commissioner's Decision-Making Meeting 21 May 2018).

Cabinet committed to the following vision for those with a learning disability:

- Have the opportunity to get a job and contribute to their community
- Have the opportunity to choose where they live
- Have access to a good quality health service
- Be kept safe and protected from all forms of exploitation
- Access services of the highest quality which make a difference in assisting people to be as independent as possible
- Offer services that are affordable, are personalised and are what people would want to choose.

The objectives of the transformation programme:

- Will provide high quality care and support to people with a learning disability and their families
- Will actively promote people's wellbeing, helping them have a good life and be as independent, healthy, and well as possible
- Will be more diverse so all people with a learning disability in Rotherham, whatever their age, background, or level of need, will have more choice in their support
- Will move away from traditional building based or institutional form of support and will focus on support, which is personalised, flexible and meets people's individual needs
- Will help people work together and pool their personal funds so they can share their support and sustain meaningful and rewarding relationships
- Will provide the best value for the people of Rotherham

Included within the transformation programme was the replacement of the existing high support day service provision with a new service offering modern accessible day opportunities with multifunctional fit for purpose facilities, promoting independence, wellbeing and social inclusion.

The current day service comprises of 2 buildings – Maple Avenue (Maltby) is Council owned whilst the Elliott Centre (Herringthorpe) is located on a large NHS owned site and is leased.

#### **Maple Avenue**

- The building is a previous Children's Residential Home property over two floors.
- It does not meet accessibility requirements due to no lifts, narrow corridors, and direct access issues.
- The building severely limits the service that could be offered.

## The Elliott Centre

- The lease is high risk for the Council and service users due to a lack of security of tenure due to 3-year term and “no-fault” 9-month break for both parties which could mean notice being served and alternative temporary accommodation needing to be found.
- NHS is selling land on the same site for re-development – The site risks becoming a building site – Some buildings are derelict and subject to vandalism.
- This is creating concerns for access and safety.
- Equipment is coming to the end of its life e.g., heating system is unreliable.

In December 2021 Cabinet approved a 90-day Consultation Exercise to establish the views and needs of users of the current learning disability day service, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding the new service offer.

Agreement was given that following the consultation, a further report would be presented including an options appraisal, recommendations for location; building design principles; capital spend requirements; initial delivery plan and revised service offer.

It is intended that the current services based at Maltby and Herringthorpe will continue until the new service is open and people can begin to move across. The new service will be available to ALL current day service customers, with the expectation of becoming operational on a phased approach by winter 2024/25.

### 1.2 The consultation process

The public consultation commenced on 31st January 2022 and ended on 30th April 2022.

Methodology:

- **Online consultation questionnaire**

An online consultation ran for the full duration and could be found on the Council website. The access details were widely publicised. Paper versions were also made available.

Library and Neighbourhood Hubs provided help to complete online forms and displayed information about the consultation.

- **A series of formal public consultation meetings** were conducted, and feedback gathered from Carers, Relatives and People with Learning Disabilities.
- **A series of drop-in sessions** were attended across the borough by Carers, Relatives and People with Learning Disabilities.

- **Home visits** - The Head of Provider Services has also made a number of personal visits to Carers and Relatives to discuss the Consultation and gather further feedback.
- **Engagement activity** - Individual letters were sent to those attending current Council Day Services along with their carers and relatives regarding the 90-day consultation and means of engaging in the process.

Engagement Sessions/Workshops have been planned at current day services as a follow-up to the consultation.

The Head of Provider Services held a dedicated meeting with all day services staff on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, to go through the consultation pack, slides and all aspects of the consultation to ensure staff had a clear understanding to enable them to support and explain to service users. A supply of consultation packs was also left at the day centre premises on the same day.

Emails were sent and conversations had with over fifty social enterprises, network organisations, forums and groups across the borough, with follow-up offers to attend meetings to discuss the consultation proposals further. Some networks have taken up this offer and sessions arranged shaped around feedback from groups leads as to what would work best for each group.

CYPS Directorate have circulated information about the consultation to try and engage with young people, particularly those transitioning to Adult Care. This has included:

- Education Service colleagues (via CYPS)
- Providers (via Commissioning)

Ongoing Advocacy support and thorough representation was provided throughout **all** stages and methods of the consultation.

A members seminar was held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

- **Communication**

Communication has been wide-ranging, including:

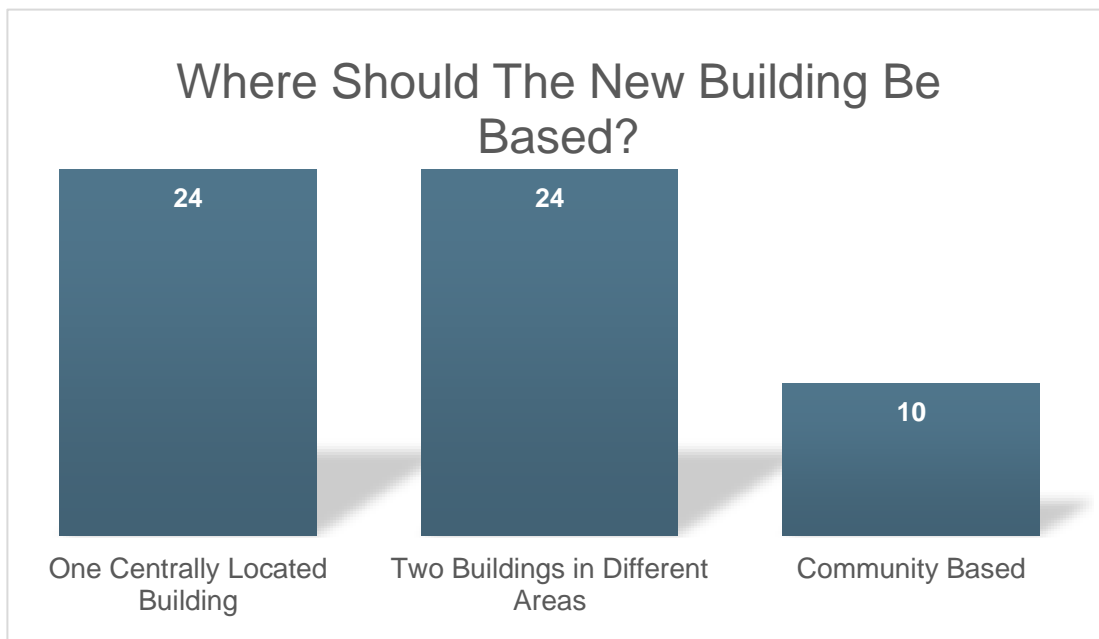
- Press releases
- Consultation packs
- Rotherham website information
- Internal to Council – Monday Roundup, Chief Executive Update, Member Briefings, Rotherham Round-up, VAR Email Bulletin, etc
- Cross-Directorate
- Cross-Council
- Social media used including FaceBook and Twitter
- Advertiser articles

- **Public Participation**

- Online Surveys completed: 58
- Attendees at public meetings: 21
- Attendees at drop-in sessions: 21
- People receiving home visits: 5
- Day services staff: 42
- Social enterprises, network organisations, forums and groups: 50

1.3 Consultation outcome (full Consultees Responses can be found in **Appendix 1**)

**1. Preference about where the building should be based:**



*One centrally located building - 24 people*

*Two buildings in different areas of the borough – 24 people*

*Community based – 10 people*

***Direct quotes from participants can be found in Appendix 1***

**Key Themes from consultation outcome**

**One Centrally Located Building:**

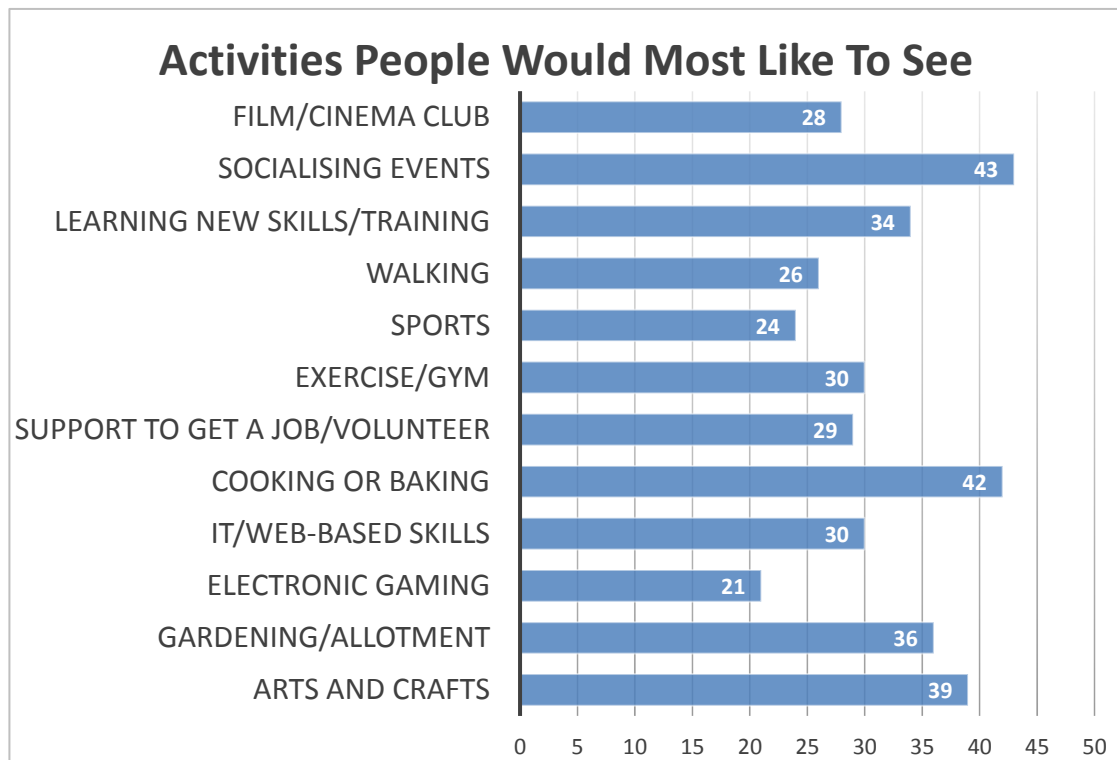
- Familiarity/Routine
- Safer base
- More space for one larger building to meet a wide range of needs and provide greater building accessibility
- Wider range of activities in one larger building

**Two Buildings located in different areas of the borough:**

- Travel concerns reduced with two buildings rather than one
- Two separate buildings could support varying need complexities

**Community-Based service:**

- Transportation issues would arise with just one or two buildings – a community-based service would eradicate these issues
- Focus should be on reaching the individual within the community, rather than on a building or multiple buildings

**2. Activities that people would most like to see in a new service**

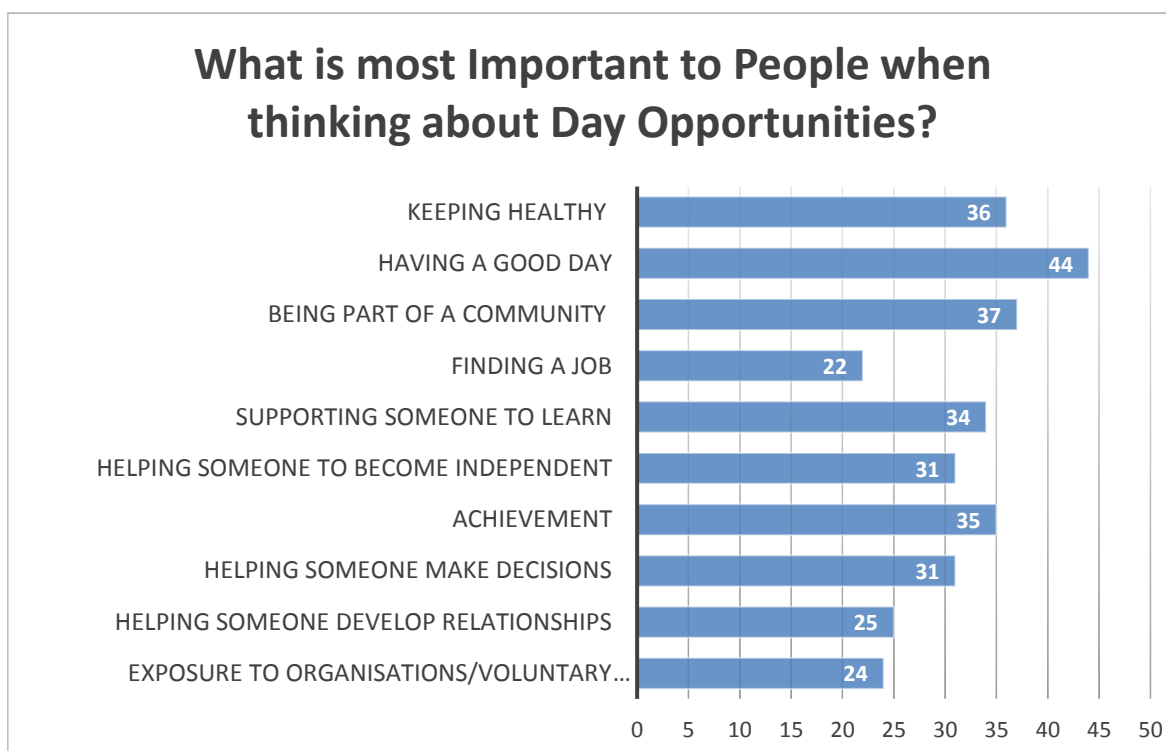
The most popular activities that people would like to see in a new service are:

- Socialising/events
- Cooking and baking
- Arts and crafts
- Gardening /allotment

Interest was shown in all the suggested activities (see **Appendix 1**) The intention of the selection was to encourage people to think about what activities they enjoyed or were interested in trying. The selection was not exhaustive, and participants were encouraged to think wider than this.

***Direct quotes from participants can be found in Appendix 1***

### 3. What is most important to people when thinking about day opportunities

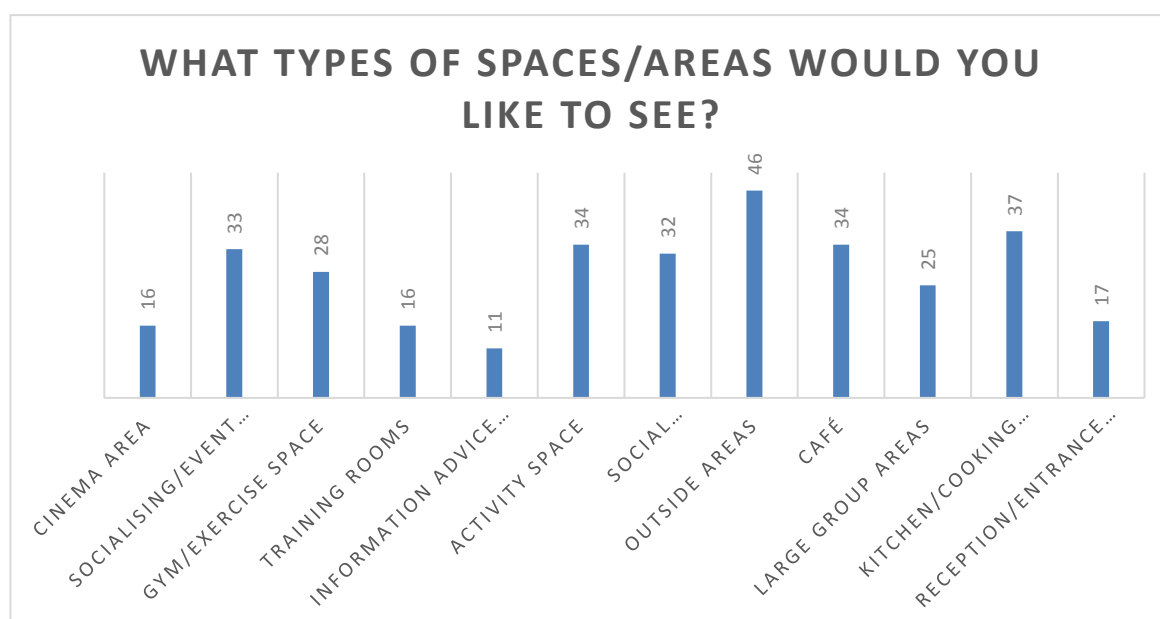


The most popular aspects that are important to people are:

- Having a good day
- Being part of a community
- Achievement
- Supporting people to learn

*Direct quotes from participants can be found in Appendix 1*

### 4. The type of spaces/areas people would like to see



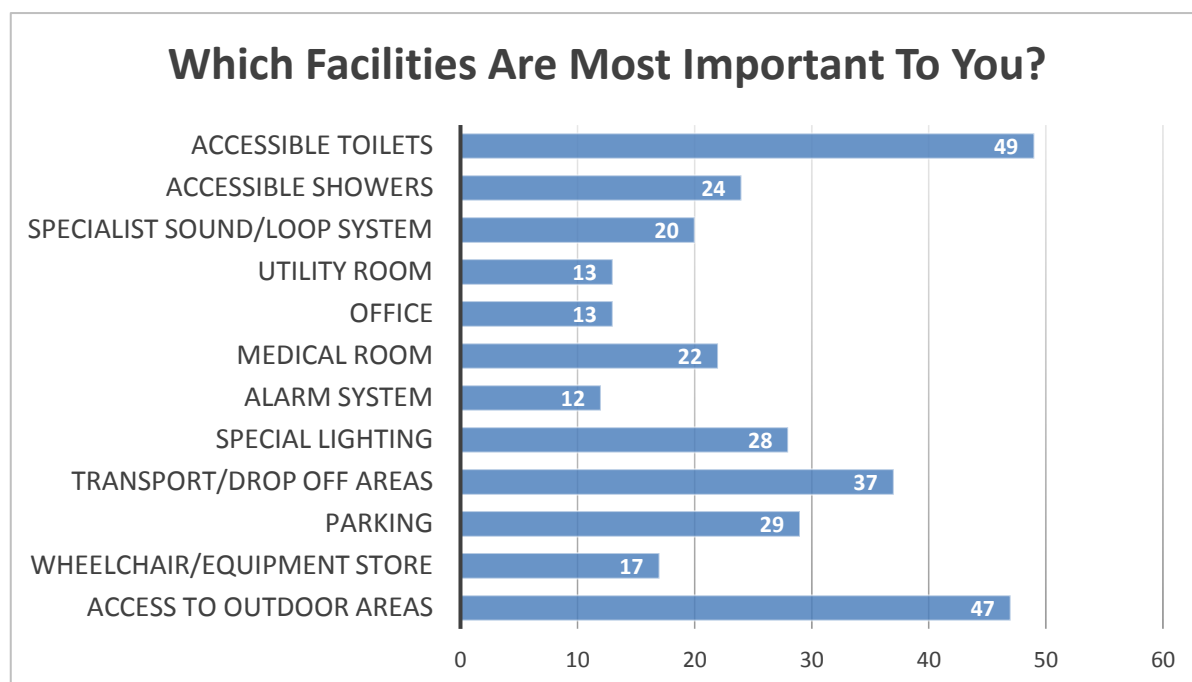


The most popular spaces/areas people would like to see are:

- Outside space
- Kitchen area
- Activity area
- Socialising/event space
- Café

*Direct quotes from participants can be found in Appendix 1*

## 5. Facilities that are most important to people.



The most popular facilities that people told us were important are:

- Access to outside areas
- Accessible toilets
- Transport/drop off areas/parking
- Specialist lighting

*Direct quotes from participants can be found in appendix 1*

## 6. Additional Qualitative Feedback/comments

A wealth of additional feedback has been collated during the duration of the consultation and is also documented in the consultation findings report (**Appendix 1**).

### **Key feedback to note:**

*The new service needs to be co-produced from the very beginning. It needs to be flexible and innovative, so that the people with lived experience are valued and surrounded with person-centred ethos.*

*Match transport as bus services are declining. Door to door services operate 10am - 2pm, so could we offer a service 10am - 6pm so people could access independently, or 9am - 6.30pm to also support working parents*

*Will the building be a disability confident employer, and can we have some people with disabilities working there?*

*The function rooms could also be rented out to produce additional revenue and could be used for social gatherings to welcome people into the centre. Can we link this with employment, voluntary work etc?*

*Separate complex needs area (and with the same dedicated staff group) as this group of people are extremely vulnerable, but an open area where people of all ranges of complexity can meet and mix when they want to.*

### 1.4 **Service Options appraisal**

The service options appraisal (**Appendix 2**) outlines the options for delivery of a new service. Section 3 of this report provides full detail and recommendations.

### 1.5 **Location(s)**

The outcome of the consultation regarding either one large building centrally located or two smaller buildings in different areas of the borough was an exact 50/50 split. In order to conclude the decision key relevant factors have been considered which include:

- Comments and opinions from the consultation outcome
- Availability, location and suitability of sites
- Best value and investment of the £2.1M to secure the highest quality facilities and service
- Delivery of the best possible outcomes for our customers

The Council Asset Management Team have been proactively supporting Adult Care Directorate to identify suitable sites across the borough. Size, location, and accessibility being key factors.

In total 29 potential sites were identified throughout the borough.

The site options appraisal (**Appendix 3**) details the outcome of findings and site visits and proposes the preferred option. Section 3 of this report provides full detail and recommendations.

## 1.6 **Building design**

The new building design will ensure full compliance with accessibility standards in accordance with statutory regulations and take into consideration the specific requirements of the client group. Design will focus on providing a modern, state of the art facility whilst providing a welcoming, calming and exciting purpose-built environment.

Stakeholder engagement sessions will be held throughout the design process to ensure people's knowledge, ideas and opinions are taken into consideration. The build will comprise of carbon reduction technologies and meet all building regulation standards aimed at reducing carbon and running costs. This will be achieved by careful selection of materials, incorporating energy efficient building services and controls, and utilising energy efficient and sustainable building methodologies.

## 1.7 **Cohort mapping**

A recent cohort mapping exercise considered the geographical location of people with a learning disability who reside within the borough. The findings are as follows:

North 23%  
South 12%  
Central 24%  
East 36%  
Other 5%

Mapping of the geographical location of current day service clients is as follows:

North 16%  
South 11%  
Central 30%  
East 43%

A definite correlation with the borough mapping and service mapping can be observed. This evidences that central and east areas of the borough have the largest numbers of people with a learning disability both residing in the area and also attending the current in-house day service provision.

## 1.8 **Build Delivery Plan**

A draft programme plan has been created and details estimated build delivery time following cabinet approval.

Estimated build completion and handover date 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024 with an expectation that the service will be operational on a phased approach by Winter 2024/25.

## 1.9 Capital Spend

The Council has already committed to a capital spend of £2.1M for the development of a new day opportunities service offer.

## 1.10 Service Offer

The future service offer takes into consideration the consultation outcome and feedback, the principles and objectives of the Council Learning Disability Transformation programme, legislation and legal frameworks.

Principles to support the new service include the following:

- Supports the 'my front door' principles of people having purposeful, ordinary lives and meaningful days
- Provides both a quality service and stability for those with the most complex needs, and a forward-thinking flexible approach for others which supports achievements of outcomes and long-term life changing goals
- Time limited pathway approach working on small steps towards greater independence and ordinary lives, with person centred plans and milestones
- Supports people with life skills, personal development, training, volunteering and work opportunities
- Provides a model of accessible enablement support around day-to-day life and in the workplace, irrespective of whether or not the person continues to access the service
- Supports people to access and remain in work and volunteering enjoying the positive lifestyle benefits that this brings
- Provides throughput and a pathway for young adults in transition leading onto 'mainstream' lifestyles rather than within services
- Meets a wide range of needs, not just in the building but also within the heart of the community and welcome support and involvement from local businesses, social enterprises, community groups and voluntary sector organisations
- Supports people to explore subsequent life enhancing elements of the 'my front door' project for example:

Outside my front door:

- My garden gate - accessing their community
- My work bag - employment opportunities
- My day/night out - engaging in events
- My things to do - regular activities
- My places to visit - interests / preferences

Inside my front door:

- My front room - friends and family (socialising)
- My night in - rest and recuperation
- My day off - relaxing at home Service delivery and purpose

The new service will be multi-functional within the heart of the community and welcome support and involvement from local businesses, community groups and voluntary sector organisations. The offer will focus on community connectivity.

The service model will support people with complex support needs delivered in a person-centred manner, also a hub for wider community activity, learning and skill development.

The hub will also act as a place for people with a learning disability to access general support with getting on with their lives', therefore reducing the need for formal contact with adult care for low level support thus supporting a prevention and early intervention model. This will be enhanced by a dedicated peripatetic hub team who would also provide enabling support and community links.

The service model will support people with complex support needs, and others who would be supported with a pathway to achieve longer term outcomes and goals, eventually not being reliant on the service other than for drop-in support from the hub as and when required.

The model will also support young adults in transition to achieve a life of their own.

Life skills, including managing money, travel training and domestic tasks would be provided to all those accessing the service.

Key activities currently accessed off site in the Maltby area will continue to be supported within the new model.

The service will support people with skills to enter the workplace, volunteering or pursue further interests both physically and digitally. People will be encouraged to volunteer within the wider community based on the skills and experience they have gained, with the final outcome being to secure and sustain meaningful employment.

The service will link with local colleges and adult education providers to support service users with a skills development plan and gain qualifications which they could use within a workplace.

It will support people with a learning disability to remain in the workplace and the employers to enable successful long-term employment. The service approach will also enable community development and therefore enhance and promote greater choice of options and life direction.

The service offer will consider extended opening times and also enable the use of the facilities during evenings and weekend for events and social gatherings as appropriate.

The service will be inclusive of the activities and interests referred to within the consultation outcome and will also ensure continuation of all activities that current service users are enjoying.

The model will support an outcome focused strength-based approach in accordance with good practice and the principles of the Care Act 2014.

Overall, the offer will support people to reach their aspirations and goals in life and provide an ongoing safety net to help with any hurdles along the way

The service model will continue to be developed in line with the needs of people who currently use our services, people who may use our services in the future, and informal carers.

## 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The recommended proposals align with the ongoing transformation of learning disability services in Rotherham and the principles of 'my front door'. The report acknowledges and considers all the findings from the recent public consultation held 31st January 2022 to 30th April 2022.
- 2.2 A full engagement programme will be implemented with regard to the final service/build design with the input from peoples, relatives/carers and staff being of the utmost importance

## 3. Options considered and recommended proposal

### 3.1 Service Options

Option 1	Service to operate from one large <u>newbuild</u> centrally located building, complimented by community outreach support across the borough to support access to local communities.
	<div> <div>PRO's</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In line with consultation in that there is equal support for a centrally located single base along with additional support for community access.</li> <li>Existing Maltby relationships and key activities maintained, through outreach support.</li> <li>Larger building and space to meet a wider range of needs and activitites and provides greater accessibility</li> <li>Potential for access to town centre amentiiies and leisure depended upon location , to enhance day opportunity experiences</li> <li>More cost effective use of resources/funding to ensure customers get the best level of quality for the Rotherham £</li> <li>Maximises use and impact of captial spend</li> <li>Supports socialising and existing wider friendship groups</li> <li>Centralised accessible support hub and changing space for the wider LD community</li> <li>Familliar service/routine is maintained</li> <li>Purpose buillt modern facilities</li> <li>Travel/transportation arrangments easier with one site</li> <li>Bringing people together builds stronger communities and communities of interest.</li> </ul> </div> <div> <div>CON's</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional travel for some people</li> <li>Disruption and uncertainty for some families and people until new service offer implemented.</li> <li>Move to a new location to be very carefully managed.</li> <li>Need to ensure changing places are available to support safe use of local community faciiliites</li> <li>Greater footfall and noise levels, therefore would require quiet spaces</li> </ul> </div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimum use of workforce and staffing resource and flexibility to offer extended opening times</li> <li>• Every person will be reassessed to ensure their needs are met</li> <li>• Accessing universal services wherever possible in the community</li> </ul>	
<b>Option 2</b>	Service to operate from two new build bases, geographically split across the Borough.	
	<b>PRO's</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is in line with a significant response to the consultation supporting two bases.</li> <li>• Provides a safe place in two distinct locations.</li> <li>• Potential to retain the community strengths and profile that currently exists.</li> <li>• Maintains the current range of choice of two locations</li> <li>• Reduced travel arrangements for some people</li> <li>• Continues to support the independence that people have developed in the area.</li> <li>• Less disruption to routines and family life.</li> </ul>	<b>CON's</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of two buildings and service would be compromised compared with investing the available capital in one building</li> <li>• Resources are split across two bases limiting flexibility and opening times</li> <li>• Prevents wider Rotherham Borough offer re community outreach &amp; access.</li> <li>• Changing places to be accessed/ established within local community facilities</li> <li>• Disruption and uncertainty for some families and people until new service offer implemented.</li> <li>• Move to a new location to be very carefully managed for people</li> </ul>
<b>OPTION 3</b>	Community based service operating on an outreach basis and would not have a building base presence	
	<b>PRO's</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced operating costs</li> <li>• Reduces the need for council buildings</li> <li>• Flexible service delivery and support times</li> <li>• Supports particular interests and activities</li> <li>• Person centred</li> </ul>	<b>CON's</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support hub provision would be on a virtual basis and not in a physical building seen as a social space with routine</li> <li>• Issues with finding changing places/dignity</li> <li>• Lack of service identity</li> </ul>

*Appendix 2 – Service options appraisal details the consideration of the range of options available to the Council.*

### 3.2 Site Options

A total of 29 potential sites were identified in the borough, full details of which can be viewed in **Appendix 3**.

23 sites were under the Council's ownership and 6 were for sale in the private market

Key considerations relating to suitability included:

- Location within the borough and alignment with cohort mapping
- Overall size of the site
- Community based
- Accessibility
- Proximity to local services and community facilities
- Transport links and networks

- Outdoor space
- Land levels
- Likelihood of planning objections

### 3.3 **The recommended proposals are as follows:**

#### **Service Proposal**

Option 1 is the preferred option.

**Service to operate from one large new build centrally located building, complimented by community outreach support across the borough to support access to local communities.**

The rationale for this decision is that it offers all the benefits that the investment into one large modern building would realise whilst retaining a community presence and outreach support in the east and across the wider borough in response to demand and need. This supports increased choice and control, strengthens local communities and considers the impact of people who currently use the REACH service in Maltby who may have developed a particular local interest, or wish to remain or become involved with their local community.

It provides an inclusive approach, building strong community connections, focusing on support which is personalised, flexible and meets people's individual needs both building and community based, is person centred and ensures people are receiving the right flexible support in the right place at the right time.

Together with the preferred site option and community outreach, this option will enable us to deliver a central base alongside a community outreach resource to meet localised demand for support.

The current sites at Elliot Centre and Maple Avenue would be decommissioned

Everyone will be offered a new assessment of care and support needs to ensure the new service model meets their needs.

**The new service would be called 'Living my best life', with the preferred site option called 'Castle View'**

This option aligns with:

- The 2018 Cabinet report 'Transformation of services and support for people with a learning disability
- The 2021 Cabinet report 'Proposals for the reach service' with particular reference to point 3.2 – location of the service
- The findings from both the 2017 and 2022 consultation exercises.

It provides an inclusive approach, building strong community connections, focusing on support which is personalised, flexible and meets people's individual needs both building and community based, is person centred and ensures people are receiving the right flexible support in the right place at the right time.



Together with the preferred site options (**Appendix 3**) and alignment with cohort mapping exercises, this option will enable us to deliver a central base alongside a community outreach resource in the east of the borough to meet more localised demand for support.

## **Site proposal**

***Warden Street, Canklow is the preferred site option (please see Appendix 3)***

The rationale for this decision is that: meeting all required specifications, the site offers a wide scope for development potential and opportunities for innovation, is of a very good size and is in a community location known to have a strong community spirit. There are transport links within 100m of the site and the area is within walking distance of the town centre. The surroundings are pleasant and off the main road with local facilities nearby including a recreation area, shop, GP surgery. Being close to the bypass supports accessibility to travel to the site from all areas of the borough. The site to be called 'Castle View Day Opportunities'

The Housing Service is developing proposals to deliver council homes for rent on this site, and the Annual Housing Development Report to Cabinet in July 2022 obtained approval for using the site for residential development. The day opportunities proposals set out in this report will not affect the number of council homes proposed (25), and Adult Care and Housing teams will work together to ensure a coordinated approach. Further details on the housing proposal will be included in a housing development Cabinet report in December 2022.

## **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 This proposal is based on the outcome of a 90-day public consultation exercise carried out between 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

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

- 5.1 Implementation of this decision will commence in accordance with the delivery plan detailed in section 1.8.

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

- 6.1 There is no proposal to alter the capacity of the staffing resource required to continue to run the new service, however there may need to be some amendments to job roles and staffing structures to meet the ambitions of the service and as highlighted in the consultation. There will be a formal consultation with staff as appropriate, to meet the needs of the service and Human Resource guidance. Staff have continued to be engaged with the consultation throughout and their enthusiasm and commitment to a new service are key to the delivery.

The preferred option is likely to have minimal impact on transport costs but until the location and participation of each person is known this remains a risk to the council. The Capital Programme includes £2.1 million for the development of a new building and any associated miscellaneous costs. However, it should be noted that this relates

to build costs only (at 2020 prices) and does not factor in the foregoing of a potential capital receipt if a Council site is agreed. Building running costs will also be impacted but it is expected that the cost can be contained within the current lease and running costs of the existing service.

Any potential grant funding opportunities which may serve to enhance the specification to be delivered or support the financial viability of the scheme will be pursued including relating to the above leasehold titles.

- 6.2 Any procurement requirements associated with the recommendation for the new build facility and the delivery of services 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 The duty to consult consists of four key elements, known as the Gunning criteria, that are designed to make consultation a fair and worthwhile exercise: -

- (1) Any lawful consultation must be undertaken at a time when proposals are at a formative stage.
- (2) There must be sufficient reasons advanced for any particular proposal to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response.
- (3) Adequate time must be given for that purpose.
- (4) The results of that consultation must be conscientiously taken into account before any decision is taken.

There are two further points of law that the Council has followed, and these are particularly relevant in the consultation given that the customers using the service will have varying degrees of cognitive impairment as they will have a diagnosis of a Learning Disability or Autism:

1. The degree of specificity with which the Council should conduct the consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting; and
2. The demands of fairness are likely to be higher when an authority contemplates depriving someone of an existing benefit or advantage than when the claimant is a bare applicant for a future benefit.

While the outcome of the consultation is summarised at 1.3 of this report, the consultation findings are reported in full at **Appendix 1**.

- 7.2 The proposals in this report support the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:
- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged as a result of disability; and
  - Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in the wider society
  - Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 establishes the public sector equality duty ("PSED") – which requires that the Council, as a public body, in carrying out its functions must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics referred to in the Equality Act are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. Public authorities also need to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination against someone because of their marriage or civil partnership status.

There is a duty on the Council to keep a record to demonstrate that it has genuinely and consciously had due regard to the PSED.

Equality Analysis attached: **Appendix 4** Part A - Equality Analysis Screening and **Appendix 5** Part B - Equality Analysis Form.

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

- 8.1 There are no Human Resources implications which will result in job losses arising from this report. However, due process will be followed in relation to any structural changes or changes to job profiles. To date HR are satisfied that relevant engagement and consultation has taken place with staff regarding the proposals for day services.

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

- 9.1 The new delivery models for Learning Disability and Autism services outlined in this report, and the co-produced service specification, will improve the service offer for all the adult cohorts supported by the Council.

The proposals contained within this report support positive steps to meet objectives in the Council Plan to develop alternatives to traditional care, maximise independence and stimulate the market requirement in terms of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Priority 2 - Promoting independence and self-management and increasing independence of care for all people).

Young People who are in Rotherham's Preparing for Adulthood Cohort are in scope, though the impacts will be for people aged 18 and over.

The Strategic Preparing for Adulthood Planning Group will have oversight of new delivery models which will ensure better outcomes for young people who have SEND, mental health, physical and complex needs.

For all young people to:

- Grow up prepared for the future.
- Have improved health and wellbeing.
- Be able to exercise control over the support they receive

- Be able to receive support locally from a range of services that everyone values.
- For all young people to have an opportunity have their own 'front door' - Ensure the right support is in place based on where the young person lives

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

10.1 The proposals in this report support the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:

- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged as a result of disability and  
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- Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in the wider society.

The Equality Analysis provides further detail, though the primary focus of the proposal will be to support the organisations who provide services to people with Disabilities and Long-Term Conditions together with their Unpaid Carers as the services form part of the Council's statutory duties under the Care Act 2014.

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

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment form has been completed and can be reviewed in appendix 6.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1. The intention is to explore the development of the new service jointly with Integrated Care System (ICS) partners. This would ensure a joint place based approach to service design and delivery and meeting the needs of people funded through both the local authority and NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC).

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 Capital programme costs

The Capital Programme of £2.1 million for the development relates to build costs only (at 2020 prices) this does not factor in the foregoing of a potential capital receipt if a Council site is agreed or any inflationary uplift in build costs due to the current rates of inflation and cost of materials.

13.2 Availability of suitable sites

There was a potential risk that a suitable site for the location of the new service may not be realised. Adult Care have worked with Asset Management to ensure all potential sites, both Council and privately owned, have been identified and analysis carried out in terms of specification suitability. This robust exercise has ensured that the final site recommendation is the most suitable for the purpose of delivery of the new day opportunities service.

**14. Accountable Officers**

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health  
[ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk)

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	29/09/22

Report Author: Julie Moore  
 Head of Service – Provider Services  
[Julie.moore@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.moore@rotherham.gov.uk)

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

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## Appendix 1.

### Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**Report:** Consultation outcome and findings - Day opportunities for people with high support needs

**Author:** Julie Moore – Head of Service, Provider Services

**Date of report:** 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

#### 1. Introduction

On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021, cabinet approved a 90-day consultation exercise to establish the views and needs of users of the REACH Day Service, their families, and carers and younger people preparing for adulthood, regarding a new day opportunities service offer for people with high support needs in Rotherham.

This consultation was a very important and exciting part of the council's plan to transform learning disability services across the borough.

The consultation commenced on 31 January 2022 and ended on 30 April 2022.

#### 2. Methodology

- Online consultation questionnaire**

A online consultation ran for the full duration of the consultation and could be found on RMBC website. The access details were widely publicised. Paper version also available.

The following Library and Neighbourhood Hubs provided help to complete online forms and displayed information about the consultation:

Library	Telephone	Address
Riverside	01709 336774	Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE
Aston	01709 254134	Worksop Road, Swallownest, Sheffield, S26 4WD
Brinsworth Community	01709 255050	Field View, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5DG
Dinnington	01709 334426	Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield, S25 2PP
Greasbrough Community	01709 551477	Coach Road, Greasbrough, Rotherham, S61 4PU
Kimberworth	01709 558581	Church Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 1HA
Kiveton Park	01909 771823	Wales Road, Kiveton Park, Sheffield S26 6RB
Maltby Community	01709 334772	Braithwell Road, Maltby, Rotherham, S66 8JE
Mowbray Gardens Community	01709 370038	Herringtonthorpe Valley Road, Rotherham, S65 2UH
Rawmarsh	01709 255682	Barbers Avenue, Rotherham, S62 6AA
Swinton	01709 254615	Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8PZ
Thorpe Hesley	0114 2457027	Trinity Community Centre, Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham, S61 2QJ
Thurcroft	01709 546150	School Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DE
Wath	01709 873542	Montgomery Square, Wath, Rotherham, S63 7RZ
Wickersley	01709 544134	286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1JJ

- A series of formal public consultation meetings** were conducted and feedback gathered from Carers, Relatives and People with Learning Disabilities:

Date	Time	Where
15 February 2022	5pm – 7pm	The Gallery at Riverside House
22 February 2022	3pm – 5pm	The Gallery at Riverside House
16 March 2022	11am – 1pm	The Gallery at Riverside House
17 March 2022	5pm – 7pm	The Gallery at Riverside House
23 March 2022	9am – 12noon	The Gallery at Riverside House

- **A series of drop-in sessions** were attended across the borough by Carers, Relatives and People with Learning Disabilities:

Date	Time	Where
21 February 2022	9am – 12noon	Greasbrough Community Library
25 February 2022	3pm – 5pm	Mowbray Gardens Community Library
28 February 2022	12noon – 3pm	Maltby Community Library
3 March 2022	9am – 12noon	Mowbray Gardens Community Library
7 March 2022	1pm – 4pm	Maltby Community Library
10 March 2022	1pm – 4pm	Mowbray Gardens Community Library

In addition the following drop in sessions were also arranged:

Date	Time	Where
25 April 2022	1.30pm – 3.30pm	<b>Aston Joint Service Centre</b> 42-48 Worksop Road Swallownest Sheffield S26 4WD
26 April 2022	10am – 12noon	<b>Dinnington Resource Centre</b> 131 Laughton Road Dinnington Sheffield S25 2PP
27 April 2022	5pm – 7pm	<b>The Centre, Brinsworth</b> Brinsworth Lane Brinsworth Rotherham S60 5BU
28 April 2022	9am – 11am	<b>Wath Community Library</b> Montgomery Square Wath Rotherham S63 7RZ

- **Home visits**  
The Head of Provider Services has also made a number of personal visits to Carers and Relatives to discuss the Consultation and gather further feedback.
- **Engagement activity**

Individual letters were sent to those attending REACH Day Services along with their Carers and Relatives regarding the 90 Day Consultation and means of engaging in the process.

Engagement Sessions/Workshops have been planned at REACH Day Services as a follow-up to the consultation.

The Head of Provider Services held a dedicated meeting with all REACH staff on 26/01/2022 to go through the consultation pack, slides and all aspects of the consultation to ensure staff had a clear understanding to enable them to support and explain to service users. A supply of consultation packs was also left at REACH premises on the same day.

Emails were sent and conversations had with over fifty social enterprises, network organisations, forums and groups across the borough, with follow-up offers to attend meetings to discuss the consultation proposals further. Some networks have taken up this offer and sessions arranged shaped around feedback from groups leads as to what would work best for each group.



CYPS Directorate have circulated information about the consultation to try and engage with young people, particularly those transitioning to Adult Care. This has included:

- Education Service colleagues (via CYPS)
- Providers (via Commissioning)

Ongoing Advocacy support was provided throughout all stages and methods of the consultation.

A dedicated engagement session with council members was held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

- **Communication**

Communication has been wide-ranging, including:

- Press releases
- Consultation packs
- Rotherham website information
- Internal to Council – Monday Roundup, Chief Executive Update, Member Briefings, Rotherham Round-up, VAR Email Bulletin, etc
- Cross-Directorate
- Cross-Council
- Social media used including FaceBook and Twitter
- Advertiser articles

### **NEW CONSULTATION AIMS TO TRANSFORM LEARNING DISABILITY DAY OPPORTUNITIES**

Rotherham Council has today launched a major new consultation as part of its plan to build a new in-house day service for people with learning disabilities, replacing the centre known as REACH.

**Published:** 31st January 2022

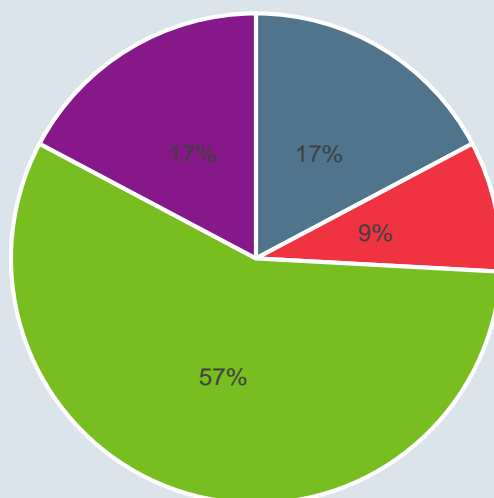


### 3. Participation

Online Survey Engagement:

Number of Survey Participants (31<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> April): **58 Participants**

#### Who has Completed the Survey?



- Current Day Service Users
- Possible Future Day Service Users
- Carers
- Other

#### Age Breakdown of Participants:

14-17	2
18-21	0
22-29	11
30-39	11
40-49	14
50-59	14
60-70	6
Over 70	0

#### Geographical Distribution of Participants:

S13	1
S25	6
S26	4

S60	11
S61	2
S62	8
S63	4
S64	1
S65	6
S66	11
S73	0
S80	2
Other	2

Attendees at public meetings: 21

Attendees at drop in sessions: 21

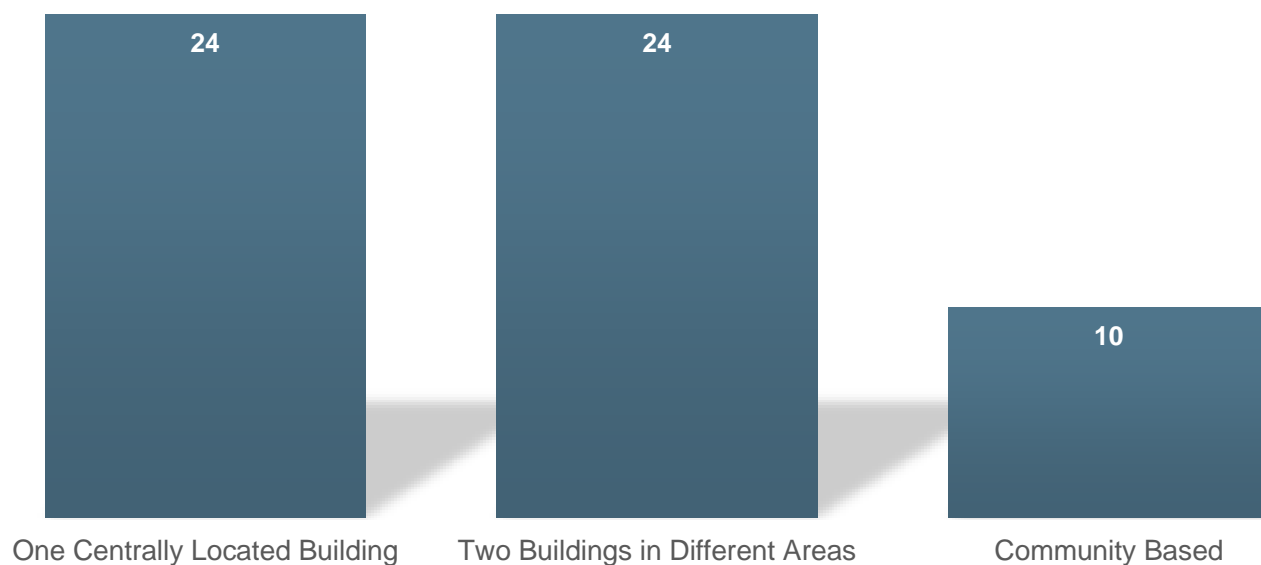
People receiving home visits: 5

Reach staff: 42

Social enterprises, network organisations, forums and groups:50

#### 4. Consultation Findings

### Where Should The New Building Be Based?



#### Open Responses:

1. Person who currently uses day services favouring a community-based service – “The council’s agenda is to strengthen local communities. To build local communities. So why not use

*parish halls? Put changing places bathroom in all parish halls and let people with learning disabilities meet in their local area. Integrate the rest of the public with those with learning disabilities. Stop doing groups for one demographic area. Mix people together and build stronger communities”.*

**2. Learning Disability Community Nurse favouring 2 buildings** – *“You can interlink the 2 with different aspects to the Service. Could actually do with more than 2”.*

**3. Carer favouring 1 building** – *“More space for wheelchair access and changing places toilet/facilities. A smaller building may not offer this sufficiently”.*

**4. Support Worker favouring 1 building** – *“The people who will use the service would prefer a set routine in their day-to-day lifestyle. 1 service would support their routine, so they know where and what their day is going to consist of. This will also support with building relationships by seeing the same staff support and their friends on a day-to-day basis”.*

**5. Resident favouring 1 building** – *“Transport needs to be provided for all service users”.*

**6. Carer favouring 1 building** – *“More likely to have facilities needed for all, as not doing it twice, would also need to think about transport needs”.*

**7. Carer favouring a community-based service** – *“Near peoples home know their local community smaller groups work better”.*

**8. Carer favouring 1 building** – *“I think it would be better for one building, because everybody could mix. if there was a shortage of staff it would be easier to manage in one building”.*

**9. Carer favouring 2 buildings** – *“All services are in Rotherham or miles away there needs to be something over this side of Rotherham S25. We have to travel miles and spend a long time on transport which isn't acceptable”.*

**10. Person who currently uses day services favouring 1 building** – *“Make it fair with regards to travelling”.*

**11. Carer favouring a community-based service** – *“In order for the service to be person centred it has to be provided on an individual and local level. It is not appropriate to have one building which is geographically central but not necessarily central to the people who need it. There has also been a tendency in the past for this to not have sufficient staff and for a general rather than personalised service be provided which in the end doesn't fully meet the needs of anyone. This is especially for those who have a sensory processing disorder and can find it impossible to access services where a large number of people are attending. I think the same would be true for 2 spaces. Money should be spent on staff working with individuals and not a building”.*

**12. Person who currently uses day services favouring 2 buildings** – *“Why a new one? What will happen with old ones? Who will decide who gets a service or not”?*

**13. Person who currently uses day services favouring 2 buildings** – *“You can support and offer different things I.e. have one unit to support adults with PMLD, non-mobile etc and other unit for adults with SLD to MLD who may have behaviour issues and may need opportunities to volunteer or work”.*

**14. Person who currently uses day services favouring a community-based service** – *“I think you should use all the parish halls the town already has. This will mean you are allowing people the opportunity of activities in their local communities”.*

15. **Carer favouring 2 buildings** – *“Rotherham is a widespread area so 2 different locations would cut down on transport time”.*

16. **Former LD Support Worker favouring 2 buildings** – *“Easier access for people if there are two sites. Building bases will enable facilities to be available which may not be otherwise available in the community already”.*

17. **Person who currently uses day services favouring 1 building** – *“Perhaps 1 large centre then more programmed events in the community Eg centrally run, 10 pin bowling, Pub lunch, Clifton Park meets in summer”.*

18. **Carer favouring 1 building** – *“Better to be a familiar purpose-built building with good public transport links for access”.*

19. **Person who might use day services in the future favouring 2 buildings** – *“A new building would be fantastic and give people a lovely place to spend time, it would have great facilities and because it's new would give people confidence and status they are valued. A new building could incorporate services to integrate into the community for example a coffee shop / meeting place for everyone. A new building could accommodate a service or mini services to offer support to people with a moderate learning disability for example an advice shop for benefits/ housing/ tenancy issues/ safeguarding”.*

20. **Carer favouring 2 buildings** – *“RMBC covers a wide area, so two buildings would enable greater local access....and increase community involvement and feeling of ownership. Transport journeys could be reduced as the buildings could be within easy walking distance”!*

21. **Person who might use day services in the future favouring 2 buildings** – *“Having two smaller buildings based in either centralised around Clifton/East Herringthorpe/East Dene/Eastwood/Thrybergh/Rawmarsh area and then the other to be based in the south of Rotherham around Dinnington/Aston/Thurcroft/Kiveton Park so that people it is accessible to all across the borough. Not having a dedicated building would mean groups are reliant on the availability of other spaces and that may be subject to change. This makes it inaccessible to a lot of disabled people with high support needs, and the uncertainty of location makes it inaccessible to the Autistic community, like myself”.*

22. **Carer favouring 1 building** – *“My Place in Rotherham is already well known to a large group or people with learning disabilities. It is already multi-functional, has a fully fitted commercial kitchen suitable for making snacks or meals, has several rooms available at ground level to do all sorts of subjects. It may need some alterations to incorporate a wet room but there is nowhere in the centre or close to Rotherham town centre that would be accessible for service users. A single building would be better for people with disabilities across the board because they would associate going to the building with a certain set of assumptions / values and activities and a sense of belonging which they wouldn't get from separate buildings or having no buildings at all. You ought to be considering ALL of the people with Learning Disabilities, not concentrating on just people who are able to work. Since the country started to open up again, the Learning Disability community in Rotherham has been largely ignored and forgotten with NO facilities whatsoever being open to them, be it work or leisure. Courses that used to be available at the Unity Centre or My Place have just ceased to exist”.*

23. **Person who currently uses day services favouring 2 buildings** – *“I like having the sites separate as I am with people who are of the same ability, and we are able to do similar activities together, I wouldn't like on big building as there would be more people there so it would be noisy, and I would get anxious”.*

24. **Person who currently uses day services favouring 2 buildings** – *“This works well without the need to travel into a busy congested town centre”.*
25. **Carer favouring 1 building** - *“More activities all in one place, would be seen as more of a day out. People will be more familiar and probably more likely to build and maintain meaningful relationships”.*
26. **Carer favouring a community-based service** – *“Poor disabled transport. Also saying in the community will help to gain friendship for service users and parents/carers”.*
27. **SEND College Teacher favouring 1 building** – *“Transportation is easier to and from one site, as opposed to accessing different facilities at more than one location”.*
28. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy favouring a community-based service** – *“Co-production needs to happen to agree/disagree and design something else which is fully co-produced from scratch”.*
29. **Person who might use day services in the future favouring 1 building** – *“Need to be all in the same place. So don't have to travel around and spend money to get to different areas”.*
30. **Carer favouring 2 buildings** – *“Smaller but multiple buildings will offer more flexibility to match service users to attend”.*
31. **Carer favouring 1 building** – *“High risk/vulnerable people need a safe base”.*
32. **Carer favouring 1 building** – *“Needs to have facilities for PMLD”.*
33. **Support Worker from an LD Care Home favouring a community-based service** – *“Choice of centres around the borough - not just 1 or 2 as some people with learning disabilities have difficulty travelling. Please don't have one centre that is only accessible to the few and not the many”.*

### **Key Themes**

#### **Prominent comments re One Centrally Located Building:**

- Familiarity/Routine
- Safer base
- More space for one larger building to meet a wide range of needs and provide greater building accessibility
- Wider range of activities in one larger building

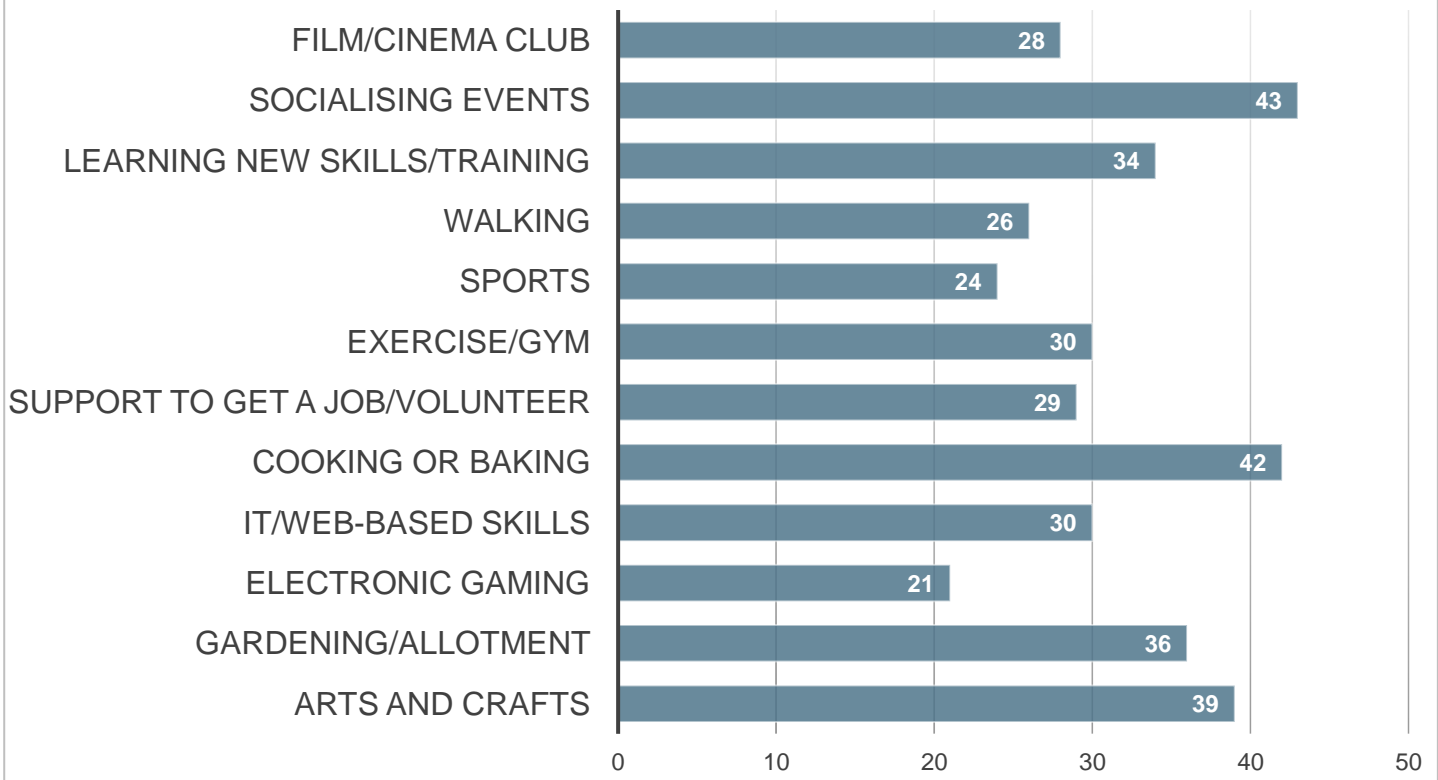
#### **Prominent comments re Two Buildings located in different areas of the borough:**

- Travel concerns reduced with two buildings rather than one
- Two separate buildings could support varying need complexities

#### **Prominent comments re a Community-Based service:**

- Transportation issues would arise with just one or two buildings – a community-based service would eradicate these issues
- Focus should be on reaching the individual within the community, rather than on a building or multiple buildings

## Activities People Would Most Like To See



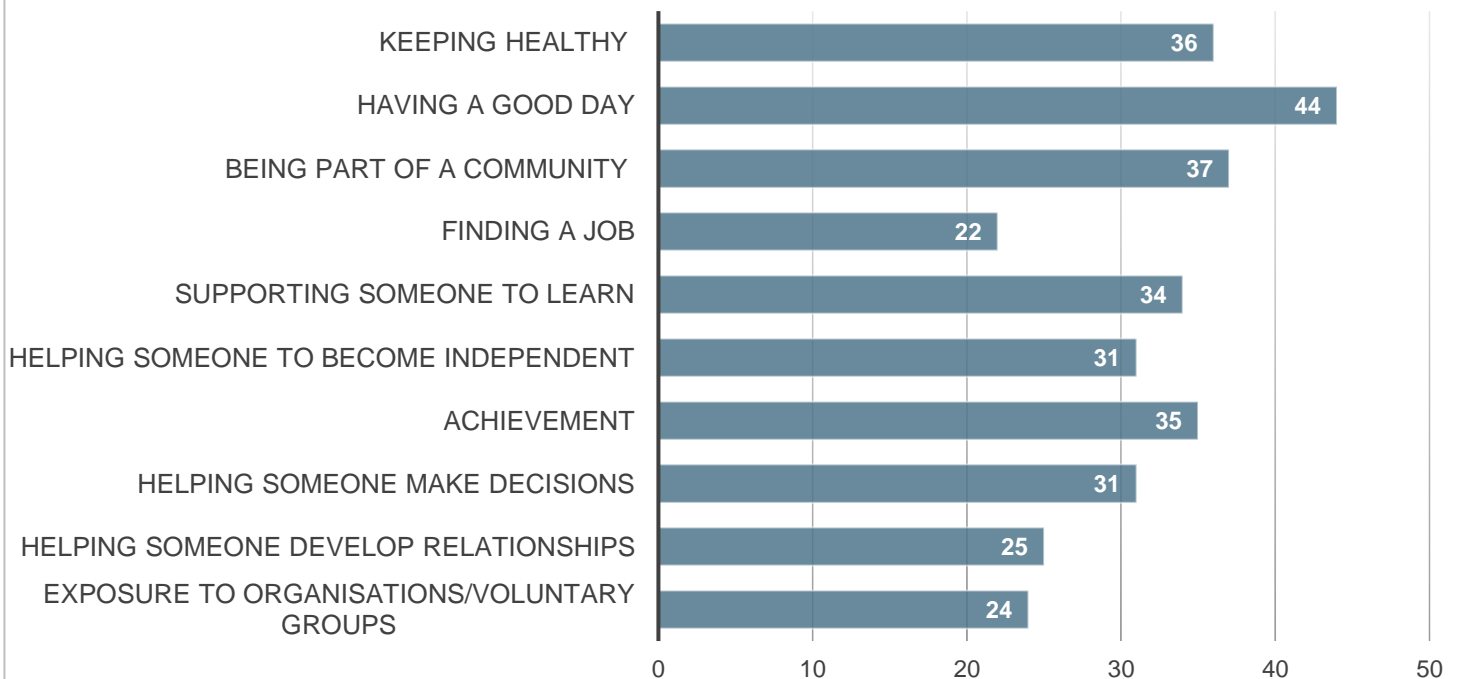
### Open Responses:

1. **Person who currently uses day services** – *“Opportunities to volunteer”.*
2. **Learning Disability Community Nurse** – *“Independent living skills”.*
3. **Carer** – *“Snoezelen, sensory area, wheelchair accessible garden area”.*
4. **Support Worker** – *“Classes such as learning British sign language and Makaton. Woodwork classes”.*
5. **Resident** – *“You need to ask the users and their families”.*
6. **Carer** – *“Helping with communication and regulation of emotions”.*
7. **Carer** – *“Accessible Playground for Wheelchair users And a Sensory Room and Hoisting system and a Toilet area with a changing bench and hoisting system for children and adults who cannot use a toilet because they are fully time nappies/pads users”.*
8. **Carer** – *“Help with independence skills at whatever level the individual is at. Including finances, buying food, healthy meals, exercise, understanding what is going on in the world, how to navigate social media, learning about other cultures, supporting charities relevant to them, helping them understand their own health needs, planning travel and supporting any special interests”.*
9. **Person who currently uses day services** – *“Swimming self-advocacy courses pottery woodwork shop and or cafe work experience”.*

10. **Person who currently uses day services** – *“Physiotherapy, Hand and foot massage, Haircuts, Sensory based learning”.*
11. **Person who currently uses day services** - *“Service for physio, OT and SALT”.*
12. **Person who might use day services in the future** – *“I would like to see people with a moderate learning disability have opportunities to meet up with friends in a safe place, to offer a social club type drop in for example every week or minimum every month. I need support to go out and find my way to places, I would like to meet up with friends to go have a coffee or to the cinema or have a safe place to meet and watch a film”.*
13. **Carer** – *“Music based activities”.*
14. **Person who might use day services in the future** – *“Knit and natter type events similar to those in the libraries. Community garden where vegetables and fruits are grown that are free for the public to help and take as needed, possibly with a type of stall so the public know what is available. Gaming lounge where people can bring their own Nintendo Switches, Gameboys, DSs etc, possibly having a console for group play. Tables set up for board and card games like Magic the Gathering, D&D etc. Drop-in classes to learn gainful skills to enable people looking for employment to stay in employment when they find something - this could include IT classes, office-based skills such as answering phones, replying to emails, photocopying, and scanning documents etc. Social groups that are more than just having a cup of tea/coffee and sitting in a circle - actual themed events like the craft groups or a photography group - special interest based social groups. Cinema clubs where they watch films and then discuss them as a group, similar to book clubs but they watch the film together at the centre”.*
15. **Person who currently uses day services** – *“Leaflet delivery. Days out / pantomime visit. Café”.*
16. **Carer** – *“Maybe some sensory areas for autism. Climbing wall to help with motor skills”.*
17. **Carer** – *“I think we have enough sports gyms etc. We need a place to get youth and those older who have a disability interested and socialising - gaming clubs, coding classes etc something they are actually interested in”.*
18. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy** – *“Co-production needs to happen before any of this is agreed or this becomes a day service. There may be lots of other things people want to do”.*
19. **Carer** – *“Sensory garden/room, music/singing/dancing”.*
20. **Carer** – *“Swimming. Music.”.*
21. **Carer** – *“None of these apply to my son due to the severity of his disabilities. I have ticked some to try and help”.*



## What is most Important to People when thinking about Day Opportunities?

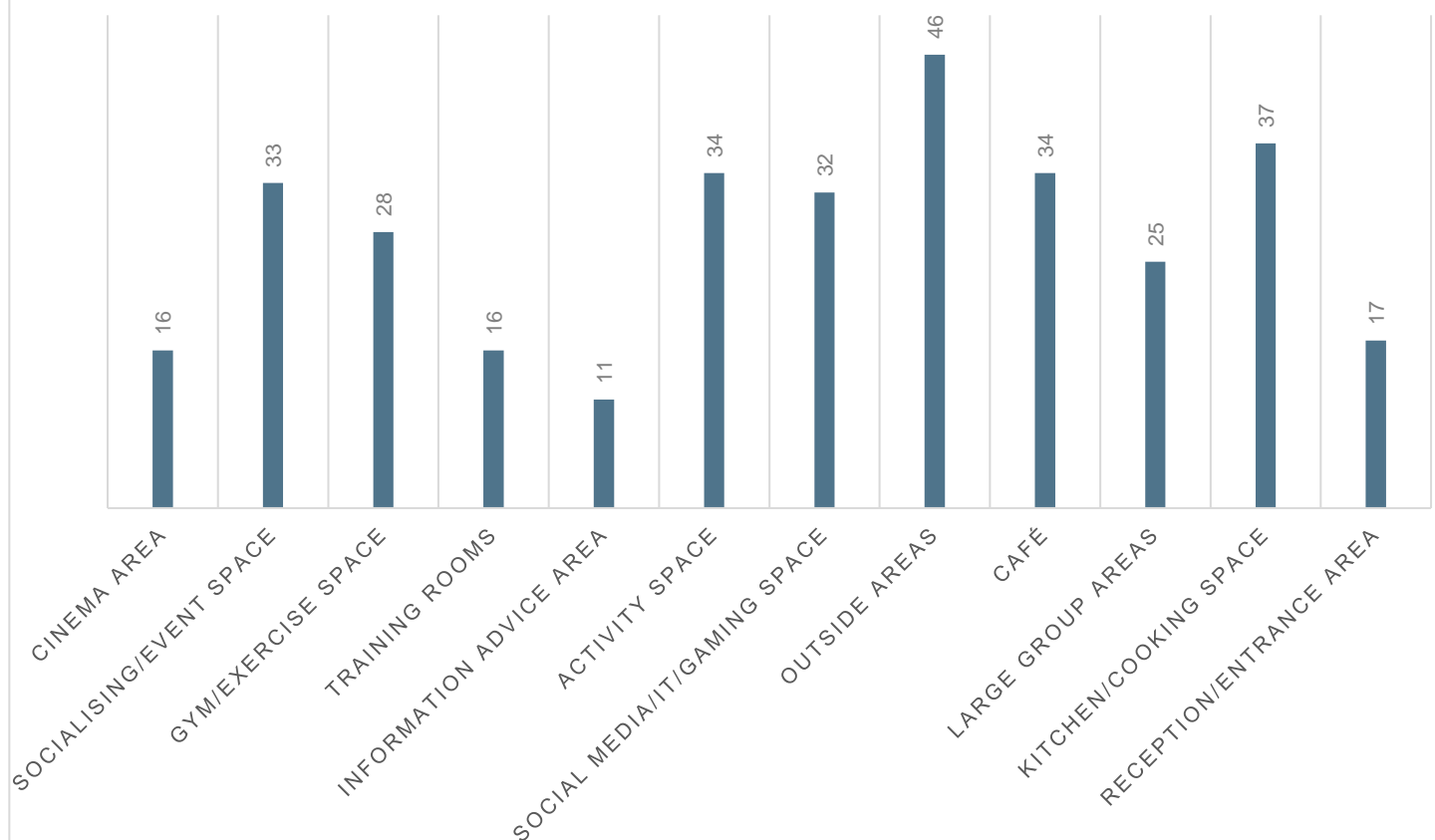


### Open Responses:

1. **Learning Disability Community Nurse** – *“Occupational Therapy input would be essential”.*
2. **Support Worker for People with Learning Disabilities** – *“A safe place in the community”.*
3. **Resident** – *“Again ask the service users and their families. I would add that anyone who attends needs to feel this is a great place to be”.*
4. **Carer** – *“Don’t forget that very different levels of need and supporting decisions can be simple to complex”.*
5. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Intense interaction support adults with PMLD. Healthy nutrition and exercise for all”.*
6. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“It must have Space and area for wheelchair users and those who need quiet places”.*
7. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“Whatever happens in the centres need to be community led. Hold events and groups based on what the community wants, have opportunities for people who use the centre to create and run their own groups with assistance if they need it. Don’t just host events that you think the public want, actively ask them and continuously review what is happening. If a group doesn’t work, don’t just stop the group, ask why it isn’t working and make active changes like changing the time or date or focus of the group”.*
8. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Support needs to be from people who understand learning difficulties and autism”.*

9. **Carer** – *“Support group for carers such as coffee and cake which could be at the same time some of the activities take place”.*
10. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy** – *“Co-production including the employment of people with lived experience for this new service needs to happen before any of this is agreed otherwise this becomes a day service”.*
11. **Carer** – *“Support to socialise”.*
12. **Carer** – *“Again my son is too disabled to be able to do most of these”.*

## WHAT TYPES OF SPACES/AREAS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

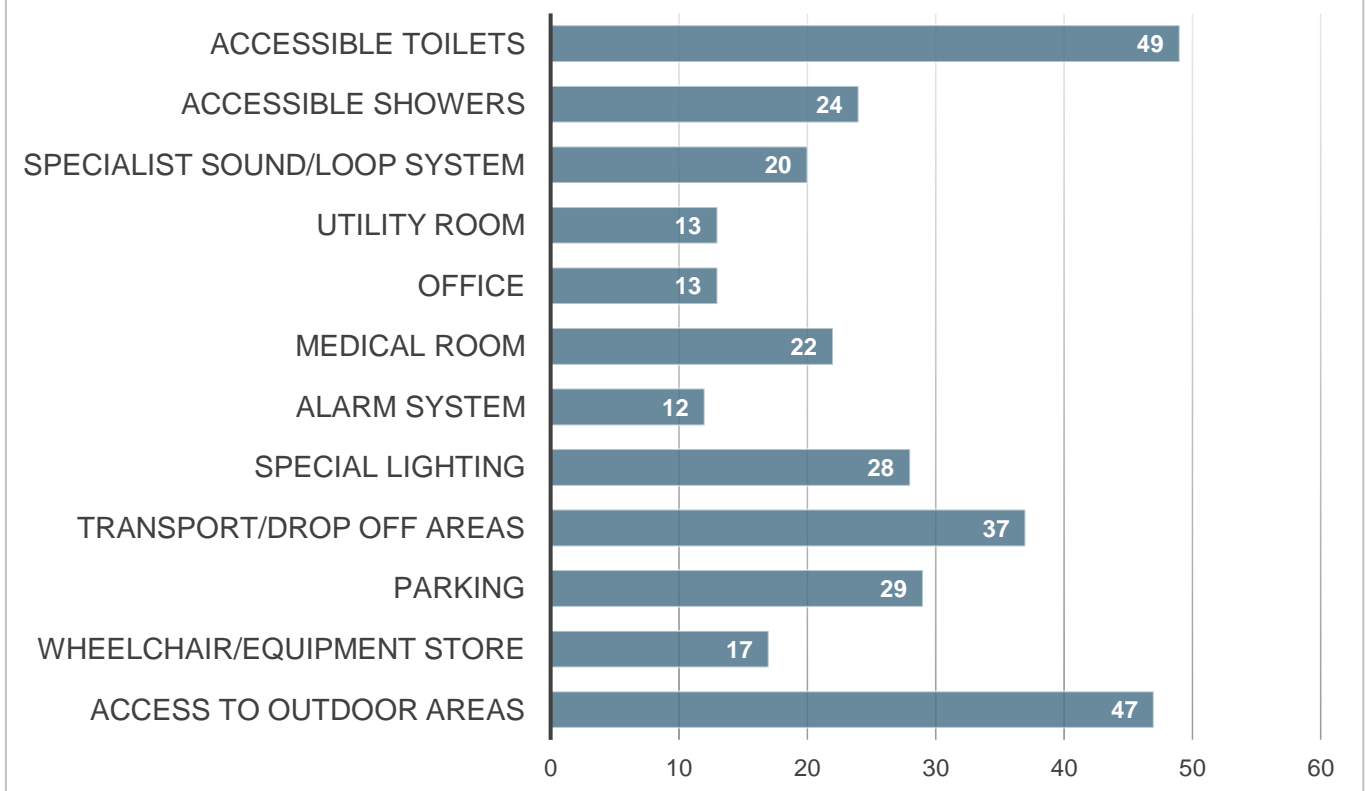


### Open Responses:

1. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Use existing parish halls and modify these to have access for all”.*
2. **Learning Disability Community Nurse** – *“Sensory spaces”.*
3. **Carer** – *“At least 2 sensory rooms”.*
4. **Carer** – *“Snoezelen, hoist accessible matting for time out of wheelchair to meet postural needs. This is significantly lacking in other day services as areas are too small and often high traffic areas posing a danger”.*
5. **Carer** – *“Therapeutic spaces where people can be quiet and calm”.*
6. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Art room, Kitchen with wheelchair accessible sink etc, Sensory room with sensory equipment, ceiling hoists, Changing rooms with hoists, Medication storage, Drama/sports room, Sensory garden”.*
7. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Work experience role play rooms so you can learn how to work in a job before you go to a work place of that type”.*
8. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“A new building could incorporate the latest technology, to help with improving reading, for example reading the newspapers, reading a book. Areas for watching a film with friends, areas for gaming”.*

9. **Carer** – *“Ensure reception area is used as a hub for information and advice...available in all formats....this information for visitors, clients, families and carers. Signposting to all relevant agencies eg benefits advice, respite care etc”.*
10. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“Having a cafe, that could possibly be volunteer run by the people who come to the centre would be a good opportunity to teach work skills for those looking for jobs”.*
11. **Carer** – *“Possibly a quiet room for people who have found their lesson/ activity rather stressful. This could also include relaxation activities such as massages, facials, manicure and pedicures and just a general area to relax”.*
12. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“Socialising areas for people to meet up and people from the community to visit”.*
13. **Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Quiet area for times when things get overwhelming (too loud / too busy)”.*
14. **Carer** – *“Therapy type rooms for autistic people with sensory issues. Lights etc”.*
15. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy** – *“This describes a day service? Everything needs to be co-produced from scratch. Sorry we are repeating but a truly modern, flexible service or services needs to be co-produced”.*
16. **Carer** – *“Sensory room inside, sensory garden outside, potential pool?”*
17. **Carer** – *“Pool”.*

## Which Facilities Are Most Important To You?



### Open Responses:

- 1. Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Level access into the building. Automated doors. If you plan to have kitchens then height adjustable sink and work surfaces”.*
- 2. Carer** – *“Swimming Pool”.*
- 3. Learning Disability Community Nurse** – *“Chill out room / area. Private area”.*
- 4. Carer** – *“Changing places facilities rather than just accessible toilet. Ceiling track hoist”.*
- 5. Carer** – *“Need more than accessible toilets. Need changing place or all those with learning difficulties won’t be able to use it”.*
- 6. Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“Ceiling hoists in all rooms, Changing rooms with hoist, Storage for pads etc, Flexible spaces which can be changed with bifolding doors, Parking for Wheelchair accessible vehicles, Wedges, cushions etc to allow Wheelchair adults to come out of Wheelchair”.*
- 7. Person who currently uses Day Services** – *“A sensory room”.*
- 8. Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“All The facilities must be first and foremost for the people attending”.*
- 9. Carer** – *“Regular accessible bus service with bus stops nearby. This would encourage more independence and reduce carbon emissions. The buildings should meet all requirements under the Equality Act to achieve planning permission. Could the buildings be rented out to local social groups when not in use as a Day Care Centre to generate more income for RMBC”?*

10. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“In order to make the centre fully accessible to all, having accessible disabled toilets that have adult changing facilities, like those found in Wing C at Riverside Library, would mean people could spend longer out of their homes and socialising without embarrassment. For Autistic people, having a dedicated sensory room for when we experience meltdowns/shutdowns/overload. Making sure the doors are electric, without the need to press any buttons or pull/push means high needs disabled people can be more independent. Having wide ramps going in and out of the building so wheelchair users don't feel they are stopping anyone from getting by”.*

11. **Carer** – *“A large storeroom for any equipment would be an advantage”.*

12. **Person who might use Day Services in the Future** – *“Wheelchair access and toilet facilities”.*

13. **Person who works for Speakup self-advocacy** – *“As before, full co-production needs to happen. This is describing an old-fashioned day service”.*

14. **Carer** – *“Specialist equipment in bathrooms”.*

15. **Carer** – *“Changing place. Sensory area”.*

## Qualitative Feedback via Email, Paper Forms, Drop-in Sessions, Formal Meetings, and Personal Visits

### **Feedback via Email:**

#### **1. Person diagnosed with Autism:**

*“Carers are almost a barrier to us service users getting what we want because the carers are afraid for our safety. Afraid for our health. But all parents, once their child reaches 16, need to start letting go and getting empty nest syndrome. This is hard for parents to do. And even harder for parents of disabled children...”*

*Rather than focusing on what the parents and unpaid carers want for the service users. You really need to focus on what the service users want. Some service users only know day centres because that is all they have ever seen...*

*Mine and my husband’s situation is an odd set up. We are both formally diagnosed Autism, we are both married, we both have assessed needs and now we both ignore the assessed needs by choice to take our own path in life. We have no direction for our life, but we have strayed away from our parent carers. We are doing the whole thing called independent living. We still have a social worker who monitors us regularly...*

*I think the biggest barrier in life is the parent carers who refuse to let their loved ones move into the life that other adults have. This consultation will teach you that. Unpaid carers will want their loved ones in day services and day centres. Service users will avoid you because they want to have a house, live with friends and be a part of their local community. Or the ones who have tasted it will”.*

#### **2. Person Working for ArtWorks, a Local LD Social Enterprise:**

*“The building and activities planned look great. ArtWorks has always hoped to support adults with complex needs to work as artists, creating work and commissions for exhibition. We sadly do not have a suitable space to complete this work. If there is the opportunity to discuss a space in this centre to develop artists with high and complex needs, we would like to discuss this further”.*

### **Feedback via Paper Feedback Form:**

#### **1. Person writing on behalf of the Speakup self-advocacy team:**

*“We filled out the online questionnaire from Speakup to give views. However, the concerns are that although there is money for a new building, care will need to be taken to make sure that this does not become a new day centre with the ‘us and them’ service user feel.*

*The new service needs to be co-produced from the very beginning. It needs to be flexible and innovative, so that the people with lived experience are valued and surrounded with person-centred ethos. Family carers and people with lived experience need to be employed there and be part of the advisory group, so that inclusive practices and reasonable adjustments happen from the start.*

*There needs to be out of the box thinking when looking risks, so that risks do not become the excuse for inaction. All people working there should be trained in person-centred thinking and*

*approaches so that lifestyles can be nurtured and the people, the service serves and their families, can thrive.*

*All this will not be easy to achieve. It is likely to take lots of time to think through by all to ensure that barriers can be overcome and that the service develops to be the best it can be.*

*If this could be achieved though. The service could be brilliant and be a beacon for Rotherham and thoroughly fit the local government Better Lives' framework".*

## **2. Person writing on behalf of Rush House Support Services:**

- Accessible to all. Wheelchairs etc. Kitchen Space
- Lighting-sensory area. Quiet space.
- Independent living skills. Cooking, cleaning, budgeting, staying safe in own home and community.
- Training, learning, voluntary opportunities, CV writing/interview skills, job search.
- Outdoor activities, gardening, exercise, arts and crafts.
- Fun space – arts, films, gaming.

## **Feedback from Formal Meetings/Drop-In Sessions/Personal Visits:**

### **1. Person diagnosed with Autism:**

- Can we work with Housing to do a mixed community - using outreach? Use universal services, out and about in the community.
- Co-production when we look at design.
- Match transport as bus services are declining. Door to door services operate 10am - 2pm, so could we offer a service 10am - 6pm so people could access independently, or 9am - 6.30pm to also support working parents.
- Why don't we go on a 'barrier hunt'?
- Think about carers needs and lifestyles.
- Changing places are important.
- Will the building be a disability confident employer, and can we have some people with disabilities working there?
- Use produce from allotment - use produce in a cafe that service users run, which is open to the public.
- Digital skills - offer learning.
- Set up a website to sell crafts / produce etc.

### **2. Two Carers providing joint Feedback:**

- Acoustics - avoid echoing spaces.
- People with more complex needs might need break out areas.
- Time out / quiet space for de-escalation etc.
- Talk to staff at Reach because they know all the care plans.
- The new building could be open later for social events, because only one social activity has restarted in Rotherham and the others have been missed.
- The function rooms could also be rented out to produce additional revenue and could be used for social gatherings to welcome people into the centre. Can we link this with employment, voluntary work etc?
- At social gatherings, the people with lower needs can befriend the others and involve them in activities.



- Exercising/Gym - Need to look at the types of activities that will attract people; do not just offer an activity but try to match with the individual's interests and levels of ability.
- We need to consider who has the special skills to hold activities. People from the Maple Centre have gone swimming at St. Ann's, bowling from Elliott Centre, allotments, trips to Superbowl – link in with existing provision, think about how many members of staff will be needed. At Reach, different groups and key workers go out at different times.
- Current activities available: arts and crafts, allotment. There is no gaming offered because iPads are present but no Wi-Fi.
- Do the clients have sufficient communication skills to understand the concept of volunteering?
- Possibly set up a football team.
- Everyone can learn new skills but need to be more specific.
- There is a need for social events.
- DVDs are shown on Fridays at the Elliot Centre. Do we need a cinema room when there are offers available within the community and at cinemas?
- Would like to see dance, drama, music and movement to music should be offered under 'exercise'.
- Activities already held by enterprises/charitable organisations within the community, could commission for sessions outside the centre as part of the new service.
- RMBC heavily promotes assisted technology – see if this could be used to introduce living skills and support independence for people who might choose to move to assisted/supported living, e.g., keeping time, animatronic animals.
- You would expect a new building to include accessible toilets and an office as standard – they need to think outside of the box. Need to consider specifics for SLDs and higher needs autism, and what those cohorts of people will need. Was anyone from Reach consulted? Questions 1 to 5 are leading. Enhancements could include accessible outdoor furniture, sports pitches that are applicable to everyone.
- Reflect safeguarding needs – how will concerns be reported?
- Re. job opportunities, need careful assessment and support – the support needs to continue when the person is in employment.
- Contracts/expectations are needed for volunteering so that the volunteer cannot be dismissed without warning.
- If parent/carers feel that the consultation is too advanced for their children, they might not take part or consider the service appropriate.
- Independence is about more than travelling and managing money – would have been better to include more interaction. Independence needs to be supported, because many of the people who access Reach lack capacity, whereas most people who use enterprises can make their own decisions.
- If we have two buildings, we will need to ensure that there are sufficient staffing groups and cover for absence.
- Some of the cohort from Reach have multiple conditions, any one of which can be complex, so support needs to be in place.
- Forming meaningful relationships – need for careful monitoring, personalised support plans, should be sensitively handled regarding respecting everyone's rights.

## 3. Potential Day Service Customer:

- Any centre needs adult changing rooms, full size.
- Only to be accessed by adults and not used by children.
- No ramps, all one level.
- Evening entertainment, cinema club, gaming club, card games evening, board games.
- Sensory room with bean bags, inflatable chairs etc.

- Gardening facilities, be able to grow stuff and give/sell to the local community.
- Café with work experience for people using the centre to prepare for working life.
- Be based over two locations, North and South, not one central building.
- Avoid the use of artificial lighting, use daylight.
- Wall lights with dimmers.
- Look at Touchbase Pears, a really good example of a community facility.

#### **4. Community Worker:**

- People still need more activities.
- Outdoor activities.
- Need more funding – demotivating when seeing nothing happening.
- Use to be things to do – people get out and about.
- RUFC still do lots of different things.
- Parents need a break - they need respite.
- Be aware of what you're looking for – their health plan.
- Building for everyone – partnerships – make it a nice place to go – families feel they can come into the building.
- Have people come into use the venue e.g., outside groups use that base and have support available there.
- Not enough options and facilities at all now.
- Counselling sessions – inspiring people – help with stress.
- It needs to meet different needs - people need to understand people's health and communication and facilitate the groups.
- Need an outreach worker.
- Needs community worker and input from the community.
- 2 medium sized buildings that work in partnership with each other and get their feedback.
- Needs long term planning.
- 1 central and 1 where most people are – all depends on funding.
- How do people get to the service?
- Needs access to public and community transport.
- Disabled toilets, safety, lifers, nothing that is going to cause hazards – just a simple building
- Cooking
- Gardening
- Things that will build life-skills and independence.
- Sometimes parents think – want people to be independent.
- Social skills – manage life – bills – budgets.
- People are lonely.
- Day trips – BBQ outside.
- People are just people, and everyone needs to be treated that way.

#### **5. Person who used to attend a Day Centre:**

- Important anyone that has any equipment they use can get it sorted and fixed straight away because it can frustrate people and prevent people doing what they want to do.
- Think about things that can prevent people's triggers.
- Activities – try and spot what people don't have at the moment.
- See to wellbeing and prevent people going into hospital.
- Important to be part of the community.
- Some people have issues with people coming to support at home.

- Wants outdoor work – might do some work at Sense. Has a qualification in horticulture and worked at Addison. He started as a paid worker at food aware – gardening and veg stall – 6 years ago and up until pandemic and it was shut down.
- Enjoyed Addison outdoor part. Got used to it and became a mentor to others.
- He would like to know more about allotment projects.
- Since Addison and the pandemic, he needs something to keep his mind busy since being unemployed.
- People do need a base to go to as a meeting point.
- Liked Addison – it was the ideal place – used to cook, people from neighbourhood came for dinner – they did crafts and yoga.
- There needs to be as many places as possible – it depends where you live – it's important to a lot of people.
- Neil said he was ok getting about using his bus pass, but some people rely on transport and carers that take them.
- Some people need to be picked up at very specific times.
- Whatever you have got - key thing is to understand each person unlike the job centre who just treat everyone the same.
- The important thing is to know the individual and their needs.
- Outdoor space = very therapeutic.
- Don't push people to do things they don't want to.
- This individual did the grounds at Addison and the greenhouse.
- He now attends the social group that meets at Mowbray.
- With activities he likes things that has a point or outcome to it.
- Need to think about peoples housing and making them accessible.
- He said it's important that there is quality staff – they need to be really onboard. It needs to be their vocation.
- Can they use an existing building to save money?
- He said to let him know if help is required.

### **6. Potential Day Service Customer:**

- A place to relax with music.
- Comfortable seats.
- Ambient lighting.
- Chess board.
- People and friendly environment.
- Tea/Coffee facilities/days.
- Poetry
- Getting people together.
- Counselling service.
- People element is crucial – like BeFriend.
- Location dependent on majority vote.
- Rob walks 30 mins to Mowbray Library Centre.
- Happy for distance to be same.

### **7. Two Carers Providing Joint Feedback:**

- Preference for 2 buildings – and not in industrial estates.
- Separate complex needs area (and with the same dedicated staff group) as this group of people are extremely vulnerable, but an open area where clients of all ranges of complexity can meet and mix when they want to.
- Freedom to move round the building.

- Large state of the art sensory room that can also be used privately on evenings and weekends.
- A number of quiet rooms.
- A treatment room where OTs/Physio and carry out treatment so that people can still attend day services on that day rather than have to wait at home for the treatment.
- Engagement with OTs and therapists.
- Big building with outside space with people the clients know and a choice of activities.
- Swimming is very important.
- Extended opening hours over and above 9.00 to 4.00 – this could be 8.00 to 6.00 to support working parents who could pay privately for the additional hours? – adult childcare etc?
- Both carers want to be involved in all the engagement sessions as we are developing the new service.

### **8. Staff Member:**

- Reception area.
- Lockers for staff and customers.
- Staff room.
- Large / more toilets, overhead tracking.
- Quiet room.
- Games room.
- Beauty room.
- Wi-Fi
- Laptops
- Bright and airy.
- Outdoor garden area.
- Outdoor games area.
- X2 Snoezelen/sensory rooms.
- Temperature controlled building.

## Day Opportunities for people with high support needs – service options appraisal (August 2022)

### Introduction

Following the public consultation about proposed new day opportunities for people with high support needs the identified options are detailed below. The preference of either one large building or two smaller buildings was evenly divided. As such qualitative data and consultation output has been considered within the final recommendation.

Option	Details	Pros	Cons
<b>Option 1</b> Service to operate from one large <u>newbuild</u> centrally located building, complimented by community outreach support across the borough to support access to local communities.	<p>The service would operate from one large centrally located building being its core offer, complimented by community outreach support across the borough to support access to local communities.</p> <p>The new building would be accessible to transport links and support independent travel routes</p> <p>The modern, multifunctional building would be in easy reach of the local community, businesses and amenities that will enhance the day opportunities offer, and support the service to integrate within the heart of the local community.</p> <p>The value of having a community outreach service across the borough is evident – both for the people who use the service and local communities</p> <p>Both the new main building and community outreach support would be available as a choice to all the people currently using the existing REACH service.</p> <p>The service will provide bespoke day support for those with the most complex needs delivered in a person-centred manner, but also be a hub for wider activity, learning and skill development.</p> <p>The new service would be called 'Living my best life', with the preferred site option called 'Castle View Day Opportunities'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In line with consultation in that there is equal support for a centrally located single base along with additional support for community access.</li> <li>• Existing Maltby relationships and key activities maintained, through outreach support.</li> <li>• Larger building and space to meet a wider range of needs and activities and provides greater accessibility</li> <li>• Potential for access to town centre amenities and leisure depended upon location, to enhance day opportunity experiences</li> <li>• More cost effective use of resources/funding to ensure customers get the best level of quality for the Rotherham £</li> <li>• Maximises use and impact of capital spend</li> <li>• Supports socialising and existing wider friendship groups</li> <li>• Centralised accessible support hub and changing space for the wider LD community</li> <li>• Familiar service/routine is maintained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional travel for some people</li> <li>• Disruption and uncertainty for some families and people until new service offer implemented.</li> <li>• Move to a new location to be very carefully managed.</li> <li>• Need to ensure changing places are available to support safe use of local community facilities</li> <li>• Greater footfall and noise levels, therefore would require quiet spaces</li> </ul>

	<b>The current sites at Elliot Centre and Maple Avenue would be decommissioned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose built modern facilities</li> <li>• Travel/transportation arrangements easier with one site</li> <li>• Bringing people together builds stronger communities and communities of interest</li> <li>• Optimum use of workforce and staffing resource and flexibility to offer extended opening times</li> <li>• Every person will be reassessed to ensure their needs are met</li> <li>• Accessing universal services wherever possible in the community.</li> </ul>	
<b>Option 2</b> Service to operate from two new build bases, geographically split across the Borough.	<p>The Service will operate from two smaller new build bases, geographically split across the Borough.</p> <p>The new buildings would be accessible to transport links and support independent travel routes</p> <p>The modern, multifunctional buildings would be in easy reach of the local communities, businesses and amenities that will enhance the day opportunities offer, and support the service to integrate within the heart of the local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is in line with a significant response to the consultation supporting two bases.</li> <li>• Provides a safe place in two distinct locations.</li> <li>• Potential to retain the community strengths and profile that currently exists.</li> <li>• Maintains the current range of choice of two locations</li> <li>• Reduced travel arrangements for some people</li> <li>• Continues to support the independence that people have developed in the area.</li> <li>• Less disruption to routines and family life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of two buildings and service would be compromised compare with investing the available capital in one building</li> <li>• Resources are split across two bases limiting flexibility and opening times</li> <li>• Prevents wider Rotherham Borough offer re community outreach &amp; access.</li> <li>• Changing places to be accessed/ established within local community facilities</li> <li>• Disruption and uncertainty for some families and people until new service offer implemented.</li> <li>• Move to a new location to be very carefully managed for people</li> </ul>
<b>Option 3</b> Community based service	The service would operate on an outreach basis and would not have a building base presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced operating costs</li> <li>• Reduces the need for council buildings</li> <li>• Flexible service delivery and support times</li> <li>• Person centred</li> <li>• Supports particular interests and activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support hub provision would be on a virtual basis and not in a physical building seen as a social space with routine</li> <li>• Issues with finding changing places/dignity</li> <li>• Lack of service identity</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support can be more bespoke to an individual</li> <li>• Reduces the need for transport</li> <li>• Focuses on the person and not a building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces scope for wider friendship and relationship building</li> <li>• Lack of equipment</li> <li>• Uncertainty of location means the service may be unaccessible for members of the ausistic community</li> </ul>
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### Preferred Option – Option 1

The rationale for this decision is that it offers all the benefits that the investment into one large modern building would realise whilst retaining a community presence and outreach support in the east and across the wider borough in response to demand and need. This supports increased choice and control, strengthens local communities and considers the impact of people who currently use the REACH service in Maltby who may have developed a particular local interest, or wish to remain or become involved with their local community.

Together with the preferred site option (see appendix 3) and alignment with cohort mapping , this option will enable us to deliver a central base alongside community outreach support, meeting localised demand and need.

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## Day Opportunities for people with high support needs – Site options appraisal (August 2022)

### Introduction

RMBC Asset Management have considered all current available sites owned by the local authority and identified 23 sites for consideration re the provision of day opportunities for people with with support needs. In addition 6 privately owned sites were identified.



Each site has been reviewed against required service specifications.

The following sites were ruled out at phase 1:

Land at Tenter Street, Thornhill, S60 1LB	Former Herringthorpe Leisure Centre, S65 2HR	Land at Kimberworth Road, Bradgate, S61 1HG
Rowan Centre, Estate Road, Rawmarsh – S62 7JD	Boswell Street/Arundel Road, Clifton, S65 2ED	Millennium Centre, Badsley Moor Lane, S65 2QL
York Road, Eastwood, S65 1PW	Land off Munsbrough Lane, Greasbrough, S61 4N	Land Adjacent to Ferham Centre – S61 1AP
Grayson Road Depot, Wingfield, S61 4DS	Scrooby Lane Recreation Ground, Parkgate, S62 6N	Melton High Street, West Melton, S63 6RQ
Century Business Park (East), Dearne Lane, Wath, S63 5DP	Fenton Road/Henley Lane, Kimberworth Park, S66 3SU	Little Common Lane Open Space, Kimberworth, S61 2RA
Land at 221 Moorgate Road, S60 2AY	High Nook Road, Dinnington, S25 2PG	Undergate Road Site 3, Coronation Avenue, Dinnington, S25 2AB
Thornhill Primary Land – S60 1LD	Land at Ivanhoe Road, Thurcroft, S66 9EE	Land off Common Road, North Anston, S25 3SE
Land off Chapel Close, Rockingham, Rotherham, S61 4DQ		

## Appendix 3

The remaining sites were visited by Council Officers from a range of disciplines to understand final suitability. Councillors from the Adult Care Members Working Group visited the final selection.

Option	Details	Pros	Cons
<b>1. Walnut Drive, Dinnington</b>  South east location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.35 acres approx.</li> <li>• Located centrally within Dinnington</li> <li>• Local Plan residential use</li> <li>• Last planning application submitted 25/1/13 for the erection of 4no. Bungalows with formation of access road. Decision: WITHDRAWN</li> <li>• Not in a conservation area</li> </ul>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pleasant residential area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is too small for our requirements</li> <li>• Access to the site is very narrow and limited</li> <li>• Not community based</li> <li>• Likely to be subject to local objections</li> </ul> <p><b>Not suitable</b></p>

## 2. Netherfield Court, Eldon Road, Eastwood

Central location

- 1.59 acres approx.
- Local Plan residential use
- Site has been demolished and gone to housing
- Not in a conservation area
- Site previously occupied by Netherfield Intermediate Care Centre which has now been demolished



- The site is of a good size with potential to consider joint use/purpose with Adult Care and Housing
- Centrally based
- Good access
- Good transport links
- Walkable distance from the town centre, bus and railway stations
- Community based
- Wide range of amenities nearby including rear access to Parkgate retail park
- The area is flat
- Near other RMBC services – school
- Less likely to be subject to local objections due to previous usage of site and close vicinity to other RMBC services

**Housing already in process of development planning / cabinet reports – therefore this site is out of scope for Adult Care consideration**

### 3. Bushfield Road, Wath

North location

- 4.24 acres approx.
- Local Plan Greenspace use
- Site classed as a Town & Village Green (TVG) and identified as Amenity Green Space by Greenspaces
- Last planning application submitted 16/3/2007 for urban renewal comprising of residential development, highways, pedestrian and public realm improvements. Decision: Granted Conditionally
- Not in a conservation area



- Community based

- The site is too large for purpose
- Local amenities are not close by
- Likely to be subject to local objections

**Not suitable**

<p><b>4. Charnwood Street, Swinton</b></p> <p>North East location</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Plan Residential Development use</li> <li>Property demolished following fire and continual anti-social behaviour in November 2015</li> <li>Last planning application submitted 7/1/2021 for demolition of the existing library, external alterations to the former service centre to provide new library, external alterations to the civic hall, provision of a new children's play area, works of hard &amp; soft landscaping and erection of 49 No. dwellings. Decision: UNDETERMINED.</li> <li>Not in a conservation area</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="398 659 1003 1026" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="398 1061 1003 1469" data-label="Image"> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is of a good size for a large building</li> <li>Good access</li> <li>Community based</li> <li>Close to local amenities</li> <li>Close to transport links – bus service and railway station</li> <li>The area is flat</li> <li>Close to ACHPH Extra Care housing scheme</li> <li>Less likely to be subject to local objections due to previous usage of site and close vicinity to other RMBC services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Useage may already be committed – asset management to confirm</li> <li>Not Centrally located</li> </ul> <p><b>Potentially a suitable site however already identified for residential development therefore out of scope for Adult Care consideration</b></p>
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**5. Warden Street, Canklow**

Central South location


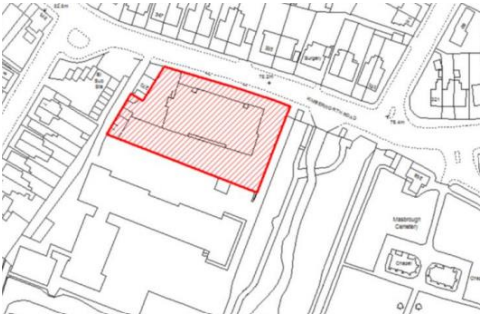
- RMBC owned land
- Housing are an interested party
- General use
- 1.7 acres approx. (L01940)
- Residential Area



- The site is of a good size – potential for a building, sensory community garden and allotment area
- Both adult care and housing could utilise the site due to size
- Good access to road links and dual entry points.
- Community based
- Good community spirit in local area
- Close to local amenities – including doctors surgery, post office, recreation areas, local shop
- Close to transport links – bus stops within 100m
- Less likely to be subject to local objections due to previous usage of site
- Situated next to housing association properties
- Preliminary site investigations and topographical survey completed
- Ten minutes walk from Rotherham town centre
- Site offers opportunities for innovation

- Site has slight gradient

**Suitable**

<p><b>6. Former Kimberworth School (Psalter Lane Centre) – S61 1HE</b></p> <p>Central North location</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.7 acres approx. (L01839)</li> <li>• Community Facility in Local Plan</li> <li>• Valued as a surplus asset in March 2022 based on the assumption planning permission could potentially be obtained for residential development</li> <li>• Alternative uses could be considered for a day care centre within the existing planning allocation in the LP</li> <li>• NHS currently lease/occupy building to the rear</li> <li>• Issue with retaining wall to rear of car park, therefore a structural report would be advised as there may be costs associated with this</li> <li>• Parking may be an issue – further consultation required with planning and highways: shared access</li> </ul>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is of a good size</li> <li>• Centrally located</li> <li>• Close to transport links – bus stops within 100m</li> <li>• Less likely to be subject to local objections due to previous usage of site</li> <li>• Good access with two potential entry points</li> <li>• Community based in a residential area</li> <li>• Quiet</li> <li>• Appears to be former parking area on the site with bays marked out</li> <li>• The site is flat</li> <li>• Near NHS building/services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated on a main road</li> <li>• Lacks scope for future onsite projects</li> </ul> <p><b>Suitable</b></p>
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**7. Former  
Masborough  
Chapel Site,  
College  
Road, S60  
1JN**

Central South  
location

- 0.6 acres approx.
- Business Use in LP
- Subject to planning
- Asking Price – POA
- Agent – Lambert Smith Hampton



- Centrally located
- No gradient
- Good size
- Community based

- Grade II listed building situated on the site - of historical interest
- Majority of the area is a graveyard
- Potential issues with planning permission and restrictions
- Situated next to bypass and roundabout therefore high noise levels

**Not Suitable**



**Preferred Option and rationale****Warden Street, Canklow**

Each site has been reviewed against required service specifications. The two sites shortlisted to be the most suitable were Warden Street, Canklow and the former Kimberworth School site (Psalter Lane, Centre)

The Members Working Group visited the final shortlisted sites on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and unanimously made the decision that the preferred site option was Warden Street at Canklow

Meeting all required specifications, the site offers a wide scope for development potential and opportunities for innovation, is of a very good size and is in a community location known to have a strong community spirit. There are transport links within 100m of the site and the area is within walking distance of the town centre. The surroundings are pleasant and off the main road with local facilities nearby including a recreation area, shop, GP surgery. Being close to the bypass supports accessibility to travel to the site from all areas of the borough

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## Appendix 4.

### 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:**

Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs

**Directorate:**

Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**Service area:**

Adult Care

**Lead person:**

Julie Moore - Head of Service

**Contact:**

[julie.moore@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:julie.moore@rotherham.gov.uk)

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☒

**Service / Function**

☐

**Other**

**If other, please specify:**

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

This proposal is regarding a new day opportunities service model and location to replace the existing REACH day service with modern, accessible and fit for purpose facilities.

This report takes into account the views and comments of all those who have taken part in the recent 90 day public consultation process - *'day opportunities for people with high support needs'*. This includes the people who are directly affected by any

potential changes.

Ongoing engagement will continue throughout the build and service design process with coproduction being at the heart of a successful new model.

The Council has already committed £2.1m in capital funding to ensure the best possible facilities can be provided.

### 3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

NA

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 & 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 proposals in this cabinet report will directly affect existing users of REACH Day services within the borough and also those people transitioning from Children's Services to Adult Care who may choose to attend day opportunity support in the future.

To date extensive discussions have already taken place with service users, carers, relatives and staff and the consultation exercise that took place between 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 enabled all parties to express their views about what a new service should look and feel like. An Equality Analysis will provide an opportunity to consider in more detail the impact of the service changes and any necessary actions, taking into consideration all of the Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

- **Key findings**

The consultation has enabled service users, carers, relatives, staff and people who may use the service in the future to directly contribute to the discussions and decisions about the new service. It has helped promote cooperation, trust, and ensure that service decisions reflect the choices of those most impacted.

- **Actions**

The Consultation was delivered and designed in such a way that the stakeholders have contributed effectively and has been tailored to individual's particular circumstances and understanding. Special attention has been paid to the design of supporting information, questions about choice, and the tools used to convey messaging, so it is understood and accessible by all.

Advocacy support was available throughout and at every meeting

A programme of engagement and coproduction activity will be in place throughout the full service design and implementation.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	June 2022
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	June 2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis	Julie Moore

(Include name and job title):	Head of Service – Provider Services
-------------------------------	-------------------------------------

### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Ian Spicer	Executive Director ACHPH	
Steve Eling	Policies and Equalities Manager	

### 6. Publishing

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

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

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

<b>Date screening completed</b>	
<b>Report title and date</b>	<b>Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs</b>
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022

## Appendix 5.

### PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
<b>Equality Analysis title:</b> Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs	
<b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA):</b> August 2022	
<b>Directorate:</b> Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	<b>Service area:</b> Adult Care Provider Services
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Julie Moore	<b>Contact number:</b> 07900 165605
<b>Is this a:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<b>If other, please specify</b>	

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

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Julie Moore	RMBC	Head of Service – Provider Services Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Jo Hinchliffe	RMBC	Service Improvement & Governance Manager Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Ian Spicer	RMBC	Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**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)**

The Council's ongoing commitment to the transformation of learning disability services continues with this cabinet report, outlining the outcome of the 90 day public consultation - '*day opportunities for people with high support needs*', and proposing a new service model to replace the existing REACH day service with modern, accessible and fit for purpose facilities.

This report takes into account the views and comments of all those who have taken part in the consultation process. This includes the people who are directly affected by any potential changes and those who have a protected characteristic. These key stakeholders are people with disabilities who are currently accessing services and who are funded by Adult Care and/or the CCG.

All of those who will be impacted by the changes have had the opportunity to take part in the consultation process.

The Consultation was delivered and designed in such a way that the stakeholders have contributed effectively and has been tailored to individual's particular circumstances and understanding. Special attention has been paid to the design of supporting information, questions about choice, and the tools used to convey messaging, so it is understood and accessible by all.

Advocacy support was available throughout and at every meeting

The findings from the consultation have enabled the Council to take due consideration of people's views, concerns, and preferences when deciding on the future service model and location.

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

Extensive discussions have taken place with service users, carers, relatives and staff and the consultation exercise that took place between 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 enabled all parties to express their views about what a new service should look and feel like.



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

The services are available to all who have an assessed need regardless of the protected characteristics.

Data in relation to Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity and Sexual Orientation has not been captured.

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

The cabinet report and decisions regarding the proposal take into consideration the outcome and findings of the recent consultation exercise which included people with protected characteristics. This represents a benchmark of the potential impact within the LD community and a route to determining peoples thoughts about the look and feel of a new day opportunities service. This will be monitored during the programme phase.

Equality information re protected characteristics is routinely collected as part of the referral and assessment process for individuals accessing the service and recorded on LAS, which is the adult social case management system. These processes also afford an opportunity for feedback to be provided by the cared for person and staff to Adult Social Care staff on the quality-of-service provision they receive.

People using the services and their families also have the option to make a formal complaint regarding the quality of the care or pertaining to issues with systems and processes aligned to it through the Council's or the Provider's complaints process.

For more serious concerns, Safeguarding and Whistle Blowing policy and procedures are in place and followed.

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

90-day consultation and engagement exercise between 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022



LD day opportunities  
consultation FINAL RE

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

90-day consultation and engagement exercise between 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 see above attachment

In addition – presentation and discussions at staff meetings

**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?**

The proposal in the Cabinet Paper will directly impact the users of REACH Day services by informing where the new service will be located and what the model will look and feel like. The proposals will meet the needs of the LD community and those with protected characteristics by directly involving them, their families, and staff in a process of engagement and coproduction as the new service is designed, built, and becomes operational.

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

The consultation findings reported on in the Cabinet Paper will help determine if the new proposals present any problems to the LD community, families, and RMBC staff.

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

By undertaking a Consultation on the recent changes, it is hoped that relationships between staff, council, service users, relatives and carers are strengthened. It will help demonstrate that the council places service users, their families, and the LD community at the heart of their decision-making process and so promote mutual trust.

**What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?**

It is anticipated that the recommendations will have a positive impact on the community and the relationship between the Council and the Learning Disability Community in particular.

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

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

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

<b>Title of analysis:</b> Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs
<b>Directorate and service area:</b> Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Adult Care – Provider Services
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Julie Moore – Head of Service
<b>Summary of findings:</b> The Equality Analysis has been completed to ensure that the report of the consultation and recommendations for a new day opportunities service for people with high support needs fully and fairly contain the views of those directly impacted. Care has been taken in the design of the consultation programme so that people's views can be properly captured using tools and techniques that make the process effective, inclusive, and accessible to all.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
The consultation outcome will be considered during all programme delivery phases and implementation of the new service model	Primary focus on D and C	12/24

Ongoing stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the build and service design process with coproduction being at the heart of the new model.	Primary focus on D and C	12/24
Advocacy support to be available throughout the whole process	Primary focus on D and C	12/24
Regular communication/progress updates to be sent to all stakeholders	Primary focus on D and C	12/24

**\*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
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	26/09/2022
Cllr David Roche	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	26/09/2022

#### 7. Publishing

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

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

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

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
<b>Report title and date</b>	Proposals regarding day opportunities for people with high support needs 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	03/10/2022
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	22/09/2022

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## Appendix 6.

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?	Minimal increase to emissions		No current building on the site, therefore construction of a building will increase emissions in the area	The build will comprise of carbon reduction technologies and meet all building regulation standards aimed at reducing carbon and running costs. This will be achieved by careful selection of materials, incorporating energy efficient building services and controls, and utilising energy efficient and sustainable building methodologies	
Emissions from transport?	Minimal increase to emissions		No current footfall on the land therefore occupation will increase transport emissions in the area	Ensure good public transport links, EV chargers on site to encourage use of electric vehicles.	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Minimal increase to emissions		No current building on the site, therefore construction of a building will increase emissions in the area	Building technologies will seek to keep this to a minimum	

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	NA				
Emissions from construction and/or development	<p>Construction Minimal increase to emissions</p> <p>Development Reduces emissions</p>		Use of construction equipment and materials may slightly increase emissions in the area during construction	<p>Build project to ensure monitoring</p> <p>The build will comprise of carbon reduction technologies and meet all building regulation standards aimed at reducing carbon emissions. This will be achieved by careful selection of materials, incorporating energy efficient building services and controls, and utilising energy efficient and sustainable building methodologies</p>	
Carbon capture (e.g., through trees)?	Reduces emissions	Increase in carbon capture	Increase in carbon capture	Planting of allotment and garden areas including trees.	
<p>Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:</p> <p>No</p>					



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

Carbon reduction technology methodology to be integral to design, build and operation.

Supporting information:

Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Julie Moore Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Head of Service – Provider Services
---	---

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

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

Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	
--	--

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Public Report with Exempt Appendices  
Cabinet

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

**Report Title**

Forge Island Final Delivery Arrangements

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

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

Tim O'Connell, Head of RIDO  
tim.o'connell@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Boston Castle

**Report Summary**

This report sets out a recommended delivery approach to allow the Forge Island scheme to progress to the construction phase. The approach involves the Council acting as funder for the scheme and contracting with Muse Developments Ltd to facilitate delivery.

**Recommendations**

That Cabinet: -

1. Approves an increase in the Council's Capital Programme to allow the upfront capital costs of the Forge Island development to be funded by the Council rather than a private investor, in order to provide best value to the taxpayer
2. Approves the award of the contract for the delivery of the Forge Island Development to Muse Developments Limited.
3. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration of Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Local Economy, to enter into the agreements necessary to give effect to the Forge Island Scheme.

## List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Exempt Financial Modelling  
Appendix 2 Equality Analysis Screening (March 2022)  
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment (March 2022)

## Background Papers

[Rotherham Town Centre Masterplan](#)

Cabinet report: [December 2018](#)  
[March 2022](#)

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**  
Council – 05 October 2018

## Council Approval Required

No

## Exempt from the Press and Public

Yes or No? If yes, use text below.

*An exemption is sought for Appendix 1 – Financial Modelling under Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 is requested, as this report contains sensitive commercial information with regards to commercial agreements which could disadvantage the Council in any negotiations if the information were to be made public.*

*It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption would outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information, as the parties' commercial interests could be prejudiced by disclosure of commercial information.*

## **Forge Island Final Delivery Arrangements**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 On 11 September 2017 Cabinet resolved to adopt the Town Centre Masterplan and go out to the market to secure a development partner for Forge Island.
- 1.2 Forge Island occupies a central location within Rotherham Town Centre, with excellent public transport links and an attractive waterside setting. The Masterplan suggested the site would be suitable for a leisure-led mixed-use development, to act as a catalyst for future public and private investment into the town centre. Through an open and competitive process, Muse Developments Ltd. (Muse) was selected as the Council's preferred development partner in September 2018. Since this date, Muse has been working alongside the Council to bring the Forge Island development forward.
- 1.3 Muse and the Council entered a "Development Agreement for Lease" which sets out a conditional leasehold structure for the redevelopment of the site. It also documents the various pre-conditions which apply to the project and responsibility for satisfying these. The agreement allows for delivery arrangements that may include (but not be limited to) the Council acting as a funder or purchaser of the whole or part of the Development (but without obligation on the part of the Council to enter any such arrangements).
- 1.4 Key milestones required for construction of the development to start have been achieved: -
  - Through a competitive process Muse identified a private funder which offered to provide development funding on attractive terms that met the requirements previously agreed by the Council.
  - Muse has selected a main contractor for the development under a two-stage design and build approach.
  - The demolition and the removal of the pedestrian footbridge has been completed.
  - Site investigations and archaeology is completed.
  - Designs have been finalised and tender construction packages returned so the scheme is now fully costed.
  - Pre-letting agreements have been secured with Arc Cinema and Travelodge. Pre-letting agreements have also been secured with Cow and Cream and with Thistle Group. Thistle will bring their brands Estabulo, Sakku Samba, Casa Piri Piri and Café Noor to the scheme.

- 1.5 The March 2022 Cabinet Report set out the principal terms for the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy to agree the final scheme arrangements, which included the lease and rent arrangements, and the level of capital contribution to the scheme (subject to applicable subsidy control law).
- 1.6 Very recent volatility of the financial markets and the challenge this now poses to private funders providing up-front capital within the requirements previously agreed by the Council has resulted in Muse (in line with the Development Agreement for Lease) re-assessing delivery arrangements and proposing options for the Council to consider, including the Council acting as funder of the whole or part of the development. Consideration of this option is urgent as a result of ongoing and rapidly changing upheaval in the financial markets which is reducing both the availability and the attractiveness of private funding as a route to deliver the scheme. This is combined with time pressures that are created through the commercial agreements with prospective tenants and contract prices.
- 1.7 On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 the Council is considering agreement of an addendum that gives Cabinet the option to act as funder of the whole development and approve the necessary increase in the Council's Capital Programme to allow for this.
- 1.8 In this report, approval is sought to enact that option, to allow the agreement of terms for the development to be fully funded by the Council and to award the contract for the delivery of the Forge Island Development to Muse.
- 1.9 It should be noted that irrespective of the source of upfront capital funding, it is expected that the cost of repayment of capital costs will be met wholly or largely over the long term by revenue generated from commercial activity in the Forge Island development.
- 1.10 It is recognised that changing the delivery arrangements for the Scheme to a position where the Council acts as funder will change the nature of the arrangement with Muse. To do so will require the Council and Muse to enter into a forward funding agreement (otherwise known as a "development funding agreement") which would create a public works contract. For reasons of transparency, a Voluntary Ex-ante Transparency Notice (VEAT) Notice was issued on 26 September 2022 putting into the public domain the fact that the Council was considering this option.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Rising inflation and volatility in the economy and financial markets has made it increasingly difficult to secure private development funding within the requirements previously agreed by the Council (December 2018, and March 2022 Cabinet reports). Inflation has driven up the estimated capital cost of the development, whilst pressures in financial markets means that the level of private development funding is reduced.

- 2.2 These external market conditions are likely to persist and potentially become more difficult. On the 13th of September 2022 Muse was informed that the markets were not prepared to lend on the terms previously agreed and consequently the Council is required to reconsider the approach to financing the development as a matter of urgency. There have been further significant movements in the financial markets following the Governments fiscal event on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and the outlook remains unpredictable. As a result, a decision on a way forward to deliver the scheme is highly time sensitive due to external factors that were unforeseen and not within the control of the Council.
- 2.3 If the Council is not able to find a suitable funding package for the development of Forge Island quickly, there is a significant risk that the current development costs (secured for a limited time) will increase due to ongoing inflationary pressures together with the expiration of the period of time in which the existing contract price remains valid. In addition, delays would risk the Council losing agreements that are in place for third party tenants secured for the development that generate income to underpin the financing of the scheme.
- 2.4 Following changes in the private investment market and based on the analysis to date, a review against other delivery options indicates that Council funding now offers the most efficient and effective funding mechanism for the scheme, whilst minimising risk to delivery. Over the lifetime of the development, it offers significantly better value for money for the Council and the public purse. A financial assessment of each option is provided in the exempt financial Appendix 1.

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

- 3.1 The options considered comprise:
- i. Seek to renegotiate terms with the existing or a new private investor
  - ii. Proceed on the existing terms with a private investor and increase the level of Council capital contribution
  - iii. Withdraw from the scheme
  - iv. Delay delivery
  - v. The Council fully fund the upfront capital costs of the scheme
- 3.2 Details of the analysis and financial modelling of these options is included in Exempt Appendix 1.
- 3.3 **Option 1 - Seek to renegotiate terms with the existing or a new private funder.**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 the Council's development partner was advised that the pricing could not be held on the terms competitively secured with the investor. Yield rates have moved out significantly over the last month and look likely to continue along the same trend which increases the cost of borrowing through this route. To raise the amount of capital required the Council could increase the annual payment or commit to payments over the

longer term. Both options increase the cost to the Council over the lifetime of the development and the scope for making such changes is limited by long-term affordability considerations. The option to secure the same or better terms than previously negotiated, in a market which is becoming increasingly difficult is not considered to be a realistic or viable option.

### **3.4 Option 2 – Proceed on the existing terms with a private funder and increase the level of Council capital contribution**

This option requires the Council to “top up” the difference between a reduced funding offer from an investor on otherwise the same terms in respect of annual cost and lease length. The level of funding needed would be significantly above the provision agreed in the Cabinet report of March 2022 and would require a virement to be agreed from other existing budgets or new funding to be made available. The cost to the Council of delivering through this route will include both the annual payment to the investor and annual borrowing costs. The financial modelling at Exempt Appendix 2 shows this is not considered to be the most efficient and effective method of funding the scheme and this option is not therefore recommended.

### **3.5 Option 3 Withdraw from the scheme.**

Delivery of Forge Island is a strategic regeneration priority and a pre-requisite for successful delivery and sustainability of other schemes in the wider regeneration programme including those being delivered through the Towns Fund, Levelling Up and the Future High Street Fund. It is an essential step in re-positioning the town centre and attracting further investment in the town centre and the local economy. As a viable option for delivery is available, this option is not recommended.

### **3.6 Option 4 - Delay delivery.**

Significant progress has been made towards delivery of this scheme despite challenging market conditions including the Covid pandemic, lockdown and the economic impact of inflation. The scheme has not been scaled back from the original proposals and the scope and quality of what the scheme will deliver has been maintained. Delay would risk losing the benefits of progress to date, including the occupiers secured to the scheme and open the risk of further inflationary cost pressure rendering the scheme unviable. This option is not recommended

### **3.7 Option 5 - The Council fully fund the upfront capital costs of the scheme**

This approach removes the need for a private sector funder and replaces it with the Council acting as the total upfront funding provider for the scheme. This approach provides greater certainty in that funding is not dependent on the market of private investor decisions and allows the Council options to manage its capital borrowing over the long term. Moving quickly to this approach will allow the Council to maintain the current projected development costs at the current secured prices. It also allows the Council to



maintain the current third-party tenants that provide the ongoing revenue income to enable the Council to finance the project over the project life. This is the recommended option.

3.8 It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves an increase in the Council's Capital Programme to allow the upfront capital costs of the Forge Island development to be funded by the Council rather than a private investor, in order to provide best value to the taxpayer
2. Approves the award of the contract for the delivery of the Forge Island Development to Muse Developments Limited.
3. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration of Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Local Economy, to enter into the agreements necessary to give effect to the Forge Island Scheme.

**4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 To ensure interested parties were made aware that the Council was considering the recommended approach of fully funding the scheme and entering into a public works contract with Muse Developments Limited a VEAT notice was published on 26 September 2022. The response to the VEAT will be reported to the meeting.

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

- 5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval of the recommendations in this report the Council will target entering a 'development funding agreement' with Muse Developments Ltd before the end of October 2022 to allow practical commencement of the Forge Island development.
- 5.2 Subject to matters described in 5.1 (above) construction for main works will start in November 2022.

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

- 6.1 The financial implications of the Forge Island Development are included within the exempt financial appendix 2, along with detailed analysis of all funding options considered. The longer-term financial risks that this project presents relate to the Council's ability to maintain the incomes levels from the lettings, car parking and business rates at the modelled levels. However, the chosen model does present the most financially viable option and the most value for money option of those considered.
- 6.2 If Cabinet approve the recommendation the Council's Capital Programme will be updated to include the cost of the Forge Island Development and the

revised modelling of the ongoing revenue implications of the development will be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- 6.3 The procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report are fully explained in Section 7 below.

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

- 7.1 In light of the fact that the previous funding arrangements are no longer practicable the Council is required to consider the other options available that are outlined in this paper. Should the Council decide to proceed then it is required to have a lawful mechanism to enable it to do so. This means one of 3 potential routes:
- a. A full tender process;
  - b. Contract award notice;
  - c. VEAT Notice
- 7.2 The recommended approach in the Report is the Award following the VEAT Notice. In order to ensure that Cabinet were able to proceed with this route then the Council published this Notice on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to provide Notice of the intended approach.
- 7.3 The advice therefore is that the Council is permitted to utilise the negotiated procedure on the basis of exclusive rights as a result of competition being absent for technical reasons (as provided for in Public Contracts Regulation 2015 32(2)(b)(ii)) and, or in the alternative, on the basis of urgency (as provided for in Public Contracts Regulations 2015 32(2)(c)). For the reasons that are provided in the Report.
- 7.4 The Notice provides for a 10-day standstill period before the award of any contract and provides that should a claimant wish to make a challenge to the approach and claim damages then this must be done within 30 days of the publication of the Notice.
- 7.5 There is a 6-month period from the point the Council enters into contract for a challenge to be issued to seek to ask the courts to declare the Notice ineffective.
- 7.6 The Council has sought to ensure that these risks are mitigated by issuing the Notice in sufficient time to enable the expiration of the period of claim for damages before it would be required to enter into the contract. It should be noted that there is little the Council is able to do in order to mitigate further the risk of challenge during the period in which a Notice could be found to be ineffective.
- 7.7 In short, the award of the Contract does carry a residual legal risk of challenge. This risk is considered to be similar to the risk of challenge that is found in the making of any significant decision by a public body. This Report sets out the reasons that the Council considers that the approach would be lawful and the ways in which the Council has sought to mitigate this risk.

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

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

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

- 9.1 There are no direct implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable adults arising from this report.
- 9.2 Consultation has highlighted that “things to do and see” in the town centre is important to young people with a cinema high on the list of amenities that young people would like to see delivered to improve the town centre offer.

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

- 10.1 A screening assessment and an Equality Analysis Form is attached.
- 10.2 Further consultation will be ongoing with protected characteristic groups to inform the operation and accessibility of the scheme and to monitor the ongoing equalities impact of the development.

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

- 11.1 A carbon impact assessment is attached.
- 11.2 The development is expected to achieve a BREEAM Very Good rating and is located on a site that is within walking distance of the bus interchange, tram train and railway station. The development will reduce the need for travel outside of the borough to access facilities which are not currently available in Rotherham.

**12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 There are no direct impacts from this decision on the delivery of services by partners. The delivery of the Forge Island scheme is widely seen as an important catalyst in regenerating Rotherham town centre and progress towards delivery is likely to be welcomed by partners

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Jobs and Local Economy to agree the most advantageous terms for the scheme to be delivered, balancing delivery options with risk and affordability.
- 13.2 The Council's development partner maintains detailed risk registers with respect to development and delivery of the scheme. Substantial risks are identified relating to potentially unacceptable delays to the current delivery programme and unaffordable uplift to the construction costs associated with the Forge Island development. Mitigation is possible through progressing with

delivery of the scheme under the recommended option in this paper, thereby securing the current programme and returned costed tender packages.

#### 14. Accountable Officers

Tim O'Connell, Head of Rotherham Investment and Development Office

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	03/10/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	29/09/22

*Report Author:* Tim O'Connell, Head of RIDO  
tim.o'connell@rotherham.gov.uk

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



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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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## PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
<b>Equality Analysis title: Forge Island Delivery</b>	
<b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 28 February 2022 and refreshed 28/09/22</b>	
<b>Directorate: Regeneration and Environment</b>	<b>Service area: Planning, Regeneration and Transport</b>
<b>Lead Manager: Tim O'Connell</b>	<b>Contact number: 01709 254563</b>
<b>Is this a:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>  <b>If other, please specify</b> <b>A regeneration project</b>	

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

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Tim O'Connell	RiDO	Service Manager
Andrew Fairest	Muse Developments Ltd	Developer
Laura Stapleton	RMBC	Acting Corporate Improvement and Risk Officer
Tanya Lound	RMBC	Acting Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager

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

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

The regeneration of Forge Island is intended to create a leisure destination in the town centre that is accessible to residents of Rotherham and visitors to the town.

Planning permission for a scheme was granted in June 2020 and the Council has completed the first phase of enabling works to allow the scheme to proceed.

The site has been marketed to occupiers and pre-let agreements secured with The Arc Cinema, Travelodge and with four restaurants/food and drink establishments.

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

Contextual information from a range of sources, including the 2011 Census and the Council Plan consultation, is provided below.

**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%).

### Consultation

The Town Centre Masterplan has been subject to wide consultation with business and stakeholder groups. A public event was held in All Saint's Square on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 attended by 75 people over the course of the day. Feedback was wide ranging but there was a clear desire to see improvements in the town centre including a stronger leisure offer to serve the needs of local people who currently needed to travel to other centres to access facilities. The consultation also highlighted safety and the management of anti-social behaviour as important priorities.

Further consultation included a meeting with Rotherham Older People's Forum at Talbot Lane Methodist Church which highlighted a need for new developments to be older person friendly, to include more seating with and provide easy level access wherever possible and with good connections to public transport. Consultation with the Looked After Children's Council focused on the need for things to do in the town centre and the

importance of creating a safe environment. The consultation emphasised a cinema as being an important attraction that is missing from the town centre offer for young people.

Rotherham Sight and Sound group were consulted on public realm proposals in the town centre on 16th January 2020. The group highlighted the importance of design in ensuring public spaces are accessible including the choice of materials, surface finishes, improved lighting and accessible seating

Our Rotherham, Our Borough consultation and engagement to inform the new Council Plan took place from 9th August to 19th September 2021 to seek the views of Rotherham residents and other local stakeholders. The consultation included focused groups, short interactions, online and postal survey and Rotherham Show, with over 1,300 interactions taking place in total across all methods of engagement

The short interactions and focus groups aimed to make up some of the engagement gaps, by engaging stakeholders working with some of the groups whose views were underrepresented in the survey, and those sharing protected characteristics.

Throughout the whole consultation and engagement, a common theme was 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.

Linking to messages concerned with the town centre, retaining business and encouraging trade and industry into the area, were responses concerned with local jobs for local people. Street scene matters were also frequently mentioned for the town centre and across the borough.

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.

Results from the Rotherham Residents Survey comprising a sample of 503 adults who were polled between 8th and 22nd June 2021 showed that 24 per cent of respondents felt ‘very optimistic’ or ‘fairly optimistic’ about the future of Rotherham town centre ( as they did about the future of the wider borough. Forty-one per cent of respondents were not optimistic at all about the town centre, slightly more than in the previous survey. People aged 25-34 years were most likely not to be optimistic at all, whilst young people aged 18-24 years were the most optimistic. Low skilled workers were notably more optimistic than professional and managerial workers.

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

Information is available on the town centre and town centre masterplan but focused consultation on the specific design proposals of the Forge Island scheme have not been carried out. This is to be included in the action plan as part of this assessment

**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 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)**

The concept of a leisure led redevelopment is one of the main proposals in the Town Centre Masterplan which has been the subject of consultation with business and stakeholder groups, Rotherham Together Partnership, Rotherham Older People's Forum and the Looked After Children's Council. A public event was held in All Saint's Square on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Key findings from these engagements are included in the section above

Subsequently consultation on the specific scheme proposals has been carried out at Rotherham Show in both 2019 (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Sept) and 2021 (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Sept) feedback was positive in support of the scheme with most people expressing a desire to see it delivered as soon as possible.

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

The development of Forge Island will have a positive impact for staff, particularly those that are Rotherham residents and those that work in the Town Centre.

**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)

Careful 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 social inclusion:

- Visitors to the buildings and members of the public accessing services
- Workers/employees using the buildings
- People using the associated public realm
- People using the neighbouring commercial units
- People using the car parking facilities
- Residents accessing the proposed residential buildings

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:

- Creation of active public spaces that encourage the feeling of a safe and welcoming environment
- Providing level access to all buildings in the new development from a number of points around the town centre reinforcing a gold route strategy
- The decision on the location of the main entrance to the buildings - based on the proximity and visibility from the adjoining public transport and primary pedestrian routes
- Providing clear and legible routes past the development that are suitable for all pedestrians, wheelchair users and people with prams or buggies
- Providing pictogram signs that reinforce the routes through the site for people with difficulties in reading text
- Providing appropriate lighting, recognised tactile surfacing and sufficient contrast between floor and wall surfaces for people with visual acuity difficulties
- Providing accessible parking bays in the car park areas
- Providing wheelchair accessible lifts - with lobbies, refuges, corridor and door widths sized to ensure that they are wheelchair accessible

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

The project is intended to create an inclusive, safe and welcoming environment for all users of the development.

The Forge Island Regeneration project will act as a landmark scheme for the wider regeneration of Rotherham town centre and other development sites. The building form and design approach seeks integrate public realm within the wider urban fabric of Rotherham, connecting the with the Town Centre and historic conservation area by making both the visual and physical relationships between these areas stronger and more direct. 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

The uses proposed within the Forge Island Regeneration masterplan compliment, and add to, the existing offer within the town centre. 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.

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

The new leisure quarter on Forge Island replaces a derelict site, formerly used as a supermarket and car parking. The new facilities will reinvigorate a historically significant area in Rotherham with improved public amenities, services and landscaping.

The Rotherham Town Centre Implementation Masterplan identifies the Forge Island regeneration to address the following social objective:

*'Diversification of Town Centre uses, strengthening the Town Centre offer to appeal as a family friendly destination, along side providing new attractions for younger people. The clustering of uses together will support sustainability, food and drink operators supporting the hotel and cinema uses.'* (pg76)

The development of Forge Island is an opportunity to improve the social fabric of Rotherham. The creation of a major destination will not only attract new visitors to Rotherham town centre but boost local employment through retaining footfall. Key to this new leisure offer will be the provision of a new cinema, aligned with family orientated restaurants and a hotel (Site A) and a new cafe (Site B North) that will re-position Rotherham town centre as a vibrant evening and weekend destination, lengthening dwell times and creating a more active evening economy.

High quality new public space will be delivered at the heart of the development providing an area of public realm that can be used for a range of events which broaden the cultural offer of the town centre.

The Forge Island regeneration builds on is a key component in the regeneration of the town centre and supporting infrastructure and aims to further embed a sense of public pride and belonging within Rotherham.

**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

<b>Title of analysis:</b> <b>Forge Island Delivery Update September 2022</b>
<b>Directorate and service area:</b> <b>Regeneration and Environment, Planning Regeneration and Transport</b>
<b>Lead Manager:</b> <b>Tim O'Connell</b>
<b>Summary of findings:</b>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Further consultation with protected characteristic groups, as per the gaps identified above and ongoing conversations regarding future developments	All	Ongoing
Provide information from consultation with protected characteristic groups to the design team to inform consideration of final detailed design proposals	All	09/22
Continue to integrate accessibility considerations in the design and delivery of the Forge Island Development	D	09/22
Complete consultation with protected characteristic groups to inform the design of a customer feedback process following opening of the scheme	All	12/23
Monitor the ongoing equality implications of the Forge Island development	All	Ongoing



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

## 6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Paul Woodcock	Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment	28/09/22

## 7. Publishing

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

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

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

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	07/03/22 (Refreshed 28/09/22)
<b>Report title and date</b>	Forge Island Delivery Update
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	07/03/22

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#### User guidance:

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

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

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Some impact	No impact – operators on site will be private businesses providing services to the public	<p>The development will result in the construction of new non- domestic buildings which will produce emissions.</p> <p>Emissions from the buildings on site are likely to be significantly less than those from the previous use as a supermarket</p> <p>The scheme is aiming to attract users who are currently travelling to other destinations to fulfil leisure needs, who currently produce greater emissions through using less efficient and less well-designed buildings. The overall impact across Rotherham may therefore reduce.</p>	<p>The design for the buildings includes measures to maximise energy efficiency and reduce emissions including for example BREEAM rating and travel plans, low energy lighting, thermal efficiency. Buildings will be designed to allow for plant to be installed to connect to a local heat network.</p> <p>An ecological report and water framework directive assessment has been conducted. The reports identified there would be no impact on water quality and that no protected species would be impacted by the works however, the neighbouring river habitats should be considered throughout the works. Works will consider breeding species with specific note of riverine</p>	<p>During the construction stages regular workshops will be held to ensure the entire design and construction teams know the responsibilities in terms of BREEAM scoring. The client BREEAM scoring points targeted (such as the use of A-rated equipment and white goods) will also be measured, so the approach will be totally holistic.</p> <p>After completion and handover further client/ construction team liaison will be required for items such as seasonal commissioning which should be a targeted credit in terms of both BREEAM but also energy in use during all times of the year.</p>

				birds and their nesting seasons.	Post occupancy reviews and measurement/targeting of energy use will also assist.
Emissions from transport?	Some impact	No impact - operators on site will be private businesses providing services to the public	There will be impacts from the use of the scheme and customer visits – visitor will arrive at the scheme by a range of modes and the businesses on site will be serviced by road transport.	<p>The site is within walking distance of the bus interchange, tram trail and railway station and the design brief for the scheme will include consideration of measures to enhance pedestrian connectivity with key arrival points including public transport nodes across the town centre. Transport Plan prepared for planning application RB2020/0485 includes further information.</p> <p>The site will also provide facilities within the borough that do not currently exist replacing some of the demand to travel further afield outside the borough.</p> <p>Dwell time on the scheme is expected to significantly longer than the previous use as a supermarket providing improvements in</p>	Use of the car parking facilities proposed for the Forge Island development will be monitored to some extent to determine how many trips are generated from the proposed scheme. This will provide a good indication of methods of transportation used to access the scheme.

				terms of air quality from reduced trip generation	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Some Impact	No impact - operators on site will be private businesses providing services to the public	Operations on site will produce waste	Waste Management Plan to be prepared and be in place as part of planning condition requirements before operations on site can commence and impacts experienced.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No impact	No impact	No impact	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Some impact	There will be short-term impacts from construction of the scheme	There will be future short-term impacts from construction of the scheme.	The proposal for the redevelopment of Forge Island aspires to achieve BREEAM Very Good and has achieved this ambition at the design stage pre-assessments. The team has past and current relevant experience in delivering projects with this level of ambition. A series of sustainability workshops and pre-assessments have been organised throughout the design stages to ensure that environmental targets are met.	Through construction process – monthly contractor reports

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No impact	No impact	Some impact	The development will provide new soft landscaping and planting to add to the habitats on offer within the site compared to the existing condition ensuring no increase in surface water discharge.	Captured through Borough/Region wide indicators and monitoring – no site specific monitoring proposed.
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Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

The scheme is designed to include sustainable flood protection measures with buildings at podium level allowing the site to operate as temporary storage during a flooding event. Soft landscaping and planting will add to the habitats on offer within the site ensuring no increase in surface water discharge.

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

The final development arrangement does not have any impact on emissions. The future scheme will have an impact on emissions which will be addressed and monitored through the output of the design process and the development and subsequent use of the scheme.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Tim O'Connell, Head of RiDO, regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	

Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Sam Blakeborough, Policy Officer, Policy Performance and Intelligence, ACEX.
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Public Report with Exempt Appendices  
Cabinet

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 October 2022

**Report Title**

Fostering Fees and Allowances 2022

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

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

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

**Report Author(s)**

Monica Green, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care

Monica.green@rotherham.gov.uk

Helen Sweaton, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality

Helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report seeks to improve the care experience for children in Rotherham by ensuring that wherever possible they are looked after in a foster family environment. This means children can be cared for and stay connected, closer to their families, schools, communities, and services that know them best. In the spirit of this ambition, to retain existing Foster Carers and recruit new ones, the Council's Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) is seeking approval to revise and increase its 'offer' for Foster Carers regarding the fees and allowances that they receive.

In December 2021 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) agreed a target of 145 children to be living in fostering families by March 2022. As of June 2022, RMBC have 120 fostering families caring for 123 children. Between April 2021 and March 2022, 11 fostering families were recruited against a target of 24. In this period 34 fostering families ceased fostering for RMBC. Across England, the average loss in a year is 13% and these losses are anticipated nationally due to changes in circumstance, retirement, and achieving permanence for children. In Rotherham this would equate to 26, highlighting that the numbers of carers resigning or being deregistered is higher at 34. In Rotherham the majority of foster carers left due to changes in circumstance (age/retirement, changes in family, health, or achieving permanence / staying put for children). However, 6 of the fostering households who left RMBC in 2021 - 2022 highlighted that financial remuneration was not

commensurate to the role, with 3 leaving to go to an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) and a further 3 leaving the profession.

The continued pull from IFA's coupled with the current rises in cost of living means that foster carers are attracted to the enhanced fees paid by IFA's, especially if they are willing to support teenagers, step down from residential placements or larger sibling groups.

In order to make RMBC more competitive in the foster carer market, and encourage foster carers to join, stay and offer more children a family home, benchmarking activity has been completed. RMBC's Digital Marketing is provided by an independent marketing agency who regularly analyse the market. This benchmarking activity, described in full in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, highlighted that when compared to an IFA or other Local Authorities the RMBC offer is less competitive in relation to payments linked to mileage, third and subsequent placements and enhanced fees when supporting complex young people.

The service recognises that fostering could open a change in their career for professionals such as teachers and other public services. To achieve the aspirations to have more carers with this skill set, the council need to ensure the offer is commensurate to their salary, especially when they able to offer homes to sibling groups, teenagers or young people stepping down from residential care.

The proposals set out in this report identify how the Council's financial 'offer' for foster carers can be improved, which is key to retaining existing foster carers and increasing the numbers the Council has, to support older children or larger sibling groups. The plan to achieve this ensures an attractive financial package that benchmarks positively in the region.

## **Recommendations**

That approval be given to make the following changes to improve the financial offer for Foster Carers to support retention and recruitment of Foster Carers:

1. To change the service model to provide a financial package for foster carers based on the needs of the child/ young person as well as the skills of the foster carer
2. To make the following changes to the fees and allowances that foster carers receive:
  - a) 100% of skills payment to be paid for all children placed
  - b) Increase to foster carer mileage rate from 40p per mile to align to employee rates, currently 45 pence per mile
  - c) Agreement to the revised Day Care payment
  - d) Uplift of the skills payments aligned to the annual inflationary uplift in the national fostering maintenance allowance
  - e) Agreement to the complex care payment allowance e.g., for Step down to Foster Care and Emergency Foster Care for Teenagers in crisis

- f) Agreement to the Enhanced payment allowance e.g., Children with complex behaviour and/ or health needs

**List of Appendices Included**

Exempt Appendix 1 - RMBC Benchmarking Fostering Fees, Allowances and Offer  
Appendix 2 - Digital Recruitment Market Analysis  
Appendix 3 – Current Fostering allowances  
Appendix 4 – Proposed Fostering allowances  
Appendix 5 – Analysis of Foster Carer Allowances  
Appendix 6 – Transfer Protocol for foster carers  
Appendix 7 – Equality Impact Assessment checklist  
Appendix 8 – CO2 Assessment

**Background Papers**

Cabinet Paper Revised Foster Carer Fees and Allowances June 2019  
LAC Sufficiency Strategy 2019 -2022

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

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

Yes or No? If yes, use text below.

Yes - Appendix 1 is exempt. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A para1 this information is exempt as it relates to commercially sensitive information.

## **Fostering Fees and Allowances 2022**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 One of the key priorities for Rotherham Council, and a key ambition as corporate parents, is to recruit, retain and grow the best inhouse foster carers locally. This links to the Council Plan theme: Every child able to fulfil their potential.
- 1.2 It is well understood that the needs of children and young people can only be met effectively if they live in an environment that provides a high quality of care and support. In general, this is achieved within a family home setting. Additionally, this is also the most cost-effective placement. It also follows that, wherever possible, children and young people should be placed within their own community which enables them to continue to have some consistency in their education and the maintenance of key relationships with the people and community who are important to them, thus promoting a strong sense of self, and connectivity, fundamental to ensuring they are resilient, successful, and safe.
- 1.3 As of the 31.5.22 Rotherham Council had 542 children in care. 79% of Rotherham's LAC population are in family-based settings, however more children are placed with foster families via an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) than with in-house foster carers. Rotherham has a shortage of all foster placements but particularly of placements for children requiring enhanced care, adolescents and for larger siblings' groups. There are too many children and young people placed out of borough or in residential placements because there are not enough local placements.
- 1.4 A review was undertaken in May 2022 including regional benchmarking exercise which has taken place led by the Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality. This included consultation with other Local Authorities within the Yorkshire region. The exercise and subsequent proposals highlighted options to enhance the current foster care offer. The current foster carer financial offer is included in Appendix 3, where an IFA carer transfers to RMBC the offer is described in Appendix 6.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 The current financial offer for foster carers is made up of a foster carer skills payment (based on the skill level of the foster carer regardless to the needs of the child), a child age related allowance, a flat day care rate and mileage rate, all of which is demonstrated in Appendix 3.
- 2.2 Benchmarking activity, described in full in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, highlighted when compared to an IFA or other Local Authorities the RMBC offer is less competitive in relation to payments linked to mileage, third and subsequent placements and enhanced fees when supporting complex young people.
- 2.3 **Foster carer skills payment**

Currently the RMBC skills payment is paid at 100% for the first and second placement then at 50% for 3rd and subsequent payments. Benchmarking identified a range between £50 and £102.10 for skill level 1 and 2, between £86.71 and £277.76 for skill level 3 and between £112.21 and £468.48 for skills level 4. The feedback from foster carers identified 3 existing fostering families who would consider extending their approval if the full skills payment was offered for a third child. Appendix 5 details analysis of foster carer allowances explains how the skills payments are allocated and includes regional benchmarking associated with skills payments and feedback from foster carers.

The proposed uplift position is to pay 100% of the skills payment for the 3rd plus child. This would be £100.00 at level 1, £125.00 at level 2, £175.00 at level 3 and £360.00 at level 4.

Currently 8 children are placed as a 3rd or 4th in-house fostering placement. Implementing this proposal would increase the cost of these placements by circa £87.50 per week per child. For the 8 children this equates to £36.4k per annum.

3 additional carers have been identified to date, who would be willing to take an additional child subject to the new payment offer. Against a standard IFA placement this would save £81k per annum for 3 placements.

## **2.4 Foster carer mileage**

The current foster carer mileage rate is 40p per mile. Appendix 2 references mileage within the benchmarking exercise. Rotherham Council Employees received an increase in the mileage rate in April 21 to the HMRC tax free rate of 45p.

It is proposed an increase in the foster carers' mileage to align to employee rates, currently 45 pence per mile, this will bring Rotherham Council more in line with other Councils and agencies.

## **2.5 Day Care**

The current day care rate paid across the board regardless of the age or need of the child/young person is £3.50 per hour.

Foster carer day care is often used to support placements and carers where there are emergencies, to support in house placement of large sibling groups and for when children have been excluded from school. Whilst several of RMBC's carers often support each other as part of the wider fostering community, there are times where day care support as a more formal offer to support a child at risk of placement breakdown.

Feedback from foster carers is that the current hourly day care rate is not comparable to other payments made to domiciliary /childcare settings which provide care to children. For this reason, they are reluctant to offer to support,

this is especially the case for older children. The proposal is to increase this payment to strengthen the formal support available.

Appendix 5, analysis of foster carer allowances concludes the RMBC rate is not competitive. Neighbouring Authorities and IFAs pay a day care rate based on the age of the child and skill level of the carer. The day rate is calculated by dividing the weekly basic rate and Skills rate by 7.

It is proposed RMBC implement the same payment rate.

Age 0-4	Level 1 - £32.32
Age 5 -10	Level 2 - £37.56
Age 11-15	Level 3 - £49.00
Age 16+	Level 4 - £80.91

A formal day care offer would be used to prevent placement breakdowns as part of a wider package of support.

## 2.6 **Complex care payment**

RMBC does not currently offer an increased payment to foster carers caring for children with more complex needs e.g., children who have previously been in residential care, teenagers in crisis requiring emergency care.

Appendix 5, analysis of foster carer allowances concludes some children who no longer need residential care are unable to 'step down' to foster care due to limited availability of foster carers. In addition, if an unplanned/emergency occurs which results in a teenager being unable to stay with their parents/carers, if no alternative can be found, they may have to be cared for in an unregistered emergency placement or may progress straight to residential care. This means teenagers requiring step-down and unplanned/ emergency care are not cared for in a family placement.

The use of unregulated placements are decisions that are made where there is clear evidence that the immediate risk to the child outweighs the risks of placing a child in an unregistered placement, this is always a last resort and is robustly supervised and overseen by a Social Work Service Manager.

A pilot step down to foster care offer has already delivered one successful step down and a second placement due to progress in September 2022.

The proposed payment package would involve a skills level 4 payment of £360 per week, a complex payment of £200 per week, and the child's age-related weekly allowance, giving a total cost of £790 per week. In comparison an emergency placement cost is on average £8,400 per week, and an external residential placement is on average £5,200 per week.

The fostering team aim to recruit one household to provide unplanned emergency care to teenagers in crisis in the 3rd and 4th period of current financial year and a further household in 2023/2024.

The service aim to grow an estimated 12 placements linked to step down over the next 12 months. These would be a mix of new carers and current carers who already foster for RMBC, as this offers a progression for carers beyond the current skills level 4.

This proposal may attract in house foster carers to offer teenage placements and increase the number of children placed inhouse, avoiding the costly use of an IFA at £59,000 per annum, or an external residential placement at £271,000 per annum, an inhouse step down package at a cost is £39,000 per annum. This would be a targeted area of focus to identify in-house or recruit new foster carers to consider this and is currently a gap in provision.

## **2.7 Enhanced payment**

RMBC does not currently offer an increased payment to foster carers caring for children with more complex needs e.g. children with complex behaviour or health needs.

Appendix 5 concludes an over-reliance on IFA carers for children with disabilities or complex health needs, teenagers on the edge of residential care, children who are assessed at high risk of Child Exploitation, children who potentially pose a risk of sexually harmful behaviour/sexualised behaviour or children with history of violent behaviour towards adults/carers.

The proposed payment package would involve a skills level 4 payment of £360 per week, a complex payment of £100 per week, and the child's age-related weekly allowance, giving a maximum total cost of £690 per week. In comparison an IFA placement is £1150.

The offer for foster carers would contribute to the aim within the 2022/23 fostering budget profile to reduce IFA placements. This is an ambitious target however the benefits for the child and the budget savings it will create both a positive impact.

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

### **3.1 Option 1: (Recommended Option) That approval be given to the following changes to the Offer for Foster Carers to support retention and recruitment of Foster Carers to ensure more children are looked after in a family environment, including those with enhanced needs, adolescents and for larger sibling groups.**

1. Approval is requested to change the service model to provide a financial package for foster carers based on the needs of the child/ young person as well as the skills of the foster carer.
2. Approval is requested to make the following changes to the fees and allowances that foster carers receive:
  - a. 100% of skills payment to be paid for all children placed.

- b. Increase to foster carer mileage rate from 40p per mile to align to employee rates, currently 45 pence per mile.
- c. Agreement to the revised Day Care payment.
- d. Uplift of the skills payments aligned to the annual inflationary uplift in the national fostering maintenance allowance.
- e. Agreement to the complex care payment allowance e.g., for Step down to Foster Care and Emergency Foster Care for Teenagers in crisis.
- f. Agreement to the Enhanced payment allowance e.g., Children with complex behaviour and/ or health needs.

It is anticipated that implementing the above changes would support the retention and increase the placement capacity of current foster carers, in particular supporting RMBC to grow carers who are willing to care for the borough's most complex young people. In addition, the improved remuneration and fostering offer will attract and incentivise new foster carers to join the Council.

The complex needs and enhanced needs payments would support and encourage new or existing foster carers to provide care for a broader spectrum of children with more complex need. Rationale for the changes to the fees and allowances requested for each offer is included in section 2.

Financial implications for the changes to the fees and allowances requested for each offer is detailed in section 6.

### **3.2 Option 2: Retain the existing Foster Carer Fees and Allowances.**

This would not incentivise new or existing foster carers to provide enhanced care and/ or increase the number of in-house foster carers available or help reduce the current reliance on independent fostering agencies and residential care.

### **3.3 Option 1 is the recommended option.**

## **4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 In consultation and feedback with Foster Carers in their annual review, support meetings and exit interviews they told us about what made them stay with Rotherham; what the challenges were and how they saw the offer could be strengthened. The diversity of offer proposed in this report highlights that some foster carers want to offer more, but to do so they need to change their circumstances and while they are not solely motivated by finance, they are more likely to offer more, if the payments they receive more 'fairly' reflect the level of care they provide and their skillset and experience.

4.2 In addition, Supervising Social Workers, and the staff in the team around placements, have been consulted on what works. In relation to the Stepdown/



diversion from residential care offer the feedback has been positive. Being able to offer a more enhanced and complex package of finance to reflect a young person's changing needs via an inhouse foster carer has been piloted as a positive success and the aim is to continue to grow this option in house. Despite agreeing with an IFA that they would support stepdown to foster care placements, they have struggled to deliver on this offer, despite having the agreement and flexibility of the pay framework in place.

- 4.3 Overall liaison with the service and foster carers highlights that the proposed change to fees and allowances would result in increased capacity.

## 5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Subject to approval, the revised payment structure will be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2022.

## 6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The Fostering budget is a key element of the CYPS budget plan over the next three financial years, with a revised plan and profile set in September 21 to grow the number of children with in-house foster carers and reduce the number of children with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA). The estimated profile to be achieved by the end of 2022/23 is set out in the table below:

	2022/23				
Placement Type	01/04/22	31/03/23	Movement	Current No.	Revised Gap
In-house Fostering	129	145	16	111	34
IFA	230	209	-21	250	-41
Total	359	354		361	

Whilst the service was rebased in September 21 with a reduced targeted growth of foster carers the number of in-house carers and available placements have continue to reduce. The benchmarking activity, described in full in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, highlighted that whilst in most areas the RMBC offer is competitive compared to other LA's, amendments to allowances are required in relation to payments linked to mileage, third and subsequent skills payments and enhanced fees when supporting complex young people.

The current budgeted annual unit cost of an in-house placement is £19.2k and £45.6k for an IFA, and it is therefore imperative that RMBC achieve the profile above, which is proposed to continue in future years.

The 2022/23 budget saving based on a phased reduction is £389k and the full year effect is £650k when using the planned 1 April 2022 placement numbers and moving to numbers planned at 31 March 2023 per the above table.

Placement Type	No's (Estimated 1/4/22)	Annual Cost (based on 1/4/22 estimated number)	22/23 Budget	22/23 Net Budget Savings	FYE Budget Savings
In-house Fostering	129	2,481,960	2,645,611	163,651	307,840
IFA	230	10,488,920	9,935,761	553,159	- 957,684
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,970,880</b>	<b>12,581,372</b>	<b>389,508</b>	<b>- 649,844</b>

It is imperative that the fees and allowances for in-house foster carers continue to be competitive to enable the growth in in-house foster care to be achieved over the next three years and associated reduction in IFA placements.

- 6.2 While the report identifies increases in payments and allowances the overall expectation is an invest to save model. **The initial cost of the proposals would be £45k linked to aligning existing carers to the revised fees and allowances policy.**

Further costs would only be incurred at the point of recruitment of an in-house carer to the specific placement type, though as outlined throughout the report, the additional cost to grow in house placements is much less than the cost of an IFA, which would reduce in number.

As part of the ongoing recruitment drive it is advised that the skills payments have an annual inflationary uplift from 2023/24 financial year, aligned to the percentage annual increases already in place for the national fostering maintenance allowances.

As set out in the proposals below costs would only be incurred at the point of recruitment of an in-house carer to the specific placement type. Funding of the proposals would be through the reduction of cost pressures on the IFA and emergency placements budgets and would further support delivery of the CYPs budget plan.

- 6.3 **Increase placement capacity by paying 100% for all children placed** – The budgeted cost of a standard IFA placement is £45.6k against a standard Rotherham Council offer of 19.2k per annum. This offer increases in house foster carer capacity and 3 carers have been identified to date subject to the new payment offer which against a standard IFA placement would save £81k per annum for 3 placements.

This offer would be extended to all current carers with 3+ children in place at an immediate cost of 36k.

- 6.4 **Increase foster care mileage in line with HMRC rates** –The increase proposed would be in line with Rotherham Council employees and HMRC rates and forms part of the Rotherham offer to carers the aim being to attract more in house carers and reduce the number of de-registrations per the 2022/23 budget plan. Cost impact is 9k per annum.

- 6.5 **Day care offer for foster carers** - day care is used for several reasons one of which is placement stability the aim being to keep a child in, in house foster care and not escalate to an IFA placement. For information the cost of placement breakdown from in house fostering to IFA care is circa £27k per annum per placement. No assumed cost reductions as this is about cost avoidance, preventing placement breakdown.

6.6 **Complex Care Payment**

**Stepdown to Foster Care offer** - Against an external IFA stepdown package of £73k per annum, the Rotherham Council offer at £39k would reduce costs by £34k per place per annum.

**Emergency Foster Care for teenagers offer**

Unregulated emergency support at a cost of £8,400 per week is one of the most expensive placements. Against the proposed in-house carer cost of up to £790 per week this would reduce cost pressures of £396k per annum against the emergency budget, where an emergency placement is avoided.

The aim of these carers is to provide short term support which would avoid the need for an emergency placement and enable the young person to transition back home.

- 6.7 **Enhanced Foster Care Payment** - to offer an enhanced financial package to Rotherham Council carers at £33k per annum against an enhanced IFA rate of £59k for 12 carers this would represent an annual net savings of £312k. (The service has estimated 12 placements being supported with an enhanced payment based on the levels of placement breakdowns linked to enhanced need and where a possible additional payment could have prevented this).

7. **Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 The current proposals demonstrate that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has implemented a fair approach in that it has considered amounts paid by neighbouring local authorities, whilst also taking into account the recommended national minimum payments for allowances, to devise proposals which will assist in improving services and carrying out its statutory duties towards its looked after children.

8. **Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no specific HR implications identified in the report. However, benchmarking of neighbouring authorities has taken place to ensure that Rotherham Council remain competitive within the region.
- 8.2 The Mileage rate for employees was changed in April 2022 to reflect the HMRC current mileage rate, therefore by increasing to 45p would align to the HMRC and Rotherham Council policy.

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

- 9.1 The proposal seeks to attract additional foster carers and placements and retain and grow current foster carers to increase the opportunity for all Rotherham children and young people to be placed within their own community. This will enable them to continue to have contact with the people and community of the most importance to them, promoting a strong sense of self, fundamental to resilience in later life.

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

- 10.1 In supporting and caring for children who cannot safely live at home with their parents, there are requirements under equalities and human rights legislation, embedded into Care Planning Legislation that children should be cared for within local communities who can support their religious and cultural identity (Human Rights Articles 7 & 8). The proposals in this report seek to further grow and develop local Rotherham in-house foster carers, to ensure that the Council can offer children placements in their home community, increasing their sense of cultural identity. An equalities impact assessment is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 10.2 The proposed changes to fees and allowances have been developed following consultation with foster carers (at the Foster Carer Forum) and benchmarked against regional Local Authorities and private fostering providers. The overall implication in terms of enhanced skill level fees and diversifying the offer is felt by current Rotherham Council foster carers to be support to future recruitment and retention of foster carers.

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

- 11.1 Placements at distance equate to children, families and staff having to travel further to see family, be at school and to ensure the Council deliver its corporate parenting duties. Therefore, any increase in having children placed with local inhouse foster carers, supports a reduction in travel and associated emissions. A carbon impact assessment is included as appendix 2 to this report.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1. The proposals contained in this report aim to ensure more Rotherham looked after children can remain in local family-based placements. This may mean that initially there is additional demand on partners and their services, as needs have been met outside of the Rotherham area previously. However, the aim is for this to be steady growth incrementally implemented with partners, which ultimately supports more children to be placed within Rotherham, ensuring that the partners who know the children and their families support children within their communities and schools.

### 13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Any potential risks are mitigated by the developing approach to foster recruitment and the recruitment resource identified. The revised fees and allowances will support the drive to further attract, retain and develop Rotherham Council's in-house foster carers. This will then reduce the Council's dependency upon using Independent Fostering Agency placements (IFA's), placing the Council in a stronger and more competitive position as a Local Authority Fostering Service.

### 14. Accountable Officers

Monica Green, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care  
Rebecca Wall, Head of Service CIC

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	29/09/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	29/09/22

*Report Author:* Monica Green, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care  
Monica.green@rotherham.gov.uk  
Helen Sweaton, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality  
Helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

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# Competitor analysis & VP

# Competitors LAs - highlighted VPs

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Rotherham	Doncaster	Barnsley
<p><b>"Be part of Rotherham Council's fostering family"</b> "Rotherham families supporting Rotherham children"</p> <p>On average, our foster carers earn £442 per week 24/7 dedicated social worker and lots more support Comprehensive training and development opportunities</p> <p>14 days paid leave Skills to Foster training Over 80% of our foster carers would recommend fostering with Rotherham to their friends A community of fostering families Freebies and great discounts for fostering families</p>	<p><b>"We are proud to foster for Doncaster"</b></p> <p>Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Not for profit Fostering placements exclusively for Doncaster Council Proud to be local Excellent training opportunities Be part of a fostering family and the Doncaster Foster Carers Association</p>	<p><b>"Can you offer a loving home to a child"</b> "Could you be the person we're looking for?"</p> <p>List of courses offered to foster carers Weekly and skills based payments Expert social worker A experienced foster carer mentor 24 hour help on the phone Free membership to the National Fostering Network Membership to the Association of Barnsley Foster Carers Access to services such as CAHMS</p>

# Competitors LAs - highlighted VPs

Rotherham	Sheffield	Wakefield
<p><b>"Be part of Rotherham Council's fostering family"</b> "Rotherham families supporting Rotherham children"</p> <p>On average, our foster carers earn £442 per week 24/7 dedicated social worker and lots more support Comprehensive training and development opportunities</p> <p>14 days paid leave Skills to Foster training Over 80% of our foster carers would recommend fostering with Rotherham to their friends A community of fostering families Freebies and great discounts for fostering families</p>	<p><b>"Foster Sheffield's Future"</b> "Make a real difference to the life of a Sheffield child" "When you join our trusted team"</p> <p>Starting salary of £257 - £379 per week for level one carers Additional allowances including Payments for special occasions Mileage allowance Local training and support activities Your own social worker Foster carer mentors Psychological support services 24-hour support &amp; support groups Online forum Social activities Recognition for your experience and commitment</p>	<p><b>"Be my career"</b> "Improve the lives of children in the Wakefield district"</p> <p>Competitive financial package Comprehensive training package Personal support worker A range of benefits 100% not for profit Gain qualifications</p> <p>Payments: Weekly payment Skills based payment Holidays and special occasions Additional allowances</p>

# Competitors IFAs - highlighted VPs

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Rotherham	Compass Fostering	Orange Grove Foster Care
<p><b>"Be part of Rotherham Council's fostering family"</b> "Rotherham families supporting Rotherham children"</p> <p>On average, our foster carers earn £442 per week 24/7 dedicated social worker and lots more support Comprehensive training and development opportunities</p> <p>14 days paid leave Skills to Foster training Over 80% of our foster carers would recommend fostering with Rotherham to their friends A community of fostering families Freebies and great discounts for fostering families</p>	<p><b>"Join a foster care agency which is big enough to support, small enough to care"</b></p> <p>Become part of a welcoming, supportive community of professionals 24/7 support from friendly local staff A generous regular fostering allowance Tax exclusions Friendly, local, supportive network Focus group meetings and National Carer Forums Planned days out FosterTalk membership Dedicated SSW</p>	<p><b>"Tailoring fostering to your family"</b></p> <p>Worked with foster parents of over 20 years Very personal approach A partnership of support Individual growth through training We nurture quality Generous financial package Regular placement opportunities Local relationships with national back up</p>

# Competitors IFAs - highlighted VPs

Rotherham	NFG	Tact Fostering
<p><b>"Be part of Rotherham Council's fostering family"</b> "Rotherham families supporting Rotherham children"</p> <p>On average, our foster carers earn £442 per week 24/7 dedicated social worker and lots more support Comprehensive training and development opportunities</p> <p>14 days paid leave Skills to Foster training Over 80% of our foster carers would recommend fostering with Rotherham to their friends A community of fostering families Freebies and great discounts for fostering families</p>	<p><b>Fast track fostering application - could you be an approved foster carer within 2 months?</b></p> <p>National fostering expertise Local foster carer support Foster carer training, delivered locally</p> <p>Foster care pay in the region of £22,000 per year Bridging retainer payments Recommend us bonus</p> <p>High street downloads through the Hub Max Card discounts Fostering Network membership New Family Social membership West End shows discounts Foster carer ID card School tuition</p>	<p>The UK's largest dedicated fostering charity Not for profit</p> <p>Provide a voice for young people Never pressure our carers to take a placement 24/7 foster carer support</p> <p>Generous fostering allowance Comprehensive training and development New education service Care leavers support</p> <p>Wide UK coverage Partners, not providers</p>

# Competitors - Local Authority pay offer

Rotherham	Wakefield	Doncaster	Barnsley
<p><b>Fees headline: £442/week</b> Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: Birthdays, special occasions, holiday grant Mileage: Yes Clothing Allowance: Yes Additional grants: Pocket money for LAC</p>	<p><b>Fees headline: £179-594/week</b> Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: N/A Therapeutic team: N/A Holiday allowance: Birthdays, holidays and occasions <b>Mileage: Yes</b> Clothing Allowance: Initial <b>Additional grants: Initial costs for school trips and health expenses</b></p>	<p><b>Fees headline: £463/week</b> <b>Retention fee: In exceptional circumstances</b> Paid Annual Leave: N/A Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A <b>Mileage: Some travel expenses</b> Clothing Allowance: N/A <b>Additional grants: Settling in costs, school trips</b></p>	<p><b>Fees headline: £232-558/week</b> Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: N/A</p>

# Competitors - Local Authority pay offer

Rotherham	Bradford	Leeds	Sheffield
<p><b>Fees headline: £442/week</b></p> <p>Retention fee: N/A</p> <p>Paid Annual Leave: Yes</p> <p>Therapeutic team: Yes</p> <p>Holiday allowance: Birthdays, special occasions, holiday grant</p> <p>Mileage: Yes</p> <p>Clothing Allowance: Yes</p> <p>Additional grants: Pocket money for LAC</p>	<p><b>Fees headline: £561/week</b></p> <p><b>Retention fee: 12 week between placements</b></p> <p>Paid Annual Leave: Yes</p> <p>Therapeutic team: Yes</p> <p>Holiday allowance: Birthdays, summer holidays and religious holidays</p> <p>Mileage: N/A</p> <p>Clothing Allowance: N/A</p> <p><b>Additional grants: Essential equipment inc. car seats</b></p>	<p><b>Fees headline: £142-470/week</b></p> <p>Retention fee: N/A</p> <p>Paid Annual Leave: Yes</p> <p>Therapeutic team: Yes</p> <p>Holiday allowance: Birthday, holidays and occasions</p> <p>Mileage: N/A</p> <p>Clothing Allowance: N/A</p> <p>Additional grants: School holidays</p>	<p><b>Fees headline: £257-£379/week</b></p> <p>Retention fee: N/A</p> <p>Paid Annual Leave: Yes</p> <p>Therapeutic team: Yes</p> <p>Holiday allowance: Birthdays, special occasions, annual holiday grant</p> <p><b>Mileage: Yes</b></p> <p>Clothing Allowance: Yes</p> <p><b>Additional grants: Specific to child's development</b></p>

# Competitors - IFA pay offer

Rotherham	Capstone	NFA	Compass
<p><b>Fees headline: £442/week</b> Retention fee: N/A Paid Annual Leave: Yes Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: Birthdays, special occasions, holiday grant Mileage: Yes Clothing Allowance: Yes Additional grants: Pocket money for LAC</p>	<p><b>Fees headline: £400/week</b> Retention fee: N/A <b>Paid Annual Leave: Yes</b> Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: Some tax benefits can be claimed</p>	<p><b>Fees headline: £400-600/week</b> <b>Retention fee: Yes</b> <b>Paid Annual Leave: Yes</b> Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: N/A</p>	<p><b>Fees headline: £370-460/week</b> Retention fee: N/A <b>Paid Annual Leave: Yes</b> Therapeutic team: Yes Holiday allowance: N/A Mileage: N/A Clothing Allowance: N/A Additional grants: N/A</p>



# Competitors - IFA pay offer

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## Rotherham

**Fees headline: £442/week**

Retention fee: N/A

Paid Annual Leave: Yes

Therapeutic team: Yes

Holiday allowance: Birthdays,  
special occasions, holiday grant

Mileage: Yes

Clothing Allowance: Yes

Additional grants: Pocket  
money for LAC

## TACT

**Fees headline: £367-521/week**

Retention fee: N/A

**Paid Annual Leave: Yes**

Therapeutic team: N/A

Holiday allowance: Birthdays,  
special occasions, annual  
holiday grant

**Mileage: During training**

Clothing Allowance: N/A

Additional grants: **Playgroup,  
dietary allowances, loss of  
second carer income fee, long  
service award, referral bonus**

## FCA

**Fees headline:**

**£346-385/week**

Retention fee: N/A

**Paid Annual Leave: Yes**

Therapeutic team: Yes

Holiday allowance: N/A

Mileage: N/A

Clothing Allowance: N/A

Additional grants: N/A

# Gaps in Universal offer

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- Council Tax Exemption
- Retention and bridging fees
- Loyalty payments
- Referral offer/Bonus offer
- Opportunities to level up
- 16 weeks approvals
- Fast track

# bright sparks

**Thank you!**

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### Appendix 3: Fostering current fostering fees and allowances - 2022

#### Foster Carer Skills Payment – Per Week

	Child 1	Child 2	Subsequent placements
<b>Skill level 1</b>	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 50.00
<b>Skill level 2</b>	£ 125.00	£ 125.00	£ 62.50
<b>Skill level 3</b>	£ 175.00	£ 175.00	£ 87.50
<b>Skill level 4</b>	£ 360.00	£ 360.00	£180.00

#### Child Age related Allowance - Per Week

Age Band	RMBC Rates	Government Minimum Fostering Allowance
<b>0-4 years</b>	£ 141.00	£ 141.00
<b>5-10 years</b>	£ 156.00	£ 156.00
<b>11-15 years</b>	£ 189.37	£ 177.00
<b>16+</b>	£ 230.30	£ 207.00

#### Fostering day care rate:

All ages per hour £3.50

#### Fostering Mileage rate:

40 pence per mile

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## Appendix 4: Proposed fostering fees and allowances – 2022 - 2024

**Foster Carer Skills Payment – Per Week**  
**(Subsequent placements now at same rate as**  
**Child 1 and 2)**

	<b>Child 1</b>	<b>Child 2</b>	<b>Subsequent placements</b>
<b>Skill level 1</b>	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
<b>Skill level 2</b>	£ 125.00	£ 125.00	£ 125.00
<b>Skill level 3</b>	£ 175.00	£ 175.00	£ 175.00
<b>Skill level 4</b>	£ 360.00	£ 360.00	£ 360.00

**Child Age related Allowance - Per Week (No change)**

<b>Age Band</b>	<b>RMBC Rates</b>	<b>Government Minimum Fostering Allowance</b>
<b>0-4 years</b>	£ 141.00	£ 141.00
<b>5-10 years</b>	£ 156.00	£ 156.00
<b>11-15 years</b>	£ 189.37	£ 177.00
<b>16+</b>	£ 230.30	£ 207.00

**Independent Fostering Protocol**

<b>Allowance</b>		<b>Duration</b>	
<b>Complex placement</b>  (Skill Level 4 +£200 per week)	£560.00 + Age related allowances (see table above)	Up to 12 months, then reduces to enhanced payment	
<b>Enhanced payment</b>  (Also continues to receive current skills payment and age related allowance)	£100.00	Reviewed every 6 months	

**Fostering day care rate:**

(Calculated at 1/7 basic rate + 1/7 of Skills rate)

1/7 of Basic Allowance Rate	1/7 of Skills
Age 0-4 = £18.04	Level 1 - £14.28
Age 5 -10 = £19.71	Level 2 - £17.85
Age 11-15 = £24.01	Level 3 - £25.00
Age 16+ = £29.46	Level 4 - £51.48

**Fostering Mileage rate:**

45 pence per mile (aligned to employee mileage rate).



## Appendix 5

**Analysis of Foster Carer Allowances****Skills Payment**

The current Skills Framework sets out a four level Payment For Skills (PFS).

The model has minimum entry requirements for new carers at each level (1 lowest, 4 highest) and also allows existing carers to progress up through the levels if they meet the Task, Skills, and Competencies (TSC) requirements. A weekly skills fee is paid to carers in addition to weekly maintenance allowance payments. Currently this skills payment is paid at 100% for the first and second placement then at 50% for 3rd and subsequent payments.

The current Rotherham Council skills framework agreed by Cabinet in 2019 means that carers who offer a home to more than two children receive a 50% reduction in their weekly skills payment for any additional child placed. The rationale for this is that prior to 2019 a skills payment was paid as a single payment to the foster carer assessed to have reached a level of expertise and ability, in the 2019 it was agreed that the weekly skills payment would be uplifted and paid for the first two children but would be “capped” for any subsequent children placed.

Feedback from foster carers and regional benchmarking has highlighted that RMBC could make a small adjustment to allowances linked to third and subsequent placement allowances and be able to increase the number of placements current foster carers offer.

The Council have benchmarked fostering allowances across the Yorkshire and Humber region, the benchmarking was completed across the region to demonstrate the variance.

<b>Rotherham Current Skill level payment for 3<sup>rd</sup> plus child</b>	<b>Lowest regional Payment for 3<sup>rd</sup> plus child</b>	<b>Highest regional payment for 3<sup>rd</sup> plus child</b>	<b>Proposed RMBC Uplift Position for 3<sup>rd</sup> plus child</b>
Skill level 1  £50	£50.00	£102.10	£100.00
Skill Level 2  £62.50	£61.21	£102.00	£125.00
Skill Level 3  £87.50	£86.71	£ 277.76	£175.00
Skill Level 4 £180	£112.21	468.48	£360.00

The service has already identified 3 fostering families who would consider extending their approval if the full skills payment was offered for a third child.

Currently 8 children are placed as a 3rd or 4th in-house fostering placement. Implementing this proposal would increase the cost of these placements by circa £87.50 per week per child (£36.4k per annum).

A 50% payment for a third placement decreases the likelihood of attracting established IFA foster carers to Rotherham.

### **Foster carer mileage**

When Rotherham looked after children need transport, e.g., for family time with siblings/ birth parents it is best if this is provided by adults who they trust and know them well. Often foster carers transport the looked after children living with them to key appointments and education.

The current foster carer mileage rate is 40p per mile.

All Rotherham Council Employees received an increase in the mileage rate in April 21 to the HMRC tax free rate of 45p, but the increase was not applied to foster carers as they are not direct employees of Rotherham Council.

### **Day Care**

Foster carer day care is often used to support placements and carers where there are emergencies, to support in house placement of large sibling groups and for when children have been excluded from school. Whilst several of our carers often support each other as part of the wider fostering community, there are times where day care support as a more formal offer to support a child at risk of placement breakdown.

Feedback from foster carers is that the current hourly day care rate is not comparable to other payments made to domiciliary /childcare settings which provide care to children. For this reason, they are reluctant to offer to support, this is

especially the case for older children. The proposal is to increase this payment to strengthen the formal support available

The current day care rate paid across the board regardless of the age or need of the child/young person is £3.50 per hour.

Comparisons has been made with our neighbouring LA's and IFAs, our rates are not competitive. Both pay foster carers 1/7th of the basic and 1/7th skill payment to provide care and focused respite to children who are risk of placement breakdown or on the edge of care.

The proposal is we implement the same payment rate.

(Calculated at 1/7 basic rate + 1/7 of Skills rate)

Age 0-4     Level 1 - £32.32

Age 5 -10   Level 2 - £37.56

Age 11-15   Level 3 - £49.00

Age 16+     Level 4 - £80.91

A formal day care offer would be used to prevent placement breakdowns as part of a wider package of support.

### **Complex care payment**

RMBC does not currently offer an increased payment to foster carers caring for children with more complex needs e.g., children who have previously been in residential care, Teenagers in crisis requiring emergency care

### **Step down to Foster Care**

Some children's needs are initially met by residential care however for most children residential care will not be their forever home or long-term solution. Rotherham

Council work hard to identify children who no longer need residential care to 'step down' to foster care. This means children are not out of a family setting for longer than necessary and the cost of care is less. Despite lengthy and focused work with IFA providers, the service has not been able to identify any IFA agency to support us with any successful or lasting stepdown arrangements.

This led the service to develop and pilot an RMBC Rotherham step down to foster care offer, which included bespoke support and additional allowances. To date we have had one successful step down and a second placement due to progress in September 2022.

The stepdown offer includes a competitive payment package; a skills level 4 payment of £360 per week and a complex need payment of £200 per week, for the first 12 months, reviewed every 3 months. This is accompanied by a support package delivered by the designated Supervising Social Worker for Step down, guided by the fostering mapping assessment and includes a bespoke training offer for foster carers.

The service would aim to grow an estimated 12 placements linked to step down over the next 12 months. These would be a mix of new carers and current carers who already foster for RMBC, as this offers a progression for carers beyond the current skills level 4.

This proposal may attract in house foster carers to offer teenage placements and increase the number of children placed inhouse, avoiding the costly use of an IFA at £72.5k per annum, or an external residential placement at £270.5k per annum , an inhouse step down package at a cost is £39k per annum. This would be a targeted area of focus to identify in-house or recruit new foster carers to consider this and is currently a gap in provision.

### Emergency Foster Care for Teenagers

When an unplanned/ emergency occurs which results in a teenager being unable to stay with their parents/ carers, if no alternative can be found, they may have to be cared for in an unregistered emergency placement or may progress straight to residential care. This means teenagers requiring unplanned/ emergency care are not cared for in a family placement. The use of unregulated placement should not happen and is only used as a last resort, when working with a child or young person

who is in crisis and their safety is at immediate risk., rigorous assessments and plans are developed. These are on balance decisions that are made where there is clear evidence that the immediate risk to the child outweighs the risks of placing a child in an unregistered placement and is always a last resort and is robustly supervised and overseen by a Social Work Service Manager.

The offer of support to foster carers for teenagers, delivered by the fostering service, would involve bespoke training to support foster carers to work with the young person, their family and other significant people to support reunification.

The payment package would involve a skills level 4 payment of £360 per week, a complex payment of £200 per week, and the child's age-related weekly allowance, giving a total cost of £750 per week. In comparison an emergency placement is £8,400 per week, and an external residential placement is £5,200 per week.

The fostering team aim to recruit one household in the 3rd and 4th period of current financial year and a further household in 20223/2024.

### **Enhanced payment - Foster Care**

A small number of children with enhanced needs e.g., complex behaviour or health needs, which can place additional demands and pressures on carers, have to wait too long to find their forever family-based placement. If the only family-based placement available is with an IFA provider this can mean children have to move away from their family network, community, and school.

The criteria for an 'enhanced care' payment would be, teenagers on the edge of residential care, children with disabilities or complex health need, children who are assessed at high risk of CSE/ CCE, children/YP who potentially pose a risk of sexually harmful behaviour / sexualised behaviour or children/YP with history of violent behaviour towards adults/carers. These children are already linked with universal and more specialist services such as, health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health service and the Rotherham Therapeutic Team.

The weekly Out of Area/Residential panel would review the level of enhanced or complex payments as a minimum every 6 months, and it is anticipated that with

support the presenting needs of the young person will reduce, and the additional enhanced/ complex payments would reduce.

An enhanced foster care offer for Rotherham Council Foster Carers would involve an enhanced carer payment, £33k per annum. For children with enhanced needs this would avoid the use of an IFA placement at £59k per annum.

The offer for foster carers would contribute to the aim within the 2022/23 fostering budget profile to reduce IFA placements. This is an ambitious target however the benefits for the child and the budget savings it will create both a positive impact.

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

**Safeguarding, Children and Families**

**Protocol relating to Foster Carers who wish to transfer to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council**

This protocol comes into effect once the foster carers have notified their Fostering Service of their decision to transfer.

The protocol has been developed by the Local Authority taking into account:-

The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and 2013.

The Children Act 1989 Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations, Volume 2, 2010 and 2015.

Embedded in the protocol is the National Minimum Standards 2011.

**1. Underlying Principles.**

- 1.1** Foster cares have a right to transfer to alternative fostering services and RMBC will uphold their rights in treating carers with respect and in processing their application in a fair and equitable manner which accords with the 2013 Regulations.
- 1.2** RMBC will take into consideration the views of a child in placement, their parents and associated agencies linked to the child's Care Plan.

**2. Aim**

- 2.1** RMBC's aim is to facilitate the smooth transition of foster carers to the Local Authority within a timely framework which ensures statutory compliance and affords the foster carers a transparent assessment.

**3. Transition Process**

- 3.1** At the point when a foster carer has reached the decision to transfer to RMBC, they should notify the relevant fostering service in writing.
- 3.2** Thereafter, RMBC will formally submit a written request to access the records relating to the foster carers assessment and approval subject to their prior consent.
- 3.3** If the foster carers refuse to give consent to access their records, the Agency needs to determine what 'records of concerns' they should share with RMBC.
- 3.4** If there are no issues of concern, then the foster carer's right to confidentiality is upheld.

- 3.5 The Fostering Service should grant access to the records within a period of 15 days, after receipt of the written notification.
- 3.6 RMBC will then commence a comprehensive re-assessment at Stage 1 and 2 of the procedure, whereby, they will obtain a creditable and accurate reference testimony relating to the foster carers history and level of competence with the previous Agency.
- 3.7 The primary responsibility to notify the child's placing authority/ authorities of the foster carers decision to transfer to RMBC rests with that individual fostering service.
- 3.8 A principle of good practice is for the foster carers to provide verbal notice to the child's or children's social worker. This will allow for a period of preparation and the invoking of the care planning, placement and Case Review Regulations by the child's/children's Independent Reviewing Officer.

#### **4. Protocol Meeting**

- 4.1 To be convened by the Recruitment Team Manager in consultation with the Agency.
- 4.2 Attendance requirements  
Fostering Team Manager  
Allocated Assessing Social Worker  
Agency Supervising Social Worker  
Agency Team Manager  
RMBC LAC Social Worker  
Foster Carers
- 4.3 The purpose of the meeting is to carefully map out each stage of the transfer and to ensure the foster carers are in agreement and fully informed.

#### **5. Foster Panel**

- 5.1 A foster carer cannot be approved by more than one fostering service at the same time.
- 5.2 Therefore, foster carers transferring to RMBC must ensure their approval has ended by their prior Agency before approval by RMBC.
- 5.3 Foster Panel and RMBC Agency Decision Maker will enter into close communication, to ensure a foster carer experiences a seamless transition from their prior Agency to becoming an approved RMBC foster carer.
- 5.4 RMBC Foster Panel and the Local Authority's Agency Decision Maker will enter into close communication to ensure foster carers experience a seamless transition from their prior Agency to becoming approved RMBC Foster Carers, in which there is no period of overlap in their Registration status.



## 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:** Fostering Fees and Allowances

**Directorate:**  
**CYPS**

**Service area:**  
**Looked after Service**

**Lead person:**  
**Rebecca Wall**  
**Monica Green**

**Contact number:**

01709 822588  
07867338542

Is this a:

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

**If other, please specify**

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

This report seeks to improve the care experience for children in Rotherham by ensuring that wherever possible they are looked after in Rotherham in a foster family environment. This means children can be cared for and stay connected, closer to their families, schools, communities, and services that know them best. In the spirit of this ambition, to retain existing and recruit new Foster Carers, Rotherham CYPS is seeking approval to revise its 'offer' for Foster Carers in regard to the fees and allowances that they receive.

Recruitment and retention of foster carers is a key priority within the Sufficiency Strategy 2019 -2022 and the updated 2023-2027 Strategy. As of the 31.5.22 Rotherham Council had 542 children in care. 79% of Rotherham's LAC population are in family-based settings, however more children are placed with foster families via an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) than with in-house foster carers.

### 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)</i>		X

<i>business partner)</i>		
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
The policy seeks to clarify and make transparent the fees and allowances trying to positively impact on the availability of foster carers for children looked after on a positive way		

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

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

#### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Rebecca Wall	Head of Children in Care	03.08.22

## 6. Publishing

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

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

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

<b>Date screening completed</b>	10.2.21
<b>Report title and date</b>	Pathways to Care :Extensions and Adaptations to Homes of Foster Carers, Special Guardians and Adopters – (revised policy 2021
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	To progress to Cabinet on 22.3.21
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	11.2.21

#### User guidance:

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

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

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No impact				
Emissions from transport?	Decrease in emissions	Placing more children locally in Rotherham should reduce the of cars for staff who work for the council as SW's and IRO's are not required to drive to as many out of area placements from their office base	Will support a reduction in the transportation of children in placement to school and activities should reduce as children will not need to be transported from out of area to access their school or family time.	N/A	N/A
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No Impact				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No increased Impact				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No impact				

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

<p>Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:</p> <p>The aim of the project is to bring children back into the Rotherham area, or to prevent them to moving out of area. Currently a number of our children are outside of Rotherham and some outside of the south Yorkshire area The growth of the inhouse foster carers in the Rotherham borough will mean that their will be a direct impact on reduce milage and care use for social workers and linked to children being transported to school or family time</p>
---

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Rebecca wall Head of Children in Care
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form, please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

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Public Report  
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12 October 2022

**Report Title**

Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Cultural Strategy

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor  
01709 254352 or [katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-wide

**Report Summary**

To receive findings and recommendations from the spotlight review on Cultural Strategy which met on 2 February 2022.

**Recommendations**

1. That the briefing be noted and the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet for consideration:-
  - 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 CYPS 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.

**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

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

Improving Lives Select Commission – 03/05/2022

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Cultural Strategy

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Cultural Strategy was agreed by Cabinet on 10 June 2019, and various aspects of the delivery of this strategy have returned to scrutiny for monitoring of implementation progress on several occasions. On 12 August 2020, the implementation was scrutinised at Improving Places Select Commission, and it was agreed by Members in 2021 that since the COVID-19 pandemic, that implementation of the strategy would be prioritised for a spotlight review. In view of the significance of events and culture in wellbeing and education, the purpose of the review was to obtain assurances that the service was responsive to changing needs of communities and to ensure inclusive access to cultural activities in the Borough. This review supports three Year Ahead objectives: “Every Neighbourhood Thriving,” “People are Safe, Healthy and Live Well,” and “Every Child Able to Fulfil Their Potential.” Therefore, the review was convened on 2 February 2022 in a meeting between Members of Improving Places Select Commission, Improving Lives Select Commission, Culture, Sport and Tourism Service Leads, and the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion. The review was undertaken by Cllrs Pitchley, Atkin, Cooksey, Keenan, Griffin, Havard, McNeely, and Sansome.

### 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Members discussed at length the subject of recreational swimming in the Borough, noting that open water swimming in particular can be a popular and rewarding activity that can also be hazardous. Members discussed ways the service might mitigate risks associated with swimming whilst providing safe ways for residents safely to enjoy Rotherham’s natural resources and facilities for swimming. Lessons in swimming, water safety, and First Aid were suggested as part of an overall expansion in activities targeted for young people and young adults. The response from officers noted that arrangements were in motion for safe open water swimming programmes for summer 2022.
- 2.2 It was acknowledged that many young people in the Borough would benefit from having the opportunity to participate in more safe activities and events that are of interest to them. It was noted that libraries remain a powerful resource within communities that may be even further utilised and promoted, especially in respect of awareness of young people’s interests and coordination of responsive and innovative events and activities.
- 2.3 Specific consideration was given to designing an enhanced recreation offer for young carers to enable greater access to healthy respite. The response from officers noted that currently carers may accompany the person they care for to a range of events for free, and that in view of the importance of respite for young carers, arrangements were in progress with Children and Young People’s Services to expand this offer.
- 2.4 As part of a broader discussion around simplification of discounts for culture and leisure activities in the Borough, the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion also described a current focus of work on determining eligibility for RotherCard

incentives and discounts. The motivation behind this work, the Cabinet Member noted, is to get more people involved and make activities accessible to everyone. Several other specific areas of work were also cited: Civic Sound Week was a free of charge event, as are dozens of activities every day across the library network, which are designed for all ages and demographics. Examples were given at the time of reporting which involved two Harry Potter events in Swinton and Rawmarsh. The Cabinet member lauded the teamwork involved in bringing these events to fruition. A further example, The Rotherham Show, was described as the biggest free-to-access event in the region, which is made possible through external funds and is a testament to the work of the team.

- 2.5 Members also provided specific suggestions including the hosting of Grin & Tonic comedy events at alternating venues if this is found to promote access for residents who are travelling from various areas of the Borough. Members also noted that ensuring clear signage is posted at venues could help give new attendees greater confidence in finding and feeling welcome at the destination venue. Grim & Co was identified as one such venue for clarification in terms of signage. Prioritising engagement with schools, ecumenical organisations, Parish Councils, and funding programmes like Active Dearne was also suggested.

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

- 3.1 The timetable and accountability for implementing recommendations arising from this report will sit with the Cabinet and officers. The Overview and Scrutiny Procedurals require the Cabinet to consider and respond to recommendations made by scrutiny within two months.

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

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

### **5. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

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

- 6.1 There are no Human Resources implications directly arising from this report.

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

- 7.1 These have been set out in the main sections of the report.

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

- 8.1 Members have had regard to equalities implications when considering recommendations and other matters arising from the review.

**9. Implications for Partners**

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

**10. Risks and Mitigation**

10.1 Members have been advised previously of risk assessments and mitigation plans, and these have been taken into account in their consideration of potential recommendations.

**11. Accountable Officer**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

*Report Author: Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor  
01709 254352 or [katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk)*

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

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Public Report  
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12 October 2022

**Report Title**

Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor  
katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Boston Castle

**Report Summary**

This report summarises findings and recommendations from the Improving Places Select Commission spotlight review 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.

Members undertook a site visit to tour the markets complex and view the areas for redevelopment before consulting RiDo officers and markets industry experts in developing their recommendations. Members received a presentation illustrating the current situation facing the Rotherham Town Centre Markets following on from the pandemic. The presentation outlined plans for redevelopment of the markets complex and revitalisation of the markets microeconomy by attracting a new demographic to experience the markets.

A subsequent meeting was held to discuss the Council's Rules and Regulations in respect of Markets on 19 July 2022. During this discussion, suggestions were made directly to the service which are summarised at Appendix 1 of the report.

Contributing Members were Cllr Atkin, Cllr Bennett-Sylvester, Cllr T. Collingham, Cllr Jones, and Cllr Wyatt (Chair).

## **Recommendations**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the following recommendations from the review be submitted to Cabinet for response:
  - a) That face-to-face consultations and clear communication be prioritised in all interactions with vendors and traders.
  - b) That the service avail case studies and resources available in the libraries of NABMA and NMTF to inform the strategic refresh of Rotherham markets.
  - 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.
  - 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 re-design of markets spaces duly consider usability and aesthetics, availing 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 market may best cater to the needs and interests of younger generations by strengthening links with RNN student populations and extending opportunities to new entrepreneurs through the Young Traders Scheme.
  - g) Recognising that the Town Centre markets complex represents a unique and distinct microeconomy 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.

## **List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 – Discussion of Markets Regulations, July 2022

## **Background Papers**

Markets Engagement and Recovery. Presentation. March 2022.

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

Improving Places Select Commission – 7 June 2022

## **Council Approval Required**

No

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

No



## Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

### 1. Background

- 1.1 Members sought to undertake a review of Markets in view of growing concern about the recovery and financial sustainability of the Rotherham Town Centre Markets following the pandemic, which saw a reduction in footfall in the Town Centre that, at the time of reporting, has remained below pre-pandemic levels. Members aimed through this review to inform themselves of the current needs and challenges facing the Markets Service in order to recommend short-term and longer-term actions in respect of revitalising the markets area and making the markets spaces more visible and inviting to traders and customers alike. The Members undertaking the review noted personal experience as stakeholders in markets or retail enterprise which drives their desire to strengthen the markets offer in Rotherham Town Centre.
- 1.2 The previous overview of markets in Rotherham took place when the building opened in 1971, when the current regulations became active. These guidelines have served well over the decades, but it was agreed that a review of the recommendations should be added to the work programme so that Members can help feed into their updating to make them fit for purpose for the time at hand. When the regulations were put in place, a market stall had a very different role than in the present day. It was noted as a definition of terms that, according to Council policy, 5 traders or less is not considered a market, and no licence is needed from the Council. The law begins to control the legal status of a market that has 5 vendors or more. In recent years, some other markets in the area have witnessed dwindling stall numbers, and privatisation has in some profound cases resulted in further decline. Members therefore acknowledged the importance of rallying behind the Market Service in taking the Town Centre Markets in a direction that reflects the changing needs of consumers and maximises the future role Rotherham's markets will play in the community.
- 1.3 Methods utilised in this review included a site visit in which Members, officers and market industry experts toured the Town Centre Markets areas, followed by an in-person presentation and Q&A session with officers and with expert advisors from National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) and National Market Traders Federation (NMTF).
- 1.4 The Aims of this review were to receive information in respect of the following topics pertaining to the Rotherham Town Centre Markets:
  - Introducing and contextualising the markets
  - Describing of the current situation facing the markets
  - Summarising budget and financial arrangements in respect of markets
  - Navigating pandemic-related challenges
  - Redeveloping the markets
  - Engaging with young people

- Planning for future sustainability

## 2. Key Issues

Members' findings and recommendations centred around four areas: Re-evaluating the introductory offer, designing responsively for economic sustainability amid present-day budgetary challenges, navigating redevelopment by nurturing relationships, and designing for long term success.

### 2.1 Re-evaluating the introductory offer

Currently, the introductory offer includes a reduced rate and the freedom to discontinue with a week's notice. New traders are currently referred to the RiDO business start-up advisers, who provide them with support. For six months, a vendor pays £50 per week, which is roughly half the normal rate. This flexible trial period is intended to help businesses to test their business model without a long-term commitment, yet many new vendors leave at the end of the six months, indicating a need to re-evaluate the support offer for new traders.

- 2.2 The service has considered the possibility that the rates after the introductory period is over becomes a hurdle that many new vendors are not able to get past, but the rents at the Town Centre Market are lower than anywhere else in South Yorkshire and have been frozen since 2013. More information is needed around why traders leave after six months, and what it would take for them to stay on and continue trading.

### 2.3 A new approach to budgeting for sustainability

The distinction was made that the markets are maintained by two budgets: a budget for infrastructure, which sits with Asset Management, and a budget for operations, which generates between £100 and 160k per year. Issues with the infrastructure of the markets complex have required ongoing repairs. Due to the difficult trading conditions, traders have been offered a 10% discount on rents since 2017. Routine maintenance of infrastructure is no longer sufficient to keep up with the needs of the building, which include roofing and drainage issues. Whilst not a complete demolition and rebuild, upgrading and resolving issues in the fabric of the building will be necessary to sustain the markets into the future.

- 2.4 The financial structure of the markets industry has changed dramatically since the Council's approach to markets was put in place. Five decades ago, markets used to generate surpluses. A trader who had a stall in a market could rely on a significant income from trading. Surpluses have since disappeared, replaced by a need to subsidise markets for them to survive. The future will require new ways of managing, new financial arrangements, and innovative ways to reorganise the financial burden. Over 75% of members of NABMA expressed in a recent survey that they regard the future of the market industry with apprehension. Contributing to this view are macroeconomic trends that mean consumers have less disposable income, prompting them to cut down on nonessentials. To make matters worse, footfall remains lower than pre-pandemic. Markets across the country are

feeling this funding gap, but the service is optimistic that redevelopment can help close that gap by attracting new clientele.

## 2.5 **Navigating redevelopment by nurturing relationships**

With more intensive works needed to address infrastructure issues, the service is now considering how best to keep traders safely trading during the future development phase, especially whilst the roof undergoes repairs. Traders are likely to be offered a rent reduction during the works to compensate for expected reduction in footfall. When options for temporary relocation are discussed, traders express a preference to stay in place during the works if possible. However, multiple case studies have demonstrated significant detriment to markets where traders tried to stay in place during remodelling. Even if the service could find a developer willing to do the works with traders in place, having traders in the building during the work could affect how much refurbishment can be accomplished and the project would take longer. Members recognise the service seeks to honour the preference of traders amid these challenges, and they recommend that any proposal prioritise retention of traders during the redevelopment.

- 2.6 Nurturing this economy of good will by strengthening relationships with the community of traders throughout the transitions ahead has been acknowledged as an area the service is particularly seeking to develop. A further way to do this is by strengthening the role of a designated a trader liaison to promote open and clear communication with the traders. The liaison approach provides a conduit for reliable information to help minimise the development and proliferation of any potential rumours - which expert advisors identified as a significant risk that can have damaging effects on a trading community. Expert advisors provided further examples to illustrate how much better it is bringing traders along on a development journey than trying to reignite a market that has fizzled out. Therefore, it was recommended that the service consult examples of good practice and other insights which have been amassed by the professional organisations NABMA and NMTF and have kindly been made available to help guide next steps during this transition.

## 2.7 **Designing for long term success**

Redesigning the space to make it more usable and attractive will help generate interest and make the experience immersive, inviting, and attractive to shoppers. For example, current food options are scattered; therefore, in the redeveloped spaces, seating design and placement will need to anticipate how visitors will move through and utilise areas such as the new food court. Consideration will need to be given to how the market looks, sounds, and smells.

- 2.8 Members agree there should be a buzz about a market, and cultivating that buzz is essential. As the markets currently serve mainly an older demographic, the service hopes the redevelopment inspires a younger generation to explore a new experience. The service seeks to partner with RNN Group, which consists of Rotherham College, North Notts College and Dearne Valley College, to help cater to the needs and interests of over 3000

college students who frequent the Town Centre. Furthermore, the Young Traders Scheme for 16- to 30-year-olds is an area for expansion, as young traders enjoy being around other young traders. Rotherham has had success in nurturing sparks of interest from young traders in the past, and service hopes expanding the Young Traders Scheme, perhaps in partnership with courses at the college, could help stir up young entrepreneurial spirit once again.

- 2.9 Delivery of planned Town Centre housing developments is an opportunity to increase footfall, and at 5-10 minutes' walk from the train, the convenient location could be further publicised. Currently, it is not obvious to passers-by that the market is there; therefore, redesign of entrances and store fronts becomes an important part of redevelopment. Interconnectivity in the Town Centre offer would mean visitors to Forge Island might easily go across to the market, enticed by not just retail but an immersive participatory experience. Delivering this kind of experience will be an ongoing task that requires dedicated resource and understanding.
- 2.10 Members have seen that, in addition to a functional and attractive space, a successful market also requires hard work and attention over the long term. Failure to give a market the right level of management jeopardises its longevity. For example, striking the right balance of trade diversity can stimulate competition and drive better value for customers. Whereas an entire market made up of 40 fruit and vegetable stalls would not ordinarily be advantageous, the exception is where a market has a renowned niche. People will come from miles around to attend the fish market in Doncaster, for example. The knock-on effects of each addition must be considered, however, because investment in quality drops if there is insufficient turnover of stock. The market should present an opportunity for people to experiment and try things – locally produced food, produce and crafts. Where appropriate, the offer should be widened to cater to customer and trader needs, as is being done in respect of electricity and Wi-Fi connectivity in the redesign of the space. These design choices help foster a more up-to-date way of conducting business that many potential customers expect.
- 2.11 Lessons about resilience can be taken from how the markets responded during the pandemic, when essential goods stalls were given the option to open. The markets never shut down completely, although at times 4-8 stalls traded during reduced hours from 8am to 2pm. A few traders temporarily adopted a click-and-collect model, but this was not effective for all but 2 or 3 traders and was largely discontinued. Across 2020-21 and 21-22, traders paid a total of just under one year's rent due to agreed rent reductions for the lockdown period. The Market and Finance services assisted traders to ensure businesses received grants they were entitled to, but business rates relief did not extend to markets operators. Retention of traders at the Rotherham Town Centre market during the pandemic was among the highest in South Yorkshire during a very difficult period for trading. Retaining traders remains top priority for the service during the redevelopment phase ahead.

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

- 3.1 The discussion included some of the possible outcomes if traders were to temporarily locate versus remain in place during redevelopment, with the ultimate recommendation that the service ensure that any proposal must prioritise foremost the retention of traders through the transitional period. Recommendations were developed by Members and derived from discussion during the Q&A session with service leads.

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

- 4.1 Members have regard to the expressed views of their constituents in their formulation of scrutiny priorities and lines of enquiry. Recommendations from scrutiny are produced as outcomes of consultation of industry experts, officers and partners providing the service with Members in their role as elected representatives of Rotherham residents.

#### **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.
- 5.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules require Cabinet to consider and respond to recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Select Commissions in no more two months from the date that Cabinet receives this report.

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

- 6.1 No financial implications arise directly from this report, although the response to the review will take account of any such implications.

#### **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 resources 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, and Vulnerable Adults directly arising from the report.

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

- 10.1 Furthering equalities and human rights are key objectives in undertaking scrutiny activity; therefore, Members have considered equalities implications in the development of scrutiny work programmes, lines of enquiry and in their derivation of recommendations designed to improve the delivery of council services for residents.

**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 the report.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 Members have regard to the risks and mitigation factors associated with the services under scrutiny and have made recommendations accordingly.

**14. Accountable Officers**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

*Report Author: Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor  
katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk*

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

1. Background to discussion of Markets Regulations	
1.1	On 7 June 2022, IPSC agreed to add to the work programme a review of the Markets Rules and Regulations (Regs) which the Council uses to guide operations of the Town Centre indoor and outdoor markets. These have been in place with few updates since 1971, when the markets opened. Since then, the role of markets in the community has changed drastically, meriting a review of the Regs.
1.2	At the same meeting on 7 June 2022, IPSC endorsed several related recommendations which centred around thoughtful redesign and sustainment through stronger engagement with traders, young people, and national markets organisations. To help achieve these objectives, a meeting around the Markets Regs was held in a hybrid context in Rotherham Town Hall and on Microsoft Teams on 19 June 2022. Cllrs Wyatt, Atkin, Bennett-Sylvester, T. Collingham and Jones contributed suggestions directly to the service.
1.3	The consensus of Members was a desire to make the Regs clear, accessible, visually engaging, and digitally publishable, for example, as part of a future suite of online resource documents for market traders. It was agreed that, currently the repetitive structure, outdated design, and wordy voice of the Regs present hurdles to prospective traders and current traders seeking information. Therefore it was hoped that a redraft of the regs should be undertaken to make it easier for new traders to access the information they need whilst protecting the Council and traders against risk.
1.4	Potential barriers are described in section 2 with Members' examples of possible mitigations at section 4.
2. Potential areas for improving the Markets Regulations	
2.1	<b>Structure:</b> The current structure is repetitive and does not seem to follow any organisational principle.
2.2	<b>Voice:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The voice of the document is wordy and vague, and use of jargon potentially alienates newcomers to the markets scene.</li> <li>Stipulations throughout the regs suggest rules are flexible and are derived from the Markets Manager rather than from clear, consistent expectations set out in the Regs.</li> <li>Parts of the document do not employ inclusive language around gender.</li> </ul>
2.3	<b>Design:</b> The Regs exhibit outdated branding and could be more visually engaging. Supporting documents could better illustrate the offer to traders and what new traders can expect. The redesign should consider what aspects of trading are better <i>shown</i> than told about in the Regs.

3. Possible timescales for associated actions	
3.1	19 July 2022: Members discuss Regs with service leads and identify potential interventions.
3.2	August – November 2022: Drafting and consultation with stakeholders and experts and implementation of feedback on design of reworked draft.
3.3	Autumn 2022 – scrutiny review recommendations received by Cabinet
3.4	Winter 2022 – Reworked draft added to Design Services Work Programme; Cabinet's response to scrutiny review recommendations.
3.5	Summer 2023: Update on Markets Redevelopment submitted to IPSC.
4. Suggestions for the redraft	
4.1	<p><b>Structure:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That consideration be given to what prospective and current traders come to the document needing to know and that the content be reordered to move from general to specific information as readers progress through the document.</li> <li>2. Further, that consideration be given to beginning the document with a mission statement, followed by the revised general rules and that the document utilise hyperlinks for internal references for enhanced navigability of the resource.</li> </ol>
4.2	<p><b>Voice:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. That officers in the Markets team undertake a concise redraft of content that gives clarity whilst maintaining legal requirements.</li> </ol>
4.3	<p><b>Design:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Whereas a rebranding of the redeveloped markets may be forthcoming, that Members be given an opportunity to comment on the rebranding process and ensure the branding is reflected throughout the suite of documents to be made available accessibly online.</li> <li>5. That the suite of documents mentioned above be produced in collaboration with the Council's design team to ensure reader-friendly, accessible information design.</li> </ol>
4	<p><b>Feedback:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. That consultation on the reworked draft be sought with the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traders</li> <li>• Officers from asset management; policy, performance and intelligence; and legal services</li> <li>• Representatives of NABMA and NFMT</li> <li>• IPSC Members</li> </ul> </li> </ol>





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Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
11 May 2022	Petition – Improve Road safety on Cumwell Lane	To consider the petition referred from Council 13 April 2022	<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the call for action as outlined in the petition be supported.</li> <li>2. That the (...) proposed actions outlined by the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment be supported:</li> <li>3. That an evaluation is undertaken by the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment and the Speed Camera Partnership to assess the feasibility of installing average speed cameras on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane.</li> <li>4. That this evaluation includes benchmarking of comparable local authorities with average speed cameras in their areas, any learning from the installation and their impact on road safety.</li> <li>5. That Cabinet and the Speed Camera Partnership be asked to support the resourcing of the infrastructure required for the installation and maintenance of average speed cameras on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane should their feasibility be established.</li> <li>6. That the Council's response to and lesson learnt from the fatal traffic incidents in 2018 and 2019 on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane be circulated to Board Members and the Lead Petitioner by the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment.</li> <li>7. That an update on progress in respect of the recommendations outlined, is provided to this Board in 6 months with a further report to be provided to Improving Places Select Commission in 12 months.</li> </ol>
	Town Deal and Levelling Up Fund: Update and Implementation	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 16 May.	<p>Resolved that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.</li> <li>2. That progress of the Town Deal and Levelling Up fund be added to the Risk Register.</li> </ol>

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
	Household Support Fund	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting 16 May.	Resolved that: 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
27 May 2022 – Special Meeting	Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership CSE Review Final Report.	To consider the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership CSE Review Final Report.	Following the discussions, OSMB resolved to make recommendations that would be refined and discussed in further detail at the next meeting of OSMB which would be on 15 June 2022.  See meeting of 15 June for final recommendation.
15 June 2022	Finance Update	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 June 2022	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.  2. In future that the Council ensure options for Council Tax (energy) Rebate payments are more widely published in an easy-to-read format
	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (2022/2025), Action Plan 2022/2023) and Annual Report (2021/2022)	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 June 2022	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.  2. That consideration is given to how equalities is presented in Council reports going forward.
	Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership CSE Review Final Report.	To review the recommendations as discussed at the OSMB meeting held on 27 May 2022 following receipt of the Rotherham Safeguarding	Resolved that: 1) That the report be noted. 2) That the Member and Democratic Support Panel, in conjunction with each of the Council's political groups draws up proposals in order to co-ordinate the training plan with regard to CSE and to maximise member attendance at training events.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
		Children Partnership CSE Review Final Report.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) That work be carried out with the Borough's Town and Parish Council's to raise Town and Parish Councillors awareness around issues related to CSE.</li> <li>4) That as part of the overall scrutiny work programming processes that clear expectations are set to determine which reports will come to the Improving Lives Select Commission and that there is full partnership engagement with regard to these reports (including on health check issues).</li> <li>5) That scrutiny carries out further work to examine the link between poverty and deprivation and all issues related to children's safeguarding, and in particular to issues around CSE.</li> <li>6) That clear plans, with defined timescales be developed in order to increase awareness and confidence with regard to issues surrounding CSE be developed in consultation with all partners.</li> <li>7) That clear plans, with defined timescales be developed in order to ensure that a consistent approach is taken to how the "voice of the survivor" is taken into account of and listened to across the partnership.</li> <li>8) That work is carried out across the partnership to provide clarity with regard to processes surrounding the reporting of and escalation of concerns regarding CSE.</li> <li>9) That work is carried out across the partnership to provide clarity with regard to processes regarding performance monitoring around CSE.</li> </ol>
	Operation Linden	To consider the future monitoring arrangement in respect of the implementation of the IOPC report regarding Operation Linden.	It was agreed that a monitoring group of at least 3 Members, politically balanced, be formed from Members of OSMB to follow progress on the implementation of the IOPC recommendations with a view to reporting back to OSMB at regular intervals to be determined.
6 July 2022	Annual Housing Development Report 2022-23	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 11 July 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.</li> <li>2. That further work be undertaken to characterise the environmental impacts of construction projects including waste management within the Carbon Impact Assessments.</li> </ol>

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
	Children's Commissioners Takeover Challenge - Climate Change	To consider the report and recommendations from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change held on 16 March 2022.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Received the report and recommendations outlined in Appendix 1.</li> <li>2. Agreed that the report and recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for response.</li> </ol>
14 September 2022	Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report	That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board continue to monitor performance against the objectives contained in the new Council Plan by receiving the quarterly performance reports produced for Cabinet as part of its pre-decision scrutiny role.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.</li> <li>2. That consideration be given to the format of future reports to provide an infographic overview of progress and challenges as part of an executive summary.</li> <li>3. That Improving Lives Select Commission considers the measures relating to domestic abuse referrals.</li> <li>4. That a briefing is circulated to members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Improving Lives Select Commission on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children placed in Rotherham.</li> <li>5. That further work be undertaken to address the issues raised by members in relation to improving call-handling.</li> </ol>
	July 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report	Pre-Decision Scrutiny	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.</li> <li>2. That a further update is provided to scrutiny on the fleet management vehicle purchase project.</li> </ol>
	Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25	Pre-Decision Scrutiny	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.</li> <li>2. That wider engagement takes place to inform future and refreshed plans, including rural communities, disabled people, minority ethnic communities and those with other protected characteristics.</li> </ol>
	Household Support Fund	Ask for a briefing on this item to be provided by Wednesday 7 September 2022 (report circulated by email)	
12 October 2022	Foster Carer Fees and Development	Pre-Decision Scrutiny	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
	of In-House Retention Offer		
	Proposals for Day Opportunities for People with High Support Needs	As above	
	Forge Island Implementation	As above	
	Scrutiny Review – Cultural Strategy	To endorse findings and recommendations	
	Scrutiny Review – Markets Engagement and Recovery	As above	
Modern Slavery – <b>Spotlight Review</b>  <b>1 November 2022</b>	Resolved at the 3 November 2022 meeting to add to Work Programme. To be scheduled a one-off session  Combined session with Domestic Abuse	Spotlight Review tbc) - Scope to be determined - Expressions of interest sought	
16 November 2022	Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report.	Annual item for the Board to receive the Safer Rotherham Annual Report in its role as the Council's Statutory Crime and Disorder Committee, as defined by the Crime and	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
		Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.	
	Social Value Mid-Year Review	Following review of the Social Value Annual Report by OSMB in March 2022, it was agreed that a further report is submitted to OSMB in six months outlining mid-year position.	
	Annual Complaints Report	Annual item	
14 December 2022	Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report	That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board continue to monitor performance against the objectives contained in the new Council Plan by receiving the quarterly performance reports produced for Cabinet as part of its pre-decision scrutiny role.	
	MTFS and Budget Setting Proposals		
	Cumwell Lane Petition	Six monthly update following meeting held on 11 May 2022	
19 January 2023	TBC		
8 February 2023	TBC		



Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
22 February 2023	TBC		
15 March 2023	Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report	That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board continue to monitor performance against the objectives contained in the new Council Plan by receiving the quarterly performance reports produced for Cabinet as part of its pre-decision scrutiny role.	
	Children's Commissioner Take Over Challenge	Annual Item	
19 April 2023	TBC		
10 May 2023	TBC		

#### Items pending schedule or removal

Item	Details	Status	Officer
Rothercard	Joint meeting with lives – Discuss with Cllr Shepard before progressing this.	One off briefing to be scheduled	
Finance/Budget Setting	Resolved at the 14 July meeting:  That a report be presented at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny	To request a briefing note	

Item	Details	Status	Officer
	Management Board that details how the changes that have been made to how the Council operates and provides services as a result of the pandemic have informed budget management procedures, and whether these changes to how the Council operates have highlighted any new opportunities where future budget savings could potentially be made.		
CYPS Performance monitoring	Workshop session on CYPS Performance monitoring	To be scheduled – Meetings with CYPS have taken place. To be delivered April 2022. Joint activity with ILSC  S	
CYPS Invest to Save	To scrutinise the impact of “Invest to Save” initiatives across CYPS	To be scheduled.	
Foodbank Provision – alter to a cost of living (Economic Crisis	To scrutinise foodbank services across the Borough. Requested at the 9 February meeting.	To be scheduled.	
Adult Care Services Commissioning	To look in further detail the commissioning process for adult care services. Requested at the 9 February meeting.	Scope of work to be considered by Chair and Vice-Chair.	
Nature Emergency	In response to Council Motion May 2022	Referred to Improving Places	
Census	2012 and April 2013 reported to OSMB previously.		

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**  
**1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022**

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

Contact Information:-

Democratic Services  
Riverside House  
Main Street  
Rotherham  
S60 1AE

Email: [governance@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:governance@rotherham.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01709 822477

### What is the Forward Plan?

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

### What is a Key Decision?

A Key Decision is one which is likely to:-

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

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

### What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The plan gives information about:

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

### Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Authority's Constitution, Key Decisions are taken by the Cabinet. Key Decisions are taken at public meetings of the Cabinet. The Cabinet meets once a month on a Monday at 10.00am at Rotherham Town Hall. Meeting dates for 2022/23 are:

20 June 2022	19 September 2022	21 November 2022	23 January 2023	20 March 2023	15 May 2023
11 July 2022	17 October 2022	19 December 2022	13 February 2023	24 April 2023	

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

Names of contact officers are included in the Plan.

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

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

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

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
<b>KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 17 OCTOBER 2022</b>								
<b>ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH</b>								
Proposals for Day Opportunities for People with High Support Needs	July 2022	To approve the proposals for a new service offer (formerly known as REACH).	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
Commissioning Mental Health Recovery Focussed Community Services	August 2022	To approve establishment of a Dynamic Purchasing System to procure a range of community services based on the mental health recovery model and approve the consequent appointment of successful applications following a competitive tender process.	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
Housing Related Support Pathway - Proposal for Future Commissioning	August 2022	To approve the proposed changes to the pathway and a new model for how provision is supplied to the Council.	Cabinet Member for Housing	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</b>								
Foster Carer Fees and Development of In-House Retention Offer	July 2022	To consider the proposals for foster carer fees and development of the retention offer for in-house Foster Carers in Rotherham.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
Children's Residential Programme Update	July 2022	To approve the update to the Children's residential programme.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
LAC Sufficiency Strategy	August 2022	To consider and approve the update to the Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
SEND Sufficiency Phase 4	August 2022	To consider and approve the next planned round of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Sufficiency in the borough.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
<b>REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>								
Rotherham Local Heritage List	April 2022	To note the production of a local heritage list for the whole of South Yorkshire in general and Rotherham in particular and to approve delegation to the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, to include, amend or delete heritage assets on the Rotherham Local Heritage List.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, officers and stakeholders, with public consultation via the South Yorkshire Local Heritage List website.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Forge Island Implementation		To approve the next steps for the implementation of the Forge Island Project.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy		Report and appendices		Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 17 OCTOBER 2022</b>								
<b>REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>								
Climate Change Action Plan	August 2022	To receive and approve the Climate Change Acton Plan.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Members of the public and relevant stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge - Climate Change	June 2022	To receive and respond to the recommendations from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Members of the public and relevant stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022</b>								

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
<b>ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH</b>								
Housing Financial Inclusion Strategy	September 2022	To approve the new Housing Financial Inclusion Strategy.	Cabinet Member for Housing	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Reports and appendices	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>								
Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy	September 2022	To approve the refreshed version of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy.	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and Appendices	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
Refreshing the Rotherham Together Plan		To endorse the refreshed Rotherham Plan.	Leader of the Council	Relevant Members, Officers, Stakeholders and public consultation.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</b>								
Early Help Strategy 2022-2025	August 2022	To approve the Early Help Strategy 2022-2025.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
Proposal to formally close the Rowan Centre Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) following the transfer of pupils to Elements Academy		To approve the commencement of statutory process under the DfE guidance for decision makers and proposers on opening and closing maintained schools 2019.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Stakeholder consultation in line with DfE guidance.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>								
September 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report	September 2022	To note the current revenue and capital monitoring position and agree any required actions.	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022 OR LATER</b>								

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
New Applications for Business Rates Relief	November 2021	To consider the recommendation for a new application for Business Rates discretionary relief.	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 19 DECEMBER 2022 OR LATER</b>								
Housing Revenue Account Rents and Service Charges		To consider and recommend to Council approval of the 2023-24 social and affordable rent charges, district heating charges and service charges.	Cabinet Member for Housing	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Reports and appendices	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
Financial Exploitation		To approve commissioning of a Financial Exploitation Service.	Cabinet Member for Housing	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
Housing Development Update		To note progress on the Council Housing Development programme.	Cabinet Member for Housing	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
HRA Business Plan		To consider and recommend to Council the approval of the 2023-24 HRA Business Plan.	Cabinet Member for Housing	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>								
Application for Moving Traffic Enforcement		To note the results from the feasibility work and agree next steps.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, Officers, Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Place Based Investment Strategy		To approve the Place Based Investment Strategy.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Transport Capital Programme		To note progress on the Capital Programme and approve any new proposals.	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk



Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
Disposal of Land at 32/34 Corporation Street	September 2022	To agree the disposal of land at 32/34 Corporation Street.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and Exempt Appendices	Boston Castle	Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 19 DECEMBER 2022 OR LATER</b>								
<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>								
Third Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Report		To note performance against the Council Plan and achievements of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan.	Leader of the Council	Relevant officers, Members and stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</b>								
Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act - Education Contributions policy updated		To approve the revised policy document.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
National Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme Update		To note the update.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Suzanne Joyner Tel: 01709 247617 suzanne.joyner@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>								
Customer Standards	July 2022	To approve the new Customer Standards.	Leader of the Council	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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

**PART 2**  
**QUALIFICATIONS: ENGLAND**

*Paragraphs 1-8 repealed.*

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

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

Confidential information means –

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