

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Date and Time :- Wednesday 16 November 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, A Carter, Cooksey, Cowen, Elliott, Pitchley, Tinsley, 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 12 October 2022 (Pages 5 - 16)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 12 October 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 21 November 2022. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

6. Corporate Safeguarding Protocol (Pages 17 - 42)

To consider the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Protocol and note the outcome from the Ofsted Inspection.

Portfolio Holder – the Leader of the Council
Strategic Directorate – Assistant Chief Executive's

7. September 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report (Pages 43 - 70)

To consider a report outlining the current revenue and capital monitoring position and proposals regarding any required actions.

Portfolio Holder – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance
Strategic Directorate – Finance and Customer Service

8. Medium Term Financial Strategy (Pages 71 - 86)

To consider a review and update of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and proposals regarding any required actions.

Portfolio Holder - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance
Strategic Directorate – Finance and Customer Services

9. Recommendations from Improving Lives Select Commission - Early Help Strategy (Pages 87 - 90)

To consider the recommendations from Improving Lives Select Commission following its pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Early Help strategy.

For Discussion/Decision:-

10. Social Value - mid year report (Pages 91 - 110)

To consider a report providing a mid-year update on achievement towards the Social Value policy outcomes and priorities for 2022

For Information/Monitoring:-

11. Work Programme (Pages 111 - 112)

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 November 2022 - 31 January 2023 (Pages 113 - 121)

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 14 December at 10.00am at Rotherham Town Hall.



**SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.**

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday 12 October 2022

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

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Cowen, Tinsley and Wyatt.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

85. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2022 AND 14 SEPTEMBER 2022

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 6 July 2022 and 14 September 2022 be approved as a true record.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

Member	Agenda Item	Interest Type	Nature of Interest
Councillor Elliott	Agenda Item 8 Fostering Fees and Allowances 2022.	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Rotherham MBC Foster Carer

87. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

88. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that there were two items containing exempt information.

In relation to Minute 90, Forge Island Delivery Arrangements, the Chair advised that as Members had indicated that they wished to ask questions relating to the exempt item, it was her intention to take questions relating to open information first and then go into private session for the remainder of the discussion.

In relation to Minute 91, Fostering Fees and Allowances 2022, the Chair advised that unless Members indicated otherwise and intended to speak to the exempt information, that the meeting should remain open to the

public and press.

89. PROPOSALS FOR DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH HIGH SUPPORT NEEDS

The Chair welcomed the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, the Strategic Director for Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health and the Head of Service – Provider Services to the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health introduced the report, which set out a proposal to introduce a new service model for day opportunities for people with high support needs. The council had committed £2.1 million in capital funding to ensure the best facilities were provided. The proposed provision followed the principles laid out in the learning disability transformation programme which was agreed in 2018.

The report highlighted that those facilities in current use were either reaching the end of lease or were not suitable or fully accessible. It was therefore necessary to look at alternative sites that would future proof service delivery, offered flexible provision and personalised person-centred support.

The Head of Service – Provider Services gave an overview of the 90-day consultation process and supporting communications. The consultation included an online questionnaire, a series of formal public meetings with carers, relatives and people with learning disabilities, drop-in sessions and home visits. Individual letters were sent to those attending current day services and their carers and relatives. Meetings were also held with staff to ensure that they had a clear understanding of the proposed changes in order that conversations could be had with service users or carers. In addition, contact was made with over 50 social enterprises, network organisation or forums across the Borough to outline the proposals and seek feedback.

Of the options outlined in the consultation, Option 1 proposed that the service should operate from one large centrally located purpose-built facility, complimented by community outreach support across the Borough to support access to local communities. Option 2 proposed that the service should operate from two new build bases geographically split across the Borough. A further third option, proposing that there should be community-based service operating on an outreach basis without a building-based presence was discounted as this would not be suitable for service users with complex needs.

The consultation feedback was equally supportive of both Option 1 and 2, with no clear consensus emerging about a preferred service model. However, in assessing the suitability of site options to deliver either model, consideration was given to various factors including location and alignment with cohort mapping; community connections; size of the site, flexibility and availability of outdoor space; accessibility and transport

links. On this basis, a recommendation was made to support Option 1 with Warden Street, Canklow identified as the preferred site option.

The current service facilities would be decommissioned once the new service was ready to open. Each service user would have an assessment at the point of transition to ensure that their needs were being appropriately met.

The Chair opened the discussion to Board Members. Clarification was sought on how the service would change for users under the new model. It was noted that service users would still be able to enjoy those activities currently on offer. However, there was scope to modernise the service to adapt to the needs of future service users, incorporating education, job and volunteering activities and independent living skills. It was outlined that the 'offer' was a blank canvas and would be co-produced on the basis of current and prospective service user feedback. This may include opportunities for social enterprises, horticulture or animal husbandry.

Further details were sought for the process for decommissioning buildings. It was highlighted that facilities would only be decommissioned at the point when users could transition to the new service. No decision had been taken about their future use at this stage, although it was noted that the leased building would return to the NHS. Clarification was sought if the carbon impact of demolition would be assessed on the RMBC owned-building should this take place. Assurance was given that this would be undertaken.

In response to a question about the accessibility of services by transport and community-based services, it was outlined that the service was accessible to users who could travel independently and was in close walking distance of the Town Centre. Transport was available to enable service users to access services from around the Borough whether centre or community based.

The proposals for the service were welcomed. Clarification was sought about the numbers of responses to the consultation and if this was deemed to be sufficient to inform the proposals and if organisations who represent learning disabled people and carers from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities had been contacted. In determining the proposals and location, it was asked if a social analysis had taken account of other factors such as social deprivation, anti-social behaviour or hate crime. Assurance was given that engagement would take place with local communities once a decision had been made regarding the proposals. It was noted that some of the staff working in the service had relatives who were clients.

The Cabinet Member outlined that the consultation had been robust and had reached the small number of current service users and carers along with prospective users who would be transitioning to adult services in due course. The Head of Service gave assurance that the consultation

followed the “Gunning Principles” and groups/community organisations across the Borough had been contacted.

Details were sought if the infrastructure around existing provision in communities would be maintained (e.g. allotments, social clubs) and if community involvement could be secured for the new service model. The outreach model would support and enhance community-based activities within existing locations and work with the voluntary and community groups in those areas to develop provision.

It was noted that the equality impact assessment did not appear to include specific consideration of sex, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation as protected characteristics. It was asked that engagement on future service design should be inclusive of these factors.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and officers for their attendance.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That consideration is given to ensuring that any consultation undertaken on service design is inclusive and takes account of the differing needs of current and prospective service users/groups across the range of protected characteristics.
3. That further consideration is given to mitigating the potential carbon impact of disposal/demolition of Council assets related to this scheme.

90. FORGE ISLAND FINAL DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair welcomed the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services and the Assistant Director of Legal Services.

The Cabinet Member introduced the report and asked that consideration be given to a recommended delivery approach to allow the Forge Island scheme to progress to the construction phase. The approach involved the Council acting as funder for the scheme and contracting with Muse Development Ltd to facilitate delivery. It was noted that the Forge Island development was a key part of the Town Centre Masterplan to act as a catalyst for future public and private investment into the town centre

The matter had been considered by Council on 5 October 2022 and Council had agreed to give 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.

Full details of the analysis and financial modelling of all options had been

presented to the Board in Exempt Appendix 1.

The Chair invited Board Members to ask questions on the items in the open part of the agenda.

Clarification was sought on the parking strategy and the financial viability of proposals. It was noted that any response to this question related to financial modelling as outlined in Exempt Appendix 1 and therefore would not be given at that point.

It was noted that it was anticipated that the main work on the development would commence in November 2022. Details were asked if this was on schedule. Assurance was given that this was on track, with an expected completion date of spring 2024.

As Board Members indicated that they wished to question the details outlined in Exempt Appendix 1, the Chair announced that members of the press and public should be excluded from the meetings and proceedings should take place in closed session.

The following issues were raised during the discussion taken in closed session:

- Assurance that a robust treasury management system was in place;
- That the Town Centre Masterplan remained unchanged;
- Volatility of current financial markets and risk mitigation;
- Income generation and parking;
- Impact of delay on the scheme's viability;
- Value for money.

The Chair reconvened the meeting in open session. A request was made that the refreshed parking strategy be presented to scrutiny for consideration.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

91. FOSTERING FEES AND ALLOWANCES 2022

The Chair welcomed the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Assistant Director of Children's Social Care to the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young people introduced the report and outlined proposals to improve the care experience for children in Rotherham by ensuring that, wherever possible, they were looked after in a foster family environment. In order to retain and recruit foster carers, Children and Young People's Services sought approval to revise and

increase its offers for foster carers regarding the fees and allowances that they received. The Cabinet Member outlined that foster carers fees and allowances had not been reviewed for some time.

It was noted that at the end of May 2022, Rotherham had 542 children in care. Of these 79% were placed in family-based setting, however more children were placed with foster families via an independent fostering agency (IFA) than with in-house foster carers. It was reported that Rotherham had a shortage of all foster placements but particularly placements for children requiring enhanced care, adolescents and larger sibling groups. This resulted in too many children and young people placed out of the Borough or in residential placements because local capacity was insufficient.

A review was undertaken in May 2022 which included a regional benchmarking exercise and consultation with other local authorities within the Yorkshire region. The benchmarking activity highlighted when compared to an IFA or other local authorities, the RMBC offer was less competitive in relation to payments linked to mileage, third and subsequent placements and enhanced fees when supporting children with more complex needs.

The Assistant Director of Children's Social Care outlined that it was anticipated that by implementing the proposals, it would support the retention and increase the placement capacity of current foster carers. In particular this would support RMBC to grow carers who were willing to care for the Borough's most complex young people. In addition, the improved remuneration and fostering offer would attract and incentivise new foster carers to join the Council's fostering service to provide care for a broader spectrum of children with more complex needs.

A full rationale for the changes to the fees and allowances requested was included in the report, along with details of the financial implications. It was noted that the annual unit cost of an in-house placement was £19.2k compared with £45.6k for an IFA placement. It was therefore imperative that RMBC increased the number of children with in-house foster carers and reduced the numbers in independent fostering arrangements. While the report identified increases in payments and allowances, the overall expectation was an invest-to-save model, with savings achieved as reliance on IFA placements fell.

The Chair opened the discussion to Board Members. The proposals and the additional investment were welcomed. Assurance was sought if the training and support package currently on offer to in-house carers would still be in place. It was confirmed that this was the case. It was noted that some independent foster carers were returning to in-house provision because of the enhancements on offer.

Clarification was sought about levels of confidence that the proposals would deliver the desired outcomes of attracting more in-house foster

carers. In response, it was outlined that the proposals gave a message to existing foster carers that their services were valued and they could be remunerated accordingly as professional foster carers providing full-time care. The offer would expand the provision that the existing foster cohort could deliver, including day care. It was anticipated that the new offer was competitive to attract new foster carer households who may wish to work for a local not-for-profit service for a similar financial package to that on offer from the private sector.

Further details were requested on skills progression and how this would be supported. The intention was to support foster carers to meet the needs of a child based on a 'good match' rather than their skill level being a barrier to fostering a child. An example was given of a level 2 foster carer being supported to develop skills to foster a child with more complex needs if the placement was deemed suitable and in the child's best interest.

Details were sought if consideration had been given to reducing household outgoings alongside the proposals to increase fees and allowance. The Assistant Director outlined that other enhancements may be required to allow Rotherham foster carers to live and work from home. A task and finish group was to be established to look at this in further depth. The Cabinet Member signalled that she was open to different ideas to enhance the offer, including use of the Rothercard scheme should this be appropriate.

It was outlined that in respect of skill levels, each foster carer received an annual assessment. Most foster carers enter at level 1 and progressed to level 2 following an assessment. Level 3 and 4 were awarded based on level of understanding, capacity, commitment to training and evidence of learning and care given. Attendance of foster carers at recruitment events and other training was also encouraged to share learning by experience. Foster carers also attended Fostering Panel which provided assurance that skill levels were assessed appropriately.

Clarification was sought if the proposals would have any impact on the provision of Special Guardianship Orders (SGO). Consideration had been given to ensure that in achieving permanence for a child through a SGO, that remuneration was matched and needs were assessed early to ensure that the support was in place.

It was noted that the competitor analysis (Appendix 2) detailed the offer from other local authorities and independent providers however, clarification was sought on what was different in what was being proposed in Rotherham. In response, it was noted that there was very little detail available on how competitors retained foster carers. Views had been sought from Rotherham carers to ask what made a difference to them. The importance of capturing the foster carers voice and using it to improve the service was reiterated.

Clarification was sought if the proposals would attract more new foster carers or greater numbers of existing carers from the independent sector. It was anticipated that there would be movement from the independent sector. It was noted that this in itself would bring greater efficiencies as the local authority could directly influence foster household and better determine local placements for Rotherham children.

Clarification was sought about the mileage rate proposals and if this would be flat rate payment to be considered as part of earnings or moved to tax-free allowances. A written answer would be given on the points raised.

Further details were sought on the rationale behind the historical lower third child fees. It was noted fostering had developed considerably over recent decades and fostering standards outlined clear expectations about the standard of care, how individuals' needs should be assessed and met and household environments.

Clarification was sought on the communication and marketing strategy. The Assistant Director emphasised that it was important that the message 'speaks' to Rotherham foster carers about the difference their contribution would make to Rotherham children and that they would receive competitive income for their work.

Further details were sought to establish if a review was built into the proposals to ensure that the desired outcomes were delivered. It was outlined that an annual fostering service review would be produced that would cover these issues. It was also explained that Corporate Parenting Panel would maintain oversight of progress and the views of the Looked After Children's Council and foster carers would be sought on impact and outcomes.

In summing up, the Chair commented on the commitment of Rotherham foster carers and asked that the thanks of the Board be put on record.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That an annual review of the achievements of Fostering Service is undertaken, including a report on the impact and outcomes of the changes to fostering fees and allowances.

92. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - CULTURAL STRATEGY

The Chair of Improving Lives Select Commission introduced the report which detailed the outcomes of a joint spotlight review of aspects of the Cultural Strategy undertaken by Improving Places and Improving Lives Select Commissions. The work was undertaken out of concern about the impact of isolation resulting from the pandemic and pressures on family income. 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 and children had safe and fun things to do. Evidence was gathered from the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, officers and community members.

Thanks was extended to all who had contributed to the review.

Resolved:

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.

93. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - MARKETS: ENGAGEMENT AND RECOVERY

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of Improving Places Select Commission, the Governance Advisor introduced the findings and recommendations of the spotlight review of Markets engagement and recovery.

Evidence was gathered using a site visit in which Members, officers and market industry experts toured the Town Centre Markets areas, followed by an in-person presentation and question and answer session with officers and with expert advisors from National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) and National Market Traders Federation (NMTF).

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 regulations take place so that they could be updated for current circumstances.

It was noted that the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy and officers were fully briefed on the recommendations and progress was being made on their implementation. The report was to be submitted to Cabinet in order that a formal response was received.

On behalf of the Chair of IPSC, the Governance Advisor extended thanks to all those who participated in the review.

Clarification was sought if local expertise was sought (for example stall holders on the Thursday Bazaar which had revived market use on a day which had previously had low usage). It was outlined that the review recognised the importance of capturing the learning from new initiatives and feedback from existing and prospective stall holders and this was reflected its recommendations.

A question was posed if there was clarity about the aims of the market strategy and if this would address decline. It was noted that a neighbouring borough had invested in a new market development which was not running at full capacity. A concern was expressed that the town centre market development should be consolidated to ensure that it was viable. In response, the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy stressed the importance of the markets to the local economy and noted that footfall was increasing following the pandemic. She welcomed the review and its findings and any future scrutiny of market developments.

Resolved:

1. That a review of the Council's Rules and Regulations in respect of Markets be added to the IPSC work programme.
2. That face-to-face consultations and clear communication be prioritised in all interactions with vendors and traders.
3. That the service avail the case studies and resources available in the libraries of NABMA and NMTF to inform the strategic refresh of Rotherham markets.
4. That the service re-evaluate the support offer for new vendors, in consultation with the NABMA and NMTF.
5. With a view to retaining traders during redevelopment of the markets building, that consideration be given to mitigating any safety risk to traders as well as risk of traders discontinuing trading.
6. That any re-design of markets spaces give consideration to 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.
7. That the Young Traders Scheme be prioritised for further expansion in the longer term.
8. Recognising that the Town Centre markets complex represents a unique and distinct microeconomy with its own accompanying needs and characteristics, that consideration be given to the ongoing management resource required to sustain the markets economy successfully over the long term.

94. WORK PROGRAMME

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

95. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Information was shared that Improving Lives Select Commission was working with the Local Government Association to pilot “Effective Scrutiny of Children’s Service”. The next session was to take place on 25 October 2022.

96. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 OCTOBER 2022 - 31 DECEMBER 2022

This item was deferred.

97. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in issues.

98. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

99. 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 16 November 2022 at Rotherham Town Hall.

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Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 21 November 2022

Report Title

Corporate Safeguarding Protocol

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Lee Mann, Assistant Director HR & OD
Lee.Mann@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

A new Corporate Safeguarding Protocol has been developed which acts as a framework for the Council to ensure that safeguarding is embedded across all services and that all staff and Councillors are aware of their responsibilities.

The report also references the outcome from the recent Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services which demonstrates the effectiveness of safeguarding practice in the Council.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approve the updated Corporate Safeguarding Protocol.
2. To note the outcome of 'Good' from the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children and Young People Services.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Corporate Safeguarding Protocol November 2022
Appendix 2 Equality Screening
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact

Background Papers

Ofsted report of Children's Services August 12 2022
[Children's Services: Ofsted report – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

Corporate Safeguarding Policy 2016
[Corporate Safeguarding Policy](#)

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Corporate Safeguarding Protocol
Corporate Safeguarding Protocol

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has a duty to make appropriate arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults. The Council believes that every child, young person and adult, regardless of their background, age, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, ethnicity or religious belief should be able to live and participate in a safe society without any fear, violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination or exploitation.
- 1.2 Safeguarding is everyone's business and everyone at the Council shares a responsibility, both corporately and individually, to ensure that every person is treated with dignity and respect and protected from others who may abuse them. All Council employees, elected members, contractors, and volunteers, have a duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of the most vulnerable people in Rotherham, young or old.
- 1.3 A range of development interventions, procedures and good practice are in place to ensure that every service and employee can demonstrate that they understand their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, and adults.
- 1.4 An Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) took place on the week beginning 20 June 2022, which considered the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children. On 12 August the Council were notified that Ofsted judged Children's Services overall effectiveness to be Good.

Inspectors found services to be judged as:

- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families – Good
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – Good
- The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers – Good. This is an improvement on the previous judgment given in 2018, which was Requires Improvement.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council continues to challenge itself to be at the forefront of national and international best practice in safeguarding children and young people. The previous Safeguarding Policy which has been in place for five years is proposed to be superseded by this protocol based on current good practice.

- 2.2 The new Corporate Safeguarding Protocol at Appendix 1 demonstrates a corporate framework which sets out how all services across the Council work to deliver the Council's statutory safeguarding duties and responsibilities.

- 2.3 The proposed statement is aligned to the Care Act (2014) and the Working Together to Safeguard Children Statutory Guidance (2018), corporate responsibilities, the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan.

- 2.4 Senior Safeguarding Officers across the Council have been consulted over the changes and the Statement has been agreed by the Safeguarding Champions Group.

- 2.5 To support awareness raising across the Council, the previous e-learning module has been updated to reflect current good practice, a safeguarding toolbox talk is being delivered by managers to their teams across the Council and updated information (z-card) has been distributed to Council staff. Awareness of safeguarding procedures is regularly featured in corporate communications and a whole Council approach is taken to key safeguarding events such as safeguarding awareness week.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the Corporate Safeguarding Protocol. The recent 'Good' judgement from the Ofsted ILACS inspection demonstrates that there is a Council wide approach to safeguarding and the Corporate Safeguarding Protocol builds on this approach.
- 3.2 The alternative option is not to update the Corporate Safeguarding Protocol. This has been rejected as it would not provide a wider framework on how all services across the Council work to deliver the Council's statutory safeguarding duties and responsibilities.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 In addition to senior safeguarding officers across the Council, the Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services have been consulted during development of the updated statement.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Statement will be published internally following Cabinet in November.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications due to the recommendations in the report. The procurement considerations associated with this report as included in section 8.3 of the Corporate Safeguarding Protocol.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Corporate Safeguarding Protocol is consistent with relevant legislation in particular the Care Act 2014, Children Act 1989 and 2004, and the Statutory Guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). Otherwise, there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation within this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 A range of development interventions are in place to ensure all staff understand their responsibilities in regard to safeguarding and the key contact information for raising any concerns. The staff development offer will be kept under review and regularly refreshed.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The updated Corporate Safeguarding Protocol will have a positive impact on safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults across the borough. The statement provides an overview of the Council's corporate commitment on the safeguarding agenda and will ensure all staff are aware of their role and responsibilities in identifying and reporting potential safeguarding concerns.
- 9.2 The outcome of the ILCAS visit provides evidence that Rotherham MBC Children and Young Peoples Services continue to safeguard children, whilst also improving the outcomes for children in need of help and protection.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Officers have had regard to equalities and human rights implications throughout development of the safeguarding statement. The safeguarding statement makes clear that everyone should be able to live and participate in a safe society without any fear, violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination or exploitation, irrespective of their background or protected characteristics.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no direct implications resulting from the recommendations in this report

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. The Rotherham Together Partnership has a Safeguarding Partnership Protocol in place, which sets out how strategic partnership bodies work in a coordinated manner, working collaboratively to avoid duplication and ensure consistency. This includes Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership, Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board, Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board, Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership and the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 As referenced in the statement, safeguarding is everyone's business. The statement sets out roles and responsibilities for all Council Officers and includes key information on how to report any concerns.
- 13.2 In order to maintain a working knowledge of their roles and responsibilities, there will be review of the development interventions to support safeguarding awareness across the Council as well as regular corporate communications on the subject.

14. Accountable Officers

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive
Lee Mann, Assistant Director HR & OD

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	07/11/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	03/11/22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	03/11/22

Report Author: Lee Mann, Assistant Director HR & OD
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**Rotherham Metropolitan Borough
Council**

Corporate Safeguarding Protocol

November 2022

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1 Foreword

Rotherham Council believes that every child, young person and adult, regardless of their background, age, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, ethnicity or religious belief, should be able to live and participate in a safe society without any fear, violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination or exploitation.

Safeguarding is everyone's business and everyone at the Council shares a responsibility, both corporately and individually, to ensure that every person is treated with dignity and respect and protected from others who may abuse them. All Council employees, elected members, contractors and volunteers, have a duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of the most vulnerable people in Rotherham, young or old.

Procedures and good practice are in place to ensure that every service and employee can demonstrate that they understand their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults.

The Council continues to monitor progress, make improvements, and work closely with partners to ensure that safeguarding remains everyone's business.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Read', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Read Leader of the Council



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Kemp', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Kemp Chief Executive

2 Background and context

The Council, as an organisation, has a duty to make appropriate arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults.

This corporate framework reflects that there are similarities in many of the actions needed to safeguard children, young people and adults. However, the Council recognises there are also distinct differences. Further detailed information is contained in the relevant specific policies and procedures within [Adult](#) and [Children and Young People's social care and the multi-agency safeguarding children procedures](#).

This Protocol should be read alongside Council policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents including Code of Conduct, Safer Recruitment, Dignity at Work, Equality and Diversity and Whistleblowing.

2.1 Links to Rotherham Council Plan

The Council Plan outlines the priorities and outcomes that the Council will focus on. As well as making clear the Council's duty to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children, young people and adults, the Corporate Safeguarding Protocol helps to contribute to achieving a number of the outcomes set out in the Council Plan, including:

- People have good mental health and physical wellbeing
- Children, families, and adults feel empowered, safe, and live independently for as long as possible
- Neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe

3 Corporate Safeguarding Protocol

This Protocol operates as a framework for every service in the Council to carry out its statutory safeguarding duties towards children, young people and adults and defines the roles and responsibilities for all employees, managers, elected members and volunteers.

Rotherham Council will ensure that:

- Safeguarding is person-led and outcome-focused; respecting the rights, wishes, feelings and privacy of individuals.
- Safeguarding is promoted as everybody's business; ensuring all employees, managers, contractors, elected members and volunteers understand the different forms abuse can take and how to identify them, their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and that they are supported to develop and maintain this understanding.
- Clear procedures and protocols are in place to meet its duties and obligations towards the safeguarding of children, young people and adults.
- Clear overall accountability for safeguarding exists for all services.
- Assurance is provided to members of the public, service users, elected members, employees, partners and people working on behalf of the Council that there are arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children, young people and adults.
- Services are planned and delivered in a way which seeks to safeguard children, young people and adults; and employees can conduct themselves safely.
- We work with the Rotherham NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and South Yorkshire Police to ensure collective accountability for safeguarding children, in line with the legislative changes from the Children and Social Work Act 2018.
- Local services work together where appropriate around the safeguarding needs of children, young people or adults, and that they are actively involved in developing and evaluating the services which are provided for them.
- Investment in preventative and early intervention services and endeavor to avoid situations where abuse or harm may occur.
- The Council and partner organisations, in relation to multi-agency working arrangements, have a shared understanding of the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults.
- Unsuitable people are prevented from working with children and adults with needs for care and support through its safer recruitment practices.

4 Abuse and neglect

This section considers the different types and patterns of abuse and neglect. The list is taken from examples in the Care Act (2014) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). It is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to safeguarding concerns.

Defining abuse can be complex but it can involve an intentional, reckless, deliberate or dishonest act by the alleged source of harm. Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and affect one person or more.

There are four categories of abuse to children stated in Government Guidance document Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018:

- **Emotional** - the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development.
- **Sexual** - forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether the child is aware what is happening or not.
- **Neglect** - the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.
- **Physical** - may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

The Care Act 2014 has ten categories of abuse relating to adults:

- **Discriminatory** - when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies mainstream opportunities to some groups or individuals.
- **Domestic Abuse** - incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family member regardless of gender or sexuality. Domestic abuse is not just about partners but all family relationships.
- **Emotional/ Psychological** - acts or behaviour which impinges on the emotional health of, or which causes distress or anguish to, individuals.
- **Financial** - unauthorised, fraudulent obtaining and improper use of funds, property or any resources of an adult at risk.
- **Modern Slavery** - encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

- **Neglect** - ignoring or withholding physical or medical care needs which result in a situation or environment detrimental to individual(s).
- **Organisational** - where the culture of the organisations places the emphasis on the running of the establishment above the needs and care of the person.
- **Physical** - the non-accidental use of physical force that results (or could result) in bodily injury, pain or impairment including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication and restraint.
- **Self-Neglect** - this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.
- **Sexual** - Direct or indirect involvement in sexual activity without consent.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on the Council to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the 'Prevent duty'). This statutory duty is about safeguarding and supporting children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in terrorism or supporting terrorism.

Support is provided through [The Channel programme](#).

5 Safeguarding children and young people

The Children Act 2004 places a statutory obligation on Borough/District Councils to ensure they have in place, suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (either directly or via their families) who may access or use Council services.

In summary, the Act requires the Council to ensure that:

(a) its functions are discharged with due regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and

(b) through working with others, arrangements are put in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Statutory guidance defines a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, is in Foster Care or is in an Adoptive placement does not change their entitlements to services or protection (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018).

5.1 Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Children's welfare is of the utmost importance. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified.

The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, requires that the three safeguarding partners (Local Authorities, NHS Integrated Care Boards and Chief Officers of Police), make arrangements to work in partnership together along with relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area.

This includes a shared accountability between the three key partners, and the key responsibilities are to:

- Ensure that there is a shared responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.
- Agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services.
- Act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others.
- Implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
- Achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families ensuring they receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.

The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively.
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

The Council, with its partners work together to ensure shared visibility when concerns are held below the statutory threshold level. The Early Help Assessment is the common assessment tool that is in place to facilitate this and ensure that families only need to tell their story once.

The Council works in a way that promotes the participation of children and young people in the development and provision of services for them and achieves this through a range of activities including consulting with children and young people, seeking feedback, inclusion in decision making, and linking in with the Children in Care Council.

ALL children and Young People have:

- A right to feel and be safe
- A right to have a voice and be heard
- A right to dream and have aspirations
- A right to be happy and healthy
- A right to feel loved and valued
- A right to education and achievement
- A right to have fun, have hobbies and access to social activities
- A right to a bright future of their choosing

6 Safeguarding adults

Section 42 of the Care Act (2014) places a duty on local authorities to safeguard adults. This duty applies where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there):

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of the care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

The local authority must make whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult's case and, if so, what and by whom.

Safeguarding adults is different from safeguarding children in many ways. A main difference is that adults with mental capacity have the right to make their own decisions and should be asked for consent, where it is safe to do so and prior to anyone raising a safeguarding concern.

6.1 Safeguarding Adults Board

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is an inter-agency forum for agreeing how the different services and professional groups should cooperate to safeguard adults across Rotherham.

The SAB does this by assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance, making sure that arrangements work effectively to identify abuse or inadequate care, help vulnerable people and plan and implement joint preventative strategies.

SABs have three core duties. They must:

- develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute
- publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been
- commission safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.

The Council is committed to maintaining an effective working relationship with the SAB to help achieve its mutual aims in respect of adult safeguarding.

7 Safer Rotherham Partnership

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

- National Probation Service
- Rotherham NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- South Yorkshire Police

Voluntary Action Rotherham and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner are also represented at partnership meetings.

Each year the Safer Rotherham Partnership reviews its priorities towards its vision *“Working together to make Rotherham Safe, to keep Rotherham safe and to ensure the communities of Rotherham feel safe”*. The current priorities are:

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

The Council is committed to supporting the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board to carry out its duties effectively and efficiently and to strengthen the partnership for the benefit of everyone in Rotherham.

8 Corporate responsibilities for safeguarding

Rotherham Council is committed to ensuring the highest standards of safe recruitment, supervision and management of staff, particularly, but not exclusively those working directly with children, young people or adults, or those who have access to information about them.

The Council is committed to supporting all staff to understand their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding, through appropriate training, information sharing and guidance on what to do if there are concerns.

Every service within the Council has a role to play and has to take full ownership of their safeguarding responsibilities. Particular employees have specific roles in relation to safeguarding; notwithstanding this, every employee has an obligation to safeguard and take action when required to ensure children, young people and adults are helped and protected. This section clarifies the various roles across the Council, at different levels.

The Chief Executive has responsibility to ensure all staff are aware of their roles in safeguarding. Through the two statutory officers, the Chief Executive ensures that effective safeguarding arrangements for children, young people and adults are in place.

The Director of Children's Services is the key point of professional accountability with responsibility for the effective safeguarding of children and young people.

The Director of Adult Social Services, as chief officer and lead for adult safeguarding, has a particularly important leadership and challenge role to play in adult safeguarding. They are responsible for promoting prevention, early intervention and partnership working, which is critical in the development of effective safeguarding.

The Strategic Leadership Team, encourage, embed and maintain the best safeguarding practice across all directorates and services to ensure continuous improvement and compliance with national and local policies.

Elected members have an important part to play to ensure that the Council is discharging its statutory responsibilities and its services to safeguard vulnerable children, young people and adults. All elected members receive training which includes how to identify and report safeguarding concerns within the appropriate levels of confidentiality.

The lead member for Children's Services is the only role for elected members defined in legislation and is responsible for taking a strategic view in setting priorities and budgets, supporting the Director of Children's Services and championing the voice of children and young people in decision making across all Council services and partnerships.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health also has a key role to play in overseeing safeguarding activity, retaining the oversight of all commissioning activities and provision of adult social care, public health functions and the interface with NHS.

Principal Social Workers, the Principal Social Worker provides a key role to champion the voice of frontline social work practitioners and managers to senior officers and political leaders as well as supporting and advising on the quality of practice on all safeguarding issue (child and adult protection).

Safeguarding Champions, each directorate within the Council has a dedicated safeguarding champion, the group is led by the Chief Executive and their agenda is set to drive awareness and to embed adult and Children safeguarding issues into all Council staff and functions.

Human Resources (HR) ensure the effective implementation of safer recruitment practices and induction and that all staff employed to work with children and adults with needs for care and support are subject to the appropriate external checks including Disclosure and Barring, and prior to appointment.

Line Managers ensure that appropriate checks are made for all job roles that involve working with children and adults at risk, carrying out the induction process for all new employees, ensuring they fully understand safeguarding and that all staff in their area receive appropriate safeguarding information and training commensurate with the responsibilities of their role.

All staff (including volunteers and contractors) must ensure they are fully aware of their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, treat all safeguarding matters seriously and take responsibility for reporting disclosures, concerns, incidents or allegations as set out in safeguarding policies.

8.1 Working with partners

Good inter-agency and multi-disciplinary working is promoted and maintained both within the Council and with other organisations. The Rotherham Together Partnership has a Safeguarding Partnership Statement in place, which sets out how strategic partnership bodies work in a coordinated manner, working collaboratively to avoid duplication and ensure consistency.

The signatories of this are:

- Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board
- Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board
- Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership
- Safer Rotherham Partnership

8.2 Whistleblowing and Serious Misconduct Policy

The Council is committed to ensuring that it, and the people working for it, comply with the highest standards of openness, honesty and accountability.

All employees have a duty of care to draw attention to bad or poor practice in the workplace and can come forward and express their concerns without fear of victimisation, discrimination or disadvantage.

Safeguarding concerns about a child can be made by contacting 01709 336080 or MASH-Referral@rotherham.gov.uk

Safeguarding concerns about an adult can be made by contacting 01709 822330 or by completing an online form

Any person wishing to report any suspected serious wrongdoing (“a disclosure”) to the Council can do so by emailing whistleblowing@rotherham.gov.uk or calling the Whistleblowing Hotline on 01709 822400 and leaving a message. Alternatively, a disclosure can be made in writing and sent by post to:

Whistleblowing
c/o the Head of Legal Services
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Riverside House
Main Street
ROTHERHAM S60 1AE

8.3 Commissioning and procurement

Safeguarding is everyone’s business and does not only apply to Council employees but also to suppliers delivering services to, or on behalf of the Council. As part of all contracts, suppliers have a duty to report anything that raises any cause for concern to the Council.

In addition to this standard duty across all contracts, for commissioning activity that involves vulnerable children, young people or adults, the Council’s Commissioning teams also build additional safeguarding criteria into specifications that is specific to the needs and requirements of the individual service.

8.4 Review of this Protocol

This Protocol will be reviewed in line with any changes in legislation and the periodical reviews of Safeguarding Policy, Protocols and Guidance to ensure the Council meets requirements to safeguard children, young people and adults.

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

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

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an equality analysis.

Directorate: Assistant Chief Executive	Service area: HR & OD
Lead person: Lee Mann	Contact number: 01709 822285

1. Title: Corporate Safeguarding Statement

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☒

Other

If other, please specify; Statement setting out the aims, roles and responsibilities for safeguarding within and across the Council.

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

The Council has recently updated its Safeguarding Statement with the aim of raising the awareness of how to raise safeguarding concerns as a member of Council staff and reiterate roles and responsibilities; ensuring that safeguarding is everyone's business.

The statement sets out the ambitions for the Council and key partners, includes an overview of what safeguarding is and sets out the roles and responsibilities for everyone in reporting safeguarding concerns. The document also provides further information on how the Council works alongside partners to deliver on this agenda.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals prior to carrying out an **Equality Analysis**.

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

Please provide specific details for all three areas below and use the prompts for guidance.

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

There is likely to a positive impact on children, younger people and vulnerable adults. Raising the profile, responsibilities and processes for reporting safeguarding concerns will have a positive effect on vulnerable residents.

- **Key findings**

The community and their circumstances present specific needs that the scheme is design to address.

- **Actions**

Paragraph 2.48 or the report provides that an officer decision will be taken by the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to set out how

the fund has been used to date, to meet specific emergency requirements as well as setting out how the Council will provide ongoing wrap around support moving forwards. This will address the equalities issues as required.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	This will be determined by the actions covered in paragraph 2.48.
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	This will be determined by the actions covered in paragraph 2.48.
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Jo Brown	Assistant Chief Executive	

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	25/10/2022
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	25/10/2022

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Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	<i>No impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from transport?	<i>No impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	<i>No impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	<i>No impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	<i>No impact on emissions</i>				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	<i>No impact</i>				
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:					

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

This report sets out the development of a new Corporate Safeguarding Statement and therefore there are no direct impacts on emissions generating from its introduction.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Lee Mann, Assistant Director HR & OD
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 21 November 2022

Report Title

September Financial Monitoring 2022/23

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services
01709 254518 or rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out the financial position as at the end of September 2022 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first six months of 2022/23. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and is essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's policy agenda. To that end, this is the third financial monitoring report of a series of monitoring reports for the current financial year which will continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As of September 2022, the Council currently estimates an overspend of £18.2m for the financial year 2022/23. Whilst the core directorates services have a forecast year-end overspend of £8.1m on the General Fund, there is £10.1m of estimated unbudgeted cost resulting from the wider financial impact of the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy price increases and the impact of the 2022/23 pay award, costs that the Council could not have projected within its Medium Term Financial Planning. These additional financial challenges have been factored into the current forecast following a review of the impact of these pressures on the current year and Medium-Term Financial Planning.

Whilst the energy price rises and inflation will impact the Council's costs in the provision of services there will be some mitigation in future years by increased core funding as business rates income is indexed to the rate of inflation. This position may change should Government announce changes to the funding of local authorities or if

Government do not provide inflation uplifts in line with the Council's assumptions. Government are expected to provide a Budget announcement on the 17th November, after publication of this paper, as such the impact of the announcement could not be factored in.

It is currently expected that the period of high inflation will last for around two years before returning to a more normal level but the cost increase being experienced will raise the base cost of services on which future inflation is applied meaning a compounding impact. Work is underway to understand the impact of the Government's energy support package for Councils on the current financial year.

As such the Council faces significant financial pressures that will need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium Term Financial Strategy and through significant use of the Council's reserves. Whilst there are demands nationally for additional support to the public sector to address these uncontrollable cost increases, it is not currently expected that additional funding will be provided to local authorities as part of the financial settlement for 2023/24, with Government's budget announcement on the 17th November 2022 potentially reducing the availability of funding, either through Government not inflating public sector resources as assumed or through other cuts to public sector funding.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £18.2m.
2. Note that actions will continue to be taken to reduce the overspend position but that it is likely that the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2022/23 financial position.
3. Note the updated Capital Programme.
4. Approve the proposed use of the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund.
5. Approve the proposed use of the Homelessness Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 Report to Council on 2nd March 2022

May Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet on 11th July 2022

July Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet on 19th September 2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

September Financial Monitoring 2022/23

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of its performance and control framework the Council is required to produce regular and timely reports for the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet to keep them informed of financial performance so that, where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring expenditure in line with the approved budget for the financial year.
- 1.2 Delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme within the parameters agreed by Council is essential if the Council's objectives are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.
- 1.3 This report is the third in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2022/23, setting out the projected year end revenue budget financial position in light of actual costs and income for the first six months of the financial year.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Table 1 below shows, by directorate, the summary forecast revenue outturn position.

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn 2022/23 as at September 2022

Directorate	Budget 2022/23 £m	Forecast Outturn 2022/23 £m	Forecast Variance over/under (-) £m
Children and Young People's Services	67.8	72.2	4.4
Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	94.2	95.0	0.8
Regeneration and Environment Services	48.3	51.4	3.1
Finance and Customer Services	19.8	19.7	-0.1
Assistant Chief Executive	7.4	7.3	-0.1
Central Services	22.2	32.3	10.1
Directorate Forecast Outturn	259.7	277.9	18.2
Dedicated Schools Grant			0
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			-1.8

- 2.2 The Council's overspend position at this point is largely due to the following overall issues:

- Financial implications of the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy price increases and impact of the 2022/23 pay award.
 - Placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services.
 - Home to School Transport pressures within Regeneration and Environment and CYPs.
 - Pressures relating to the longer-term recovery from Covid-19, on income generation within Regeneration and Environment.
- 2.3 As of September 2022, the Council currently estimates an overspend of £18.2m for the financial year 2022/23. Whilst the core directorates services have a forecast year end overspend of £8.1m on the General Fund, there is also £10.1m estimated overspend in relation to the wider financial impact of the war in Ukraine on inflation, energy price increases and national pay award.
- 2.4 These financial challenges are being considered as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning. Whilst the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy did have reasonable cover for inflationary impacts and estimated pay award at the time of setting the 2022/23 Budget, the current rises are far above what the Council could have anticipated. An update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy is provided within the November Cabinet agenda.
- 2.5 Along with most Councils across the UK, the Council assumed a 2% pay award for 2022/23 in the Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23. However, the national local government pay settlement provides staff at the bottom of the pay scale with a 10.4% pay award, whilst it reduces to 1.1% for the top salary point, the bulk of the Council's staff are towards the lower end of the pay scale and so will receive a pay award well in excess of the 2% modelled within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. Given recent announcements from Government it is not expected that Council's will be provided with additional funding for 2022/23 or within the financial settlement for 2023/24, in order to support the application of this pay award. The financial impact of this pay award is £6.1m greater than the budget assumed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 2.6 The energy price rises, and inflation will impact the Council's costs in the provision of services. However, some of this cost impact will be mitigated in future years by increased core funding as business rates income is indexed to the rate of inflation. This position may change should Government announce changes to the funding of local authorities or if Government do not provide inflation uplifts in line with the Council's assumptions. The Bank of England is still expecting that the period of high inflation will last for around two years before returning to a more normal level but the cost increase being experienced will raise the base cost of services on which future inflation is applied meaning a compounding impact. As such, the Council will face significant financial pressures that will need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the Council's reserves.
- 2.7 The current year forecast position will continue to be monitored closely and mitigations identified to enable a balanced outturn position to be delivered, though it's clear that the Council will need to call on reserves to achieve a balanced outturn position.

- 2.8 There is significant volatility at present in the economy that makes projecting forwards the impact of inflation and energy prices challenging, as such the Council will need to keep focus on assumptions based on these pressures. The Council will need to ensure that mitigating actions are taken to reduce the current directorate forecast outturns, this is underway with finance officers working alongside Directorates to identify opportunities to reduce costs through short term temporary measures. In addition, the Council will need to ensure that savings plans are delivered on time to mitigate any knock-on impact on future years Medium Term Financial Planning.
- 2.9 The following sections provide further information regarding the Council's forecast outturn of £18.2m, the key reasons for forecast under or overspends within directorates and the progress of savings delivery.
- 2.10 The Council is able to report further secured delivery of planned savings for 2022/23. The table below provides an update on the £11.5m of planned savings to be delivered over the medium term. £4.2m, over a third of planned savings have been delivered already within 2022/23. This includes £971k for Early Help & Social Care Pathway (reductions in social care teams linked to reducing caseloads), £2.4m savings from reablement services. For R&E there has been £119k delivery of increased income at Waleswood and £97k in respect of planned cost reductions on operational buildings. Several assets are being made ready for disposal which will help progress toward delivering the property savings although the actual amount secured will be confirmed at the point of disposal.

Table 2: Planned delivery of £11.5m savings

Saving	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Total FYE	Still to be delivered 2022/23	Total Secured as at 30th September 2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
ACHPH	2,800	2,800	2,800	400	2,400
ACHPH – One off saving	500	0	0	0	500
CYPS	971	4,739	7,411	0	1026
R&E	374	762	784	158	216
R&E Customer & Digital	200	500	500	155	45
Total Savings	4,845	8,801	11,495	713	4,187

Children and Young People Services Directorate (£4.4m) forecast overspend

- 2.11 Children & Young People Services continue to implement the budget recovery plan with budget savings of £1.026m already delivered.
- 2.12 The budget pressure at the end of September 2022 is £4.4m, an increase of £0.1m on the July reported position. The main pressures relate to placements (£3.4m), Children in Care & Post 19 Transport (£1.0m) and staffing (£293k), offset by Supporting Families income (£300k).
- 2.13 The Looked After Children numbers have reduced from July 2022 by 12 from 555 to 543. This is below the original budget profile (554) for this period by 11 placements. However, the placement mix is showing higher than projected placements in external residential (2), Independent Fostering Agency (34), Leaving Care (17) offset by in-house fostering (54) and no cost placements (10).
- 2.14 The direct employee budget is £37.7m and is a combination of general fund, traded and grant funded services. The projected underspend at the end of September is £367k (after excluding placements staffing), which includes a general fund projected overspend of £293k and an overspend of £74k against DSG and traded services.
- 2.15 The general fund projected overspend on staffing of £293k relates to pressures in Children's Social Care (due to agency workers) and the Education Health Care Team (due to agency workers), offset by staff savings across Early Help, Commissioning & Performance. At the end of September there were 30 agency workers in CYPS, 22 across children's social care and 8 in Education Services.
- 2.16 A significant element of the CYPS non-pay budget relates to placements which has a net budget of £36.9m with a current projected spend of £40.3m, a projected overspend of £3.4m as shown in the following table:

Service Pressure/(-Saving)	£m
External Residential Placements	3.3
Independent Fostering Agency Placements	0.9
Emergency Placements	0.4
In-House residential	-0.3
Leaving Care	-0.6
In-House Fostering	-0.2
Non-LAC allowances	-0.1

- 2.17 The £3.3m residential pressure is due to a combination of the increase in placement costs (£0.4m), a reduction in the estimated residential step downs (£2.3m) as well as a reduction in the contribution from Dedicated Schools Grant due to a reduction in education placements (£0.6m).

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 2.18 The High Needs Block (HNB) is £51.6m (including the £3.3m transfer from the schools block) and demand remains high due to rising numbers of children supported in specialist provision and the rising costs of Education Health Care (EHC) plans. The High Needs Budget is based on the DSG recovery plan and includes anticipated growth of EHC numbers, and the implementation of new developments linked to the SEND Sufficiency Strategy.
- 2.19 The Council has entered into a Safety Valve agreement with Government to enable the Council to reduce the DSG deficit reserve. The central DSG reserve now stands at £12.8m following receipt of £8.5m Safety Valve funding during 2021/22. The Council will receive two further payments to fully remove the DSG reserve along with additional capital funding to ensure the Council is placed in a more sustainable position moving forwards. The High Needs Block outturn for the year is a forecast overspend of £23k (excluding Safety Valve funding). The pressures reflect demand for special school, resource units, top up funding and ISP's, offset by savings on external residential placements and transport.
- 2.20 The key areas of focus to reduce High Needs Block spend are:
- A review of high cost, external education provision to reduce spend and move children back into Rotherham educational provision.
 - Increase SEN provision in Rotherham linked to mainstream schools and academies, with further capacity becoming operational by the end of 2021/22.
 - Work with schools and academies to maintain pupils in mainstream settings wherever possible.
 - A review of inclusion services provided by the Council

Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, (£0.8m) forecast overspend

- 2.21 The directorate is forecast to overspend by £0.8m. There are significant demand pressures within Adults however, they are currently mitigated by additional income and staff vacancies, giving a balanced position within Adult Care. Housing General Fund however is forecast to overspend by £0.8m.
- 2.22 The cost of adult care packages are forecast to overspend by £1m due to increased levels of demand. However, although there has been increased demand in the number of people within older people's residential and nursing care, there has also been a significant increase in Continuing Health Care contributions towards specific individuals care across several Learning Disability placements £0.8m, some of which have been backdated to previous years. In addition, staffing budgets are forecast to be £0.2m underspent due to vacancies, further mitigating demand pressures and creating a balanced budget position for Adults for the current financial year.
- 2.23 The forecast assumes all current placements remain for the rest of the year although they may reduce. Overall movements in numbers will be closely monitored as the year progresses.

- 2.24 Neighbourhood Services (Housing) is forecast to overspend by £0.8m. The key pressure is on homelessness, which is expected to overspend by £0.9m after accounting for grant income, this is mitigated in part by savings due to staff vacancies that reduce the overall pressure. The use of hotels has been more than forecast with numbers higher than anticipated (though reducing), and prices increasing due to inflation.
- 2.25 Public Health is forecasting a slight underspend at this stage.

Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£3.1m) forecast overspend

- 2.26 The projection for the directorate indicates a forecast pressure of £3.1m for this financial year. This represents a small worsening from the forecast pressure of £3.0m in the July monitoring, reported at September Cabinet. The forecast reflects the impact of ongoing demographic pressures in Home to School Transport, the remaining economic impact of the recovery from the lockdown restrictions, and the ongoing cost of living crisis on some of the directorate's services. For example, a continuation of the increases in waste tonnages believed to be resulting from changes in patterns of work life balance, and the impact on income generation, in particular in Parking Services. The forecast outturn projection includes the following specific budget issues.
- 2.27 Community Safety and Street Scene (CSS) is forecasting an overall pressure of £2.0m. The most significant pressure continues to be in respect of Home to School Transport, which has risen to £1.8m from £1.6m, due to ongoing demographic pressures leading to an increase in the number of new eligible passengers and fewer contractors in the market leading to increased prices. The revised forecast reflects the impact of the September pupil intake. Addressing the challenge of the increased costs and demand, a range of solutions are being explored to influence demand and maximise savings opportunities, using improved cost data analysis to support plans to implement lower cost routes. However, this is a pressure that is affecting other local authorities in the region.
- 2.28 Parking Services is continuing to forecast a pressure of £0.4m. The longer-term recovery post pandemic, the ongoing economic impact on town centre footfall and the closure of the Forge Island car park for the cinema development, has led to a reduction in income from parking charges.
- 2.29 Waste Management is now forecasting an overspend of £0.1m, an improvement of £0.2m from the July position. Although household waste tonnages continue to be above trend, the Council is starting to see a reduction in tonnages from the high point during lockdown. In addition, the service is continuing to see an improvement in recycling income, as the market stabilises. Additional income in Streetworks and Enforcement and vacancies in Community Safety and Regulation are helping to mitigate the pressures elsewhere in CSS.
- 2.30 Culture Sport and Tourism (CST) is forecasting an overall pressure of £0.3m. The service is still seeing reduced levels of forecast income compared to pre-pandemic levels at Rother Valley Country Park, Green Spaces, Theatre and the Music Service.

- 2.31 Planning, Regeneration and Transport (PRT) is forecasting an overall pressure of £0.9m, a worsening of £0.2m from the September Cabinet report. The major pressure continues to be in Asset Management, which has risen to £0.9m. The forecast assumes income under recovery in Estates, as staff vacancies have limited the ability to generate income. Pressures in Facilities Management include rising property costs, including repairs and maintenance and fixtures and fittings.
- 2.32 A pressure of £0.1m is being reported in respect of Facilities Services, due to inflationary pressures on food prices in School Meals (basic food, consumables and materials costs could be expected to rise further) and the closure of Riverside House Cafe. A forecast shortfall on Markets income arising from the number of void stalls and the ongoing difficult trading conditions, is being mitigated by grant income offsetting direct costs in other services in RIDO. In addition, a forecast over-recovery of income in Planning and Building Control is helping to mitigate the pressure in PRT.

Finance and Customer Services (£0.1m forecast underspend)

- 2.33 The overall directorate is reporting a £0.1m forecast underspend position. Whilst there are some financial pressures within the directorate, the service will continue to make savings on ICT Contracts and Legal disbursements and deliver a small underspend.
- 2.34 Within Customer, Information and Digital Services (CIDS), the service continues to generate cost reductions on the renewal or removal of ICT contracts. The removal of the kiosks across the borough and the promotion of online and over the phone payment routes has generated savings for the service as the cost of cash transportation has reduced (as less cash is needed) and transaction costs reduce as residents move to more efficient payment methods. The service has also incurred difficulties with recruitment, creating further temporary cost reduction.
- 2.35 Legal Services face continued demand for legal support across all disciplines. The reduced costs of CYPs legal disbursements and difficulties in recruiting to key posts are currently resulting in a forecast underspend. To address this demand, there is continued reliance on short-term locum solicitors whilst a permanent recruitment exercise can be completed.

Assistant Chief Executive £0.1m forecast underspend

- 2.36 The service is now forecasting an underspend due to delays in recruitment and additional income generation within HR. The HR service is projecting increased income generation from salary sacrifice schemes and external business from partnership arrangements.

Central Services (£10.1m) forecast overspend

- 2.37 There are some significant financial challenges that were not evident at the time of setting the 2022/23 Budget, such as the war in Ukraine and its impact on the significant rise in energy prices, inflation and Local Government Pay Award. It is currently estimated that the impact of inflation and in particular energy price increases will be £4m above available budget. In addition, the Local Government Pay Claim 2022/23 has now been agreed. The settlement includes an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points from 1st April 2022 and 4.04% on allowances. At the lowest spinal column point that the Council uses, this will be a 10.4% pay rise, reducing down to 1.1% for the most senior role. The financial impact of this pay award is £6.1m greater than the budget assumed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy which assumed a 2% pay award for 2022/23.
- 2.38 These financial challenges are being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Strategy, with an update to the Council's MTFS provided on this Cabinet agenda. Whilst the Council's outturn position for 2021/22 placed the Council in a stronger position and more able to manage the impact rather than needing to consider making cuts in services, it is clear that the Council will need to utilise reserves to manage these impacts, whilst also looking at short term opportunities to reduce its costs to help balance the budget. The energy price rises, and inflation will impact the Council's costs in the provision of services. However, some of this cost impact will be mitigated in future years by increased core funding, for example business rates income is indexed to the rate of inflation. This position may change should Government announce changes to the funding of local authorities or if Government do not provide inflation uplifts in line with the Council's assumptions.
- 2.39 It is currently expected that the period of high inflation will last for around two years before returning to a more normal level. As such, the Council will face short term financial pressures that will need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the Council's reserves. The Council currently anticipates that the financial impact of these pressures on the Council's 2022/23 budget will be £10.1m, with a significant pressure over the period of 2023/24 to 2024/25. Though the economic position is very volatile at present requiring this position to be under regular review. The forecast impact is based on assumptions around the potential impact of inflation, energy prices and pay award, areas that are to a large degree outside of the Council's control and influence.
- 2.40 The Central Services budgets are made up of a number of corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Integrated Transport Levy (ITA), PFI Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23, approved at Council 2nd March 2022. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the directorates and thus held centrally. For example, the cost of levies for 2022/23 was set at £11.8m at the outset of 2022/23. These wider Central Services budgets are forecast as balanced budgets.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 2.41 The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory ring-fenced account that the Council has to maintain in respect of the income and expenditure incurred in relation to its council dwellings and associated assets. The HRA is currently forecast to overspend by £1.8m.
- 2.42 The overspend largely relates to increases in energy costs which has an impact on building running costs as well as the District Heating (DH) scheme. The unit cost charged to DH tenants is fixed whilst wholesale gas and electricity prices are higher than anticipated. The forecast includes under recovery of dwelling rent and garage income.
- 2.43 There is a forecast under-achievement of income of £0.625m which is largely due to lower dwelling numbers than budgeted and higher void loss on garages. Interest income is forecast to over-achieve by £693k due to increased interest rates.
- 2.44 The HRA budget includes a contribution to HRA reserve of £2.037m. The transfer to reserve is forecast at £0.277m to reflect the forecast overspend which will bring the HRA back to a balanced position.

Market sustainability and fair cost of care fund 2022 to 2023

- 2.45 The fund was announced on 16 December 2021. The primary purpose of the fund is to support local authorities to prepare their markets for reform, including the further commencement of Section 18(3) of the Care Act 2014 in October 2023, and to support local authorities to move towards paying providers a fair cost of care.
- 2.46 In total the national fund amounts to £1.36 billion (of the £3.6 billion to deliver the charging reform programme). In 2022 to 2023, £162 million will be allocated. A further £600 million was to be made available in each of 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025.
- 2.47 The government allocated the 2022/23 funds to all eligible Local Authorities to begin to implement the reforms. In 2022/23 the Council has received £908k. Local authorities are expected to use at least 75% of allocated funding in 2022/23 to increase fee rates paid to providers in scope, where necessary, and beyond pressures funded by the Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23. Up to 25% of allocated funding can be used to fund implementation activities associated with meeting the fund purpose.
- 2.48 It is proposed that £37k of the fund is used to support additional posts that were recruited to undertake this work and the remainder of the available fund be apportioned (as a one-off payment) between Older People's Care Homes and Home Care providers.

- 2.49 The final value will depend on the number of people and hours of care they receive but it is expected that Older People's Care Homes will receive approximately 35% or £305k and Home Care providers will receive 65% or £566k. Each provider will be paid based on the number of Council funded placements and/or hours of care they provide.

Homelessness Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant funding 2022 – 2025

- 2.50 The government announced allocations in September 2022 for the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) to provide local councils with long-term funding to support those sleeping rough or at risk of rough sleeping.
- 2.51 In total, national funds will provide up to £500 million to be used by local authorities, charities and other organisations in 303 areas across England. The Council will receive a total of £1,250,260 over the 3-year term, 2022 – 2025. The annual allocation of funding is:
- 2022-2023 - £465,981
 - 2023-2024 - £404,640
 - 2024-2025 - £379,640
- 2.52 Local authorities are expected to use the funds for the service provisions that the Council committed to as part of the funding bid process, in February 2022. This allows the Council to maintain and strengthen key services. Unspent funding will need to be returned to Government.
- 2.53 It is proposed that £513,213 of the funding will be used for the procurement of an 8 bed Emergency Accommodation Hub developed by the Council in response to the Rough Sleepers Initiative in 2019.
- 2.54 The breakdown of the total funding and allocation is shown in the table below.

Table 3: Breakdown of funding allocation

Service Description	Year 1 (£)	Year 2 (£)	Year 3 (£)	Total (£)	No. of staff 22/23	No. of staff 23/24 - 24/25
Emergency Accommodation Community Hub - Queen Street Hostel	171,078	171,078	171,078	513,234	6	6
Year-round flexible surge Accommodation	16,000	16,000	16,000	48,000	0	0
Rough Sleeper Initiative Team	218,902	182,562	182,562	584,026	6	5
Rough Sleeper Personalised Prevention Fund	20,000	15,000	10,000	45,000	0	0
Supported accommodation provision - SYHA Indigo	40,000	20,000	0	60,000	0	0
Total	465,981	404,640	379,640	1,250,260	12	11

2.55 Capital Programme Delivery Updates

This section of the monitoring report focuses on what has been delivered to date during 2023/23. In order to reflect the positive outcomes that the Council has achieved this financial year, the following list of key achievements has been provided.

- Earlier this year the Council completed the Canal Barrier. This is the largest Flood Alleviation Scheme the Council has ever delivered and has been constructed in Rotherham Town Centre to reduce flood risk to the Town centre and the Railway infrastructure including the Central Railway Station. The funding for the delivery of this project was provided by the Council, The Mayoral Combined Authority, Network Rail, The Environment Agency and the Government through the Levelling Up Fund.
- The Council is currently in year 3 of the “£24m to 2024 roads programme”. The percentage of the estate road network that requires repair is 14.85%, down from 24% in 2019. This means Rotherham’s estate roads are now in a better condition than the National Average 18 months ahead of schedule. The road repair programme is delivered in house with Council staff designing the road repairs and carrying out the road resurfacing on site and the team have delivered over 74 miles or 119km of road repairs since 2019.
- In the financial year to-date the Council completed or acquired 44 new homes. This includes 23 direct delivery via the Council’s construction contracts and a further 21 from acquisitions from private developers. The acquisitions are from four new contracts for Fairfields, Beaumont Grange, Laughton Gate and Clarence Street. In total these schemes are expected to deliver 72 new Council homes over a number of years.
- Herringthorpe Stadium capital works have been completed. The refurbishment scheme has seen new floodlights erected, improvements to the internal building by way of sink units, lighting, heating and redecoration. The running track has been upgraded in areas and the throws cage has seen significant investment. All of these improvements place the facility in a good position for April 2023 when UK:Track Mark certification through England Athletics will be considered.
- Working with its development partner Muse, the Council has secured pre-lets on the Forge Island development with a cinema, hotel and five restaurants. The scheme has been designed and tendered and construction works will start at the end of October 2022.
- Good progress is being made with the proposed redevelopment of Centenary Market, which includes a new Central Library, refurbished and modernised Indoor Market and improvements to public realm and accessibility, providing a safer and more welcoming environment for visitors and business alike. The planning application for the site has been prepared and submitted and is currently under consideration by the

Council's planning service. The appointment of a contractor to build the scheme is underway with an announcement expected in November. Construction on site is scheduled to commence in Summer 2023.

- The first of twenty-three projects as part of the Towns and Villages Fund have been completed at Greasbrough. Brimmagem Fold will link two-well used green spaces in the community, and includes new seating, footpaths, and tree planting. Projects at Dalton and Thrybergh, and Hellaby and Maltby West are currently being delivered, with twenty more schemes to be completed over the next eighteen months as part of the Council's pledge to invest in smaller town and village centres.
- The restoration of Rotherham's Keppel's Column is now complete. The restoration works included the repair of the interior staircase, repair to the exterior stonemasonry, replacement of a balustrade at the top of the column providing a safe viewing platform, lighting to the interior and structural support. The Grade II Listed monument will now be open to the public from April through to October on restricted days.
- As part of the Council's Regeneration Programme the Council has purchased the vacant former Mecca Bingo building in the town centre. The property will contribute to the further regeneration of the Leisure & Cultural Quarter.

2.56 Capital Programme Financial Update

The Capital Programme 2022/23 now totals £173.847m split between the General Fund £130.575m and HRA £43.272m. This is a decrease of £14.291m to the position as at the end of July reported to Cabinet on 19th September 2022. The majority of which relates to the reprofiling of schemes due to delays caused mainly through inflationary pressures on the programme and the high volume of capital activity taking place nationally that is straining resources from an external delivery point. The movement is based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, both new and revised grant allocations of £3.065m, new corporate funding allocations £2.905m and slippage and re-profiles of (£20.261m). The overall Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26 has increased by £50.541m, predominantly due to the addition of £47.43m corporate funding for the Forge Island development (as approved at Council on 5th October 2022) along with other changes to grant allocations, as detailed in the following sections.

2.57 **Table 4: Variations to the Capital Programme 2022/22 to 2025/26.**

	Total Impact £m	2022/23 Impact £m	Post 2022/23 Impact £m
New Corporate Funding	47.514	2.905	44.609
Revised Grant and Funding Estimates	3.027	3.065	-0.038
Slippage / reprofiling	0	-20.261	20.261
Total	50.541	-14.291	64.832

2.58 The main re-profiles are:

- **Housing Acquisitions**, £7.8m slippage. Acquisitions are dependent on delivery of private sector developments which can be delayed/changed or cease altogether for reasons outside of the Council's control. £7.3m of the slippage is on phase 3 acquisitions and £0.5m is on Kirkstead Gardens. On review of the planned programme the private developer will not complete the builds in time to allow the Council to acquire units this financial year.
- **Town Deal and LUF Block Allocations**, of the original £24m profiled in 2022/23, £8.5m has been reprofiled to future years. In total £68.6m has been assigned to 19 specific projects (across all years of the capital programme). Major schemes within this allocation include land acquisition to facilitate the mainline station development, a business zone in Templeborough, new facilities at Rother Valley Country Park and works to the Riverside area. As detailed business cases and project plans are worked up a more realistic delivery profile has been generated on these schemes.

2.59 New grant funded schemes are added to the Capital Programme on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Grant schemes added or reduced since the September Cabinet report are listed below

2.60 **Table 5: New Grant/HRA/Corporate Funded Schemes added to the programme**

Directorate/Scheme	2022/23 £M	Post 2022/23 £m
Children & Young People		
School contribution to Whiston Worrygoose scheme	0.065	0.000

Regeneration & Environment		
New SYMCA funding to meet the cost of century Phase 2 (£1m Gainshare funding and £2m Getting Back Better Funding)	3.000	0.000
Revised grant funding assumption for Levelling Up Fund	0.000	0.178
Revised grant funding assumption for Town Deal	0.000	-0.140
Total	3.065	-0.038

New Corporate Borrowing

2.61 The Forge Island development budget has been added to the Capital Programme with a budget of £47.430 following approval at Council on 5th October 2022.

2.62 An addition of £0.084m has been made to the Roads Programme capital scheme in 2022/23. This is a year end accounting correction relating to 2021/22.

2.63 Programme Variations

The following variations to the capital programme cover significant virements between capital projects that are either key decision value or a change in use of corporate resources and as such need reporting to Cabinet.

- **ICT Budgets** Due to efficiencies in ICT capital projects corporate funding of £1.239 on The ICT Digital Strategy Scheme and £3.8m on the Telephony System replacement scheme have been removed and allocated to the inflation contingency budget for future ICT programmes.

MCA Approvals

2.64 The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) acts as accountable body for a number of different Government funding streams and as the accountable body for Gainshare. Since the July position was reported the MCA have approved an allocation of £1m Gainshare funding and £2m Getting Building Fund towards the Century Phase 2 scheme.

2.65 **The proposed updated Capital Programme to 2025/26 is shown by directorate in the Table below.**

Table 6: Proposed Updated Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26

Directorate	2022/23 Budget £m	2023/24 Budget £m	2024/25 Budget £m	2025/26 Budget £m	Total Budget £m
General Fund Capital					
Children and Young People's Services	13.789	11.751	5.310	6.392	37.242

Directorate	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Regeneration and Environment	99.892	138.978	27.937	8.098	274.904
Adult Care & Housing	7.659	6.385	14.117	4.273	32.435
Assistant Chief Executive	0.496	0.210	0.210	0.210	1.126
Finance and Customer Services	7.739	9.978	3.290	8.029	29.036
Capitalisation Direction	1.000	1.000	1.000	11.000	14.000
Total General Fund Capital	130.575	168.302	51.864	38.002	388.743
Total HRA Capital	43.272	45.222	58.123	29.610	176.22
Total RMBC Capital Programme	173.847	213.524	109.987	67.612	564.970

- 2.66 The capital programme for 2022/23 remains ambitious even with a significant level of re-profiling of schemes into 2023/24. The Council will therefore need to keep close control of project spend profiles and delivery milestones to keep these projects on track. The Council will also need to review the deliverability of this significantly increased capital programme and potentially, re-profile some schemes into future financial years.

Funding Position of Capital Programme 2022/23

- 2.67 The £173.847m of capital expenditure is funded as shown in the Table 4 below.

2.68 Table 7: Funding of the Approved Capital Programme

Funding Stream	2022/23 Budget £m
Grants and Contributions	73.775
Unsupported Borrowing	53.745
Capital Receipts	1.878
Capital Receipts - Flexible Use & HRA Contribution	1.000
HRA Contribution	0.176
Total Funding - General Fund	130.575

Grants and Contributions	3.015
Unsupported Borrowing	2.441
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	32.272
Capital Receipts	2.818
Revenue Contribution	2.726
Total Funding - HRA	43.272
Total	173.847

Capital Receipts

- 2.69 The Council is continuing to undertake a comprehensive review of its assets and buildings portfolio with the aim of rationalising both its operational and non-operational asset holdings. This may contribute future capital receipts which are earmarked to support the revenue budget, in accordance with the Council's approved flexible use of capital receipts strategy.
- 2.70 To date General Fund useable capital receipts of £0.012m have been generated. Although loan repayments will be received during the financial year, these cannot be used to support the revenue budget as only those receipts by the disposal of property, plant and equipment can be used in that way.

Description	Total as at 30th September 2022 £m	
Total Capital Receipts (Excluding loan repayments)	-	0.012
Repayment of Loans	-	0.026
Total Capital Receipts	-	0.038

- 2.71 The detailed disposal programme is currently being updated and it is very difficult to forecast. Therefore, at this stage the forecast for useable capital receipts is between £0.6m and £1m. These receipts are made up of a small number of disposals and therefore any changes to these could impact on these forecasts significantly. It should be noted that there is no corporate requirement to disposal of General Fund assets.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget the Council is forecasting an overspend of £18.2m, further management actions continue to be identified with the clear aim of ensuring a balanced budget position can be achieved. It is now clear that to achieve a balanced outturn position there will be a need to utilise an element of the Council's reserves given the significant pressures that have come to light since the Council set it's 2022/23 budget. This is in recognition that there are still financial implications that need to be fully understood and that may

not be fully known until later in the financial year. It is nationally recognised best practice to monitor the performance against the agreed revenue budgets and the Capital Programme throughout the year.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Council consulted on the proposed budget for 2022/23, as part of producing the Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23. Details of the consultation are set out in the Budget and Council Tax 2022/2 report approved by Council on 2nd March 2022.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Strategic Directors, Managers and Budget Holders will ensure ongoing tight management and close scrutiny of spend this financial year.
- 5.2 Financial Monitoring reports are taken to Cabinet meetings during the year. The Financial Outturn report for 2022/23 was taken to Cabinet in July 2023.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The Council's overspend position is detailed within the report along with the estimated impact of current financial pressures from the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy price rises. This position continues to be monitored closely. Control over spending remains critical to both maintaining the robust Reserves Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 6.2 An update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy will be provided to Cabinet alongside this Monitoring Report. This provides a more detailed update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning factoring in the impact of the current year financial pressures and the longer-term impacts on the MTFS.
- 6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Project specific implications have been addressed in the Key Issues section.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 No direct legal implications.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 No direct implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The report includes reference to the cost pressures on both Children's and Adult Social care budget.

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

- 10.1 This is a finance update report, providing a review of current progress to date on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, any equalities and human rights impacts from service delivery have been or will be detailed as service budgets, capital projects are pulled together for inclusion within the Council's revenue budget or capital programme.

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

- 11.1 No direct implications.

12. **Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 At a time of economic difficulty and tight financial constraints, managing spend in line with the Council's budget is paramount. Careful scrutiny of expenditure and income across all services and close budget monitoring therefore remain a top priority if the Council is to deliver both its annual and medium term financial plans while sustaining its overall financial resilience

13. **Accountable Officers**

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	7.11.22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	3.11.22
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	3.11.22

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services
01709 254518
Rob.Mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

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

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an equality analysis.

Directorate: Finance and Customer Services	Service area: Finance
Lead person: Rob Mahon	Contact number: 01709 254518

1. Title:

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

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

The Council has a framework of budgetary monitoring and reporting that ensures budget management is exercised within annual cash limits.

Each month the Budget Manager receives timely information on income and expenditure to enable them to fulfil their budgetary responsibilities. Following the review of the budget information, each budget manager provides a forecast of their projected outturn position on each service. The Strategic Director subsequently provides a consolidated forecast for their directorate to the Chief Finance Officer and relevant Cabinet Member.

A budget monitoring report, which includes an up-to-date outturn forecast, information about significant variances from approved budgets and proposals for dealing with them, is submitted to Cabinet at least 6 times a year, culminating with the Councils Financial Outturn report.

Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue position.

The financial monitoring position report summarises the key variances for each directorate and considers the key financial pressures and risks.

This report is the final financial report in the financial year, it sets out the Council's full revenue outturn position. The report also covers off any other key items to be noted at the time.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals prior to carrying out an **Equality Analysis**.

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

Please provide specific details for all three areas below and use the prompts for guidance.

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

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme relates to a specific minority community with specific needs.

- **Key findings**

The community and their circumstances present specific needs that the scheme is design to address.

- **Actions**

Paragraph 2.48 of the report provides that an officer decision will be taken by the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to set out how the fund has been used to date, to meet specific emergency requirements as well as setting out how the Council will provide ongoing wrap around support moving forwards. This will address the equalities issues as required.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	This will be determined by the actions covered in paragraph 2.48.
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	This will be determined by the actions covered in paragraph 2.48.
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Judith Badger	Strategic Director – Finance and Customer Services	21/10/22

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	21/10/22
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	21/10/22

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from transport?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	<i>no impact</i>				
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:					

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

As this report is a financial update on previous events, updates on levels of funding moving forwards and doesn't approve anything directly to happen, it does not have any carbon implications.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance, Finance and Customer Services.
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 21 November 2022

Report Title

Review and Update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director of Financial Services
01709 254518 or Rob.Mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out a review and update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26.

This is an update of the Council's Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2025/26, including the technical updates and following the volatility in the UK and international markets caused by the war in Ukraine, high inflation and high energy prices. The MTFS will be revised further in advance of the Council Budget setting meeting in March 2023, to take account of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24, when issued, along with budget policy proposals on levels of council tax and fees and charges and any budget savings or investments.

This position may change should Government announce changes to the funding of local authorities or if inflation assumptions change significantly from current assumptions. There is due to be a budget announcement on the 17 November, so after the publication of this report but prior to Cabinet, as such any impact of this Government announcement has not been factored into this MTFS update.

The MTFS review, alongside the latest Financial Monitoring 2022/23 report to Cabinet in November, envisages a significant financial overspend that will require the use of the Council's reserves to achieve a balanced financial outturn position for 2022/23. Of the current forecast £18.2m 2022/23 overspend position, £10.1m relates to additional

cost items outside of the control of the Council, that being inflation, energy prices and national pay award.

The MTFS forecasts identify that the Council faces a significant financial challenge in setting a balanced budget for 2023/24 through to 2025/26 due to these pressures outside of the Council's control. Therefore, it is expected that additional use of reserves will be required for 2022/23 and likely for 2023/24. This position is subject to review when the Finance Settlement for 2023/24 is received though there remains substantial uncertainty with the UK economy and the levels of public sector financing that are expected within the Finance Settlement for 2023/24.

It is therefore possible that announcements made by Government on the 17 November 2022 or within the subsequent Finance Settlement for 2023/24 add further financial pressures to the Council's MTFS position, either through Government not inflating public sector resources as assumed or through other cuts to public sector funding.

Recommendations

1. That the MTFS update be noted.
2. That Cabinet note the requirement to use reserves in order to balance the Council's outturn position for 2022/23.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy, Council March 2022.

Financial Outturn 2021/22, Cabinet July, 2022.

September Financial Monitoring Report, Cabinet October 2022.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Review and Update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 through to 2025/26 was approved at Council in March 2022. Since approval of the MTFS there have been significant financial challenges that could not have been anticipated at the time of setting the MTFS, that are largely outside of the Council's control and influence. Pressures such as the impact of the war in Ukraine and its impact on the rise in energy prices and inflation are anticipated to create £4m cost pressure for 2022/23 onwards, as the Council's base costs will have increased.
- 1.2 The Local Government Pay Claim 2022/23 has now been considered by national employers and has been accepted by Trade Unions. The offer includes an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points from 1st April 2022 and 4.04% on allowances. At the lowest spinal column point that the Council uses, this will be a 10.4% pay rise, reducing down to 1.1% for the most senior role. The financial impact of this pay award is £6.1m greater than the budget assumed within the Council's Budget and MTFS which was based on a 2% pay award.
- 1.3 Taken together these pressures potentially increase the Council's base costs by £10.1m per year.
- 1.4 This update of the MTFS includes resource forecasts based on estimated increases to core funding streams that are inflated annually by CPI. These resource assumptions will be reviewed again when the Provisional Local Finance Settlement 2023/24 is released in December, which will set out the specific amounts of Government funding to be provided to the Council or should Government make any clear announcements before then. Government may clarify their expectations for inflating core funding streams in their announcement on the 17th November 2022.
- 1.5 This update of the MTFS also includes the Council's latest financial assumptions, taking into account estimated income from Business Rates and Council Tax, impact of inflation on service cost and demand pressures and the Council's timeline for the delivery of agreed savings across the MTFS. This update will support and inform the detailed budget setting process for 2023/24, alongside taking into account the outcomes of the Finance Settlement and Members' policy choices and decisions on Council Tax levels.

2. Key Issues

MTFS Update – Planning Assumption

- 2.1 The MTFS has been updated across the four years 2022/23 to 2025/26 and models the following:
 - Government Grant forecasts based on the Spending Review 2021, that set a 3 year spending review period 2022/23 to 2024/25.
 - The Council's anticipated resources from Council Tax and Business Rates.
 - The planning assumption for Council tax annual increases remains at 3%.

- Pay, Contractual, Price and Income inflation estimates including capital projects and National Living Wage. This includes maintaining the planning assumption of a 2% increase on fees and charges.
- Assumption that the agreed budget savings remain deliverable, within agreed profile. Work is underway to review this position.
- The ongoing costs of decisions made in previous budget rounds including financing costs of capital investment.
- Service demand and cost pressures are not factored into this update beyond 2022/23 but will be considered as part of the final MTFS within Budget and Council Tax Report 2023/24.

2.2 The Council's collection rates for council tax and business rates are holding up well during the impact of Covid. In 2021/22 the Council's in-year collection rate of council tax remained above 96% and was the 4th highest in-year rate of all 36 Metropolitan Councils. The in-year rate for business rates was 97%, the 3rd highest of all Metropolitan Councils. Similar collection rates are being maintained in 2022/23 which informs prudent forecasts of future years' income included within the MTFS.

2.3 The estimated impact of rising inflation and energy prices has been factored into the MTFS update, having the impact of increasing the Councils base costs. In addition, there are some areas of escalating cost with service demand pressures being experienced in a number of areas, in particular adult care services, home to school transport and waste services. These service demand pressures are being reviewed and as yet have not been factored into the MTFS update.

2.4 A significant assumption the Council has made within the current MTFS update is that Government will continue to honour the inflationary uplift in a number of core resources that have historically been inflated by September CPI (inflation on business rates is set in regulation). The impact of every 1% of inflation on these core funding streams is the equivalent of £1m extra resource for the Council. As such the Council will need to continue to closely monitor announcements from Government between now and the provisional financial settlement.

New pressures

2.5 Since the Council's Budget for 2022/23 was approved at Council on the 2nd March 2022, there have been significant changes that could not have been anticipated at the time of setting the Council's budget. Unbudgeted cost resulting from the wider financial impact of the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy price increases and impact of the 2022/23 pay award present a significant financial challenge to the Council's Budget for 2022/23 and planning assumptions for 2023/24.

2.6 Following review of inflationary impacts, energy price markets and the 2022/23 pay award, the following cost pressures (above budget assumed in the approved MTFS) in these areas have been projected and factored into the MTFS update.

- Pay Award £6.1m
- Inflation £1m
- Energy £3m
- **Total £10.1m**

- 2.7 The Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23 outlined that cost pressures within Adult Social Care would present the most significant future financial challenge to the Council, this still remains the case. Currently Councils are working through Government's market sustainability and fair cost of care review, which focuses on the cost of Home Care and Care Homes provision. It is an exercise carried out alongside care providers in order to establish a "fair cost of care" provision.
- 2.8 This exercise has not yet concluded, and the Council is not currently required to pay based on the outcome of the exercise but is expected to phase in the Fair Cost of Care, moving towards the Fair Cost of Care between 2022 to 2025. Additionally, the funding from Government to allow the Council to carry out and implement the exercise is an estimate and the Government have indicated that they may apply a new funding allocation methodology, though not indicated what basis this may be.
- 2.9 The Council can only increase its rates for Home Care and Care Home provision with additional resources from Government. As such the Council's approach to the Fair Cost of Care and the provision for inflation on care provider contracts will be tailored to the availability of additional Fair Cost of Care funding and inflation from Government.
- 2.10 **Delivery of Agreed Budget Savings**
Delivery of the remaining agreed budget savings are included within the MTFS update based on the current approved profile of when it was anticipated that remaining savings could be achieved.
- 2.11 Financial Monitoring reports to Cabinet track progress in delivery. These reports have indicated the impact of Covid on progressing delivery of budget savings, in particular savings on social care services. Whilst good progress is being made, service demand and cost of social care services also continues to increase which has limited to some extent the amount of social care savings that can be delivered and the timescale across which savings that can be achieved are made.
- 2.12 However, the Council is able to report further secured delivery of planned savings for 2022/23. The table below provides an update on the £11.5m of planned savings to be delivered over the medium term. £4.2m, over a third of planned savings have been delivered already within 2022/23. This includes £971k for Early Help & Social Care Pathway (reductions in social care teams linked to reducing caseloads), £2.4m savings from reablement services. For R&E there has been £119k delivery of increased income at Waleswood and £97k in respect of planned cost reductions on operational buildings. Several assets are being made ready for disposal which will help progress toward delivering the property savings although the actual amount secured will be confirmed at the point of disposal.

2.13 **Table 1 – Delivery of Agreed Budget Savings across MTFS**

Saving	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Total FYE	Still to be delivered 2022/23	Total Secured as at 30th September 2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
ACHPH	2,800	2,800	2,800	400	2,400
ACHPH – One off saving	500	0	0	0	500
CYPS	971	4,739	7,411	0	1026
R&E	374	762	784	158	216
R&E Customer & Digital	200	500	500	155	45
Total Savings	4,845	8,801	11,495	713	4,187

2.14 The Council's financial monitoring report to November Cabinet is projecting a forecast overspend of £18.2m. This includes Directorate overspends (excluding Central Services) of £8.1m, the main pressures being;

- CYPS placements, £3.9m (mix of placement types remains the key issue as demand continues to reduce)
- Home to School Transport, £1.6m
- Waste Management, £0.3m (increased tonnages to dispose and increased disposal cost)
- Asset Management, £0.6m (income under recovery and property cost pressures)
- Increased demand and cost of service provision for Homelessness, £0.9m

2.15 At present these pressures are not built into the MTFS on a re-occurring basis. Whilst the Council will aim to mitigate these in year pressures, it is anticipated that a significant level of the Council's reserves will be required to fund the 2022/23 revenue outturn position.

2.16 **Summary MTFS 2022/23 to 2025/26**

The MTFS in summary, taking into account the issues described in this report is summarised in Table 2 below:

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
<u>Resources</u>				
Council Tax and Business Rates	168,544	179,015	186,064	192,333
Government Grant	91,158	96,939	98,582	100,311
Total Resources	259,702	275,954	284,647	292,644
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Base Budget Requirement	247,030	249,968	250,213	249,968
Inflation Provision	20,450	31,888	39,958	46,081
Service Costs and Demand	18,740	16,620	19,129	21,005
Directorate Savings	-4,845	-8,801	-11,495	-11,495
Use of CYPS reserve	-2,000	0	0	0
Use of Treasury Management Savings	-1,500	-4,000	-3,800	0
Total Expenditure	277,875	285,675	294,005	305,559
Funding Gap (Pre-Settlement)	18,173	9,721	9,358	12,914

2.17 Revenue Budget Position 2022/23

The latest Financial Monitoring 2022/23 report to Cabinet in November, envisages a significant financial overspend that will require the use of the Council's reserves to achieve a balanced financial outturn position for 2022/23. Of the current forecast £18.2m 2022/23 overspend position, £10.1m relates to items outside of the control of the Council, that being inflation, energy prices and Local Government Pay Award. Without those issues the plan would still be in balance as set in March 2022.

2.18 Following this initial update of the MTFs, the summary position reflects a highly challenging position for the Council, as it is for all councils, with the bulk of the cost pressures stemming from inflation, energy costs and the impact of the 2022/23 pay award.

2.19 It is important to note that this position is before the exact amount of Government grant funding for councils is provided within the Finance Settlement. This is also a

technical update of the MTFS before any Members' policy choices and decisions on levels of Council Tax.

- 2.20 Updated MTFS information will therefore form part of the Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 report to Cabinet in February 2023 and Council in March 2023 which will set out the full details of Budget and Council Tax proposals for 2023/24 alongside the final MTFS estimates for the medium term.
- 2.21 Given the significant and unexpected financial challenge faced by the Council, work has commenced with Strategic Directors to consider opportunities for scaling back some operations, reducing or delaying non-essential expenditure, assessment of need for recruitment with a view to temporarily generating some cost savings for 2022/23 to reduce down the £8.1m directorate overspending forecast in the current year and hence the required use of reserves to balance the 2022/23 year end.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 In refreshing the MTFS the Council has made several financial assumptions as detailed within the main body of this report. Whilst various scenarios for how Government funding could be changed and the Council's costs could vary linked to in year and potential future cost pressures, the update presented is the Council's current MTFS.
- 3.2 Given the level of uncertainty within financial markets, the length of the war in the Ukraine and its impact on inflation, energy and the level of Government funding, elements of the MTFS remain complex to project. As such it is expected that when Government release the Provisional Financial Settlement for 2023/24, there may be substantial changes to the availability of public sector funding.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Council consulted on budget proposals for 2022/23 ahead of the approval of the Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 report at Council in March 2022. Consultation on the 2023/24 budget is planned to be undertaken across December 2022 and January 2023.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The information, proposals and recommendations will feed into the development of specific budget proposals for 2023/24 within the Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 report to Cabinet in February 2023 and Council in March 2023.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The financial implications are set out in the report. The significant forecast overspend for 2022/23 is £18.2, of this £10.1m relates to financial pressures outside of the control of the Council due to inflation, energy prices and pay award. £8.1m of the forecast overspend relates to the Council's directorates and therefore these elements of expenditure are where the Council has some level of control. In order to mitigate the financial overspend position, the Council is implementing a housekeeping review of budgets, this is looking to ensure that where possible non-

essential spend is held. In addition, the Council is looking to identify across all directorates opportunities to reduce the forecast outturn, in order to further mitigate the £8.1m directorate pressures and reduce the call on reserves for 2022/23.

6.2 It should be noted that whilst the directorate overspend is £8.1m, the Council will be able to work to mitigate these pressures and reduce them before the financial year end, with a low level of use of reserves. However, due to the £10.1m of cost pressures outside of control of the Council there will be a significant call on reserves to balance the 2022/23 outturn position. These cost pressures raise the Council's base costs and it is these pressures that create the budget gaps for 2023/24 onwards. The Council did build into the MTFS prudent levels of inflation and has over recent years increased its levels of reserves, in particular the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve, £17.8m at the end of 2021/22. Had these cost pressures outside of control of the Council not appeared, then the Council's MTFS position would not have been presenting a significant funding gap.

6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

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

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The implications are as set out in the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in the report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendation in the report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendation in the report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks and mitigation are described in the report

14. Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	07/11/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	03/11/22
Assistant Director Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	03/11/22

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Assistant Director Financial Services
01709 254518
Rob.Mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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:

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Directorate:

Finance and Customer Services

Service area:

Financial Services

Lead person:

Rob Mahon

Contact number:

01709 822064

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

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

The report sets out a technical update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26.

The information within the report will support the development of detailed budget proposals for 2023/24. No changes to the Council's approved budget and financial strategy are proposed within the report.

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

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

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Rob Mahon	Assistant Director – Financial Services	31/10/22

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	31/10/22
Report title and date	Medium Term Financial Strategy Cabinet 21 st November 2022
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date	

and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from transport?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	<i>no impact on emissions</i>				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	<i>no impact</i>				
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:					

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

As this report is a technical financial update and doesn't approve anything directly to happen, it does not have any carbon implications.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial 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]	

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board 16 November 2022

Report Title

Recommendations from Improving Lives Select Commission – Early Help 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

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

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-wide

Summary

- 1.1 Members of Improving Lives Select Commission met on 21 September 2022 to scrutinise the draft Early Help Strategy prior to its submission to Cabinet. The recommendations from this meeting are attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is asked to consider the recommendations as part of its pre-decision scrutiny arrangements.

Recommendation

That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agrees the recommendations outlined and forwards them to Cabinet for consideration and decision.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1: Improving Lives Select Commission – consideration of the draft Early Help Strategy

Background Papers

None

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Rotherham
S60 1AE
E-mail: lyndsayspitchely@rotherham.gov.uk
Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Our Ref:
2022_09.21 EH

Please Contact:
Caroline Webb

Telephone Number:
01709 822765

26 October 2022

Cllr Maggi Clark, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

via email: maggi.clark@rotherham.gov.uk

cc Cllr Cusworth, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Suzy Joyner, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services
David McWilliams, Assistant Director, Early Help and Family Engagement
Susan Claydon, Head of Locality and Family Support Strategic Lead
Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Dear Cllr Clark

Improving Lives Select Commission – consideration of the draft Early Help Strategy

As you are aware, Members of Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) met on 21 September 2022 to consider the draft Early Help Strategy in advance of its submission to Cabinet. The purpose of the meeting was to comment and influence the priorities, strategic direction and the delivery of the Early Help 'offer', identifying challenges and potential solutions. As such, having an opportunity to scrutinise this important work at an earlier stage was very welcome and received positively by Members. I am grateful for your attendance and participation at the workshop and I'm sure you will agree it was a fruitful discussion.

I would like to thank David McWilliams and Susan Claydon from the Early Help and Family Engagement Service and Governance Officers for facilitating the workshop.

As you are aware, the ILSC meeting to be held on 25 October will not be considering formal business and therefore will not be able to ratify our recommendations prior to the Cabinet meeting. A short report summarising the key points arising from the discussions and recommendations will be submitted to the next available meeting of ILSC which is scheduled for 6 December 2022.

In order that the Cabinet is able to consider the workshop's conclusions on a timely basis, I am writing to request the following recommendations are submitted to the OSMB meeting to be held on 16 November 2022 as part of its pre-decision scrutiny role.

1. That the strategy should reflect the following broad principles/priorities:
 - Children, young people & families at the heart of everything we do.
 - That early help is a shared partnership responsibility.
 - Right support, at the right time, in the right place.
 - Actions, plans, assessments and conversations should improve outcomes for the family.
 - Working in and with communities.
 - Early intervention.
2. That description of the Early Help offer is clear and understandable i.e what is the universal offer, what is the targeted offer?
3. That the strategy should articulate what constitutes basic needs and how this relates to the Early Help offer (referring to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs).
4. That any supporting action plan relating to the strategy has clear milestones, timescales, responsible individuals and expectations of outcomes.
5. That a commitment is made to strengthening the links between the Early Help offer and neighbourhood working and local ward members to ensure that early help is "everyone's business".
6. That consideration is given to publicising groups/peer support in local areas linked to community hubs via easy-to-navigate web pages or applications across partnership agencies.
7. That consideration is given to maximising eligibility and take-up of free school meals.
8. That the issue of parent/infant (perinatal) mental health care is reflected in the strategy.
9. That the partnership gives consideration to the learning and development offer required to support the refreshed strategy including how this is rolled out to schools, health, voluntary sector organisations and other key partners.
10. That the document is designed for a professional audience with an easy-to-read version available for the public.

I am grateful if you can confirm that the recommendations will be included in OSMB's feedback to Cabinet. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor (caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk).

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Lyndsay Pitchley

Cllr Lyndsay Pitchley
Chair of Improving Lives Select Commission

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 16 November 2022

Report Title

Social Value mid-year report

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Steve Eling

Policy and Equalities Manager

Assistant Chief Executive's

Steve.eling@rotherham.gov.uk

Karen Middlebrook

Head of Procurement

Corporate Procurement Service

Finance and Customer Services

Karen.Middlebrook@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

At the meeting on 23 March 2022, OSMB received the Social Value Annual Report. This set out achievements over the previous year and recommended priorities for the year ahead. In considering the report and making recommendations to Cabinet, OSMB resolved to receive a mid-year report on progress. This report provides details of progress at mid-year.

Recommendations

That the Social Value mid-year report be received.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Equality Screening (Form A)

Background Papers

Social Value Policy

<http://modgov-p-db/documents/s123002/Appendix%20%20-%20Social%20Value%20Policy.pdf>

Social Value Annual Report 2022

<http://modgov-p-db/documents/s135435/Report%20-%20Social%20Value%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Social Value mid-year report

1. Background

- 1.1 The aim of the Social Value Policy is to maximise the local impact of the Council's spend. The focus of the Social Value Policy is on securing social value as part of the letting of contracts along with securing payment of the living wage (as set by the Living Wage Foundation). It also involves working with other public sector organisations and anchor networks to support them in their development of policy and delivery of commitments.
- 1.2 This report provides a mid-year update on achievement towards the policy outcomes and priorities for 2022.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Key elements of the Social Value Policy, that inform the development of actions and delivery are:
 - Raising the living standards of Rotherham residents and commitment to working towards the Living Wage Foundation Living Wage;
 - Increasing the proportion of the Council's expenditure which goes to local businesses and providers;
 - Building social value into all council contracts and maximising the impact gained from every pound spent, through the introduction of a rigorous system for assessing and measuring social value; and
 - Committing to the principle of co-designing services wherever possible.
- 2.2 Achieving the Policy outcomes is a development agenda with key priorities agreed for each year. The priorities for 2022 are with paragraphs detailing activity and progress:
 - Focus on increasing social value commitments for skills and employment (paras 2.5 – 2.18);
 - Further research to build local market intelligence (paras 2.19 – 2.24)
 - Launch of the Social Value Commissioning Toolkit to be held in May (paras 2.25 – 2.28);
 - Building on anchor network development as part of the Rotherham Together Partnership Social Value Charter (para 2.29); and
 - Engagement with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority in development and delivery of social value in the sub-region (para 2.29).
- 2.3 Definitions have also been set to distinguish between Social Value and Corporate Social Responsibility. This confirms Social Value is a contracted commitment to deliver agreed outcomes integral to a contract with the Council, whilst Corporate Social Responsibility is where an organisation chooses to deliver economic and social outcomes but may do so anywhere at its discretion without contractual commitment.
- 2.4 The detail set out captures delivering the priorities in the context of the overall work to achieve social value outcomes.

- 2.5 Securing social value through contracts including for skills and employment
- 2.6 The National Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) Framework is a measurement framework developed by the National Social Value Task Force, a cross-sector organisation combining both public and private sector organisations. These provide what is referred in the national documents as Social and Local Economic Value (SLEV), which comprises of forty measures, across five themes:
- Jobs: Promote Local Skills and Employment.
 - Growth: Supporting Growth of Local and Small Business.
 - Social: Healthier, Safer and more Resilient Communities.
 - Environment: Protecting and Improving Our Environment.
 - Innovation: Promoting Social Innovation.
- 2.7 The Council has selected from the National TOMs (2021), those measures which will have a positive impact on the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Rotherham community.
- 2.8 Below are the key performance indicator measures that the Council's suppliers have committed and delivered against on contracts procured and awarded before 31st May 2022. This is the mid-year reporting position with full year anniversary date being 30th November.
- 2.9 The table sets out units including number of people to benefit, training hours and tonnes of carbon saved, for example. It then sets out monetary values, using proxy values for many of the TOMs. Proxy values are needed where there are no direct monetary values, to enable calculation of social value percentages of the full contract values. The information set out below provides detail of both units and monetary values.

NT Ref	Measure	Committed & Delivered Social and Local Economic					
		Unit	Proxy Value £	Com Unit	Com £	Del Unit	Del £
1a/c	No. of local employees (FTE) hired /retained (Direct, TUPE & Supply chain)	No. FTE	Local by project	218.44	5,894,713	42.53	1,119,106
3	No. of employees (FTE) hired on the contract who are long term unemployed	No. FTE	19,145.88	12.31	237,340	1.45	27,499
4	No. of employees (FTE) hired on the contract who are NEETs	No. FTE	13,889.49	3.81	52,308	3	40,908
4a	No. of 16-25 y.o. care leavers (FTE) hired on the contract	No. FTE	13,956.88	1.99	28,281	0	0
5a	No. of 18-24 y.o. rehabilitating young offenders (FTE) hired on the contract	No. FTE	22,480.36	2.68	59,746	0	0

NT Ref	Measure	Committed & Delivered Social and Local Economic					
		Unit	Proxy Value £	Com Unit	Com £	Del Unit	Del £
6	No. of disabled employees (FTE) hired on the contract	No. FTE	15,387.93	3.5	53,081	0	0
7	No. of hours of support into work by providing career mentoring, including mock interviews, CV advice and careers guidance (over 24 y.o.)	no. hrs *no. attendees	118.87	1,436	177,966	76	9,547
9	No. of weeks of training opportunities on the contract (BTEC, City & guilds, NVQ, HNC)	no. weeks	265.17	1,038	276,077	137	35,407
10	No. of weeks of apprenticeships on the contract	no. weeks	210.07	464	98,001	218	45,212
11	No. of hours of support into work by providing career mentoring, including mock interviews, CV advice and careers guidance (under 24 y.o.)	no. hrs *no. attendees	118.87	4,869	567,690	333.75	39,913
12	No. of weeks spent on meaningful work placements or pre-employment course; 1-6 weeks student placement (unpaid)	no. weeks	160.47	298	47,765	124.85	19,754
13	No. of weeks spent on meaningful paid work placements 6 weeks + (internships)	no. weeks	160.47	232	37,086	61	9,651
15	Provision of expert business advice to VCSE's and MSME's	no. staff expert hours	97.03	234	22,124	10	961
16	Equipment or resources donated to VCSE's	£	£1	-	80,341	-	9,374
18	Total amount (£) spent in LOCAL supply chain through the contract	£	Localised by project	-	2,994,518	-	926,464
28	Monetary donation, or equipment/resources in lieu, to voluntary or community organisations	£	£1	-	14,040	-	20
31	Savings in CO2 emissions on contract achieved through decarbonisation	Tonnes CO2e	69.50	2,569	179,098	1,092	£75,785
Total					10,877,402		2,364,188

Table 1 shows commitments and delivery against each of the TOMs.

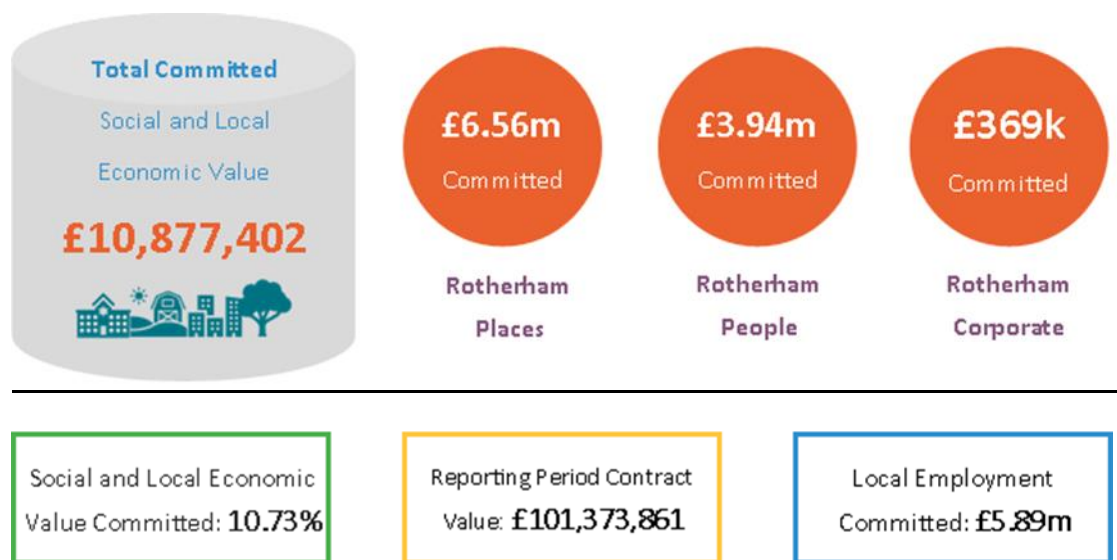


Diagram 1 Total value of social value commitments

- 2.10 The total SLEV committed since the introduction of the Social Value policy shows an increase from £8.1m in the last annual report, to £10.87m at the mid-year position (up to end of May 2022), a net increase of £2.72m. The total contract value attracting social value shows an increase from £79.89m in the last annual report to £101.37m at mid-year, a net increase of £21.47m. This increases the social value outcomes committed from 10.2% in the last annual report to 10.73% at mid-year.
- 2.11 The use of Place, People and Corporate categories is procurement terminology. It is a way of categorising/grouping similar types of expenditure:
- Rotherham Places covers construction, facilities management, environment, and transport.
 - Rotherham People covers commissioned services for delivery to residents such as health and social care provision.
 - Rotherham Corporate covers contracts that support the operational running of the Council (i.e. ICT, temporary labour, printage, training, PPE)
- 2.12 Of the three categories, “places” has seen the largest increase of £1.42 million over the mid-year with “people” achieving £1.09 million increase and “corporate” achieving £229k.

Promote Local Skills and Employment



12.31 FTE of long term unemployment individuals to be hired on contracts.



1,038 weeks of training opportunities to be offered on contracts (BTEC, City & guilds, NVQ, HNC)



£567k to be delivered in dedicated hours to support young people into work.

Protecting and Improving our environment

2,569 tonnes CO2e to be saved on contract.



Diagram 2 Outputs on local skills and employment along with protecting and improving our environment

- 2.13 Key commitments for “promoting local skills and employment” include training weeks committed increasing from 397 in the last annual report to 1,038 at mid-year and supporting young people increasing from £410k to £567k. It should be noted that the 12.31 FTE equivalent long term unemployed hired on contracts at mid-year, which is an increase from 5 in the last annual report, is a specific commitment under the national TOMs and not the number of “local employees” which is included in the local commitment NT1.
- 2.14 Tonnes of CO2e saved have increased from 2,558 to 2,569 over the mid-year.



Diagram 3 Support to local VCS groups and local spend in Rotherham on supply chain contracts

- 2.15 Support and value for local VCSE and community groups has seen increases in equipment and resources from £63.3k in the last annual report to £80.34k at mid-year. Some examples include an ICT provider made a donation of goods to Shiloh worth £3,124, which will help support the running of the homeless centre. A consultancy provider donated £500 to Rush House to support young people purchase equipment when moving into their own properties; and a construction firm donated office furniture to the Salvation Army and Rotherham Minster of which Rotherham Minster used to support the fit out of their social supermarket office. Local economic value from the use of local supply chain has increased from £2.6m to £2.9m.
- 2.16 Other examples include:
- Print and Post Services contract commitments:
 - 23.78% social value commitment at £30,384.
 - NT 7 No. of hours supporting unemployed people into work (24-year-old+); and NT 11 No. of hours dedicated to support young people into work (16–24-year-old).
 - The commitment of their dedicated client relationship manager who is Lean Six Sigma trained and has in excess of 35 years industry experience including Director level being available for advice to this age group on how to present themselves for interview.
 - Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Recovery Service commitments:
 - 2.64% social value commitment at £426,222.
 - Two local direct employees (FTE) hired or retained.

- 200 weeks of training opportunities at Level 2, 3 or 4+; 520 hours dedicated to support young people into work (16–24-year-olds).
- 60 weeks of meaningful work placements/pre-employment courses; 150 hours of expert business advice to VCSEs and MSMEs.
- £16,907 spent in the LOCAL supply chain.
- Legionella Control & Associated Works includes:
 - 14.03% social value commitment at £84,722.
 - 100% local employees; four unemployed people (24-year-old+) supported into work.
 - Rotherham Mainline Station Masterplan Consultancy includes:
 - 12.54% social value commitment at £43,764.
 - 114 hours supporting unemployed people into work (24-year-old+).
 - 192 hours dedicated to support young people into work (16–24-year-olds); eight weeks of meaningful work placements/pre-employment courses.
 - Six weeks of meaningful paid work placements (six + weeks, paid).
 - 64 hours of expert business advice to VCSEs and MSMEs; £2,600 worth of equipment or resources donated to VCSEs.

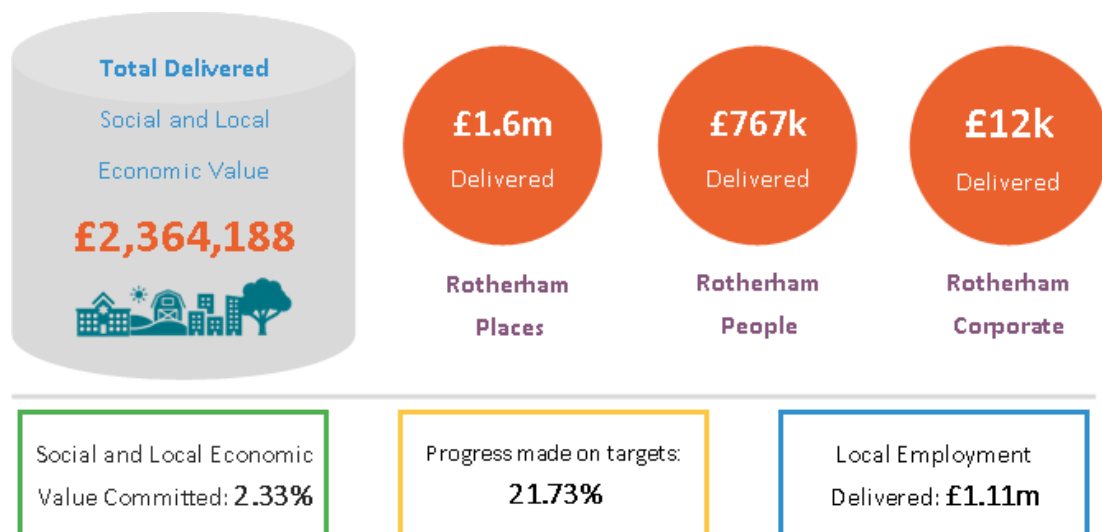


Diagram 4 Social value commitments delivered

- 2.17 The November 2021 report from the Social Value Portal was the first to include outcomes and outputs delivered. Whilst reported as percentages of the overall commitments, the outcomes will relate more to the first-year commitments than the second. Reflecting the value of commitments, “places” has delivered the largest amount, with £1.6m at the mid-year point, up from £1.15m in the last annual report. “People” has seen an increase from £377k to £767k. “Corporate” has now £12k delivered, against a total commitment of £369k, the first outcomes from this theme.

Promote Local Skills and Employment



3 FTE of Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEETs) individuals hired on contracts.



218 weeks of apprenticeships delivered on contracts Level 2,3, or 4+



£9.54k delivered in social value for support to assist unemployed individuals (over 24 y.o.) into work.

Protecting and Improving our environment

1,092 tonnes CO2e saved on contract.



Diagram 5 Local skills and employment along with protecting and improving our environment units delivered

- 2.18 Achievements of note in “promoting local skills and employment” include apprenticeships, where the number of apprenticeship weeks has increased to 218 at the mid-year point, from 43 in the last annual report. The social value of support to assist unemployed individuals has also increased from £5.4k in the last annual report to £9.54k at mid-year. The last annual report included £61k value in CO2 tonnes saved, equating to 992 tonnes. This has increased to 1,092 at mid-year.

Supporting VCSE's & Community Groups



Local Spend in Rotherham

£926k of local economic value created as a result of local supply chain on contracts.



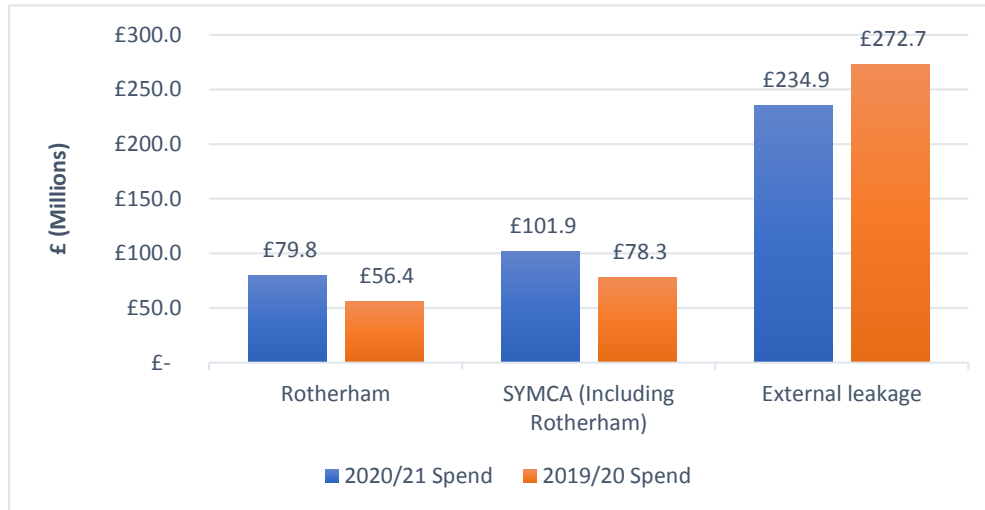
Diagram 6 Support to local VCS groups and local spend in Rotherham on supply chain contracts delivered

- 2.19 Supporting VCSE's and community groups shows an increase in equipment and resources donated from £5.26k in the last annual report to £9.37 at mid-year. Local economic value from local spend also shows an increase from £518k to £926k over the same period.

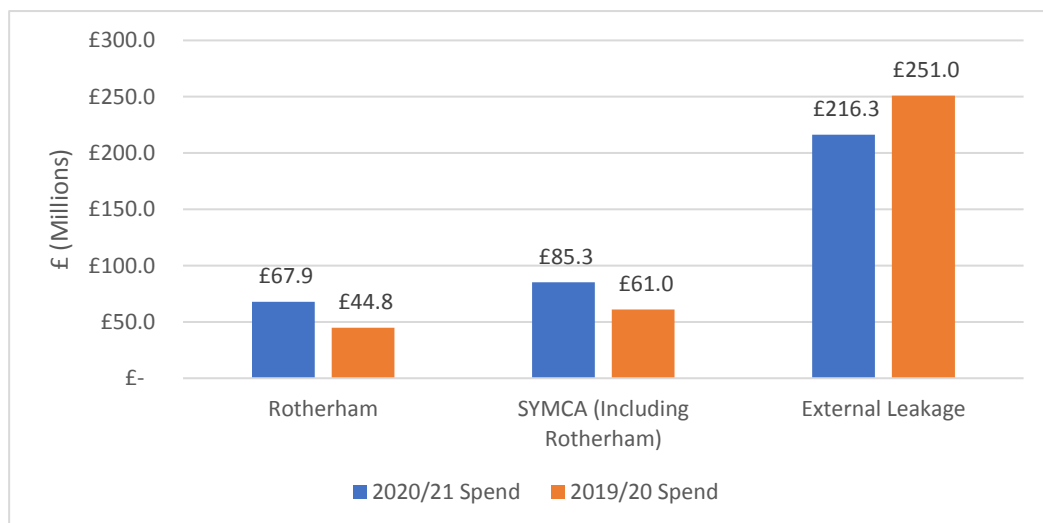
2.20 Local market intelligence

In 2020/21 the Council's overall third-party expenditure was £336.7 million, £14.3m (4%) less than the previous financial year. Spend is concentrated on the top 300 suppliers as they account for 90% of total spend (89% in 2019/20). In 2020/21 top 300 supplier's expenditure was £301.6m compared to £312m the previous year, a £10.4m (3%) reduction. Graph 2 shows spend made outside of the Sheffield City Region fell from £251m in 2019/20 to £216m in 2020/21 (14% reduction).

- 2.21 The Council is spending more money within South Yorkshire with figures showing regional spend growing from 20% to 28% in 2020/21 (8% increase). Spend with Rotherham suppliers made up 14% of overall spend in 2019/20 increasing to 23% in 2020/21 (9% rise). Graph 2 shows local Rotherham spend in the top 300 spend rose from £44.8m in 2019/20 to £67.9 million in 2020/21 (51% increase). Though overall yearly spend is reducing, more expenditure is flowing towards local suppliers.



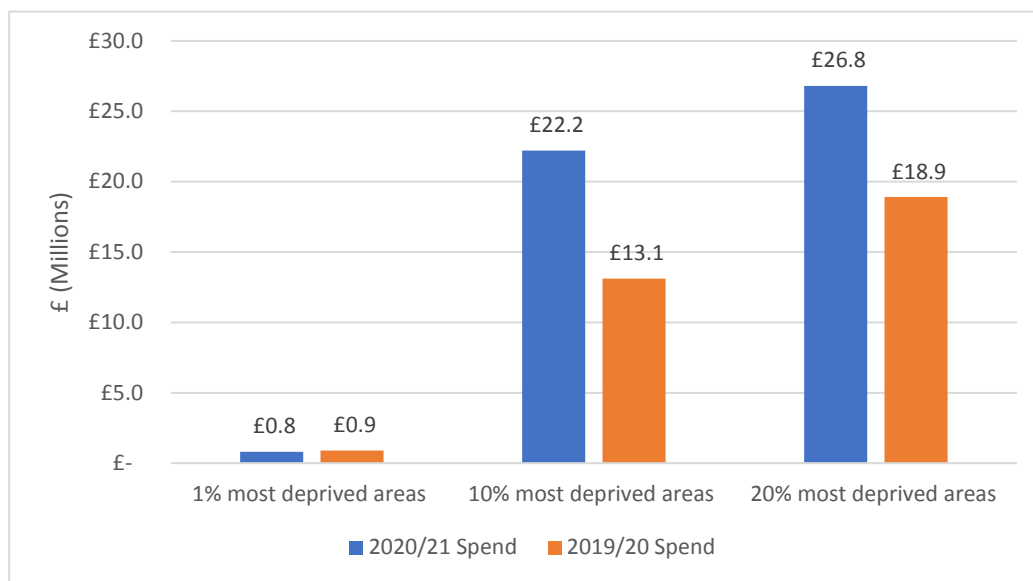
Graph 1 – RMBC 3rd Party expenditure (All Suppliers)



Graph 2 – RMBC 3rd party expenditure (Top 300)

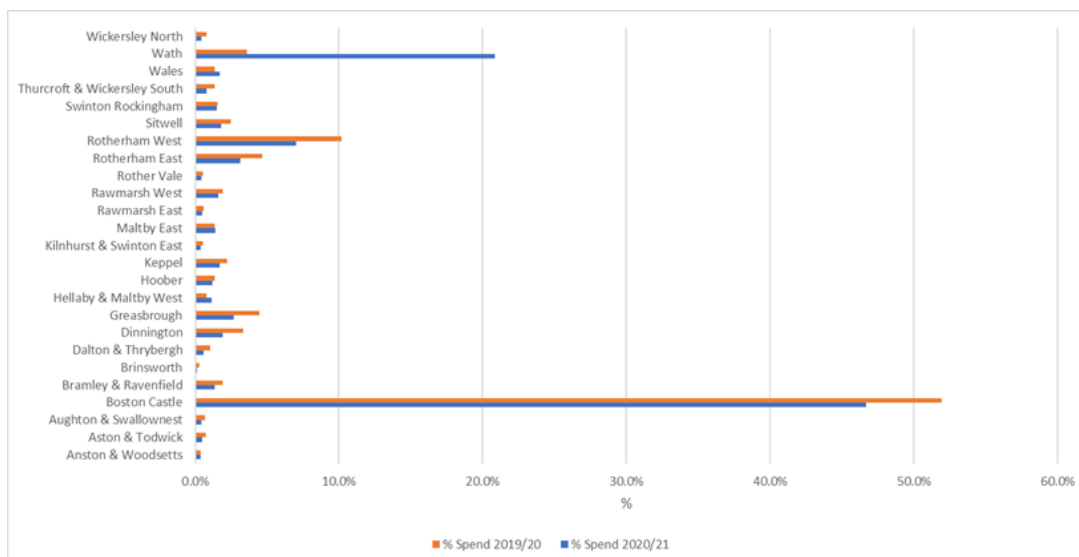
- 2.22 The 2020/21 spend highlights more expenditure going towards the borough's most deprived areas compared to 2019/20. This is due to an increase in third-party supplier spend in the 10% and 20% most deprived areas, however it should be noted that this is based on the location of a contractor and not how much is spent on provision in deprived areas. Graph 3 shows local spend in Rotherham's top 10% most deprived areas rose from £13.1 million in 2019/20 to £22.2 million in 2020/21 (69% increase). Supplier spend in the top 20% most deprived areas rose from £18.9m in 2019/20 to £26.8m (42% increase). Spend in the 1% most deprived areas saw a fall from £0.9m in 2019/20 to £0.8 million

in 2020/21, however, the number of suppliers remained at two. Overall, 39% of local spend went to suppliers in the Borough's 20% most deprived areas, down 3% from the previous year.



Graph 3 – Local spend in deprived Rotherham areas (Top 300)

- 2.23 The spatial distribution of local spend throughout Rotherham saw significant changes in 2020/21. Graph 4 shows local spend by ward for all businesses. Like most towns the Council's local spend is concentrated on suppliers in wards surrounding the town centre.
- 2.24 Suppliers favour being located in and around town centres, benefitting from office space availability and good transportation links for staff. Boston Castle's percentage of local spend reduced from 52% in 2019/20 to 46.7% in 2020/21. This shows local spend is being dispersed more throughout the Borough and not just the town centre. Wath saw a significant rise from 4% to 21% in 2020/21 with its monetary value rising from £2 million to £16.6 million (724% rise). The reason for this significant rise is as a result of the award of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contract to Equans, whose invoice address is in Wath. 2020/21 was the first full financial year and represented £12.5m of all spend made in Wath in that year. Brinsworth saw the largest reduction in 2020/21 as spending fell by 24% from the previous year. Both Dinnington and Dalton & Thrybergh saw expenditure reduce by 20%.



Graph 4 – Local % Spend by Ward (All Suppliers)

2.25

Launch of Social Value Toolkit and training for contract managers

The Social Value Toolkit was formally launched in July after a period of soft testing. It provides guidance and tools for those involved in preparing specifications for contracts to include social value from the beginning of planning through to letting the contract.

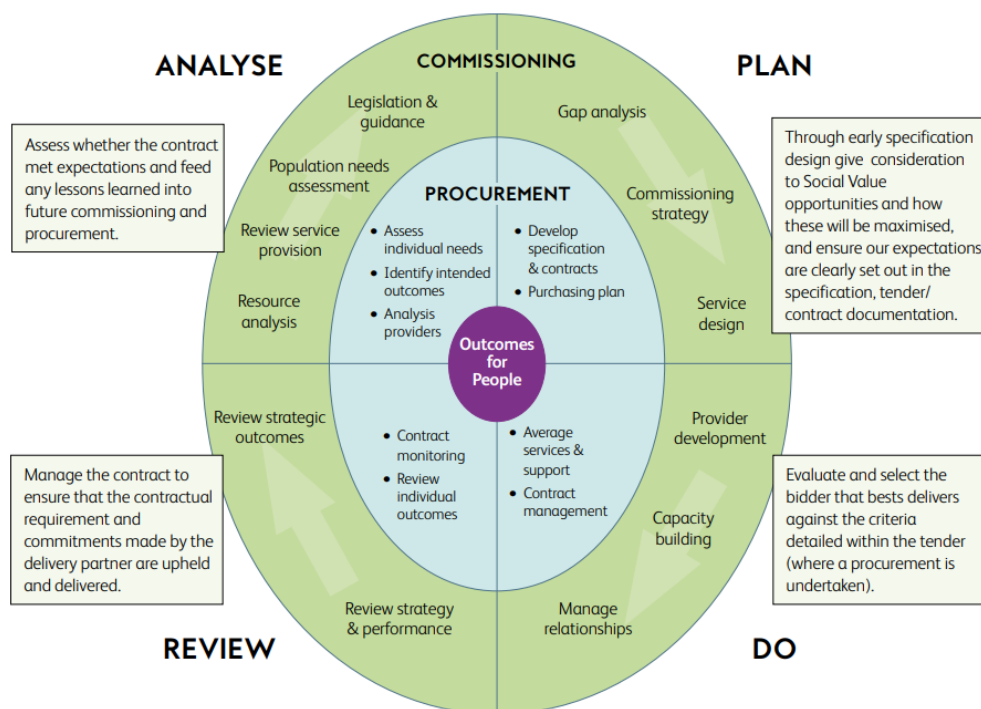


Diagram 7 The stages for social value in commissioning

2.26

Further guidance is provided around the totality of the process to ensure that all stages are captured.

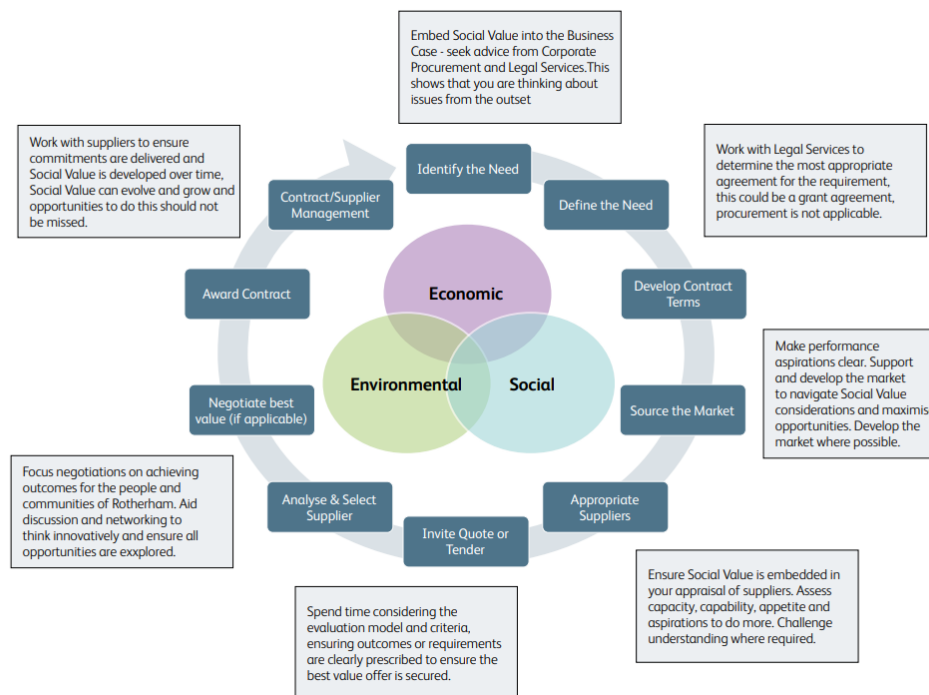


Diagram 8 Overview of the overall process commissioning process

2.27 Training has been provided to contract managers, with further training to be available, to assist with both securing social value commitments through procurement of contracts and then ensuring commitments are delivered. The training covered:

- Gaining a better understanding of how Social Value feeds into Procurement activity.
- Understanding the Council's relationship with the Social Value Portal.
- Building confidence in managing contracts.

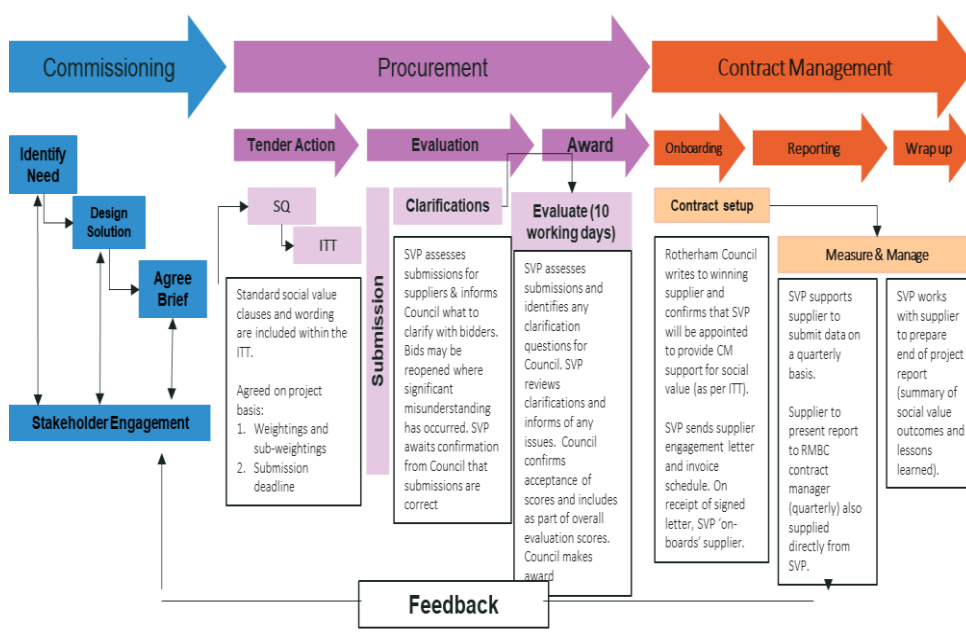


Diagram 9 Overview of training content

- 2.28 Other work covering anchor networks and engagement with the South Yorkshire MCA on social value is ongoing. Details will be covered in the next annual report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 This is a progress report for information.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Consultation on production of the report has involved engagement of services responsible for delivery of the social value actions.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The reporting of social value commitments and outcomes, along with progress on priorities set will be reported to Cabinet in the 2023 Social Value Annual Report.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 Relevant issues relating to procurement are covered in the body of the Report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 allows for the consideration of added value, such as social, economic and environmental benefits, that may be secured in addition to the normal delivery of a contract. The Policy, including the Social Value Toolkit, must comply with procurement law, particularly the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The Council must ensure its contractual and procurement documentation reflects the requirements described in this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 A key component of implementing the Policy is ensuring that officers have the necessary training and knowledge to successfully implement it. Training has been provided for contract managers. Further training is to be rolled out.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The outcomes within the Social Value Framework support the Council's priorities: "Every child able to fulfil their potential" and "People are safe, healthy and live well", by including support for education and employment for these groups as key Social Value outcomes.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Specific actions for decision in delivering the social value policy are subject to equalities screening and analysis. An updated equality screening (Form A) is attached to this report

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 NT 31 provides a social value outcome through savings in CO₂ emissions on contracts achieved through decarbonisation, measured in tonnes of CO₂.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Partners are engaged in direct development and delivery of social value outcomes, especially in relation to Community Wealth Building and Anchor networks.
- 12.2 The Council is promoting social value through its engagement with the MCA, seeking to gain added value through the Devo Deal and levelling up agenda.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There are many strands to delivering the Council's Social Value Policy and ambitions. These are managed through an action plan that is regularly reviewed with actions taken to mitigate risks to achieving outcomes. External validation is also used to confirm progress.

Accountable Officer(s)

Steve Eling
Policy and Equalities Manager
Assistant Chief Executive's
Steve.eling@rotherham.gov.uk

Karen Middlebrook
Head of Procurement
Corporate Procurement Service
Finance and Customer Services
Karen.Middlebrook@rotherham.gov.uk

Report Author: Steve Eling
Policy and Equalities Manager
Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

Steve.eling@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: Social mid year report

Directorate: Assistant Chief Executive's

Service area: Performance, Intelligence and Improvement

Lead person:
Steve Eling

Contact number:
01709 823618

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☒

Other

If other, please specify

Midyear update report to OSMB

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

The Social Value Mid-Year Report provides an update to scrutiny on progress made following the detail in the annual report to Cabinet in March 2022.

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

The Social Value Framework allows for annual reporting on several key equalities issues such as the number of people with disabilities that have gained employment. The Framework has identified several key disadvantaged groups that should be supported through Social Value outcomes. As such the policy is having a positive impact regarding equalities. For each individual procurement and commissioning activity there is full consideration of the impact on equality outcomes. This is carried out by the officers involved in the procurement and commissioning activities.

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?**

A consideration of equality and diversity was a key element in the development of the Social Value Policy. The policy's central aim is to support the employment (and education and training) of several disadvantaged groups including disabled people who are currently disadvantaged in the labour market.

- **Key findings**

Supporting these groups is central to the Social Value outcomes that have been identified – these include a wide range of groups who will be supported through increased training, school visits, employment, apprenticeships, and other training opportunities. In addition, the policy is also about changing the way the council commissions – adopting new principles will place new emphasis on co-designing services and involving service users throughout the process. This will increase the role and voice and seldom heard groups.

- **Actions**

The policy is being monitored on an annual basis. Individual officers will be responsible for considering the impacts and outcomes of each individual procurement or commissioning process. Further actions are being developed to embed Social Value in the working of the Council and develop forward looking actions. For 2022/23, specific actions have been agreed by Cabinet to advance progress against the policy:

- Launch of the Social Value Commissioning Toolkit to be held in May.
- Focus on increasing social value commitments for skills and employment.
- Engagement with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority in development and delivery of social value in the sub-region.
- Building on anchor network development as part of the Rotherham Together Partnership Social Value Charter.
- Further research to build local market intelligence.

The social value toolkit, has been launched and provides for "Social Value by Design" through commissioning and linked directly to services which now include specific equalities detail.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

The Social Value Policy is being reviewed and monitored on an annual basis. This will capture the impacts of the policy.

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	To be completed by officers for individual procurement and commissioning processes.
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Individual officers are responsible for each procurement and relevant priority developments. The officer responsible for the overall analysis of the impact of Social Value will be Steve Eling, Policy and Equalities Manager.

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Steve Eling	Policy and Equalities Manager	14 th October 2022
Karen Middlebrook	Head of Procurement	14 th October 2022

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	14 th October 2022
Report title and date	Social Value Mid-Year Report
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	OSMB
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16 th November 2022

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2022-23

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

19 January 2023	TBC
8 February 2023	TBC
22 February 2023	TBC
15 March 2023	Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report
March (TBC)	Children's Commissioner's Take Over Challenge
19 April 2023	TBC
10 May 2023	TBC

Items for Scheduling

Finance/Budget Setting	Resolved at the 14 July meeting: That a report be presented at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that details how the changes that have been made to how the Council operates and provides services as a result of the pandemic have informed budget management procedures, and whether these changes to how the Council operates have highlighted any new opportunities where future budget savings could potentially be made.
CYPS Performance monitoring	Workshop session on CYPS Performance monitoring
CYPS Invest to Save	To scrutinise the impact of "Invest to Save" initiatives across CYPS
Foodbank Provision – alter to a cost of living (Economic Crisis)	To scrutinise foodbank services across the Borough. Requested at the 9 February meeting.
Adult Care Services Commissioning	To look in further detail the commissioning process for adult care services. Requested at the 9 February meeting.
Nature Emergency	Referred to Improving Places Select Commission
Census	2012 and April 2013 reported to OSMB previously.

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
1 November 2022 – 31 January 2023

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

Contact Information:-

Democratic Services
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

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

What is the Forward Plan?

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

What is a Key Decision?

A Key Decision is one which is likely to:-

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

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

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The plan gives information about:

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

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Authority's Constitution, Key Decisions are taken by the Cabinet. Key Decisions are taken at public meetings of the Cabinet. The Cabinet meets once a month on a Monday at 10.00am at Rotherham Town Hall. Meeting dates for 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
KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022								
ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH								
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
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE								
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 2022-2025	October 2022	To endorse the refreshed Rotherham Together Plan 2022-2025.	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
Corporate Safeguarding Protocol	October 2022	To approve the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Protocol and to note the outcome from Ofsted Inspection.	Leader of the Council	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES								
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	October 2022	To approve the commencement of statutory process under the DfE guidance for decision makers and proposers on opening and closing maintained schools.	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

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
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								
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
Medium Term Financial Strategy	October 2022	To consider a review and update of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 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
NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022								
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								
New Applications for Business Rates Relief for Rotherham Rise and the Really NEET Project Limited	November 2022	To approve the applications for Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Rotherham Rise and The Really NEET Project Limited.	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
KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 19 DECEMBER 2022								
Housing Revenue Account Rents and Service Charges	October 2022	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 Service	October 2022	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

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
Housing Development Update	October 2022	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	October 2022	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
Provision of Mental Health Recovery Focussed Supported Living Services	November 2022	To approve procurement of mental health recovery focussed supported living services.	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
Application for Moving Traffic Enforcement	October 2022	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
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
Household Waste Recycling Centres	November 2022	To consider the future operating model for Household Waste Recycling Centres.	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Reports 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
NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 19 DECEMBER 2022								
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE								
Quarterly Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Report	October 2022	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
Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Cultural Strategy	November 2022	To receive the report and consider the recommendations of the Improving Places Select Commission review of the Cultural Strategy.	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion	Relevant officers, Members and stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Markets Engagement and Recovery Strategy	November 2022	To receive the report and consider the recommendations of the Improving Places Select Commission review of Markets Engagement and Recovery Strategy.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant officers, Members and stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES								
Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act - Education Contributions policy updated	October 2022	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	October 2022	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
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								
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

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
Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy	November 2022	To approve the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.	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
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
Transforming Cities Fund and Capital Programme Update 2022	November 2022	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 exempt appendices	All Wards	Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 23 JANUARY 2023 OR LATER								
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES								
Child Exploitation Strategy 2023-2027	November 2022	To endorse the Child Exploitation Strategy 2023-2027.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Councillor Victoria Cusworth Tel: 07824895314 victoria.cusworth@rotherham.gov.uk
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								
November 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report	November 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

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
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
Place Based Investment Strategy	October 2022	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
NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 23 JANUARY 2023 OR LATER								
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								
Performance Management of Dignity Contract	November 2022	To provide an update on the performance management of the Dignity Contract for this year and to consider the future use of funds received as a result.	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

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

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

PART 2
QUALIFICATIONS: ENGLAND

Paragraphs 1-8 repealed.

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

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

Confidential information means –

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

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