

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

- Date and Time :-** Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 10.00 a.m.
- Venue:-** Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
- Membership:-** Councillors Clark (Chair), Bacon (Vice-Chair), Baker-Rogers, Browne, Cooksey, Miro, 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 13 December 2023 (Pages 5 - 16)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 13 December 2023 and to approve them as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

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

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

### Items for Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In accordance with the outcome of the Governance Review in 2016, the following items are submitted for pre-scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting on XX. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

**6. Mid-Year Report on Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress for 2023-2024 (Pages 17 - 171)**

To consider a report of the Assistant Chief Executive focusing on the activities in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and the Council Plan performance measure data for Quarter 2 of the 2023-24 financial year.

**Recommendations**

That Cabinet note:

1. The overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.
2. The Quarter 2 2022-23 data for the Council Plan performance measures.
3. The performance reporting timetable for the remainder of the 2023-2024 year.

**7. HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2024-25 (Pages 173 - 232)**

To consider a report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health outlining expenditure and income relating to the provision of Council housing and related services, and a proposed HRA Business Plan setting out the Council investment priorities over a 30-year period.

**Recommendations**

That Cabinet recommends to Council to: -

1. Approve the proposed 2024-25 Base Case Option C for the HRA Business Plan.
2. Note that the Business Plan will be reviewed annually to provide an updated financial position.
3. Agree that Council dwelling rents are increased by 7.7% in 2024/25 (Option 3).
4. Agree that the Council should retain the policy of realigning rents on properties at below formula rent to the formula rent level when the property is re-let to a new tenant.
5. Agree that shared ownership rents are increased by 9.4% in 2024/25.
6. Agree that charges for garages and parking spaces, communal facilities, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities are increased by 6% in 2024/25.

7. Agree that the District Heating unit charge per Kwh is set at 15.27 pence per kwh, a decrease of 4.2% (0.67 pence per kwh).
8. Agrees that the decision to reduce the price of District Heating Charges further during 2024-25 be delegated to the Assistant Director of Housing in conjunction with the Assistant Director of Financial Services following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing. The delegation would only be used to respond to a change in Government policy or a significant change in the Ofgem price cap that has the effect of necessitating a lower unit price.
9. Approve the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix 6.

**For Information/Monitoring:-**

**8. Work Programme (Pages 233 - 234)**

To consider the Board's Work Programme.

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

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

**10. Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 (Pages 235 - 245)**

**11. Call-in Issues**

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

**12. Urgent Business**

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

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

The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on Wednesday 7 February 2024 at 10.00am at Rotherham Town Hall.

*Sharon Kemp.*

**SHARON KEMP,  
Chief Executive.**

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**Wednesday 13 December 2023**

Present:- Councillor Clark (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Browne, Cooksey, Elliott, Pitchley, Tinsley and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Baker-Rogers, Ball, Miro and Yasseen.

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

**74. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Resolved:** - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 15 November 2023 be approved as a true record.

**75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Pitchley declared a non-registerable interest in relation to Minute 80 Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy. A close family member had been referred for assessment.

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

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

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

There were no exempt items.

**78. SOCIAL VALUE MID-YEAR REPORT**

The Chair invited the Chief Executive to introduce the report. It was noted that OSMB had previously resolved to receive mid-year progress reports on Social Value activity, commitments and delivery. This report provided details of progress at mid-year 2023.

It was outlined that the aim of the Social Value policy was to maximise the local impact of the Council's spend. Its focus was to secure Social Value as part of the letting of contracts along with securing payment of the real living wage (as set by the Living Wage Foundation). It also involved working with other public sector organisation and anchor institutions to support them in their development of a Social Value policy and delivery of commitments.

Key elements of the Social Value Policy, that informed the development of

actions and delivery were:

- 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 went 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.
- Committing to the principle of co-designing services wherever possible.

The priorities for 2023 were:

- Focus on increasing social value commitments for skills and employment as part of overall progress (paras 2.6 – 2.20).
- Further research to build local market intelligence (paras 2.21 – 2.34).
- Supporting new and existing businesses to enter into new markets, from which the Council buys goods and services (para 2.47 – 2.49).
- Continuing to embed the foundations of strong social value delivery through contract manager and supplier learning and development, tools, and evaluation (paras 2.50 – 2.52).

Details were given of the key performance indicators that the Council suppliers have delivered against on contracts procured and awarded between the implementation of the Social Value policy in December 2019 to May 2023. These included the number of people to benefit, training hours, tonnes of carbon saved and monetary values (and proxy values).

The total social and local economic value committed since the introduction of the Social Value policy showed significant increase from £13.6m (included in the last annual report to Cabinet in March), to £25.3m at the mid-year position (up to end of May 2023), a net increase of £11.8m or 87%. The total contract value attracting Social Value showed an increase from £106.86m in the annual report to £175.5m at mid-year, a net increase of £68.6m or 64%.

The report outlined that the use of Place, People and Corporate categories was procurement terminology to group similar types of expenditure:

- Rotherham Places covered construction, facilities management, environment, and transport.

- Rotherham People covered commissioned services for delivery to residents such as health and social care provision.
- Rotherham Corporate covered contracts that support the operational running of the Council (i.e. ICT, temporary labour, training, PPE).

Of the three categories, “places” had seen increases from £6.5m to £15.3m; with “people” achieving £1.9m increase from £6.6m to £8.5m and “corporate” achieving £1.1m from £461k to £1.6m.

It was reported that the policy was continuing to make an impact. This included 130 full-time equivalent hires on local contracts, with over 450 weeks of apprenticeships delivered and £276,000 worth of social value in assisting unemployed people into work. Almost £2 million has been spent in the local supply chain and over 1000 tonnes of CO2 had been saved, supporting the net zero target.

Details were given of the case studies which demonstrated the positive impact the policy had had on supporting people across the borough. It was noted that the Council had received its annual accreditation for the real living wage. Further work was underway with partners to support this initiative. It was further highlighted that the Council had been received the Public Sector Leadership awards in September for its work on social value.

The Chair invited questions from Board Members and a discussion on the following issues ensued:

- Clarification was sought on the percentage spend on construction-related activity. It was noted that the fluctuation was due to the spend of one-off grants at the start of projects. It was noted that 27% (down from 38% in 2021/22) of total construction spend went to Rotherham-based suppliers. Further work would be undertaken with partners to actively engage and support local suppliers to understand the Council's procurement and commissioning processes. It was anticipated that this activity would increase the use of local suppliers including those in construction.
- The focus on local businesses and companies being awarded more contracts was welcomed. Further details were requested on how local businesses, contractors and subcontractors applied social value principles in delivery and how this was monitored. In response, it was outlined that this was explicit in the contract and contract managers ask for evidence of compliance on a regular basis. It was noted that contracts could be terminated if social value conditions were not applied.

The Chair welcomed the case studies and the format of the report. She was assured that progress was being made and asked that future reports be submitted on an annual basis.

**Resolved:**

1. That the social value mid-year report be received.

**79. ADULT SOCIAL CARE MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW**

The Chair invited the Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and the Head of Safeguarding and Mental Health Services to introduce the report. It was noted that in February 2023, Cabinet approved a recommendation to review the Council's Adult Social Care Mental Health model which included a period of consultation with people with lived experience, their families and carers. The review was delayed due to the impact of the pandemic on adult social care. If approved by Cabinet, a staff consultation exercise would be undertaken.

The proposals outlined in the report were intended to enhance the benefits of continued joint working between health and social care whilst defining and developing the social care offer to best effect. Research and evidence supported that such approaches provided the best opportunities for personalised support to maximise recovery and independence. A recent policy paper published by the Department of Health and Social Care in 2022 focussed on shared outcomes through partner collaboration and set out how person-centred care should be central to reform.

Working with other relevant local organisations, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) was responsible for planning and delivering joined up health and care services to improve the lives of people in their area. The proposed model recognised the importance of continued commitment to partnership working and identified collaborative, co-located approaches.

It was outlined that the demographics of the borough were a key consideration in developing the proposed model. It was noted that Rotherham was one of the 20% most deprived authorities in England which impacted on the prevalence of mental health related needs.

Based on the outcome from the consultation, and collaboration with partners during the review period, a new personalised mental health pathway had been designed. The pathway focused on the person and set out the core component of the model to deliver the statutory social care duties. These included:

- A new information and guidance offer.
- Early Solutions (the adult social care front door and enablement offer).
- Care Act social care assessment.
- Mental Health Act duties.
- Crisis care and recovery.

The key change in the proposed model was an alignment of Council employed adult social care staff to deliver roles and responsibilities that met the requirements of the Care Act 2014, the Mental Health Act 1983, the Mental Health Capacity Act 2005, as well as associated statutory guidance and codes of practice. It was proposed that this would better balance the clinical and social models to provide a collaborative model of delivery which would further strengthen co-location and integration. Details were provided in the report of how this would be achieved. It was noted that the proposed changes would provide evidence for the Care Quality Commission.

The Chair invited questions and comments from Board Members and a discussion on the following issues ensued:

- The proposals outlined were welcomed. Clarification was sought about how people's mental health needs would be triaged to ensure that they were referred to the most appropriate service. Details were provided on the assessment process which was dependent on presenting need.
- It was noted that people with mental health often presented in crisis at accident and emergency departments. It was outlined that there was a liaison and diversion team located within the hospital that could work with individuals. Swallownest Court was identified as a place of safety. Work was also underway with South Yorkshire Police on the 'right care, right person' programme, to identify responsibilities and how health, social care and the ICB can work together.
- Further details were sought on the potential impact of the proposals on other services. There was a commitment across the partnership to ensure that prevention of unnecessary mental ill-health was a priority and people received the support they needed. It was noted that health partners and the voluntary sector were working collaboratively to design services to make sure the referral pathways aligned. It was clarified that the proposals redirected resources to the areas where it was believed they could have the most impact.
- Further details were provided on employment support to people in mental health crisis.
- Clarification was sought if there would be any changes to out-of-hours access. It was confirmed that the local authority would continue to respond in line with its statutory mental health and safeguarding duties.
- An example was given of "mental health ambulances" pilot, whereby a mental health professional was available with first responders. It was outlined that police officers were aware that it was not always appropriate for them to undertake mental health well-being checks. Work was underway with ICB colleagues to

identify which organisation was best to respond to those in crisis.

- Details were sought about access to services for non-Rotherham residents. It was outlined that if the individual was in extreme risk, they would receive appropriate services under the Mental Health Act and safeguarding provisions. The level of support would be dependent on their presenting need. It was highlighted that information would be shared with the individual's home authority or health care professional.

**Resolved:**

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

That Cabinet:

1. Note the proposals for a new Adult Social Care mental health model of provision for the Borough.
  2. Approve the development of a co-designed Council Mental Health Strategy for Rotherham, with the strategy being presented back to Cabinet for approval in 2025, prior to publication.
- 2) That an update be provided to OSMB (or nominated Select Commission) on the impact of the review, 12 months after its implementation.

**80. AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS ASSISTANCE POLICY**

The Chair invited the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to introduce the report. It was anticipated that the proposals would have a positive impact on the health and social care system. It provided a platform to access support and make significant changes, perhaps at speed, to enable people to have a higher quality of life.

It was outlined that aids and adaptations ranged from low-cost solutions such as grab rails to more complex and costly adaptations such as installation of level-access showers or in some instances, extensions. The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director of Housing and the Operational Manager - Housing Options to the meeting.

The current Aids and Adaptation Policy was adopted in April 2015. In July 2023, the Cabinet agreed to review the policy and put in place some temporary delegations to facilitate continued delivery of the service. The review took place between July and October 2023. In addition to considering the latest best practice, the review also compared access from residents living in different housing tenure, the most common types of adaptations needed and associated costs and budgets. Views and feedback from stakeholders, partners and service users were gathered.

Following the review's conclusion, it was recommended that a new Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy (attached as Appendix 1) be adopted,

alongside revised financial delegations. The proposed policy set out how the Council intended to exercise its powers under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order 2002 by consolidating the traditional assistance for aids and adaptations with a range of new discretionary grants.

Legislation required all local authorities to have a published document in place setting out the Council's policy on the local grant assistance related to aids and adaptations. The proposed policy therefore set out the types of assistance available to qualifying homeowners, Council tenants, private tenants and housing association tenants. The proposed policy supported disabled residents, older people, children and their families, with adaptations that supported independence whilst also enabling carers to continue to support residents safely. The policy included details of how to apply, eligibility and related conditions apply to the assistance available.

It was noted that funding for aids and adaptations was complex. For residents who are not council tenants, Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) were funded by the Government as part of the Better Care Fund. For council tenants, aids and adaptations were funded from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The Council's Housing and Social Care Services and the National Health Service (NHS) had responsibility for the delivery of integrated services and recognised the benefits of enabling people to stay in their homes wherever possible. The development of preventative services could help to avoid more costly interventions at a later stage. The review highlighted that the current policy did not fully reflect the principles of an integrated approach and could benefit from strong alignment with the better care priorities. The new policy included updated principles and objectives that reflected a collaborative, multi-agency approach to assess people especially in relation to high-cost adaptations, in order to ensure the most cost-effective solution met the needs of individuals, family and/or carer.

Further details were provided in the report on the following issues:

- Objectives and principles.
- Discretionary grants and means testing.
- Managing demand more effectively.
- Role of private and housing association landlords.
- Accessibility of the policy.
- DFG fees and charges.
- Making the best use of adapted council homes.
- Decision-making.

Under the Regulatory Reform Order 2002 (RRO) the Council had a general power to assist households with the improvement of living conditions and allowed for more flexibility in the use of DFGs. It was proposed that the Council adopted the new Policy under the RRO.

It was proposed that new discretionary grants would be introduced while maintaining and updating the existing top-up grant. The new grants would enhance the range and flexibility of grants on offer to residents across different housing tenure, while supporting wider objectives including avoiding costs in the social care and health systems. The grants would be subject to financial resources being available and could be withdrawn in circumstances of budgetary constraints. It was proposed that means testing for the new discretionary grants was not applied, with a lighter touch assessment of financial resources introduced to meet the qualifying conditions of the grant.

The Council was permitted to include costs incurred for necessary fees associated with the application process, including technical services and administration costs. It was outlined that a benchmarking exercise had established that most local authorities charge between 12% and 15%, with Rotherham charging a lower fee of 10%. It was proposed that there should be an increase to 15%, incorporated into the grant award to cover additional costs in relation to the delivery of the service.

The report outlined proposals for decision-making, with thresholds clarified for financial approval limits. It was noted that any decision above £250,000 would require an Officer Decision Notice. Delegation was also given to the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and Assistant Director of Housing to make minor changes to the policy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing. The policy would be reviewed annually, with significant changes reported to Cabinet for approval.

The Chair invited questions and comments from Board Members and a discussion on the following issues ensued:

- The proposals outlined in the report were welcomed. Clarification was sought about the number of applications from private tenants being significantly lower and the reasons behind this. In response, it was highlighted that it was assumed that private residents were not aware of this assistance being available. It was felt that means testing could act as a disincentive and there was evidence that some disabled people had withdrawn their application as they were reluctant to go through the means testing process.
- It was noted that work was underway with third sector organisations to publicise the change in policy should it be approved. A communications plan had also been developed.
- Clarification was sought on how private landlords could access the support for tenants and if adaptations would be made by approved contractors and inspected. It was confirmed that the Council would sign off any work.
- It was highlighted that officers had worked with Foundations Independent Living Trust to identify best practice and engage with stakeholders to identify what improvements could be made to the



policy and how these could be communicated.

- Assurance was sought that members would receive a briefing prior to the changes being made in April 2024 and following the Council elections for any newly elected councillors. It was confirmed that this would be actioned.
- Details were sought about how the expected rise in applications would be managed to ensure adaptations were made on a timely basis. It was anticipated that applications would be more straightforward to process. The proposal to increase the fees would cover staffing costs. Written details would be provided on staffing numbers. Discussions had also taken place with contractors.
- It was noted that Rotherfed Tenants' Scrutiny Panel undertook a review on aids and adaptations and if this had been referenced as part of the policy's development. It was outlined that all recommendations from their report had been accepted and actioned. It was confirmed that Rotherfed had been consulted on the proposals and if approved, would be involved in developing a customer friendly version.
- Clarification was sought on how the register of adapted properties would work in practice. It was noted that details of adaptations were available but there was not a separate register or the ability to make direct lets to people who required specific adaptations. It was outlined that moving to a dedicated register was a significant undertaking. This would require a change to the Housing Allocations Policy which would be subject to a separate review in 2024.
- Details were sought about how the policy compared with local and national best practice. It was outlined that benchmarking had taken place with other local authorities, and the learning applied to the policy proposals.

**Resolved:**

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

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the adoption of the new Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy (Appendix 1) and note the new scheme of delegation for authorising grants.
2. Approve the proposed increase in Disabled Facilities Grant fees from 10% to 15% in order to pay for additional administrative and technical services costs associated with the new Policy and note that the Council is permitted to include necessary and reasonable fees associated with Disabled Facilities Grant applications within the overall cost of the eligible works.
3. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Care

Housing and Public Health who can subdelegate to the Assistant Director of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to prioritise or withdraw discretionary assistance in accordance with the Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy and in line with the available budget.

4. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Care Housing and Public Health to make minor amendments to the Policy when the need is identified.
- 2) That an update be provided to OSMB (or nominated Select Commission) on the impact of the policy, 12 months after its implementation.

## **81. WORK PROGRAMME - MID YEAR UPDATE**

The Chair put on record her thanks to Katherine Harclerode for her work in supporting Health Select Commission and Improving Places Select Commission. She wished her well in her future career.

The Senior Governance Adviser introduced a report which provided the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) with an update on the scrutiny work programme and the progress of implementing the agreed recommendations from scrutiny reviews (from May 2022 to the present day).

The 2023/24 work programmes for each of the Select Commissions and OSMB were agreed at the June/July cycle of meetings early in the municipal year. The work programmes were attached as Appendix 1.

Details were provided of the criteria endorsed by OSMB to prioritise its scrutiny work programming and reviews. It was noted that individual work programmes were submitted to each Commission or Board meeting for comment and amendment and remained dynamic and responsive to items which may arise (for example referral of petitions or actions arising from Council Motions).

It was noted that 19 scrutiny meetings had been held since the start of the municipal year with over 50 separate items being considered across the Commissions and OSMB. Additional fact-finding meetings, reviews and workshops had also been held.

Details of reviews and project work were outlined. It should be noted that due to diary commitments, resource capacity and other priorities being identified, it had not been possible to complete work on all projects/reviews within the projected timescales. Members were asked to review programmed activity at this mid-point and prioritise work over the remaining municipal year as required.

It was outlined that all-out elections were to be held in May 2024, and to avoid 'legacy' reviews/issues being referred to new committees, scrutiny

work should ideally be concluded in advance of the pre-election period being called.

Consideration was also given to the progress of implementing accepted scrutiny review recommendations, noting that a tracker had been developed to capture the following information:

- Details of key information and dates (with hyperlinks to documents if hosted on the Council's website),
- What prompted the review (member request, call for action etc),
- Evidence of progress,
- Accountable directorate and/or external body
- Link to Council Plan theme.

It was noted that the tracker was reported on a quarterly basis to the Senior Leadership Team in order that progress was maintained on the implementation of agreed action and any delays mitigated an early stage. It was noted that of the reviews reported to Council, the majority of recommendations were substantially complete or ongoing. To date, all scrutiny recommendations considered by Cabinet have been accepted.

Members were asked to review progress made in implementing the recommendations from scrutiny reviews (as detailed in appendix 2) and determine if any further action was required.

The Chair invited comments and questions from Board Members:

- The Nature Recovery review was complete and was expected to report in early 2024.
- Improving Places Select Commission wish to undertake a spotlight review on household waste recycling centres and asked that this be prioritised.
- It would not be possible to prioritise the motion on road safety referred from Council in the current municipal year.
- Clarification was sought on the status of the bylaws and safety equipment. It was outlined that its progress had been delayed but it would be prioritised as part of the next work programme.
- It was noted that expert witnesses could be co-opted onto reviews as required.
- Activities undertaken by members of Improving Lives Select Commission were outlined. This included reviewing a draft strategy and responding to a Government consultation exercise on Elective Home Education.

**Resolved:**

1. That the report be noted.

2. That the work programmes (as detailed in Appendix 1) be noted and further prioritisation be undertaken.
3. That the progress made in implementing the recommendations from scrutiny reviews (as detailed in Appendix 2) be noted.

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

The Chair referred to the previous item which provided an update on work-in-progress.

**83. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 DECEMBER 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

The Board considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 December 2023 to 29 February 2024.

A request was made for the following items to be considered for pre-decision scrutiny by OSMB.

- Local Plan Sites and Policies – Five Year Review (January)
- Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (February)

A briefing was requested on the following issue:

- Overt CCTV Cameras

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

**84. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no call-in issues.

**85. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items.

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

**Resolved:** - That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held at 10am on Tuesday 16 January 2024 at Rotherham Town Hall.

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 22 January 2024

**Report Title**

Mid-Year Report on Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress for 2023-2024.

**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)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

In January 2022, the Council adopted a Council Plan for 2022-25 as well as a Year Ahead Delivery Plan for the period up to 31 March 2023.

The Council Plan was informed by public consultation and sets out the Council's vision for the Borough and priorities for serving residents and communities.

To enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve its commitments, a Year Ahead Delivery Plan was also developed, setting out the key activities to be delivered over the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan was updated for this financial year and approved by Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. It was agreed that there would be two monitoring reports published over the year and attached at Appendix 1 is the mid-year report for 2023-24 which is the first of the two planned reports.

This report focuses on the progress made on the activities in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan so far this year as well as the Council Plan performance measure data for Quarter 2 of the 2023-24 financial year.

## **Recommendations**

That Cabinet note:

1. The overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.
2. The Quarter 2 2022-23 data for the Council Plan performance measures.
3. The performance reporting timetable for the remainder of the 2023-2024 year.

## **List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 – Council Plan 2022-25 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan mid-year progress report

Appendix 2 – Equality Analysis

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment.

## **Background Papers**

Council Plan 2022-25 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan approved by Council in January 2022.

Council Plan Update considered in April 2023.

Council Plan 2022-25 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan annual report considered in July 2023.

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

None

## **Council Approval Required**

No

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

No

## **Mid-Year Report on Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress for 2023-2024**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Council Plan 2022-25 is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the Borough and priorities for serving residents and communities and is informed by public consultation. The Plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process, and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.
- 1.2 To enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve the commitments, the Plan includes a suite of performance measures and targets as well as a Year Ahead Delivery Plan which sets out the key activities to be delivered over this financial year.
- 1.3 The Council Plan 2022-25 was adopted by Council in January 2022. The Year Ahead Delivery Plan is being updated annually and the new Plan for 2023-24 was approved by Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- 1.4 The process for monitoring performance is set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework which explains how robust performance monitoring should be carried out.
- 1.5 To ensure that the delivery of actions and their impact is assessed, formal performance reports have been presented in public at Cabinet meetings throughout the year. Scrutiny have also considered the reports in line with the Council's normal processes.
- 1.6 Service plans have been produced for every Council service and these will be reviewed annually to ensure a 'golden thread' runs from the Council Plan through to each service as well as the Personal Development Review (PDR) process at individual officer level.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Informed by a programme of public and stakeholder engagement, the Council Plan sets out medium-term priorities and actions, building on and taking forward commitments made by Councillors to the Rotherham community. The Plan is framed around five themes:
  - Every neighbourhood thriving
  - People are safe, healthy, and live well
  - Every child able to fulfil their potential
  - Expanding economic opportunity
  - A cleaner, greener local environment.
- 2.2 These five themes are underpinned by a cross-cutting strand - 'One Council' - which sets out how the Council will operate to achieve the vision.

- 2.3 The Council Plan sets out the outcomes that the Council will work towards over the period from 2022 to 2025. There are 26 outcomes and 47 commitments in total.
- 2.4 To ensure delivery against these, the Year Ahead Delivery Plan includes 98 priority actions/milestones to mostly be delivered by March 2024.
- 2.5 The Council Plan is being monitored through both the delivery of the milestones and activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and the 68 performance measures outlined in the Council Plan. The performance measures include a mixture of output measures and longer-term outcome measures.
- 2.6 The mid-year progress report (Appendix 1) focuses on the progress made across all the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities to deliver the five headline priorities for Rotherham as set out in the Council Plan for 2022-25. The Report has been designed to ensure that progress on the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities is as up to date as possible up to the time of publication, so key milestone completion dates that fall between the end of September 2023 and the Cabinet meeting in January 2024 are updated where possible.
- 2.7 The targets for Council Plan performance measures relate to the financial year 2022-23 and are reported here for Quarter 2 (July 2023 to September 2023). Appendix 1 includes full details of performance against these measures.
- 2.8 The mid-year progress report (Appendix 1) includes a high-level overview overall and is then presented by Council Plan theme, with each thematic section including achievements and challenges, Year Ahead Delivery Plan trackers and performance scorecards. The Report also includes wider information, key facts and intelligence, specific case studies and a timeline of key achievements/activities to demonstrate activity during the quarter.
- 2.9 The Year Ahead Delivery Plan milestone trackers (included in Appendix 1) outline progress against the 98 actions within the Year Ahead Plan. Each action has been rated as follows:

Status	Definition
Not yet due to start	Action not yet scheduled to start.
On track	Action started and on track to be delivered by the original deadline.
Known delays	Action has some risk/delay to delivery or is behind the original schedule by less than three months.
Will not be met	Action will not be/has not been met within three months of the original target date.
Complete	The action is fully complete and/or operational.



2.10 As of 30 November 2023, the activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan are rated as follows:

- 33% (32) complete
- 49% (48) are on track to be delivered by original target date
- 10% (10) are delayed by less than 3 months
- 8% (8) will not be met within 3 months of original target date.

2.11 The performance scorecards included in Appendix 1 provide an analysis of the Council's performance against each of the 66 performance measures and each are given equal priority.

2.12 Each of the measures are rated as follows:

Status	Definition
✓	Performance is on or above target.
●	Currently performance is not at expected levels. Confidence that the target will still be achieved by year-end.
✗	Performance is not currently on target. High risk that year-end target will not be achieved.
△	Target cannot be assessed this quarter (ie annual measure or awaiting publication of data)
①	Information measure targets not applicable (ie volume/demand measures where 'good' is neither high or low)

Direction of travel	Definition
↑	Performance or numbers have improved.
→	Performance maintained or numbers are the same.
↓	Performance or numbers have declined.
◆	Quarterly direction of travel not applicable.

2.13 For quarter 2, the status of the performance measures is set out below, along with the direction of travel for each:

**Progress against targets**

		Number of measures	% of measures
✓	Performance is on or above target	31	45%
●	Currently performance is not at expected levels. Confidence that the target will be achieved by year-end.	4	6%
✗	Performance is not currently on target. High risk that year-end target will not be achieved.	21	31%
<b>Unable to be assessed this quarter</b>			
△	Target cannot be assessed this quarter. (ie Annual measure or awaiting publication of data).	7	11%
ⓘ	Information measure targets not applicable. (ie Volume / Demand measures where 'good' is neither high or low).	5	7%

**Direction of travel**

		Number of measures	% of measures
↑	Performance or numbers have improved.	34	50%
→	Performance maintained or numbers are the same.	4	6%
↓	Performance or numbers have declined.	18	26%
<b>Unable to be assessed and reported this quarter</b>			
◆	Direction of travel not applicable	12	18%

- 2.14 Performance and progress will continue to be reviewed within directorates and reported publicly to ensure that the Council's direction of travel remains positive. As agreed at Cabinet on 24 April 2023, there are two monitoring reports for 2023-24 of which this is the first. The second and final progress report for the year will be reported to Cabinet in July 2024 and will cover Q4 and year-end performance.

**3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 The Council Plan 2022-25 was developed in consultation with Cabinet Members and officers across all directorates, as well as being informed by public consultation. This Report forms part of the Council's commitment to public reporting on its progress.

- 3.2 It is recommended that Cabinet note the overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities. It is also recommended that Cabinet note the performance to 30 September 2023 for the Council Plan performance measures and note the performance reporting proposal for 2023-2024 contained at paragraph 2.14.

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

- 4.1 A programme of public consultation and engagement to support the development of the Council Plan took place throughout August and September 2021. This included online and postal surveys, focus groups, a series of short interactions and engagement at the Rotherham Show. There were 350 online and postal surveys returned and over 1,000 other interactions in total across all methods of engagement.
- 4.2 In addition to the public consultation, engagement took place with key stakeholders, including work with Cabinet members and officers across all directorates, a session with OSMB and a session that was open to all elected members.
- 4.3 The consultation is part of an ongoing dialogue between the Council and members of the public. Feedback continues to be sought on the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities, Rotherham Partnership Plan and the refresh of the Equalities Strategy.

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

- 5.1 It is proposed in paragraph 2.14 above that one further progress report on the 2023-24 Year Ahead Delivery Plan is presented to Cabinet in July 2024.

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

- 6.1 The Council Plan and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan are designed to help steer the use of Council finances, balanced against the wider funding backdrop for the Council and the broader context of national local government finance and policy. There are no direct financial implications as a result of this Report and the delivery of the Council Plan will be managed within the Council's available budgets.
- 6.2 The Council operates in a constantly changing environment. It will be important to ensure that ambitions and performance targets remain realistic in the context of central government policy, forthcoming legislation, and the financial position of the Authority.
- 6.3 Whilst there are no direct procurement implications in this report the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan includes some activities which require the need to procure goods, services or works to achieve their outcomes. All projects will need be procured in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement

Procedure Rules, giving clear consideration and application of social value, the Real Living Wage and other ethical factors.

- 6.4 Appendix 1 includes information regarding the Council's financial position, and this has been aligned to the financial reporting timelines.

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

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

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

- 8.1 There are no direct Human Resources (HR) implications as a result of this Report, though the contribution HR makes to an engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customers is set out within the 'One Council' theme. Delivery of the Council Plan will also be underpinned by the implementation of a new Workforce Plan which was launched in June 2022.

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

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

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

- 10.1 Equalities is cross cutting throughout the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan.
- 10.2 Of the five guiding principles, two specifically aim to meet residents' and communities' differentiated needs:
- Expanding opportunities for all
  - Working with our communities
- 10.3 'Expanding opportunities for all' encompasses the Council's essential priority to tackle inequality, striving to ensure that the health and life chances of the most disadvantaged communities are improving the fastest. To complement this approach, 'working with our communities' ensures that to achieve the best outcomes for local people, residents are involved in the things that matter to them and services are designed based on input from those who use them.

10.4 There is also an outcome focussed on addressing inequalities and leaving no one behind within the 'people are safe, healthy and live well' theme. This will involve providing support to our communities at a level that is proportionate to the degree of need – taking a universal approach where appropriate whilst also providing targeted support to those who most need it.

10.5 In addition, the underlying 'One Council' theme encompasses two specific areas which ensure different needs are met:

- Effective customer services
- Engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customers

10.6 The Council's commitment to place all customers at the heart of service delivery includes a strengthened approach to equalities and being inclusive. The commitment to an engaged, diverse and skilled workforce is expected to improve the council's response to diverse customer needs, by bringing a more differentiated understanding of equality and diversity considerations and barriers.

10.7 A detailed Equality Analysis is attached (Appendix 2).

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

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

11.2 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been produced based on the Year Ahead Delivery Plan (see Appendix 3). The impact assessment will continue to be reviewed and updated each quarter.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

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

12.2 Following the refresh of the Rotherham Together Plan, which was formally launched in January 2023, a showcase event celebrating the achievements of the Partnership took place in September 2023. The Rotherham Together Plan links to the Council Plan and is included in the milestones under theme 6 "One Council".

### 13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The Corporate Strategic Risk Register is aligned to the Council Plan themes and the process of identifying and mitigating strategic risks is clearly linked to the Plan.
- 13.2 Progress reports will continue to note risks associated with actions at risk of not being delivered, or those that have missed the deadline, as well as performance measures which have not progressed in accordance with the target set.
- 13.3 Directorates are also responsible for ensuring that any significant risks are addressed via directorate and corporate risk registers.

### 14. Accountable Officers

Simon Dennis, Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager  
 Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate  
[Simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk)

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	08/01/24
Strategic Director, Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	21/12/23
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	03/01/24

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

# COUNCIL PLAN 2022/25 AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN

## Mid Year Progress Report

Period: Quarter 2 performance data and progress  
on the Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2023/24



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

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The [Council Plan](#) is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. The Plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.

Four guiding principles run through the Plan, informing the Council's way of working and helping to achieve better outcomes:

## **Expanding opportunities for all**

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

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

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

## **Working with our communities**

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

## **Focussing on prevention**

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

# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Informed by a programme of public and stakeholder engagement, the Council Plan is framed around five themes:**



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

To ensure delivery of the Council Plan, an annual [Year Ahead Delivery Plan](#) ran until March 2023 and a reviewed and updated Plan has been approved for the financial year from 1 April 2023. There will be a further review and update of the Plan for the 2024/25 financial year to cover the final year of the Council Plan.

This is the sixth quarterly progress report to Cabinet.

The report focuses on progress made in delivering the 98 priority actions/ milestones contained within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and the 68 headline performance measures that best demonstrate progress in achieving the 26 key outcomes. It also brings together wider information, key facts and intelligence to explain how the Council is working and performing, including timelines and case studies to demonstrate the impact on residents and communities.










Through directorate and service-level business plans the Council carries out wider work to measure performance and quality. This report is intended to provide an overview of the contribution that the Council makes across all its activities to improving Rotherham as a place to live, work and spend time.

## 2. STATUS DEFINITIONS

### Year Ahead Delivery Plan definitions

<b>Not yet due to start</b>	Action not yet scheduled to start.
<b>On track</b>	Action started and on track to be delivered by the original deadline.
<b>Known delays</b>	Action has some risk/delay to delivery or is behind the original schedule by less than three months.
<b>Will not be met</b>	Action will not be/has not been met within three months of the original target date.
<b>Complete</b>	The action is fully complete and/or operational.

### Performance measure definitions

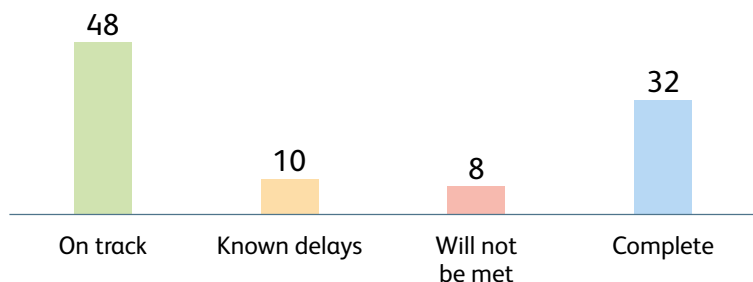
	Performance is on or above target		Performance or numbers have improved.
	Currently performance is not at expected levels. Confidence that the target will be achieved by year-end.		Performance maintained or numbers are the same.
	Performance is not currently on target. High risk that year-end target will not be achieved.		Performance or numbers have declined.
	Target can not be assessed this quarter. (ie Annual measure or awaiting publication of data).		Quarterly direction of travel not applicable.
	Information measure targets not applicable. (ie Volume / Demand measures where 'good' is neither high or low).		

# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

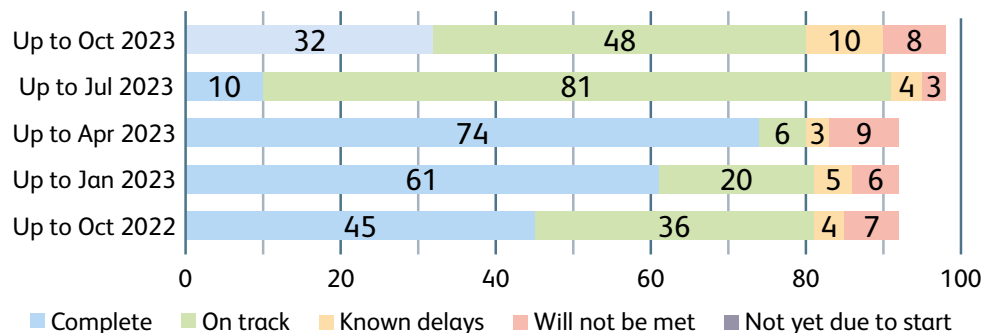
The diagrams below provide details of the overall status in relation to the Council Plan performance measures (where data is available or where targets have been set) and Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/milestones.

## YEAR AHEAD PLAN ACTIONS/MILESTONES

Year Ahead Delivery Plan Actions Status

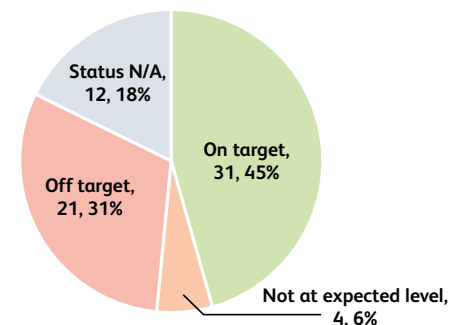


Year Ahead Delivery Plan Trend  
(in comparison to last reports)

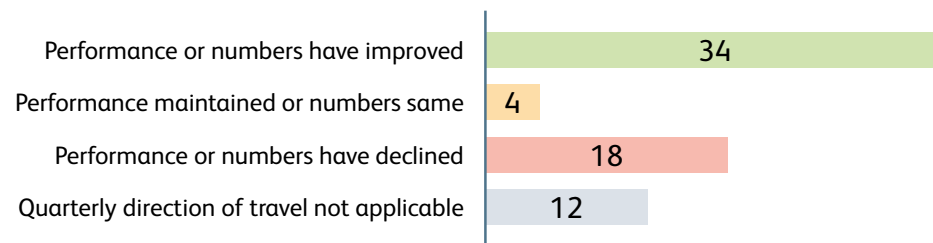


## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance Measures Status



Performance Measures Direction of Travel



Of the 18 measures with a downward trajectory, 7 are still on or above the target set, 2 are not at expected levels and 9 are off target. Services are reviewing mitigations to improve performance. (The overall totals in the diagrams may differ because the direction of travel is not applicable for all measures)

# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Achievements

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(complete or on target)*



25 ward plans produced and published informed by local communities.

Rotherham Show took place on the 2 and 3 September 2023, attracting an estimated audience of 88,918.



Ten projects within Round 1 of the Towns and Villages Fund programme have been delivered as part of the £4 million programme to restore pride in the borough's towns and villages.

Staff e-learning module launched to help embed a strength based-working approach across the Council's workforce.



#### Performance measures *(on target and improving)*



Satisfaction with the borough and local area as a place to live has improved (Resident Satisfaction in June 2023) – 65 % very or fairly satisfied with the borough (57 % in 2022) and 82 % very or fairly satisfied with their local area (76 % in 2022) *(higher is better)*.

65.2 % of the local 'unclassified' road network is classed as 'green status' (do not require repair), against a year-end target of 60 % *(higher is better)*.



Perceptions of feeling safe outside during the day and at night have improved (Resident Satisfaction in June 2023) – 92 % of those surveyed feel safe during the day (87 % in 2022) and 62 % feel safe at night (56 % in 2022) *(higher is better)*.

98 % of customers are satisfied with culture, sport and tourism services *(higher is better)*.



# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES CONTINUED

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Challenges

#### Performance measures *(off target and worsening)*



49 % of people thought anti-social behaviour is a big problem in their area when surveyed during Quarter 2 *(lower is better)*.



8.0 % positive outcomes for hate crime investigations in Quarter 2 (7.7 % year to date), against a year-end target of 20 % *(higher is better)*. On-going discussions are taking place with South Yorkshire Police and more detailed performance narrative is monitored via the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Achievements

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(complete or on target)*



'Say Yes' campaign, a new public health improvement and prevention campaign providing advice on areas such as smoking, tobacco control, food and physical activity launched June 2023 on social media and on RotherHive.

Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) specifically for Mental Health developed and approved in October 2023, to procure a range of services for people living with mental ill-health to be supported to live in their community.



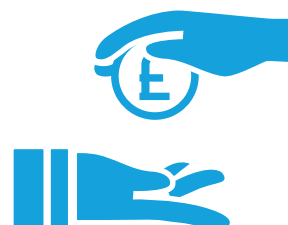
Remaining homes in the programme of 237 enabled homes across the Chesterhill/Whinney Hill development sites completed in October 2023..

#### Performance measures *(on target and improving)*



The proportion of council housing stock that meets the "Decent Homes" standard is 99.98 %, against a target of 100 % *(higher is better)* and up from 99.95 % in Quarter 1.

68 % engagement rate with Domestic Abuse services in Quarter 2, against a target of 60 % *(higher is better)*, and up from 67 % in Quarter 1.



Proportion of new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support dealt with within 14 days of receipt of all necessary information was 98.93 % against a target of 90 % *(higher is better)*, an improvement from 97.44 % at the same period the previous year.

# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES CONTINUED

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Challenges

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(delayed)*



Three schemes in delivery on the Council's commitment to build 1,000 new homes through the Housing Growth Programme are off track. Delivery Programme currently being refined.

#### Performance measures *(off target and worsening)*



Number of households in temporary accommodation (both temporary accommodation and hotels) was 161 in Quarter 2, against a target of 130 (*lower is better*) and compared to 141 in Quarter 1.



# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL – ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Achievements

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(complete or on target)*



The Rotherham Relationships Charter was launched in April 2023, in partnership with multiple agencies. The charter is designed to engage and support agencies in thinking about parental conflict in day-to-day practice



An online resource for families to access support in relation to their emotional health and wellbeing was launched in August 2023.

Signoff from the Department for Education was obtained for the Council's Written Statement of Action in June 2023. This was developed to address the findings from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities inspection undertaken in 2021.



All 35 actions set out in our Youth Justice Action Plan have been completed. The action plan was developed to address the findings from a peer review of the Youth Justice Service in March 2022.



Continued work with children and young people to co-design the Children's Capital of Culture 2025 programme, including the delivery of delivered UPLIFT: Rotherham Skate and Arts Festival, WoW Festival, and community festivals. *(Links to Every Neighbourhood Thriving Theme).*

# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL – ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES CONTINUED

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Achievements

#### Performance measures *(On target and improving)*



The number of Children in Need (rate per 10K population 0 to 17 as per DfE population) has decreased to 334.2 (*lower is better*), which is below the year-end target of 375.5 and is below the latest statistical neighbour's average of 431.5.

The proportion of social care re-referrals in 12 months is 22.0% (*lower is better*) for this year to date, which is on target for the year-end target of 22.0%.



The number of children with a Child Protection plan (rate per 10K population 0 to 17) has decreased to 69.6 (*lower is better*), which is below the year-end target of 85.0.



The number of children in care (rate per 10k population 0 to 17) has reduced to 91.8 (*lower is better*), which is below the year-end target of 95.2.

655 additional universal youth work sessions have already been delivered as of the end of Quarter 2, which is 82% of the year-end target of 800 sessions.



# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL – ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES CONTINUED

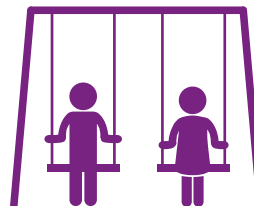
This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Challenges

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(delayed)*



The development of new residential homes to enable looked-after children and young people in Rotherham to remain in the borough has experienced delays due to registrations and challenges with access permissions to the properties. All four two-bedroom homes are still due to open by Quarter 4.



The £100,000 Play Area replacement programme is delayed. This is due to delays within the construction pipeline. All projects will now be delivered by the end of Quarter 4, ready for the new summer season.

# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Achievements

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(complete or on target)*



Small grants scheme for businesses is up and running, with £11,447 awarded to five projects and four further applications in development.

Initial construction work begun on the markets and library redevelopment in the town centre in September 2023.



Output target for the Advance (in-work support) project have now been achieved, ahead of schedule, with a total of 384 people assisted.

Further funding secured to ensure continuation of Pathways and Inspire projects, with 108 people helped into employment and 94 into training since April 2023.



#### Performance measures *(On target and improving)*



50,054 engagements with libraries' services which help people learn, acquire new skills or get a job, against a target of 80,000 by year end *(higher is better)*.

# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES CONTINUED

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

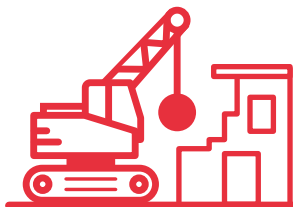
### Challenges

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(delayed)*



Construction works on Riverside Gardens delayed following procurement exercise and the need to extend the design period. Revised date Quarter 1 2024/25, instead of Quarter 3 2023/24.

Demolish existing Swinton Library building, move the library and neighbourhood hub to the redeveloped Customer Service Centre; refurbish the Civic Hall - Civic Hall refurbishment complete and practical completion of the new library is anticipated by Quarter 4. However, demolition of the old library is likely to happen post 2023/24. The original target date was Quarter 3.



#### Performance measures *(off target and worsening)*



74.2 % of Rotherham's working age population is economically active. In comparison, Yorkshire & Humber and Great Britain are at 77.2 % and 78.4 % respectively *(higher is better)*.

# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT – ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Achievements

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(complete or on target)*



New IT system (Confirm) launched in June 2023, to improve the cleanliness of the borough by providing better performance monitoring, as well as maximising resources and improving how the public report and receive feedback on local issues.

Three Transforming Cities Fund Active Travel Fund programme actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan are now complete, including construction of the Sheffield Road Cycleway has commenced; construction of the Moor Road Manvers cycle route is complete; construction of the A.631 Maltby bus corridor has commenced.



#### Performance Measures *(on target and improving)*



52.4% of Council housing had an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated C and above in Quarter 2, against a Council Plan target of 50% *(higher is better)*. The year-to-date figure is also above the target at 51.9%.

# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT – ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES CONTINUED

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Challenges

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(delayed)*



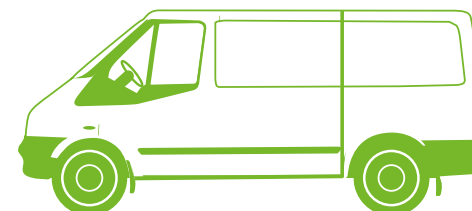
The structural repair of the Council funded Centenary Way Viaduct remedial works scheme is delayed until Quarter 3 2024/25 due to traffic management implications of the construction and alignment with the completion of the Sheffield Road cycle route and the works on the M1.

#### Performance Measures *(off target and worsening)*



The proportion of waste sent for reuse decreased in Quarter 2, at 43.7 % against a target 45 % (*higher is better*). Data currently includes kerbside recycling only. Other recycling statistics are three months in arrears and will be included in future reports. A communications campaign was held in October 2023 to inform residents about what can and can't be recycled to improve recycling rates and prevent contamination.

Overall carbon dioxide emission levels for the Council (Corporate fleet, grey fleet, EV charging infrastructure) for 2022/23 shows an increase of 3.23 %, against an 18 % reduction target. There are a number of programmes ongoing which will result in a significant reduction in greenhouse emissions from the Council's fleet, however it is unlikely that the revised 10 % reduction target for 2023/24 will be achieved. This is an annual measure and data for 2023/24 will not be available until Quarter 2 2024/25.



# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## ONE COUNCIL - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Achievements

#### Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities *(complete or on track)*



Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge took place in June 2023 to review the capacity, governance, leadership, and finances of the Council, as well as its capacity to deliver its ambition. Action Plan agreed by Cabinet in September 2023 and a follow up visit is planned for December 2023.

New management development programme launched and managers able to express an interest in attending.



2023 employee opinion survey launched in November which will run until mid-December.

#### Performance measures *(on target and improving)*



50 % of Rotherham respondents in 2023 said that the Council keeps residents 'very well' or 'fairly well' informed. This is an increase from 48 % last year and achieves the 50 % target.

51 % of residents think that the Council acts on their concerns. This is the joint highest response across all surveys and similar to the national average of 52 %.

There was an increase of 9 % in satisfaction levels between 2022 and 2023 and the figure exceeds the current target of 48 % *(higher is better)*.



Average customer wait time to corporate contact centre was 2 minutes 31 seconds in Quarter 2 *(lower is better)*. This is compared to a target of six minutes and is the third quarter in a row where the target has been exceeded and performance has improved.



# 3. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

## ONE COUNCIL - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES CONTINUED

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to both the performance measures and the actions/ milestones within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

### Challenges

#### Performance measures *(off target and worsening)*



Proportion of business rates collected in the current financial year compared with other Met councils has fallen from 56.3 % in Quarter 2 of 2022/23 to 52.90 % in Quarter 2 of 2023/24 (*higher is better*). The introduction of a number of different reliefs for Business Rates has affected each council differently based on the makeup of their business rates portfolio. Some councils in 2022/23 seeing large increases in collection rates and some with large reductions. Collection rates are down on last year while recovery notices issued are up, which may be because of the increase in the cost-of-living.

Number of working days lost to sickness per full time equivalent post has increased from 12.51 days in Quarter 1 to 12.63 days in Quarter 2, against a target of 10.3 days (*lower is better*). Sickness absence levels have been decreasing consistently however, there has been a slight increase in the most recent quarter. Absence management clinics continue and sickness absence information is shared to enable effective management.



Proportion of complaints closed within timescales is currently at 84 % compared to a target of 85 % (*higher is better*) following a drop in performance in Quarter 2, in comparison to Quarter 1 2023/24 and Quarter 2 2022/23. The year-to-date figure is only slightly off the 85 % target.



## 4. FINANCE UPDATE

The table below provides details on some of the key areas of the Council's budget 2023/24, indicating how the Council intends to spend its budget against its six core themes.

Themes	Commentary on financial performance of key areas of the budget
EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING	At a local level, villages and town sites are being improved with investment that has started and some now complete in local communities from the Towns and Villages fund.
	Investment continues to enhance library sites. Works have now been completed at Thurcroft library.
	Ward Member engagement approach is being developed, via Neighbourhoods Team, to capture local hot-spot areas for nuisance pavement parking and ensure that they meet the scope for inclusion. A procedure for identification of potential sites is to be introduced prior to further engagement on potential schemes beginning Quarter 3 this year as part of our Local Engagement process.

## 4. FINANCE UPDATE

The table below provides details on some of the key areas of the Council's budget 2023/24, indicating how the Council intends to spend its budget against its six core themes.

### PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY & LIVE WELL

The new Alcohol and Drug Services contract started in April 2023.

Additional government funding of £5,195k has been provided in 2023/24 as part of a market sustainability and fair cost of care review to support care providers.

Continuing to invest in capacity to meet the challenges of the two-hour hospital discharge process post Covid and working on a 'discharge to assess' model. In addition, invested £2,030k of new government funding to reduce the length of time people remain in hospital when they are medically fit to be discharged.

Housing Growth – The Council is continuing to develop new homes and acquire properties to increase the supply of affordable homes. This is supported by the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. Work is ongoing to update the investment needed based on price increases and refreshed timescales. To date over 500 homes have been added to the Council home portfolio.

Temporary accommodation is a cost pressure for the Housing Service (est. £0.850m 2023/24). A new homelessness strategy is being drawn up that will ensure the right mix of homes and that optimises processes.

The Energy Crisis Support scheme has been extended using the Covid Recovery Fund and Household Support Fund. This will provide a cash grant of £250 to households that are struggling to meet the cost of their energy bills during 2023/24.

CCTV investment has provided operational resources to improve the CCTV service with increased capacity for capturing offences and offenders.

Additional operational resources have been applied in the Planning Service to achieve better enforcement outcomes.

## 4. FINANCE UPDATE

The table below provides details on some of the key areas of the Council's budget 2023/24, indicating how the Council intends to spend its budget against its six core themes.

### EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

The creation of in-house residential homes has continued in 2023/24 with three 'phase three' two bed homes originally scheduled to open in June 2023 and September 2023. The programme has slipped due to property issues, but the directorate is progressing with implementation plans to make these properties operational across the 2023/24 financial year.

The Children and Young People's Services placement budget is £34.5m and is determined based on the number of children supported across the different placement types throughout the year and their unit costs. The overall budget is based on reducing children in care numbers from 565 to 547. The current number is 512 (37 below the budget profile), with transformation work ongoing to achieve the placement profile and reduce costs. Currently the placement budget is £4.8m overspend due to demand for residential placements, the pressures in the external provider market to procure fostering and residential placements and the in-house residential homes being behind schedule are major factors.

Supporting early intervention through continued corporate investment in the Early Help Family Group Conference service and an increase in Supporting Families funding from £1.3m to £1.6m, alongside new Start for Life & Family Hub monies of circa £3.4m over three years to 2024/25.

The Safety Valve Programme/Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan sets out a number of key actions to enable Rotherham to provide education through its annual DSG allocation and as a consequence receive Safety Valve funding to remove the historical DSG deficit. The Management Plan will support service transformation, enable creation of cost-effective education settings in the district through High Needs Capital and support inclusive schools across the district. The DSG Deficit reduced to £5.9m at the end of 2022/23 and is estimated to reduce to £3.4m at the end of 2023/24.

Home to School transport has demand pressures linked to growth in Education Health Care plans (EHCPs). Joint work between Regeneration and Environment and Children and Young People's Services is ongoing to maximise transport efficiencies and dampen cost pressures. There are several strands to this work, reviewing all the single person journeys, assessment of eligibility to transport, governance process and reviewing policies.

## 4. FINANCE UPDATE

The table below provides details on some of the key areas of the Council's budget 2023/24, indicating how the Council intends to spend its budget against its six core themes.

<b>EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY</b>	Capital investment in the borough progresses, supported by the Future High Streets Fund, Levelling Up Fund and Towns Deal with matched Council capital resources. This investment will result in a reshaped town centre and changes in local towns, villages, and country parks. A number of strategic acquisitions have been made in the town centre as part of this programme. The agreement with Muse to develop Forge Island has been signed and works are well underway.
	Transport infrastructure investment continues, including the Parkway Widening scheme, which has been completed and highways maintenance through the £24m 2024 Roads programme.
	Jobs and skills investment is progressing with the building of the Century 2 business centre. The new facility opened in November 2023.
<b>A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	Additional revenue investment to improve the environment has benefitted grounds maintenance, street cleansing, wildflower seeding and tree planting.
	Further recognition of the climate emergency is evidenced through an enhanced team dedicated to this area and investment in carbon reduction programmes.
<b>ONE COUNCIL</b>	The Council receives in excess of 200,000 calls a year into its main contact centre. Additional revenue investment to reduce call waiting times and to improve and modernise the way that members of the public can contact the Council will improve the customer experience and provide better value. Ongoing investment in digital technologies will ensure that the Council functions efficiently, effectively, and sustainably.

## 4. FINANCE UPDATE

### 2023/24 REVENUE BUDGET INVESTMENTS TRACKING

The table below provides a progress update on the 2023/24 revenue budget investments approved via Council in March 2023, as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2023/24. Whilst these are in the main permanent investments, it is vital that the Council can demonstrate progress on these member priorities.

Investment Reference	Revenue Budget Investment	2023/24 Investment	Expenditure to date	% Spent To Date	Current Forecast Outturn	Variance	Update Commentary
<b>Every Child able to Fulfil their Potential</b>							
23/24 R&E4	Independent Travel Training – Home to School Transport	85	22	26 %	39	-46	A round of recruitment has been completed with two of the three posts successfully filled. A further round of recruitment is required for the post yet to be filled. The service has a plan in place to roll out delivery which commences with the relevant training and accreditation for the new staff.
<b>Expanding Economic Opportunity</b>							
23/24 R&E1	Rotherham Markets Redevelopment - Trader Incentives	167	167	100 %	167	0	100 % of traders have now accepted the new leases which allows the Council to apply the rent concession. Consequently, all traders are on the discounted rent from 1 July 2023.

## 4. FINANCE UPDATE

Investment Reference	Revenue Budget Investment	2023/24 Investment	Expenditure to date	% Spent To Date	Current Forecast Outturn	Variance	Update Commentary
<b>A Cleaner, Greener Local Environment</b>							
23/24 R&E2	Household Waste Recycling Centres	188	17	9%	90	-98	The new contract commenced in October 2023. As the contract is under the maximum budget set this will allow the Council to accelerate its activities around supporting the in-sourcing process and will lead to a review of the existing establishment.
23/24 R&E3	Narrow Access Vehicle Resource Requirements	63	8	13%	40	-23	Prioritisation was given to the implementation of investments relating to the Household Waste Recycling Centres, due to the contractual timeline. Due to the anticipated delay therefore with this project, the service has progressed the leasing of a vehicle whilst the specification is finalised, and lead times confirmed for the delivery of the new vehicles. Recruitment of both the driver and loader is now confirmed.
23/24 R&E5	Commercial Waste Recycling Service	70	22	31%	40	-30	An officer has been recruited. Still need to recruit an additional driver and loader to expand the service.

## 4. FINANCE UPDATE

Investment Reference	Revenue Budget Investment	2023/24 Investment	Expenditure to date	% Spent To Date	Current Forecast Outturn	Variance	Update Commentary
<b>One Council</b>							
22/23 FCS1	Additional Call Handling	133	78	59%	133	0	All posts currently filled, helping to control call waiting times in Customer Services Contact Centre.
22/23 FCS2	Customer and Digital	118	76	64%	120	2	Three officers are in post and activity is being undertaken to deliver digital solutions that will deliver a Customer Service model that provides high quality services in a modern, efficient, and joined up way so that all customers, regardless of circumstance, have access to the services they need and receive a consistently positive experience.
<b>Total Investment Proposals</b>		<b>824</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>-195</b>	



# 5. TIMELINE OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## April to October 2023

Every neighbourhood thriving		People are safe, healthy and live well		Every child able to fulfil their potential		Expanding economic opportunity		A cleaner, greener local environment		One Council			
<p>Funding secured to deliver safety improvements in the town centre which will help reduce levels of violence and crime. This includes new lighting, CCTV and communications upgrades.</p> <p>Drop-in sessions for residents to have their say on the new Thurcroft Library held.</p> <p>12,000 families supported with supermarket vouchers to help with the cost of food for their children over the Easter school holidays.</p> <p>National Offer Day (primary school): 99 % of children offered one of their preferred school choices.</p>		<p>Work on Sheffield Road cycleways scheme began.</p> <p>Official opening of new Employment Solutions Hub, with the aim of providing resources and support for people in search of work or training opportunities.</p> <p>Liberty House, a short breaks children’s home, rated Outstanding for the third time in a row by Ofsted.</p> <p>First nuisance pavement parking scheme approved for programme entry.</p> <p>Open Arms Community Support Hub launched, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity and delivered in partnership to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Support available includes money management and energy advice, as well as digital skills support.</p>		<p>25 ward plans produced and published informed by local communities.</p> <p>Annual Resident Satisfaction Survey conducted (seven of the Council Plan performance measures had improved when compared to 2022).</p> <p>WOW Rotherham returned a festival celebration of women, girls and non-binary communities, connecting Rotherham to other women and girls across the globe with an estimated of 3,000 attendees.</p> <p>The High Street in Rawmarsh East ward benefited from new planting and public realm as part of the Council’s Towns and Villages fund.</p>		<p>Rosegarth shopping parade in Aston benefitted from improvements as part of the Rotherham Council’s Towns and Villages Fund.</p> <p>Launch of first ever television advert to encourage more local people to become foster carers.</p> <p>Work started on development of ten new affordable, energy saving homes in East Herringthorpe as part of the Council’s ambitious housing development programme.</p>		<p>Yorkshire Day celebrations and a month of weekend activity attracting an audience of 4,831.</p> <p>Event held to celebrate the opening of the newly refurbished Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and play area, on Laudsdale Road in East Herringthorpe.</p> <p>Improvements made to the land outside Kimberworth Library and Neighbourhood Hub as part of Rotherham Council’s Towns and Villages Fund.</p>		<p>Rotherham Show took place on 2 &amp; 3 September 2023 attracting an estimated audience of 88,918.</p> <p>Towns and Villages Fund scheme completed at Manor Farm, Rawmarsh West, improving a local shopping parade.</p> <p>Forest View opened – a new school to support additional SEND provision for local children and young people, which is being delivered by Nexus Multi Academy Trust.</p> <p>Fostering Rotherham launched a new partnership with Rotherham United to raise the profile of fostering in the borough.</p> <p>Initial construction started on markets and library redevelopment.</p> <p>Funding secured from UKSPF to continue key employment and skills projects.</p> <p>LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report and Action Plan published.</p>		<p>People invited to attend public information events on Dinnington town centre and Wath town centre.</p> <p>Cabinet approved plans to build 74 new council homes across the borough (31 Eastwood and 43 Maltby).</p> <p>£500 grant made available for residents whose properties were flooded in storm Babet.</p>	
APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
<p>Second UPLIFT Skate and Arts Festival held in the town centre on 5 to 7 April. The event included opportunities for young people to take part in roller skating, skateboarding, BMX and creative workshops.</p> <p>Rotherham Loves Writing Competition, started in partnership with the Children’s Capital of Culture and Wentworth Woodhouse.</p> <p>Revamped air pavilion opened at Magna, for young people to explore the power of the four elements.</p> <p>Litter picks took place across the borough as part of the Great British Spring Clean, with the hard work of volunteers supported by the Council’s Street Scene Team.</p>		<p>Rotherham 10k race - over 500 runners and a further 500 young people ran the mile lap around Clifton Park.</p> <p>14 young people aged 16-25 recruited as trainees to help deliver the Children’s Capital of Culture 2025 programme. In addition, 3 trainees from the previous 2022 trainee cohort recruited to promote engagement.</p> <p>As part of the Rotherham 10k Event, children and young people took part in the Fun Run/ Schools ‘Run A Mile’ Event.</p> <p>During the King’s Coronation celebrations, activities aimed at children and young people were delivered, included coronation crafts and activities and a giant inflatable helter skleter in the Minster Gardens.</p>		<p>Launch of new Mobile CCTV Unit to cut crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Supported Carers Week providing all carers with a chance to access information, advice, and a health check.</p> <p>New pedestrian bridge successfully lifted into place at Forge Island linking the flagship development with the town centre.</p> <p>Planning permission for the public park along the River Don, Riverside Gardens, granted.</p> <p>LGA Corporate Peer Challenge concluded that ‘Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council serves at the town well and is today an impressive organisation’.</p>		<p>Council partnered with a range of providers across the borough to deliver the Rotherham Healthy Holidays programme, providing activities for children to enjoy.</p> <p>Launch of DrinkCoach to help residents to get tailored alcohol advice and support on their phone, tablet or laptop.</p> <p>Pre-contract services agreement contract let to deliver new workspace and commercial units in Templeborough.</p>		<p>Residents invited to take part in the Rothercare consultation to share their thoughts on the service and suggested changes.</p> <p>Rotherham now officially recognised as a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough.</p> <p>Students from across the borough celebrated their GCSE and A-Level results.</p> <p>Cabinet approved funds for improvements to Rother Valley Country and Thrybergh Country Parks.</p>		<p>Cabinet approved new policy for landlords on how to deal with damp, mould and condensation in rented homes.</p> <p>Digital Inclusion Strategy agreed, providing a framework for action to increase access, improve digital skills and enable people to reap the benefits of being online.</p> <p>Swinton Civic Hall reopened following refurbishment. The entrance to the hall and building exterior, Café and the disabled toilet all improved.</p> <p>30 properties in Maltby benefited from thermal improvements, as part of a pilot, which could save them more than £400 in energy costs per year.</p> <p>Customer Experience standards launched to ensure that all our customers receive the same high-quality service.</p> <p>South Yorkshire celebrated gaining local visitor economy status.</p>		<p>Celebration Ceremony of the Summer Reading Challenge at Magna Science and Adventure Centre to celebrate those who completed the challenge.</p> <p>Article regarding the Council’s ‘Road to Recovery’ featured in the Municipal Journal.</p> <p>Enabling works to prepare Rotherham Markets for future redevelopment underway as part of a key milestone in the borough’s town centre masterplan.</p>	

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

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

Outcomes – our ambition	How we will get there
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with communities on the things that matter to them</li><li>• Residents, organisations and businesses use their skills and resources to help others</li><li>• Neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe</li><li>• Local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces</li><li>• Local towns and villages are improved.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to drive local priority setting and activity through ward plans and devolved budgets, with councillors, residents and partner organisations working together</li><li>• Work with Rotherham’s voluntary and community sector to support and facilitate local networks and groups</li><li>• Further expand and promote a range of volunteering opportunities</li><li>• Invest in and develop our library services as neighbourhood hubs, promoting access to books, computers and community events</li><li>• Work alongside our partners to ensure Rotherham is a safe, inclusive and welcoming place for local people, including responding effectively to community safety issues such as anti-social behaviour and hate crime</li><li>• Deliver improvements to local towns and villages</li><li>• Bring our communities together through a range of enjoyable activities, cultural and social events, which inspire hope and pride in Rotherham.</li></ul>

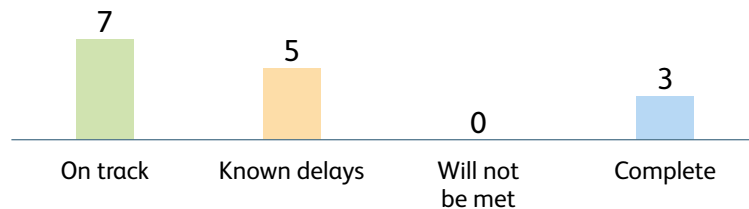
# 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

## HEADLINES – EVIDENCING OUR PROGRESS

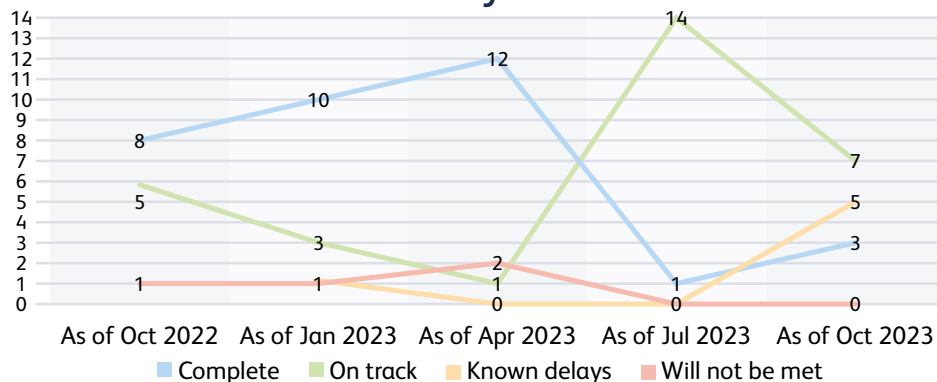
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are 16 headline performance measures in the Council Plan and 15 priority actions/milestones contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress.

### YEAR AHEAD ACTIONS AND MILESTONES

Year Ahead Delivery Plan Actions Status

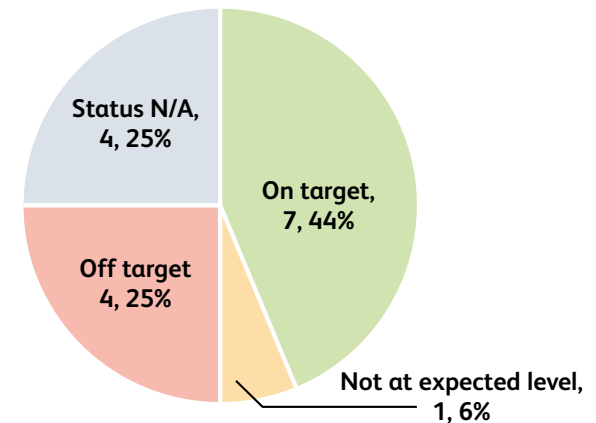


Year Ahead Delivery Plan Action Trend

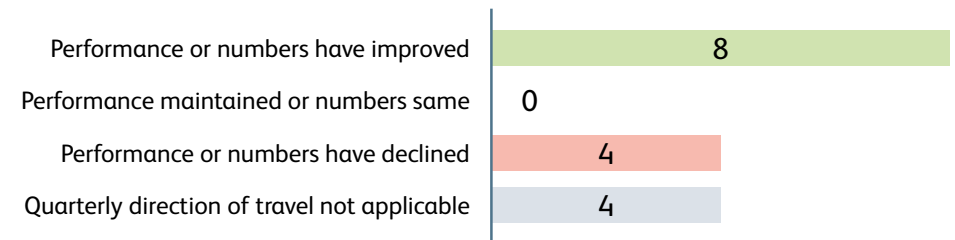


### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance Measures Status



Performance Measures Direction of Travel



## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

### NARRATIVE – THE BIGGER PICTURE

The “Every Neighbourhood Thriving” theme is focused on working with local people to achieve a good quality of life. This includes working with communities to find solutions to local issues and building on the heritage and assets available. The theme also aims to create vibrant communities in which people feel happy, safe, and proud. This will be achieved by making it easier for people to get involved in the local community, working closely with partners and local voluntary and community groups, enhancing town and village centres, green spaces, and libraries, and tackling community issues.

Central to this theme is the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and elected members were given the opportunity to refresh their ward priorities and plans in May/June 2023. Members were provided with new ward data, advice from Council services and partners and local community intelligence, including the results from the Thriving Neighbourhoods consultation exercise that took place between March and May 2023. The 25 refreshed ward plans were published on the Council’s website in June 2023. Progress on the priorities is reported to Council. A strength-based e-learning module for Council staff was also launched in November 2023 to help further strengthen the neighbourhood working model.

The Council remains committed to improving community safety working in partnership with community protection, environmental health, housing, and South Yorkshire Police and is taking robust enforcement action across enforcement and regulatory functions. 386 community protection notices (new and warnings) were issued in relation to anti-social behaviour, waste and noise in Quarter 1 and 2 combined, 93 of which led to Community Protection Notices (CPNs) being issued. As at the end of Quarter 2, 435 hate crime incidents had been reported and there were 7.7 % (year to date figure) positive hate crime investigations, against a year-end target of 20 %.

On-going discussions are taking place with the service and SYP around this measure and more detailed performance narrative is monitored via the Safer Rotherham Partnership. In addition, work has been taking place to refresh the Taxi Licensing Policy. The consultation concluded at the end of October 2023 and the draft Policy will be considered by Cabinet in December 2023.

Various programmes are underway to improve road safety and Phase 1 of the Local Neighbourhood Road Safety Programme is progressing, with 11 out of the 13 schemes having been designed and 10 being at informal consultation stage. Six are also at formal consultation stage and Traffic Regulation Orders and Instruction to Construct have been achieved on a number of these. Furthermore, an internal procedure for localised use of traffic powers to manage pavement parking has been drafted and will be reported to Cabinet, alongside a 20mph speed limits procedure in Quarter 4.

Furthermore, the Council is committed to improving roads through the completion of the £24m 2024 roads programme. To the end September 2023, 78 of the 164 unclassified roads, included in the Indicative Highway Repair Programme for 2023/24, were repaired. The total number of unclassified roads repaired since 1 April 2020 to end September 2023 is 648, equating to 88 miles of road and an area of almost 835,700 square metres.

The annual Resident Satisfaction Survey was conducted in June 2023. The survey asked about satisfaction with the Council, perceptions of value for money, responsiveness, trust and confidence in the Council, and satisfaction with aspects of life in Rotherham. Satisfaction levels in relation to the borough and local area as a place to live both improved (65 % of respondents said that, overall, they were satisfied with the borough as a place to live and 82 % of respondents were ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ satisfied with their local area as a place to live, higher than the national average (73 %). Results from this year’s

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

survey also shows a positive improvement in public perceptions of safety (92 % feel safe when outside in their local area during the day and 62 % feel safe when outside in their local area after dark).

Also in this theme, there is a focus on ensuring that people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks, and green spaces. Following previous delays, Thurcroft Library opened to the public in November 2023, improving accessibility and providing more opportunities for people to benefit from the library and its services, whilst also providing a new flexible space for activities and events. Further details are available in the case study below. Various cultural events have been taking place across the borough, including Rotherham Show which took place on 2 and 3 September 2023 attracting an estimated audience of 88,918 and an increased in attendance from Global Majority communities (7 % to 21 %). Further details are available in the case study below. Furthermore, WOW Rotherham also returned in June 2023 with an estimated 3,000 attendees, providing a vibrant, colourful, bold, fun, and fearless festival celebration of women, girls and non-binary communities, connecting Rotherham to other women and girls across the globe.

Finally, the Council's Towns and Villages Fund programme has now delivered 10 projects within Round 1 as part of the £4 million programme. The Council is committed to delivering 22 projects to restore pride in the borough's towns and villages by March 2024. A further three schemes are on site, and four projects are ready to commence. Detailed design work is progressing for four schemes, and it is expected that all designs will be issued to delivery teams by December 2023. This accounts for all schemes within Round 1 of the programme, with the exception of the scheme in Brinsworth, which may be delayed due to complexities around third-party land ownership.

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

### YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN TRACKER

Every Neighbourhood Thriving					
Ref	Outcome	Activity	Timescales for delivery	Status	Rationale for status
1.1	<b>Work with communities on the things that matter to them</b>	Produce ward plans with ward priorities informed by local communities.	Quarter 1	Complete	The refreshed ward plans were published on the Council's website in June 2023. Elected Members' reports to Council include numerous stories and case studies illustrating the impact of neighbourhood working and progress on ward priorities.

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

1.2		<p>Progress Phase 1 of the Local Neighbourhood Road Safety programme to design and implement new neighbourhood road safety measures in 13 Wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anston &amp; Woodsetts</li> <li>• Swinton Rockingham</li> <li>• Bramley &amp; Ravenfield</li> <li>• Hellaby &amp; Maltby West</li> <li>• Hoover</li> <li>• Maltby East</li> <li>• Thurcroft &amp; Wickersley South</li> <li>• Rotherham West</li> <li>• Wales</li> <li>• Rawmarsh East</li> <li>• Boston Castle</li> <li>• Greasbrough</li> <li>• Kilnhurst &amp; Swinton East.</li> </ul> <p>(Also links to people are safe, healthy and live well theme).</p>	Quarter 4	Known delays	<p>11 out of the 13 schemes, in Round 1 have been designed, 10 being at informal consultation stage. A further six are at formal consultation stage and Traffic Regulation Orders and Instruction to Construct have been achieved on a number of these.</p> <p>Implementation of some schemes will go beyond 2023/24.</p>
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## 6.1 THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

1.3		Agree a policy on the localised use of traffic powers to manage pavement parking and to progress an initial scheme under this policy.	Quarter 4	On track	Currently awaiting further guidance from the Department for Transport with regards to pavement parking guidance.  Until the national position is known, an internal procedure for localised use of traffic powers to manage pavement parking has been drafted and will be reported to Cabinet in Quarter 4, alongside a 20 mph speed limits procedure (see 1.11).
1.4		Implement a new model of equalities engagement, including a new dedicated post and three key consultation projects to build stronger networks and connections with our communities.	Quarter 4	On track	Post currently being recruited to which will sit in the Organisational Development and Change Service.  A workplan to focus activity is in development in advance of the individual starting in post, to ensure that we gain momentum in advancing the consultation projects.
1.5	<b>Residents, organisations and businesses use their skills and resources to help others</b>	Deliver a learning and development programme that will help embed a strength based-working approach across the Council's workforce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Level 1 general awareness e-learning module to commence.</li></ul>	Quarter 2	Complete	The strength based-working approach, action was slightly delayed enabling the feedback from testing with staff to be taken into consideration.  The e-learning is now complete and was launched November 2023. In the module, there are real examples about the differences that strengths-based approaches have had in Rotherham.



## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

1.6		Provide support to voluntary and community groups through a new infrastructure contract, developed through a co-design exercise.	Quarter 4	On track	<p>Following the completion of an open process in accordance with the Rotherham Compact, a lead partner has been appointed and undertaken a stakeholder engagement exercise to inform the co-design of the new infrastructure contract.</p> <p>In November, Cabinet agreed to progress arrangements for infrastructure provision, through a three-year Service Level Agreement from 2024/27, which was based on a co-design exercise.</p>
1.7	<b>Neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe</b>	Complete delivery of the £24m to 2024 roads programme.	Quarter 4	On track	<p>As of the end of September 2023, the Council has completed the repair of 78 unclassified roads. There are 164 unclassified roads included in The Indicative Highway Repair Programme for 2023/24.</p> <p>A seminar was delivered for Councillors on the 9 October 2023 to provide an update on the progress of the programme.</p>
1.8		Deliver a communications campaign to promote access to enforcement services, such as the out of hours team, and establish a robust performance management framework for the services.	Quarter 4	On track	<p>The service continues to promote enforcement outcomes via social media and press releases and a specific campaign will be developed to run through from January to March 2024.</p> <p>A robust performance report is in place and is reviewed monthly by the relevant management team. Targets have been allocated to individual staff members to achieve the overall performance goals and this is regularly monitored and reviewed.</p>

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

1.9		Complete delivery of the second phase of CCTV investment, including additional safer streets funding. <i>(Also links to people are safe, healthy and live well theme and CCTV commitment).</i>	Quarter 3	Known delays	<p>The service has engaged suppliers in relation to software capabilities to link systems which will be progressed through the appropriate procurement route.</p> <p>The service will be seeking to procure a partnership with a supplier who will deliver both maintenance and any new purchases for the CCTV system.</p> <p>This work is slightly delayed due to urgent works required to support the ongoing operation of the current CCTV assets and will now be concluded during Quarter 4.</p>
1.10		Deliver a full review of Taxi Licensing Policy, ensuring policy changes are swiftly adopted.	Quarter 4	On track	The consultation regarding the draft Taxi Licensing Policy is now concluded and the results are being analysed. A report and proposed policy will be considered by Cabinet in December 2023 and subject to approval, this action will be complete.
1.11		Adopt a coherent approach to local 20 mph speed limits, ensuring that children and older people alike feel safe on small residential roads.	Quarter 3	Known delays	<p>Draft procedure to be reviewed in light of the Department for Transport policy announcement in respect of 20 mph speed limits.</p> <p>Consultation is now live and the policy, which will include a coherent approach to 20 mph speed limits, will be presented to Cabinet in Quarter 4 (linked to action 1.3).</p>

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

1.12	<b>Local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces</b>	Complete the new library at Thurcroft.	Quarter 3	Complete	The library build completed in November 2023 following an extensive refresh of facilities. Further details are available in the case study below.
1.13		Deliver cultural events in varied locations and venues throughout the Borough, building on events such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotherham Show</li> <li>• Yorkshire Day</li> <li>• Town Centre Events e.g., UPLIFT</li> </ul>	Quarter 4	On track	Events since April 2023 have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotherham Show took place on 2 and 3 September 2023 attracting an estimated audience of 88,918. Increased in attendance from Global Majority communities (7 % to 21 %)</li> <li>• Rotherham 10k race on 15 May 2023. Over 500 runners on the route and a further 500 young people running the mile lap around Clifton Park</li> <li>• Remembrance Day in November at Clifton Park which was attended by an estimated 800 people.</li> </ul> The Town Centre events programme for this year has also delivered the following events since April 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UPLIFT Skate and Arts Festival in April with an estimated 4,750 attendance</li> <li>• WoW Rotherham in June with an estimated attendance of 3,000</li> <li>• Civic Events including Mayor’s Parade, Armed Forces Day and Armistice Day with a combined audience of 850</li> <li>• Yorkshire Day celebrations in August and a month of weekend activity attracting an audience of 4,831</li> </ul>

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas Lights' Switch On which took place on 18 November and an extended Winter Programme of Town Centre events, attracting an estimated 8,760.</li> </ul> <p>Clifton Park Bonfire on 4 November 2023 was cancelled due to significant rain fall.</p> <p>The next planned events are Holocaust Memorial Day, taking place on Friday 27 January and Signals Music Festival which will take place during February half-term in locations across the borough.</p> <p>All events consider equalities including translation services and BSL for entertainment activities. Other examples include ensuring that artists and performers appropriately reflect the demographics for each event and provision at all events for disabled visitors, for example, at Rotherham Show this year, there was a sensory area to provide a calming space for neurodiverse and disabled adults and children, delivered in partnership with Sense and mobility access was improved, with an increased number and range of mobility scooters available.</p>
1.14		Undertake the restoration of Waterloo Kiln.	Quarter 4	Known delays	The procurement process is nearing completion. Works are delayed slightly to allow for better weather conditions and works are scheduled to start on site April 2024.

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

1.15	<b>Local towns and villages are improved</b>	Complete delivery of the Round 1 Towns and Villages Fund Programme.	Quarter 4	Known delays	<p>Delivered 10 projects within Round 1 as part of the £4 million programme. 22 projects to restore pride in the borough's towns and villages to be delivered by March 2024. A further three schemes are on site, and four projects are ready to commence. Detailed design work are progressing for four schemes, and it is expected that all designs will be issued to delivery teams by December 2023. This accounts for all schemes within Round 1 of the programme, with the exception of the scheme in Brinsworth, which maybe delayed up to three months, due to complexities around third-party land ownership.</p> <p>Detailed consultation has taken place on each scheme and where specific projects have equalities implications, these have been raised and addressed through the design team. These have mainly focused on accessibility, where existing layouts have been improved to meet current best practice, for example, a recent scheme completed at Aughton and Swallownest incorporated a new level access entrance into the site, new steps with handrail, as well as a compliant ramped access to one side of the scheme.</p>
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Every Neighbourhood Thriving

Outcomes

- Work with communities on the things that matter to them
- Residents, organisations and businesses use their skills and resources to help others
- Neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe

- Local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces
- Improved local towns and villages are improved

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
NE01a	Satisfaction with the borough and local area: a) Proportion of public satisfied with Rotherham Borough as a place to live	ACEX - Comms. & Marketing	Emma Hollingworth	High	A	62.0%	57.0%	Not Available	65%	65%	>62%	⬆	✓	65% of respondents said that, overall, they were satisfied. This was above the average across all of the previous surveys (61.5%), although there has been considerable fluctuation between waves. Residents are significantly more satisfied with their own local area (average 80%) than the borough as a whole (average 61.5%). Respondents aged 18-24 were most likely to feel satisfied with Rotherham as a place to live, with 73% satisfied. Respondents aged 45-54 had the lowest level of satisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live, with only 59% satisfied. Dissatisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live was highest amongst people aged 45-54.
NE01b	Satisfaction with the borough and local area: b) Proportion of the public satisfied with their local area as a place to live	ACEX - Comms. & Marketing	Emma Hollingworth	High	A	80.0%	76.0%	Not Available	82%	82%	Equal to or >80%	⬆	✓	82% of respondents were 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied in 2023 with their local area as a place to live, higher than the national average (73%). Adults aged 45-54 were the least likely to report being 'satisfied' (74%). People aged 18-24 years and aged 65+ are the most likely to be satisfied with their local area (91% and 84% respectively).
NE02a	Volunteering: a) Number of staff involved in the council employee volunteer scheme to support local communities	ACEX - HR	Tony Bryant (Interim)	High	Q	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	No target	⬆	⚠	Data currently not available.
NE02b	Volunteering: b) Number of new volunteering opportunities for local people via the voluntary and community sector	ACEX - Policy, Perf & Intell.	Fiona Boden	High	Q	101	74	21	11	32	80	⬇	●	11 new volunteering opportunities were created by VAR in Q2 2023-24. This is a decrease on Q1 and lower than Q2 2022-23, however VAR have already had 4 new volunteering opportunities in the first 12 days of Q3 so it is expected to be a higher figure next quarter.
NE03a	Anti-social behaviour a) Number of all community protection notices (new and warnings) issued (anti-social behaviour, waste and noise).  Community Protected notices also measured separately, see NE03b below.	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	Q		1504	187	199	386	1000	⬆	✗	Measure definition and target changed for 2023-24 to include all community protected warnings, as well as notices. This measure is new and is only being formally reported on from Q1 23/24. Although DOT for Q2 is upwards, the progress against target is still red due to just falling short of the 250 expected (per quarter) to acheive the 1,000 target. Performance is also lower in comparison to the first half of last year.
NE03b	Anti-social behaviour Number of community protection notices issued (anti-social behaviour, waste and noise)	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	Q	205	413	45	48	93	200	⬆	✗	Target amended for 2023-24. This measures Community Protection Notices (waste, noise and ASB) ASB & Policing Act 2014 issued by the Community Protection Unit, (CPU). DoT is upwards as Q2 has seen a slight increase from 45 CPN's issued in Q1 however progress against target remains red due to being slightly under target. It is slightly higher than the number of CPN's issued at Q2 last year.
NE03c	Anti-Social behaviour b) Public perception of anti-social behaviour (via the 'Your Voice Counts' quality survey)	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	Low	Q	42.0%	44.0%	41.0%	49.0%	45.0%	<43%	⬇	✗	Your Voice Counts Survey is conducted quarterly by South Yorkshire Police. Quarterly average for South Yorkshire Neighbouring authorities are, Barnsley 48%, Doncaster 54%, Sheffield 40%. For Q2, 176 people were surveyed and 87 of those people thought ASB was a big or fairly big problem in their area. Although the percentage has increased by 8% from Q1, SYP report that there is no statistically significant change based on the number of surveys returned in Q2.
NE04a	Hate crime: a) Number of hate crime incidents	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	Neither High/Low	Q	837	862	233	202	435	No target	⬆	ℹ	Q2 breakdown is 173 Crimes and 29 Non-crimes. Q2 22/23 saw similarly high numbers with 189 Crimes and 25 Non-crimes (Total 214).
NE04b	Proportion of positive outcomes to hate crime investigations	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	Q	12.8%	8.1%	7.4%	8.0%	7.7%	20%	⬇	✗	Discussions on-going with SYP over target for this measure.
NE05a	Proportion of the local "principal" road network classed as 'green status' (do not require repair)	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	A	80.4%	79.4%	Not Available	Not Available	Not available	72%	⬆	⚠	Measure definition changed from 'classified road network' to 'principal' and target amended for 2023-24.  The measure is annual and reported at Q3.
NE05b	Proportion of the local "non-principal" road network classed as 'green status' (do not require repair)	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	A	75.3%	77.0%	Not Available	Not Available	Not available	66%	⬆	⚠	Target amended for 2023-24.  The measure is annual and reported at Q3.
NE05c	Proportion of the local "unclassified" road network classed as 'green status' (do not require repair)	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	Q	61.6%	64.2%	65.1%	65.2%	65.1%	60%	⬆	✓	Target amended for 2023-24.  The Q2 position on this measure is 65.16%. The Council Plan target is 60% so this measure is currently exceeding this target.

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
NE06a	Perceptions of feeling safe: a) Proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area during the day	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	A	90.0%	87.0%	Not Available	92%	92%	>90%	↑	✓	Results from this year's survey (Wave 13) shows a positive improvement in public's perception of safety and exceeds not only the CP target but 2% above the national average.
NE06b	Perceptions of feeling safe: b) Proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area after dark	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	A	56.0%	56.0%	Not Available	62%	62%	>56%	↑	✓	Results from this year's survey (Wave 13) shows a positive improvement in public's perception of safety and exceeds the CP target.
NE07a	Number of visits to culture, sport and tourism facilities (all population - cumulative)	RE - Culture, Sport & Tourism	Polly Hamilton	High	Q	3,023,352	4,005,789	980,761	1,233,832	2,267,202	3,500,000	↓	✓	The cumulative total of visitors to CST facilities in Q2 was 1,233,832, 3,261 less than in Q2 22-23. This is reflected in the DoT. A national trend in reduced numbers to paid for Sports and Leisure sessions, due to the current economic position is impacting on visitor numbers, however the target is on track to be achieved.
NE07b	Customer satisfaction with culture, sport and tourism services	RE - Culture, Sport & Tourism	Polly Hamilton	High	Q	91.6%	92.2%	91.6%	98.0%	95.0%	>90% across all services	↑	✓	This measure is on target with an average of 98% positive satisfaction with CST Services that conducted Customer Satisfaction exercises this quarter. The Library service introduced an online customer survey from the beginning of May, therefore the satisfaction recorded is a combination of paper surveys and online responses. Individual Service scores for Customer Satisfaction this quarter are: Libraries= 99.73% Heritage= 97% Rotherham Show= 97%



## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

### CASE STUDY

#### Rotherham Show – an engaging and creative programme



The annual Rotherham Show took place on 2 and 3 September, with family activities spread across the entire Clifton Park. The good Summer weather and exciting and diverse programme helped numbers hit another record high, with approximately 88,000 people attending the show.

The event included familiar favourites such as the Made in Rotherham horticultural Show, the Chuckle Tent programmed by Rotherham Civic Theatre, the big top circus, a children and families offer curated by the Children's Capital of Culture team and young producers spotlighting young

talent and the popular vintage vehicle rally. This year's show included new commissions such as:

- Let's Twist – a play sculpture based on the children's snake toys that enabled children and families to play together to create their own sculptures and shapes an interactive sculpture.
- A new Festival Village curated by Flux to highlight community festivals that take place throughout the year with Morris Dancers from Wath, Tamil Dancers from Ferham and poets from Maltby.
- The Festival Village was decorated with five newly commissioned flags by visual artist Ellie Way, which is the start of a wider engagement project to create a flag for every ward in the borough ensuring that the event feels like a true Rotherham showcase with each town and village visually represented.
- ROAR had a pop-up 'thirdspace artists encampment' with local artists painting live and the public having the opportunity to get creative themselves.

Across the site there were roaming street entertainers, musicians and theatre which included: Rajasthani Brass Band; Syrian Dabke; Sheffield Chinese Lion Dance; Ref-Off; The Heron and Shani Kashmir Dhol. This year we also significantly increased the food & drink offer and offered more trade stalls and community stalls. In total there were 25 Caterers, 58 Trade stalls, 10 Produce & Makers stalls & 14 Community Stalls.

Rotherham Show continues to be a hugely popular event, receiving a 97 % satisfaction rating from survey responders. A commissioned survey from QA also showed that Families continue to be our biggest audience, and visitors were made up of 69 % Rotherham residents and 31 % Outside visitors. The



## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING



ethnic group split of visitors this year was 79 % White British, 8 % Asian or Asian British, 7 % Black British and 3 % Mixed heritage, which is a large shift from last year's audience being 91 % White British. Performers and stall holders overwhelmingly enjoyed their weekend, with the community feel, strong family focus and relaxed vibe being recurring themes that make the Show a positive and enjoyable place to be.

Common words used to sum up their experience of the Rotherham Show were:

*"friendly, exciting, high quality, professional, diverse, creative, community based, surprising, variety and enjoyable."*

*"I haven't been for a few years and honestly it was outstanding today... kids loved every minute, did not want to go home! Thank you Rotherham Council. See you again next year."*

*"Fantastic event as always!! We are so blessed to have such an amazing event accessible to everyone, totally free of charge. Thank you to everyone who works so hard throughout the year, every year, to make it happen."*

*"The best show I have ever attended in our area. Congratulations to the organisers, stall holders, performers and the participants."*



## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

### CASE STUDY

#### **Rosegarth shopping parade at Aston benefitted from improvements following funding from the Council's Towns and Villages Fund**

The space in front of the well-used shopping area in Aston was in need of some TLC. In addition, there was no designated crossing point for pedestrians between the shops and the Parish Hall.

Following the works which completed in July 2023, the area now boasts improved accessibility to the shops, through new steps and ramp access.

New paving and footway improvements make it easier for residents and businesses to access the shops, which line the parade.

Donna Duke, owner of Headquarters hairdressers commented:

*"The area looks fantastic, everything we have asked for has been done and we couldn't be happier. Before the work, the area outside the shop was unsightly, but now I feel really proud when I walk up to work".*

*"Access to the shop wasn't ideal, so sorting these issues with a ramp and new handrails have been a godsend and have made a real difference, especially to our elderly customers."*



Before



After



## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

New car parking bays have been created outside the shops with improved lighting to improve safety.

Landscaping work has taken place at Rosegarth Avenue. New planters improve the appearance of the area. A new crossing point has also been installed to the adjacent Parish Hall, which has also benefitted from improvements to the external area.

The Towns and Villages Fund is a multi-million pound commitment from the Council to deliver improvements to town and village centres across the borough.

Councillor Sarah Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working, said:

*“The Towns and Villages Fund investment is part of our plan to invest in Rotherham’s future. We are improving the look and feel of our neighbourhoods across every ward in Rotherham. Projects are being delivered at pace for the benefit of local residents”.*

Consultation was carried out before work began. This was led by ward councillors who spoke to local residents and business owners to establish what improvements they would like to see in the area.

You can find out more about the Towns and Villages Fund at **[www.rotherham.gov.uk/villages](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/villages)**

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

### CASE STUDY

#### Thurcroft's library and neighbourhood hub has reopened in style following an extensive refresh of facilities

The brand-new library hosted a variety of exciting events for young and older readers with a ribbon cutting ceremony which took place on Tuesday 28 November 2023.

Members of the public, the parish council and ward councillors attended the ceremony to celebrate this impressive milestone which has been funded through the Council's Library Capital Improvement Programme. The Parish Council also contributed funding to the new library.



Thurcroft is the latest library to receive investment as part of the Council's commitment to improve every library across the borough.

The library was formerly located on the grounds of Thurcroft Junior Academy but has now been moved to a fantastic new building adjoining the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, just a short distance from its original location, that will help to increase access and footfall.

With the new build, it will improve accessibility and provide more opportunities for people to benefit from the library and its services whilst also providing a new flexible space for activities and events.

The Council's Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Cllr David Sheppard, said: *"Libraries are vital for our communities and offer so much more than lending books. They offer a place to meet, a place to get involved with new activities and a place to access services, so they need to change and adapt to meet the needs of the residents. Being here today as we open this new library showcases just how important it is for us to invest in our public services and spaces, as well as the Council's commitment to investing in our neighbourhoods."*

Thurcroft Parish Council Clerk Tom Collingham said: "We're thrilled to see this library open for the community right in the heart of Thurcroft. We're looking forwards to welcoming residents here from now into the future. It's great to be part of something wonderful, where children can learn and be inspired."

Inside, the space has been freshly decorated with the furniture being supplied by library furniture specialist, Opening the Book.

## 6.I THEME I – EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING



The Council is investing in the centre of Thurcroft as part of the Towns and Villages Fund which, alongside the new library, is making a visible improvement in the community.

The Towns and Villages Fund is a multi-million pound commitment from the Council to deliver improvements to town and village centres across the borough.

Further news about Thurcroft is available in the Thurcroft and Wickersley South Ward Neighbourhoods bulletin and you can sign up [here](#).

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

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

Outcomes – our ambition	How we will get there
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People have good mental health and physical wellbeing</li><li>• People feel empowered, safe, and live independently for as long as possible</li><li>• People can access affordable, decent housing</li><li>• Inequalities are addressed and nobody is left behind.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on minimising/tackling the leading risk factors for death and disability in Rotherham, such as tobacco, unhealthy weight, and alcohol</li><li>• Promote the best possible mental health for all, building on existing campaigns such as the Five Ways to Wellbeing, the Great Big Rotherham To-do list and Be the One</li><li>• Work with people to build on their strengths and resilience, reducing reliance on social care interventions</li><li>• Deliver the ‘My Front Door’ programme, providing adults with learning disabilities and autism with increased choice and opportunities for greater independence</li><li>• Tackle poverty and financial crisis, including development of a ‘social supermarket’ which will help people to move on from food banks, a new Rothercard that will provide discounts on Council services for those who most need them, and our Community Energy Scheme, which will enable households to reduce their energy bills</li><li>• Work with partners to deliver our domestic abuse strategy, taking a coordinated approach to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence</li><li>• Invest in affordable housing and support those at risk of or experiencing homelessness</li><li>• CCTV improvements will be realised through the Capital investment currently agreed (£420,000) alongside improving corporate management of CCTV purchases and assets</li><li>• Continuing to focus on promoting access to services, including out of hours alongside a robust performance management framework within enforcement services</li><li>• Transformation within Domestic Abuse Services is being delivered through strong partnership working, increased investment and the re-design of both internal and commissioned services.</li></ul>

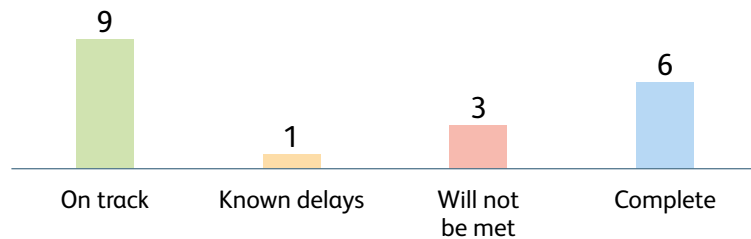
## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

### HEADLINES – EVIDENCING OUR PROGRESS

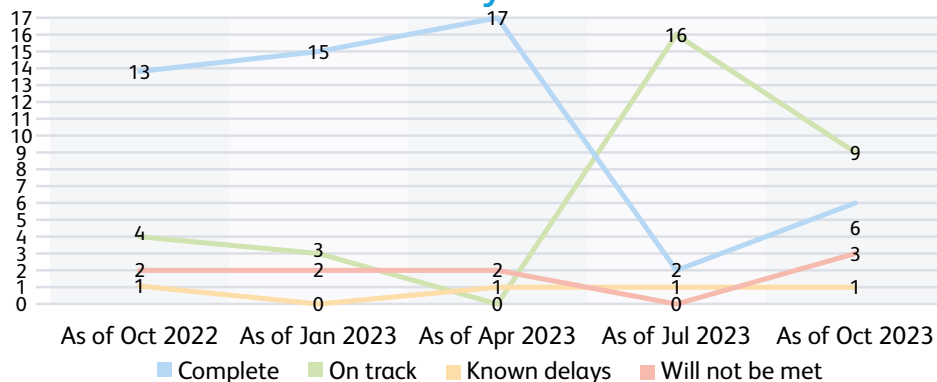
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are 12 headline performance measures and 19 priority actions/ milestones contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress.

#### YEAR AHEAD ACTIONS AND MILESTONES

Year Ahead Delivery Plan Actions Status

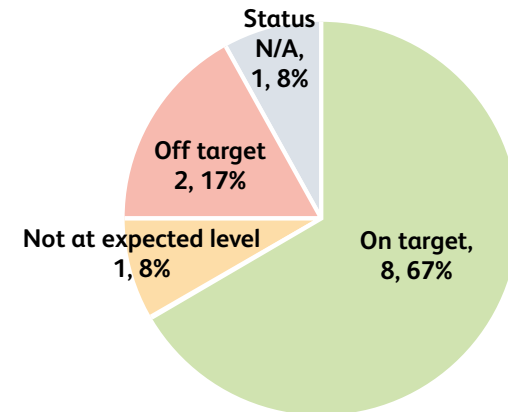


Year Ahead Delivery Plan Action Trend

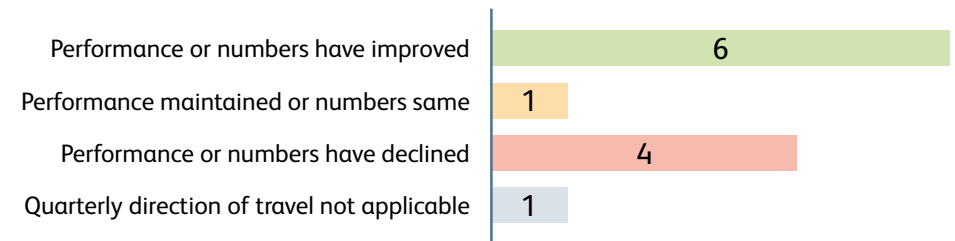


#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance Measures Status



Performance Measures Direction of Travel



## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

### NARRATIVE – THE BIGGER PICTURE

The people are safe, healthy and live well theme focuses on empowering people to lead fulfilling lives, whilst also keeping them safe from harm, with the aim for everyone to feel happy, healthy, and secure. Our ambition is for people to have good mental health and physical wellbeing, to be able to access affordable, decent housing, with nobody left behind. Key areas of progress to deliver on these ambitions are outlined below.

The Council is delivering a range of programmes to ensure people have good mental health and physical wellbeing. The 'Say Yes' campaign was campaign was agreed in June 2023 launched on social media and on RotherHive, and has also been used in face-to-face engagement events. The campaign and social movement will be rolled out over the next year, which will include activity to engage local people on health risk factors and service offers (such as screening).

The Council is leading the Rotherham Combatting Drugs Partnership in the expansion of drug treatment and recovery services to increase the number of people successfully supported to 1,555. The new contract with the new drug and alcohol provider, We are With You (WAWY), commenced on 1 April 2023 and aims to increase outreach, removing barriers to accessing the service. The new Rotherham Drug and Alcohol Service (ROADs), provided by We Are With You, has now been in place six months. While initially having several vacant posts a series of successful recruitments means that ROADs have now recruited to all SSMTG funded roles with only a few vacant posts overall, meaning more capacity and resources to increase numbers in treatment. Quarter 1 data (latest reported) for numbers of adults in drug treatment is showing as 1,451, meaning an achievable 104 additional adults in treatment required to reach the target over the remaining three quarters.

Work is ongoing with partners to design a new delivery model for mental health services to better meet the needs of those in crisis. A new model of delivery has now been developed for Cabinet consideration. The model further builds on an established collaborative approach by rebalancing a combined offer between health and social care to provide a pathway that focusses on prevention and recovery and strengthening the social care response to crisis. Residents, people with care and support needs, family, carers, and professionals had the opportunity to contribute in a public consultation between 7 August and 1 October 2023. The new model will be presented to Cabinet for consideration in December 2023. A Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) specifically for Mental Health has been developed. The system provides a framework to procure a range of services from specialist providers, for people living with mental ill-health to be supported to live in their community.

Work continues to ensure people feel empowered, safe, and live independently for as long as possible. Work is ongoing to co-produce with people with a learning disability, and their carers, the priorities for learning disability services transformation over the next three years. Engagement commenced in July 2023 and closed in October 2023. The cabinet paper and strategy will be drafted based on an analysis of the engagement feedback. Several people and groups have expressed an interest in supporting the co-production of the Learning Disability Strategy through a partnership event on 1 November 2023. The partnership event was led by people with lived experience. Plans are on track to commence the building groundwork for Castle View which will provide new day opportunities for people with high support needs. Design plans have been agreed in readiness for submission of the



## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

planning application. The programme plan is currently in the process of being refreshed and will provide conformation with the planning timeframe. In November 2023, Cabinet gave approval to proceed.

Implementation of new assistive technology to expand the community alarm offer (currently Rothercare), to enable people to live independently at home is underway. A 90-day consultation exercise closed in November and will support to inform future direction of the service. The service review and a new operating model will be presented to Cabinet for consideration in December 2023. A new Adult Social Care Strategy is in development, which enables residents to understand how services will work with them to build on their strengths, resilience and maximise their independence. Consultation on the strategy ran from 05 July 2023 to 03 October 2023. The consultation included an online questionnaire, a range of drop-in events across the borough and targeted communications and offers to attend local groups. The findings from the consultation have resulted in a draft strategy being developed. The strategy will be presented to Cabinet in January 2024 for consideration. a detailed action plan to facilitate delivery of the ambitions within the Borough that Cares Strategy is in development through co-production with carers and other stakeholders. Work has now begun to gather the views of unpaid carers on how to meet the ambitions identified in the Strategy. Outcomes from this piece of work will result in a co-production programme to develop any services identified.

A range of programmes are underway to ensure people can access affordable, decent housing. While one of those actions is complete, a further three are now off track. Work to enable others to create more new homes through release of Council land and partnership working is complete. Remaining homes across the Chesterhill/Whinney Hill development sites have been completed in October 2023, bringing the total of enabled homes in the programme to 237. The scheme is delivering c. 66 % affordable homes,

which far exceeds the planning policy position of 25 %. Work is ongoing to deliver on the Council's commitment to build 1,000 new homes through the Housing Growth Programme, however these schemes are off track, and have taken longer than expected to bring forward. All schemes are subject to formal planning submissions, which are scheduled or expected to take place December 2023. The schemes include: new homes across sites in Eastwood, Harthill and Maltby. Demolition is due to take place on Maltby sites by December 2023, with groundworks now forecast to start summer 2024, rather than by March 2024 and 83 homes are now forecast across these schemes, instead of 99. New homes in Canklow as part of a joint development with a new day opportunities centre, "Castle View" are also delayed. The site is now expected to deliver 13 homes, alongside two specialised Adult Care residential units. Groundworks are forecast to start summer 2024, rather than December 2023. The East Herringthorpe scheme is now in build and remains on track to be completed by March 2024. The Thrybergh scheme has been put on hold for the time being. To deliver the programme, officers are actively working with Colleagues in Adult and Social Care and Childrens services to identify acute housing needs, so the future delivery of new homes can assist in the wider strategic needs of the council and those with specialist housing need. Council Services are also providing additional support to individuals who are facing homelessness, which aligns with the commitments and priorities within the approved Housing Strategy.

As part of efforts to address inequalities and ensure nobody is left behind, the restructure of the homelessness service to focus more resources on prevention and early intervention activity is complete. Seven job roles have been realigned to focus on homelessness intervention and prevention activity. The Intervention team will be the first point of contact for all new homelessness presentations, and the aim to prevent their homelessness situation.

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

A range of accessible free information, advice and guidance resources and improve communications/engagement with private landlords, to support those at risk of homelessness at the earliest opportunity are being developed. A Homelessness Prevention leaflet has been developed and is in circulation. Work is being undertaken to engage with private landlords to increase access to available private rented homes.

Work to develop and agree a new model for crisis food provision for the borough is on track. A co-design exercise has been undertaken with local organisations and partner providers to develop a new model of crisis food support. This was agreed at Cabinet in November and work is now progressing to implement the model, including the appointment of an organisation(s) to progress this. Children in receipt of free school meals have been issued with vouchers during all school holidays this year and this will continue until Easter 2024, with a continued investment to support this extended period of break from school. Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme is being delivered, providing up to £117.60 to working households in receipt of council tax support. Initial awards made with annual Council Tax bills issued in March 2023 for the financial year 23/24. New awards and amendments to existing awards will be made throughout the year as entitlement to Council Tax Support changes as claimants circumstances change. An annual review of Rothercard has been completed. Data shared with the working group showed that there were 719 applications up to 30 June 2023, and showed good take-up across eligible groups. Further activities and communications are planned to raise awareness of the scheme.

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

### YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN TRACKER

People are safe, healthy and live well					
Ref	Outcome	Activity	Timescales for delivery	Status	Rationale for status
2.1	<b>People have good mental health and physical wellbeing</b>	Launch a new public health improvement and prevention campaign to provide advice on areas such as smoking, tobacco control, food and physical activity.	Quarter 1	Complete	The ‘Say Yes’ campaign and expansion of RotherHive were approved by the Place Leadership Team in June 2023. The campaign was launched on social media and on RotherHive, and has also been used in face-to-face engagement events (such as at Rotherham Show and at the Tenant Engagement Event in October 2023).
2.2		Lead the Rotherham Combatting Drugs Partnership in the expansion of drug treatment and recovery services to increase the number of people successfully supported to 1,555.	Quarter 4	On track	The new contract with the new drug and alcohol provider, We are With You (WAWY), commenced on 1 April 2023, which aims to increase outreach removing barriers to accessing the service.  Quarter 1 data for numbers of adults in drug treatment is showing as 1,451. Planned grant activity is now being delivered which aims to increase referrals into ROADS thereby increasing numbers in treatment.

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

2.3		Work with partners to design a new delivery model for mental health services to better meet the needs of those in crisis.	Quarter 4	On track	<p>A new model of delivery has now been developed for Cabinet consideration. The model further builds on an established collaborative approach by rebalancing a combined offer between health and social care to provide a pathway that focusses on prevention and recovery and strengthening the social care response to crisis.</p> <p>Feedback from the formal consultation has shaped the model. The new model has been presented to relevant Council, RDaSH and ICB governance forums during October and November before being presented to Cabinet for consideration on 18 December 2023.</p>
2.4		Develop a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) specifically for Mental Health to procure a range of services for people living with mental ill-health to be supported to live in their community.	Quarter 2	Complete	A Mental Health Recovery – Flexible Purchasing System has been established. The system provides a framework to procure a range of services from specialist providers, specifying a community service with the principle of mental health recovery at its core.
2.5	<b>People feel empowered, safe and live independently for as long as possible.</b>	Co-produce with people with a learning disability, and their carers, the priorities for learning disability services transformation over the next three years.	Quarter 3	Known delays	<p>Engagement was undertaken between July 2023 and October 2023. The outputs from the engagement will inform the strategy development. The cabinet paper and strategy will be drafted based on an analysis of the engagement feedback.</p> <p>The report is now scheduled for cabinet in February 2024. This will allow more time for engagement particularly considering the academic school year.</p>

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

2.6		Commence the building groundwork for Castle View which will provide new day opportunities for people with high support needs.	Quarter 3	On track	Design plans have been agreed in readiness for submission of the planning application. The programme plan is currently in the process of being refreshed and will provide conformation with the planning timeframe. In November 2023, Cabinet has given approval to proceed.
2.7		Implement new assistive technology to expand the community alarm offer (currently Rothercare), to enable people to live independently at home.	Quarter 4	On track	90-day consultation exercise has taken place which will inform the future direction of the service. A service review and a new operating model will be presented to Cabinet for consideration in December 2023.
2.8		Build on service improvements by developing a new Adult Social Care Strategy which enables residents to understand how services will work with them to build on their strengths, resilience and maximise their independence.	Quarter 4	On track	Consultation on the adult social care strategy ran from 05 July 2023 to 03 October 2023. It used an online questionnaire with an easy read version, a range of drop-in events across the borough for residents to get involved and targeted communications and offers to attend local groups. The findings from the consultation have resulted in a draft strategy being developed. The strategy will be presented to Cabinet in January 2024 for consideration.
2.9		Through co-production with carers and other stakeholders, develop a detailed action plan to facilitate delivery of the ambitions within the Borough that Cares Strategy.	Quarter 3	On track	A permanent post has been in place to deliver this since July 2023. Work has now begun to gather the views of unpaid carers on how to meet the ambitions identified in the Strategy. Outcomes from this piece of work will result in a co-production programme to develop any services identified.

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

2.10 (a)	<b>People can access affordable, decent housing</b>	Continue to deliver on the Council's commitment to build 1,000 new homes through the Housing Growth Programme, including;  a) Commence groundwork on new homes across sites in Eastwood, Harthill and Maltby (forecasting 99 homes)	Quarter 4	Will not be met	Various schemes are in delivery to contribute to the Council's wider commitment to build 1,000 new homes.  The number of homes forecast has been reduced from 99 to 83 homes (7 Harthill, 45 Maltby and 31 Eastwood).  Schemes have taken longer than expected to bring forward, consequently the March 2024 target date for commencement of groundworks will not be achieved.  Updated delivery programmes are currently being refined, and it is expected that groundworks will now commence by Quarter 3 2024/25.
2.10 (b)		b) Commence groundwork on new homes in Canklow as part of a joint development with a new day opportunities centre, "Castle View" (forecasting 25 homes)	Quarter 3	Will not be met	The scheme has taken longer than expected to bring forward due to significant complexities associated with the Adult Care provisions which form part of the project. Consequently, the December 2023 target date for commencement of groundworks will not be achieved. Updated delivery programmes are currently being refined, and it is expected that groundworks will now commence by Quarter 3 2024/25.
2.10 (c)		c) Complete 13 new homes across sites in East Herringthorpe & Thrybergh	Quarter 4	Will not be met	The East Herringthorpe scheme (10 homes) is now in build and remains on track to be completed by March 2024.  The Thrybergh scheme (3 homes) has been put on hold for the time being and a decision is yet to be taken as to whether to proceed with the scheme. If the scheme goes ahead, it is likely that completion would be Quarter 4 24/25.

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

2.11		<p>Enable others to create more new homes through release of Council land and partnership working, including;</p> <p>Conclude the remaining homes in the programme of 237 enabled homes across the Chesterhill/Whinney Hill; development sites.</p>	Quarter 2	Complete	<p>Whilst the scheme had a slight delay, the few remaining achieved practical completion in October 2023. The scheme is delivering c. 66 % affordable homes, which far exceeds the planning policy position of 25 %.</p>
2.12		<p>Restructure the homelessness service to focus more resources on prevention and early intervention activity.</p>	Quarter 2	Complete	<p>The restructure is complete. Seven job roles have been realigned to focus on homelessness intervention and prevention activity. The Intervention team will be the first point of contact for all new homelessness presentations, and the aim to prevent their homelessness situation.</p>
2.13		<p>Develop a range of accessible free information, advice and guidance resources and improve communications/ engagement with private landlords, to support those at risk of homelessness at the earliest opportunity.</p>	Quarter 4	On track	<p>A Homelessness Prevention leaflet has been developed and is in circulation.</p> <p>A new role of Accommodation Officer has been recruited. The officer's role is to engage with private landlords to increase access to available private rented homes. The officer has attended the last Landlord Forum to provide information about his role.</p>

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

2.14		Agree a new model for crisis food provision for the borough.	Quarter 3	Complete	A co-design exercise has been undertaken with local organisations and partner providers to develop a new model of crisis food support. This was agreed at Cabinet in November and work is now progressing to implement the model, including the appointment of an organisation(s) to progress this.
2.15		Provide food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals, through the household support fund, for school holidays through to February Half Term 2024.	Quarter 4	On track	Children in receipt of free school meals have been issued with vouchers during all school holidays this year and this will continue until Easter 2024 with a continued investment to support this extended period of break from school.
2.16		<p>Delivery of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, providing up to £117.60 to working households in receipt of council tax support.</p> <p>(The scheme will commence from 1 April 2023, but will pick up all new applicants through to 31 March 2024).</p>	Quarter 4	On track	<p>Initial awards made with annual Council Tax bills issued in March 2023 for the financial year 23/24.</p> <p>New awards and amendments to existing awards will be made throughout the year as entitlement to Council Tax Support changes as claimants' circumstances change.</p>



## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

2.17		Complete an annual review of Rothercard.	Quarter 4	Complete	<p>The new scheme has been in place from 1 April 2023. The first annual review completed has been completed. First three months of data evidence good take-up across eligible groups.</p> <p>Further activities and comms planned to raise awareness of the scheme.</p> <p>There were 719 applications up to 30 June 2023.</p>
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People are Safe, Healthy and Live Well

- Outcomes
- People have good mental health and physical wellbeing
  - People feel empowered, safe and live independently for as long as possible
  - People can access affordable, decent housing
  - Inequalities are addressed and nobody is left behind

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
PE01	Number of people attending the Make Every Contact Count (MECC) training relating to health and wellbeing issues	ACHPH - Public Health	Ben Anderson	High	Q	152	535	262	92	354	150	⬆	✓	Q1 MECC cost of Living 149 MECC 5 MECC Mental health awareness 108 Q2 MECC Menopause 76 MECC Alcohol 16
PE02	The proportion of adults involved in a safeguarding enquiry who felt their personal outcomes were at least partially met	ACHPH - Adult Care	Kirsty Littlewood	High	Q	97.0%	97.0%	94.5%	96.3%	95.3%	97%	⬆	●	Council Plan target for 2023/24 has been set to sustain performance at 97%. Performance has improved month on month in quarter 2 and average 96.3% of all adults involved in a safeguarding enquiry feeling their personal outcomes are being met. This sustained level of good performance remains high and are comparative to regional and national benchmarking average values, that are both reported as 95% performance. Work will commence within the service to look into the detail behind why people do not feel that their personal outcomes were at least partially met.
PE03	Proportion of new clients who receive short term (reablement) service in year with an outcome of no further requests made for support	ACHPH - Adult Care	Kirsty Littlewood	High	Q	93.2%	92.5%	96.3%	93.3%	94.7%	90%	⬇	✓	The proportion of those people following reablement with no further requests for support continues to perform well and exceeds the council plan target by and comparative data from 2022/23 quarter 2.  For context if the current projectory can be maintained or, if cases become more complex and more demand for ongoing support, any decline in the data would likely still mean the Rotherham position remains higher than the latest national average benchmarking of 77.6%.  Reablement is investing in its services this year to further expand the reablement offer to meet a wider cohort of people which is intended to further support people to be reabled. However, this may impact on the percentage of people with no further requests for support.
PE04	Manage the number of new older adult admissions to long term residential care (aged 65+)	ACHPH - Adult Care	Kirsty Littlewood	Low	Q	324	341	60	87	147	300	⬇	✓	* Although no Council Plan target is set, the measure is tracked against a ceiling number of admissions for the purpose of BCF (Better Care Fund) reporting. 2023/24 Better Care Fund has been set at 300 new admissions.  The actual Better Care Fund target has been reduced to a population rate of 571.7, which equates to 317 admissions over the year.  Quarter 2 sees the number of new, older adult admissions to long term residential care increase with a year to date figure of 147. If levels of admissions remain stable this indicator will be within the Better Care Fund target of 300. The service is ensuring there is a focus on home first and residential care is only considered where there are no other appropriate alternatives to meeting needs.
PE05	Proportion of council housing repairs completed 'Right 1st time'	ACHPH - Housing	James Clark	High	Q	90.9%	92.8%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	93%	➡	✓	Target amended for 2023-24 to 93%  Quarter 2 performance continues to remain high and perform above the 93% target for housing repairs completed "right first time".
PE06	Number of new homes delivered with Council support, including affordable homes	ACHPH - Housing	James Clark	High	Q	180	373	85	65	150	200	⬇	✓	Target amended for 2023-24 200.  65 homes have been delivered with Council Support in Q2 and performance remains on trajectory to meet its 200 year-end target.  To sustain delivery of new homes, the Strategic Housing and Development (SHAD) Team has devised a programme to increase delivery towards a 1,000 homes target by 2026, with the latest programme being approved by Cabinet in January 2023. Delivering 1000 homes by March 2026 will be highly challenging, but the inclusion of the Small Sites Homebuilder Initiative and Market Acquisitions workstreams will help the service to work toward this ambitious target.

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
PE07	Proportion of council housing stock that meets the "Decent Homes" standard	ACHPH - Housing	James Clark	High	Q	99.90%	100.00%	99.95%	99.98%	99.98%	100.00%	↑	✓	We have continuously maintained a high percentage of properties classified as decent against the Decent Homes Standard 99.98% in Quarter 2. We continue to monitor the number of properties that are due to fail decency in future years, helping us to plan appropriately against future budgets so as to maintain a high standard of decency against our housing stock. The 3 remaining properties will receive works as part of the Internal works programme which will be undertaken throughout 2023/24. By the end of March 2024 all properties will have been made decent. Given the age of stock condition data, 50% being 10 years old or more a validation of the number of properties reported as decent is ongoing, which may result in the reported figure being restated by end of the financial year.
PE08	Proportion of households prevented or relieved from homelessness	ACHPH - Housing	James Clark	High	Q	76.0%	78.0%	80.3%	81.0%	80.7%	85%	↑	✗	The outcome of the measure is to deliver an effective and timely support service for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.  The specialist homelessness consultant has provided their draft report and actions from this will help to prevent homelessness. A free homelessness prevention tool kit will also be provided and this will be shared with the officer to use.
PE09	Number of households in temporary accommodation (both temporary accommodation and hotels)	ACHPH - Housing	James Clark	Low	Q			141	161	161	130	↓	✗	Definition amended for 2023-24 to include both temporary accommodation and hotels and target amended.  The number of placements in temporary accommodation continues to rise, at the end of quarter 2 = 161.  We are continuing to monitor the impact of the weather on provision of accommodation and planning further for winter pressures in the upcoming months is required.  The specialist homelessness consultant has provided their draft report and actions from this will be integrated into the service's improvement plan alongside the review of our temporary accommodation processes.
PE10	Total number of referrals to domestic abuse support services	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	Neither High/Low	Q	5,395	3,300	755	801	1,556	No target	◆	ⓘ	This measure is included to provide context for PE11 - Engagement rate with Domestic Abuse Services. Please note the methodology for this measure has changed following the recommissioning of this provision. From Q3 (22-23) onwards, the data will be issued provisionally before being finalised the following quarter when all of the data is available. Q2 had 46 more referrals than in Q1.
PE11	Engagement rate with Domestic Abuse support services	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	Q	47.0%	46.0%	67.0%	68.0%	67.5%	60%	↑	✓	This measure is the % of clients of DA services who accept support from that agency. The measure records the total number of referrals made to domestic abuse support services who go on to successfully engage with those services. Following the recommissioning of this service, significant work on how the referral process of people on to these services has been undertaken. The performance team is also working with the service to develop a set of performance actions which will result in an increase in performance.  As with PE10, the methodology for this measure has changed following the recommissioning of Domestic Abuse support. From Q3 (22-23) onwards, the data will be issued provisionally before being finalised the following quarter when all of the data is available. Q1 data has been amended during Q2 to 67% engagement rate.  Please note we are currently seeking approval from cabinet re a new definition / methodology for capturing this measure. Until this is approved, the old methodology is being used. The figures (using the proposed new method) are as follows: Q1 - 73%, Q2 80%.
PE12	Proportion of new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support dealt with within 14 days of receipt of all necessary information.	FCS - Finance	Rob Mahon	High	Q	97.34%	97.81%	99.15%	98.93%	98.93%	90.00%	↑	✓	Measure and target amended for 2023-24 to reflect the performance of the Council in processing claims.  The final performance for 22/23 of 97.81% was 0.47% up on 97.34% reported in 21/22.  DoT based on comparison to with Q2 performance in 22-23.

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

### CASE STUDY

#### Homelessness service restructured to refocus resources on prevention and early intervention

During 2021/2022 the number of new homelessness cases was 923, last year 2022/2023 the number of new cases had increased to 1,409.

Many of our customers are vulnerable and have complex needs; this increases officer time to ensure they are supported to access services.

There has also been significant rise in incoming telephone calls from customers who are faced with homelessness; on average 2,400 telephone calls are handled each month by the Homelessness team.

The Homelessness Service was restructured and in Quarter 1 and staffing resources were shifted, in the Homelessness Team, to focus on early intervention. This aim of the restructure was to free up time for homeless officers to spend quality time on case work and create a new front door to prevent homelessness or triage to a homelessness application, where required.

The restructure has had a significant impact on calls abandoned which has reduced from 45 % to 24 %. This means more customers are being helped sooner and at the first point of contact. The number of email enquiries, waiting to be responded to, has also reduced from over 200 to three.

The team have received a number of compliments, two of the most recent include:

*“We really appreciate all of your help, and we hope we have not caused you too much hassle, thank you again we really do appreciate everything you have done and how you have dealt with us in a sympathetic, professional and caring manner.”*

*“Two officers deserve a special thanks and I really appreciated everything they have done for me.”*



Some members of the Homelessness Team

## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

### CASE STUDY

#### **Programme of 237 enabled homes across the Chesterhill/Whinney Hill development sites complete**

Ensuring people can access affordable, decent housing is a priority for the Council as set out in the Rotherham Housing Strategy. In addition to the Council's own developments, we are also committed to supporting other social landlords to create more new homes through release of Council land and partnership working.

This year 237 homes have completed in Thrybergh. This development was built by the development contractor Engie, who were appointed by a partnership of local housing associations (Great Places and Sanctuary), and an organisation specialising in offering a quality private rental offer (Wise Living).

The sites within this development had been in Council ownership, but the locations faced various issues, including poor quality housing, higher levels of criminality and high turnover rates which led to the decision to relocate the residents and clear the sites between under the Housing Market Renewal Programme over a decade ago. The aim of the clearance was to create longer term regeneration-based improvements and explore opportunities to diversify the tenure mix in the area to meet local housing need, however the programme ended before the sites could be redeveloped. This led to them being sat vacant for quite some time.

A small adjacent site was developed in 2011 as part of the Local Authority new Build Programme, which saw the first new council homes in five decades being built. This brought much needed affordable homes to the area and kick started the regeneration activity. Sadly, more homes were still urgently needed.

The Chesterhill and Whinney Hill sites were marketed for development in February 2019. The latest consortium arrangement came forward and was agreed. Building on site commenced in October 2020. All elements of the site were finally completed in October 2023 and the homes are now occupied.

This latest development is of a higher density than before, but the layout works well, and it doesn't feel overdeveloped. There is plenty of parking and safe spaces for pedestrians and children to move around freely. The new layout also brings new types of housing with increased numbers of two and three bed family homes than before, reflecting the acute need for more family housing in this area.



Pictured: Memorial bench at Thrybergh Country Park



## 6.2 THEME 2 – PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

Of the 267 new homes, this includes 66 % affordable homes, which far exceeds the local planning policy position of 25 %. The Council are given nomination rights to many of the homes which means families on the Council Housing Register can bid for the homes.

The Council's Strategic Housing and Development service also worked directly with Great Places to explore direct letting to help address housing pressures specifically related to the eight one-bed cottage apartments and this has resulted in properties being used to assist care leavers, resettlement applicants and people at risk of homelessness. Each prospective tenant was supported through RUSH House's 'Place of Your Own' training to give the tenant the best chance of maintaining a sustainable tenancy.

Not only has this development brought a large number of much needed new homes to the area it has also brought wider social impact benefits for the community. Including:

- Funded the implementation of a new memorial bench at Thybergh Country Park (below) to improve the local green environment and encourage local people to enjoy the outdoors
- Food Bank donations
- Local litter picks
- Work with local apprentices and students.



Pictured: New homes under construction at Chesterhill.

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

We want Rotherham to be a great place to grow up, where all children and young people are safe, valued, able to enjoy their lives and achieve their aspirations.

Outcomes – our ambition	How we will get there
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children get the best start in life</li><li>• Children and young people safe from harm</li><li>• Young people feel empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations</li><li>• Children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Further develop our partnership approach to ensuring that all children and young people get the best possible start in life and are ready to attend school and learn</li><li>• Continue with the development of residential homes for our children in care and work with local providers in residential and foster care to access the best local placements</li><li>• The Council will work to improve our Youth Justice inspection judgement through the delivery of our improvement plan</li><li>• With our partners, we will address the variability of Education, Health and Care Plans and the quality of provision for children and young people</li><li>• Collaborate with partners to embed a multi-agency Family Hub Approach for our children, families, and communities</li><li>• Ensure that they Early Help workforce are equipped with the right, most up to date knowledge and tools to effect outstanding outcomes for children and families</li><li>• Work with young people that are disengaged to reconnect them to training, further education and employment</li><li>• Focus on raising the achievement of key stage 1 and two pupils in reading through the reading fluency project and will support pupils who are currently below the expected standard in reading and/or who may have difficulty accessing reading required in the wider curriculum</li><li>• Work in collaboration with schools to narrow the persistent attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils and raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils</li><li>• Deliver on our commitment to become the first Children’s Capital of Culture holding a year-long festival in 2025.</li></ul>

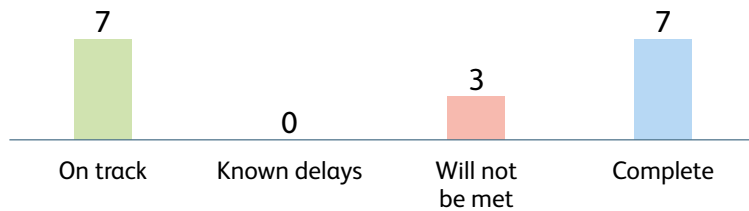
## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

### HEADLINES – EVIDENCING OUR PROGRESS

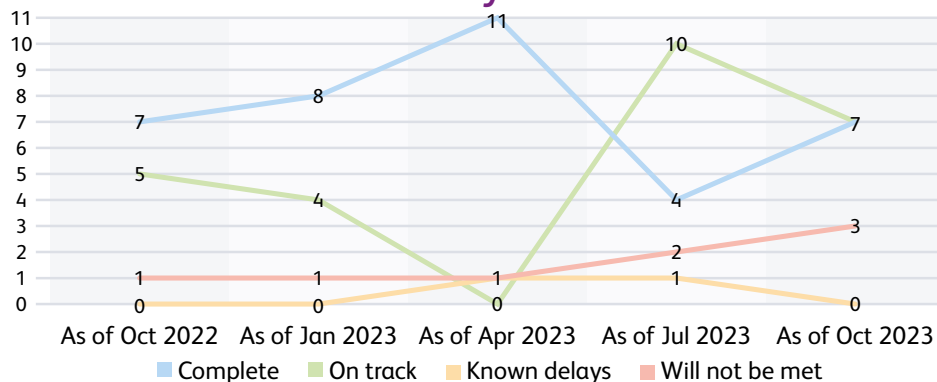
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are 11 headline performance measures and 17 priority actions/ milestones contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress.

#### YEAR AHEAD ACTIONS AND MILESTONES

Year Ahead Delivery Plan Actions Status

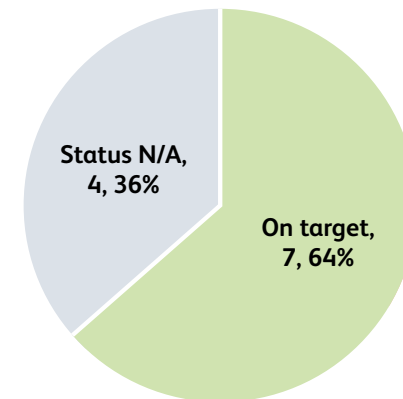


Year Ahead Delivery Plan Action Trend

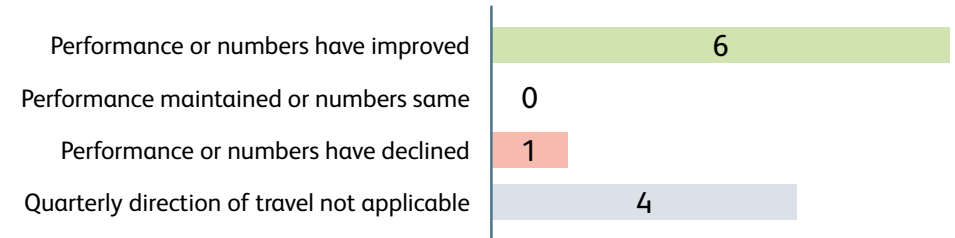


#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance Measures Status



Performance Measures Direction of Travel





## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

### NARRATIVE – THE BIGGER PICTURE

The ‘every child able to fulfil their potential’ theme focuses on our ambition for Rotherham to be a great place to grow up, where all children and young people are safe, valued, and able to enjoy their lives and achieve their aspirations. Services provided to children, young people and families by Rotherham Council have been rated as ‘Good’ across the board by government inspectors in an Ofsted report published in August 2022. A summary of the Council’s progress since April 2023 is set out below.

The Council continues to ensure that all children and young people get the best possible start in life. In April 2023, the Rotherham Relationships Charter was launched in partnership with multiple agencies. The charter is designed to engage and support agencies in thinking about parental conflict in day-to-day practice and seeks to both reduce marginalisation and improve outcomes across families experiencing conflict. The Family Hubs Programme, a national initiative aimed at making support and services more easily accessible to children and families, was also introduced in April 2023 and will continue until 2025. To ensure success, services from multiple agencies will be co-located at Family Hub sites, bringing together a range of professionals from different organisations, with a digital offer in place too.

In June 2023, the Council obtained sign off by the Department for Education on the Written Statement of Action, which was developed to address the findings from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection undertaken in 2021. Developments following the Written Statement of Action will continue to support opportunities and improvements for SEND pupils across the borough going forwards and help to address the variability of Education, Health, and Care Plans. Alongside this, in August 2023, an online resource for families to access support in relation to their emotional health and wellbeing was launched and went live. Support is also

in place to engage and support families who do not have access to digital services, including face-to-face groups for families.

The Council has completed all 35 actions set out in the Youth Justice Action Plan, which was developed to address the findings from a peer review of the Youth Justice Service in March 2022. The actions have been scrutinised and approved as complete by the Independent Evidence Challenge Panel. Progress and completions were also monitored by the Council and partners, for example through the Safer Rotherham Partnership and Improving Lives Select Commission. The Council are continuing with the development of residential homes, so children in care and young people in Rotherham can remain in the borough. Whilst some delays have arisen due to registrations and challenges with access permissions to the properties, all four two-bedroom homes are still due to open by Quarter 4.

Following delays, the Draft Early Help Strategy 2023-2028 was signed off by the Rotherham Safeguarding Children’s Partnership in January 2023 and was ratified by the multi-agency Early Help Steering Group in April 2023. The service has received external support to review the current offer which concluded in September 2023. A new strategy is planned to go to Cabinet in March 2024.

As part of the focus on ensuring young people feel empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations, delivery is underway of a new independent travel training offer to support children and young people with SEND. This is enabling more young people with an Education and Health Care Plan to have the confidence and skills to travel independently. As of the end of Quarter 2, two of the three posts in the newly created Independent Travel Training Team have been appointed to and staff have received an accredited standard of training.

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

Following last year's success with the Year of Reading 2022-23 programme, the Council are delivering the Rotherham Loves Reading Project to promote a continued ongoing focus on reading with schools. This includes monthly themed promotions for the Take 10 campaign, which centres on the power of reading to support wellbeing, alongside a specific reading for pleasure project has been developed to support children in care in primary schools. Alongside this, support is in place for teachers and school leaders to enhance learning opportunities for disadvantaged pupils. In January 2024, the Council are launching a Disadvantaged Pupils Toolkit, which will provide clear practical guidance on planning, implementing, and evaluating an effective strategy for disadvantaged pupils.

To help ensure that children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go, the Council are continuing work with children and young people across the borough to co-design the Children's Capital of Culture 2025 programme. Since April 2023 the Council has delivered a range of events, including UPLIFT: Rotherham Skate and Arts Festival in April 2023 which featured a Teenage Market, WoW Festival in June 2023, and community festivals across the summer. The £100,000 Play Area replacement programme has experienced delays within the construction pipeline. All projects will now be delivered by the end of Quarter 4, in readiness for the new summer season. When complete, the programme will have improved 28 play areas across the borough, with many of the planned improvements including disability access play equipment.

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

### YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN TRACKER

Every child able to fulfil their potential					
Ref	Outcome	Activity	Timescales for delivery	Status	Rationale for status
3.1	<b>Children get the best start in life</b>	Obtain sign off of our Written Statement of Action which has been developed to address the findings from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection undertaken in 2021. This includes actions to address the variability of Education, Health and Care Plans.	Quarter 4	Complete	<p>The Written Statement of Action was signed off by the Department for Education on the 20 June 2023 at the final Support and Challenge Meeting. The Department for Education noted that “The Local Area has made considerable progress in its focus on ‘impact’”.</p> <p>Moving forward, external monitoring meetings with the Department for Education will continue to support the tracking of improvements. These will be embedded and managed as business-as-usual practice within the SEND Strategic Improvement Plan that is currently in development. These improvements and impact will be overseen by the SEND Executive Board and SEND Strategic Board.</p>

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

3.2		Launch an online resource for families to access support in relation to their emotional health and wellbeing.	Quarter 4	Complete	<p>Delivered as part of the digital offer in the Family Hubs Programme (action 3.4).</p> <p>An online resource for families to access support in relation to their emotional health and wellbeing was launched in August 2023 as planned. The resource is available in a number of different languages.</p> <p>Digital Rotherham are working in Children's Centres and Early Help sites to engage and support families who do not have access to digital services. In addition, delivery of face-to-face groups for those families for whom digital access does not suit has been maintained.</p>
3.3		<p>Launch the multi-agency Rotherham Relationships Charter designed to engage agencies in thinking about parental conflict in day-to-day practice.</p> <p>(Also links to children and young people safe from harm outcome).</p>	Quarter 4	Complete	<p>The Rotherham Relationships Charter was launched in April 2023, and is being used to support and challenge agencies, to encourage them to think about the quality of couple relationships when they come into contact with couples in conflict.</p> <p>Families in conflict can access support face to face through the Parents As Partners programme, or through the Family Hubs' digital offer to support positive resolution to conflict.</p>

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

3.4		Deliver the year 1 and 2 objectives of the national nationally funded Family Hubs programme (2022/25), which is a national initiative aimed at making support and services more easily accessible to children and families.	Quarter 4	On track	<p>The Family Hubs' programme was introduced in April 2023.</p> <p>Progress to date includes the co-location of MESMAC (sexual health organisation) at Family Hubs, and the commencement of sexual health drop-in sessions. Agreements have also been made for other organisations to co-locate at Family Hubs', including the Department for Work &amp; Pensions and Child Mental Health Services (CAHMS) practitioners, bringing more professionals under one roof and enhancing accessibility.</p> <p>Alongside this, the digital offer is widening access to services and is available in a number of alternative languages.</p>
3.5 (a)	<b>Children and young people safe from harm</b>	Provide new homes to make sure looked-after children and young people in Rotherham can stay in the borough:  Open a two-bedroom home.	Quarter 1	Will not be met	<p>Delays have arisen due to registration through HMI Ofsted.</p> <p>A full staff team have been recruited and the target end for registration from Ofsted is now January 2023.</p>
3.5 (b)		Open a second two-bedroom home	Quarter 2	Will not be met	<p>A property has been purchased, but challenges with access permissions to the property has delayed progress. Whilst these challenges are now being addressed, this has delayed the proposed opening date of the home, which is now expected to be Quarter 4.</p>
3.5 (c)		Open a third two-bedroom home.	Quarter 4	On track	<p>A property has been purchased on the open market. There are minor works required which are being arranged, and recruitment for staff team is underway. Documents for Ofsted registration are to be submitted in December 2023.</p>

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

3.5 (d)		Open a fourth two-bedroom home.	Quarter 4	On track	Due diligence is underway to inform the submission of an offer on a potential property.
3.6		Complete the actions set out in our Youth Justice Action Plan which has been developed to address the findings from a peer review of the Youth Justice Service in March 2022.	Quarter 2	Complete	All 35 actions have been completed. Actions were scrutinised and approved as complete by the Independent Evidence Challenge Panel. Progress and completions were also tracked by the Youth Justice Partnership Board, Safer Rotherham Partnership and the CYPS Performance Board, Improving Lives Select Commission, Internal Audit, and the Youth Justice Board.
3.7		Develop and launch the refreshed Early Help Strategy and ensure future revisions are informed by the start for life and family hubs developments.	Quarter 4	On track	<p>The Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership signed off the Early Help Strategy in January 2023. The Draft Early Help Strategy was ratified by the multi-agency Early Help Steering Group in April 2023. Following this Rotherham has further developed the universal and targeted early help offer through the delivery of the Family Hub Programme in Children's Centres. To ensure the Early Help Strategy reflects the ambition of the further developed universal and targeted early help offer it was agreed that a refresh and review would take place.</p> <p>The service has received external support to review the current offer and ambition articulated in the current Early Help Strategy. They review concluded in September 2023 and the recommendations are now under consideration. A new strategy is planned to go to Cabinet in March 2024.</p>

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

3.8	<b>Young people feel empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations</b>	Develop an independent travel training offer to support children with special educational needs or disabilities, so that they have the confidence and skills to travel independently and achieve their full potential.	Quarter 4	On track	<p>Two of the three posts in the newly created Independent Travel Training Team have been appointed to and staff have received an accredited standard of training. A further round of recruitment will take place to fill the final post.</p> <p>The delivery of Independent Travel Training is now fully underway, alongside further engagement activities with educational establishments, parents, and carers. This is actively supporting the development of independent skills for young people with an Educational and Health Care Plan.</p>
3.9		<p>As part of 'Rotherham loves reading' project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake monthly themed promotions to implement the take 10 campaign.</li> <li>• Train a second cohort of primary schools to implement the reading fluency project into schools.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Also links to Children get the best start in life outcome).</i></p>	Quarter 4	On track	<p>The monthly themed promotions for the Take 10 campaign are being undertaken every month. This campaign centres on the power of reading to support wellbeing.</p> <p>The Reading Fluency Project is on track and involves events taking place to retrain or enhance the support for those that took part in the project. This project supports KS1 and KS2 pupils below the expected standard in reading and/or who may have difficulty accessing the reading required in the wider curriculum.</p> <p>Richard O'Neill, has been named the author in residence for Rotherham and will be working with four primary schools with the highest percentage of children in care on a reading for pleasure project.</p>

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

3.10		Support teachers and school leaders to enhance learning opportunities for disadvantaged pupils by launching a Disadvantaged Pupils Toolkit. <i>(Also links to Children get the best start in life outcome).</i>	Quarter 4	On track	The Disadvantaged Pupils Toolkit has been created in partnership with a group of Rotherham leaders from across the borough who have been working with Marc Rowland, a national expert for supporting disadvantaged pupils. The Toolkit has been drafted and is due to be completed by December 2023, with a launch taking place in January 2024.
3.11 (a)	<b>Children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go</b>	Work with children and young people across the borough to co-design the Children's Capital of Culture (CCoC) 2025 programme and deliver a series of events, including: a) UPLIFT: Rotherham Skate and Arts Festival	Ongoing to Quarter 4 2025  Quarter 1	Complete	<p>The Council continues to deliver on the design of the Children's Capital of Culture programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The second annual UPLIFT Skate and Arts Festival took place in April 2023 with an estimated audience of 6,000 and featured a Teenage Market celebrating young makers and entrepreneurs.</li> <li>• WoW Rotherham took place in June 2023 with elements of the programme designed and delivered by Children's Capital of Culture Trainee Festival Makers. This included school workshops and youth-led activities. Around 3,000 people took part.</li> </ul> <p>Throughout the summer, the Children's Capital of Culture Festival Makers and Engagement Assistants led a programme of workshops and performances at community festivals including Ferham, Eastwood, Harthill, and the Rotherham Show.</p>
3.11 (b)		a) Teenager market	Quarter 1		
3.11 (c)		b) WoW festival	Quarter 1		



## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

3.12		Complete the two-year capital investment programme to improve play areas across the borough.	Quarter 1	Will not be met	Delivery of the programme has been held up due to delays within the construction pipeline. All projects now progressing well and will be delivered by the end of Quarter 4 in readiness for the new summer season. Progress to date includes seven out of the 14 projects are now fully complete, seven will be complete by January 2024 and the remaining two will be complete by March 2024. Many of the planned improvements include disability access play equipment, therefore improving levels of accessibility.
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Every Child able to fulfil their potential

- Outcomes
- Children get the best start in life
  - Children and young people safe from harm
  - Young people feel empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations
  - Children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
CH01	Percentage of eligible children accessing their 2-2.5yr health visitor checks	ACHPH - Public Health	Ben Anderson	High	Q	92.0%	92.0%	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available	93%	⬇️	⚠️	Data for 23/24 is expected in November 2023.
CH02	Number of Children in Need (rate per 10K population 0-17 as per DfE population)	CYP - Social Care	Monica Green	Low	Q	380.5	378.6	358.5	334.2	334.2	375.5	⬆️	✅	The children in need (CiN) population has reduced further in Q2 to 334.2 (1883 children and young people) and is below the latest statistical neighbour's average (431.5) and national average (334.3). Performance is currently below the year-end target (375.5) and the service remains focused on continuing to meet this target throughout 2023/24, by providing the right service at the right time. N.B. This measure follows the DfE definition which includes CiN, child protection (CP), children in care (CIC) and leaving care cohorts. As such, if any of these cohorts rise then this measure will too.
CH03	The number of children with a Child Protection plan (rate per 10K population 0-17)	CYP - Social Care	Monica Green	Low	Q	82.7	70.4	76.8	69.6	69.6	85	⬆️	✅	Performance at the end of Quarter 2 is 69.6 (392 children on a plan as of 30th September 2023) which remains below the year-end target of 85.0. However, it continues to be above the latest national (42.1) and stat neighbour (59.7) averages.
CH04	The number of Looked After Children (rate per 10k population 0-17)	CYP - Social Care	Monica Green	Low	Q	97.8	96.7	92.3	91.8	91.8	95.2	⬆️	✅	The children in care (CIC) cohort has continued to steadily reduce over the last couple of years from 598 at the end of March 2021 to 517 at the end of Q2 2023/24, with the rate of CIC per 10,000 population aged 0yrs to 17yrs being 91.8. It is important to note that the per 10,000 rate would be 84.7 without the inclusion of the unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) population (40). During Q1 (36) we did start to see a reduction in the number of UASC who presented with the need to be looked after, however, we have seen this increase again in Q2 (40). Focused work continues to ensure that children are brought into care only at the point that it is essential for them to be safeguarded in this way. (It is important to note that supporting children and families in a strengths-based way for them to remain together, which may be through use of Child Protection and Child in Need Plans, could, consequently, increase these numbers).
CH05	Open Early Help children at the end of the reporting period	CYP - Early Help	David McWilliams	Neither High/Low	Q	2889	3286	3106	3010	3010	No target	⬇️	ⓘ	There were 3010 children (1426 families) open to the service at the end of Q2 compared to 3106 children (1460 families) at the end of Q1. This shows a decrease of 96 children (34 families) since the end of Q1. 533 families were closed to the service during Q2.
CH06	Proportion of social care re-referrals in 12 months - in current month	CYP - Social Care	Monica Green	Low	Q	18.3%	17.2%	23.9%	20.2%	22.0%	22%	⬆️	✅	Performance at the end of Q2 was within target (22.0%), with 20.2% of social care referrals being a re-referral within 12 months during Q2. The year to date (Apr 23 > Sep 23) performance is also now in line with the target at 22.0%.
CH07	Number of children and young people who are currently assessed as having a medium to high risk of CSE (CSE cohort)	CYP - Social Care	Monica Green	Neither High/Low	Q	41	37	34	29	29	No target	⬇️	ⓘ	There were 29 children and young people assessed as having a medium to high risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) at the end of Q2, a reduction of 5 since the end of Q1.
CH08	Proportion of two-year olds taking up an early education place	CYP - Education & Inclusion	Julien Kramer (Interim)	High	Q	88.1%	85.6%	-	85.6% (Term 3 - 22/23)	85.6% (Academic year end)	85%	⬇️	✅	The 2022/23 academic year end performance has seen a decrease in the number of two-year-olds taking up an early education place (85.6%) compared to the end of 2021/22 (88.1%). However, this remains positive compared to the latest published benchmarking data of 62% national and 72% stat neighbours.
CH09	Proportion of pupils passing the phonics screening check in year 1	CYP - Education & Inclusion	Julien Kramer (Interim)	High	A	75.0%	78.5% (unvalidated )	-	-	78.5% (unvalidated)	76% (above 21/22 stat neigh av.)	⬆️	✅	This is an academic year measure and latest performance reported for 2022/23 is currently unvalidated. Validated data is expected to be published in October/November and will therefore be reported in Q3. In the academic year 2022/23, 78.5% of year 1 pupils passed the phonics screening check.

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
CH10	Number of children with Education, Health and Care Plan	CYP - Education & Inclusion	Julien Kramer (Interim)	Neither High/Low	Q	2640	3019	3162	3214	3214	No target	◆	❗	There were 3214 children with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) at the end of Q2, an increase of 52 in the quarter.
CH11	Number of additional universal youth work sessions delivered	CYP - Early Help	David McWilliams	High	Q	339	1135	358	297	655	800	↑	✓	During Q2, 297 universal youth work sessions were confirmed as being delivered. Along with the 358 delivered in Q1 this equates to 655 which is already 82% of the target set (800 sessions to be delivered). There are currently 23 providers commissioned to deliver places to go and things to do across the Borough.

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

### CASE STUDY

#### Children’s Capital of Culture: Arts Award Delivery

The Council is continuing to work with children and young people to co-design the Children’s Capital of Culture 2025 programme.

As part of this, since 2022 Children’s Capital of Culture have delivered nine different Arts Award Programmes within Rotherham, with 157 children and young people completing their Arts Award. Arts Award allows children and young people to experience the creative industry in their hometown, developing their arts and leadership skills in a creative, valuable, and accessible way. Managed by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England, a young person aged 5 to 25 can achieve an Arts Award at five different levels, with four being recognised qualifications and one being an introductory award.



Some 2023 successes from the Arts Award delivery include:

- In February 2023, 20 young people achieved their Bronze Arts Award, a Level 1 qualification award in the arts.
- During the summer, Children’s Capital of Culture worked with Clifton Learning Partnership to allow young people to gain their Discover Arts Award certificate. 11 young people achieved this.
- From August to October 2023, a group of young people met at Rotherham Civic Theatre every Sunday morning to complete their Silver Arts Award. This was delivered by two artists and the Children’s Capital of Culture team. 14 young people have been submitted for moderation to achieve their Silver Arts Award, a Level 2 award in the arts (working at the same standard as a GCSE).
- Finally, Children’s Capital of Culture are working with 45+ young people from Rotherham Opportunities College, to achieve their Explore Arts Award, an entry level award in the arts.

Testimonies from parents and carers from a Children’s Capital of Culture Bronze Arts Award event in January 2023, where young people received their certificates, demonstrate the positive impact of these programmes:

- *“It was so lovely and such a proud moment watching her collect her certificate. I would just like to say also that without opportunities provided for free like this, E wouldn’t have been able to take part and have had the experience she had: making new friends, increasing her confidence and self-esteem and gaining a recognised qualification whilst having fun!”*  
– Parent/Carer
- *“The team were skilled and flexible enough to care and support the girls, without rigidity of the traditional classroom.”* – Parent/Carer

## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

In 2024, the Children's Capital of Culture hope to use Arts Award to engage with even more children and young people in Rotherham. This includes continuing to work with Rotherham Opportunities College, to achieve Explore Arts Award and in February 2024, Children's Capital of Culture will deliver another week-intensive of Bronze Arts Award during half-term. Looking further into the future, Children's Capital of Culture programme hope to expand Arts Award into other local settings, developing Arts Award into the Council's Healthy Holidays programme as well as other external organisations.



## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

### CASE STUDY

#### Independent Travel Training

An independent travel training (ITT) offer has been created to support children with special educational needs or disabilities, so more young people have the confidence and skills to travel independently and achieve their full potential.

The graphic features a dark blue header with the text 'INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TRAINING' in white and green. Below this is a green banner with the text 'HELPING AND ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO TRAVEL INDEPENDENTLY'. The main body contains three images: a bus stop, a young person in a red jacket standing next to a blue bus, and a young person holding a certificate. A quote box contains the text: "Doing the training has been the best decision we've ever made. It's been life-changing. We encourage other parents of young adults to try it too if it's right for them. It's made such a big difference for my son." A QR code is located at the bottom left, with the text 'Scan the QR code to visit the Rotherham Council Local Offer or contact [education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk) for further information.' The footer includes the website 'www.rotherham.gov.uk' and the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council logo.

The travel training scheme aims to improve the Council's ability to deliver positive fulfilment of statutory duties under Section 508A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, by promoting and implementing more sustainable travel and transport solutions and reducing the Borough's carbon footprint. Having more eligible children able to travel on public transport will also help to relieve service pressures caused by a national shortage of suitable drivers and passenger assistants. And importantly, the main benefits are for

children and young people within Rotherham Borough, as each successful candidate will achieve increased independence, confidence and self-esteem, and greater opportunities within education, employment and socially.

Initially, a pilot scheme was undertaken during 2022 with one young person who was attending college. The young person had been reliant on assisted home to school transport assistance since pre-school age and was now a young adult.

Their parent's testimony shows the positive impact of the pilot scheme: *"This has been a wonderful opportunity for (my son). He has gained immense confidence with the help of the ITT Trainer, he has the knowledge of bus times and which bus to catch, he has also learned which stop to get off, he uses his phone to communicate via text message to let Julie and myself know he is safe. (The ITT team have) helped my son build up confidence to travel to and from college safely on the bus, use pelican crossing to safely cross the road and get to college safely. This is a big achievement for my son he can now do this journey independently and we as a family cannot praise your fantastic transport team enough, they have been fantastic. We have a more confident young man. Thank you so much."*

Following the success of the pilot, this year an investment of £85,000 was allocated to the Regeneration and Environment Directorate to resource an Independent Travel Training Team, with a newly established ITT officer and two part time ITT buddies in post.

To date, nine students from around the borough have successfully completed their travel training and an additional two students are undergoing their final stages of training.



## 6.3 THEME 3 – EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

Some examples include:

- R is 23 years old and had been reliant on home to school transport since primary school, R was the first ITT student in 2022 in Rotherham and has since then got plans of joining the ITT Team in a work placement/ Internship.
- O is 18 years and had been reliant on home to school transport since primary school. O now completes a half an hour bus journey and 20-minute walk independently without feeling they need Dad by their side.
- T is 12 years old and had been on home to school transport since 2022 when they joined secondary school. T was the first 12-year-old to complete ITT successfully and the first student within their education setting.

Feedback from parents, carers and students shows us how this is having a positive and tangible impact on the lives of our children and young people.

- When asked “*what part of the training did you enjoy?*” the students wrote; “*I enjoyed the walks and the feeling of being independent*” and “*talking to someone*”
- When asked “*how do you feel about travelling independently now you have completed your training*” the students wrote; “*proud*” and “*I feel brave and confident to travel on my own and look for routes on my own*”
- Parents and carer comments included; “*thank you for working with my son and promoting his independence*” and “*fantastic program, has really helped my daughter to be more independent*”.

Looking forwards, in December 2023 the ITT Team will host an award ceremony for recent students to celebrate and receive their certificate. The Council are looking to promote the service further, for example by attending coffee mornings with parent forums, producing promotion videos with successfully travel trained students and by offering internships and work placements at Rotherham Council for successful ITT candidates.



## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Our vision is to create a fair and prosperous economy that provides chances for everyone to get a good job, or start and grow a business, and plan confidently for the future.

Outcomes – our ambition	How we will get there
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress</li><li>• Delivering regeneration schemes that bring investment and opportunity, both in Rotherham town centre and in our towns and villages</li><li>• Working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs, paid at the Real Living Wage or above, and apprenticeships</li><li>• People having opportunities to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential</li><li>• Strengthening digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support people to improve their skills and secure decent work through a range of schemes and initiatives</li><li>• Provide a package of support and advice that enables businesses to start up and thrive, including targeted support to those most affected by the pandemic</li><li>• Deliver improvements and opportunities for local communities through major regeneration programmes</li><li>• Create a vibrant town centre, accessible to everyone, through a range of complementary schemes and major projects, including the flagship leisure development at Forge Island</li><li>• Secure further commitments through our social value policy and work with partners to maximise the impact of our collective spending power</li><li>• Connect people to economic opportunities through a range of transport schemes and improvements that also offer more environmentally friendly travel options.</li></ul>



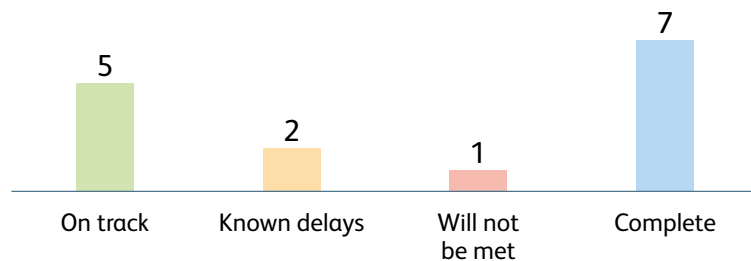
## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

### HEADLINES – EVIDENCING OUR PROGRESS

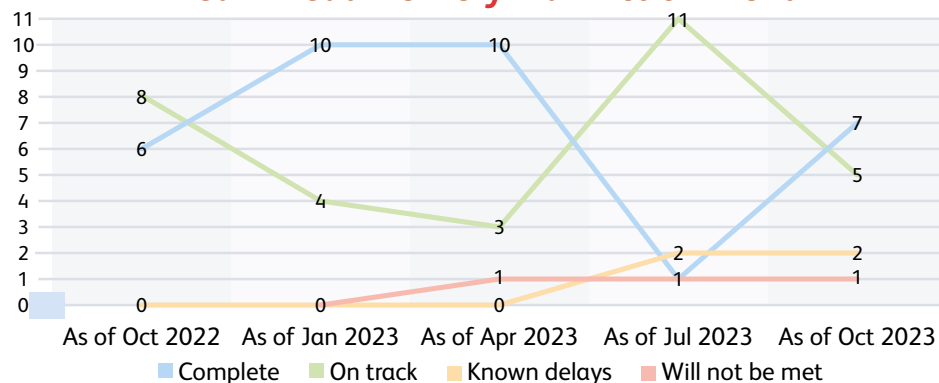
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are nine headline performance measures and 15 priority actions/ milestones contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress.

#### YEAR AHEAD ACTIONS AND MILESTONES

##### Year Ahead Delivery Plan Actions Status

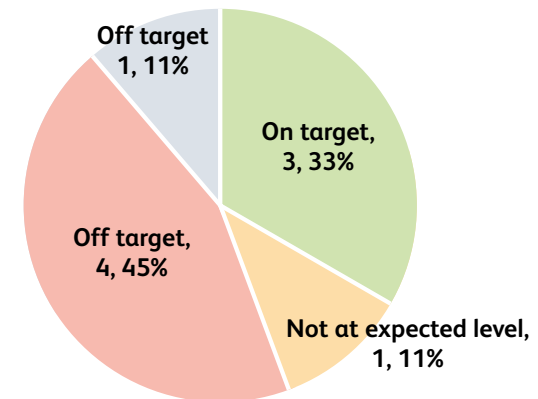


##### Year Ahead Delivery Plan Action Trend

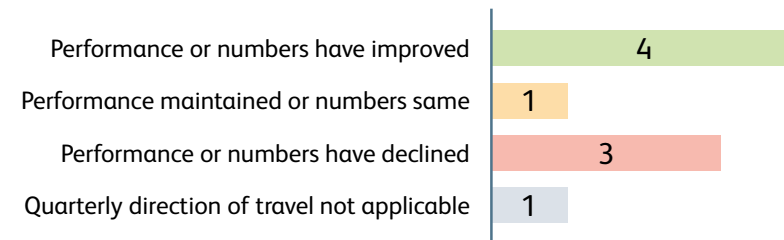


#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

##### Performance Measures Status



##### Performance Measures Direction of Travel



## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

### NARRATIVE – THE BIGGER PICTURE

This theme is working towards the vision of a fair and prosperous economy that provides chances for everyone to get a good job, or start and grow a business, and plan confidently for the future. It includes initiatives with partner organisations and employers to develop skills and enable people to realise their ambitions, tailored support for those who are disadvantaged in the jobs market, the delivery of regeneration throughout Rotherham, and maximising value from the money that is spent to create opportunities, raise living standards, and benefit local communities.

As part of the drive to support businesses to start up and grow, a small grants scheme is being delivered and Century II, the new business centre at Manvers, has opened.

The grant scheme offers match funding of up to £3,000 to help local entrepreneurs develop and grow their business. For example, it could be used to fund capital equipment, digital improvements or marketing activity. So far, around £11.5k of grant funding has been agreed for five projects, with four more in the pipeline. Century II, the borough's fifth dedicated business hub, offers a range of spaces for local businesses, including 20 workshops, 16 office units, and two labs, giving businesses flexible and modern space to grow (see case study below).

Alongside this, RiDO's start-up advisor team has assisted with 166 enquiries so far in 2023/24. They have also held 27 workshops, offering advice on self-employment, a three-module start-up programme, and covering specialist topics such as using artificial intelligence to generate marketing content (see case study below).

The successful employment support and progression projects, Pathways to Success, Inspire and Advance, are continuing to deliver great results for local people and have secured continuation funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. From April to September 2023, 108 people found work and 94 moved into training as a result of support from Pathways and Inspire. The Advance project, which helps employees to gain qualifications and further their careers, has had 384 participants in 2023/24, exceeding its targets.

Despite the challenging economic situation, with capital schemes facing increased costs due to inflation, the ambitious regeneration schemes across the borough are taking shape.

In the town centre, initial works for the markets and library redevelopment are underway and the flagship leisure development at Forge Island is on track for completion by April. The Riverside Gardens scheme is delayed after a procurement exercise failed to award a contract. Construction will now begin in the next financial year. After additional funding was secured from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority for fit out, Grimm and Co's new building on Ship Hill is due to open in early March 2024.

Elsewhere, the Council, as the accountable body, is continuing to support partner projects that are part of the LUF (levelling up fund) programme. At Magna, modernisation of the café and upgrades to the red wall and the earth and air pavilions is now complete. Completion of the remaining pavilions is expected in March 2024. Work on the stables kitchen project at Wentworth Woodhouse is well underway and due for completion in summer 2024, with Maltby Academy Trust's community learning hub due to complete slightly earlier in April 2024. After submitting a new planning application in the summer, Gulliver's innovative skills street attraction is now on site and aiming for completion by June 2024.

## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

In Swinton, the civic hall has been refurbished and work on the new library and neighbourhood hub has begun after roof leaks caused delays. It is expected to be finished by the end of March, with demolition of the old library following in 2024/25.

Finally for this theme, a digital inclusion strategy has now been agreed, providing a framework for action to increase access, improve digital skills and enable people to reap the benefits of being online.

## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

### YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN TRACKER

Expanding economic opportunity					
Ref	Outcome	Activity	Timescales for delivery	Status	Rationale for status
4.1	<b>A growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress</b>	Using funding available from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, design and commence delivery of a programme of grants to help small businesses grow and create jobs in Rotherham.	Quarter 1	Complete	Scheme designed and in delivery – the Small Business Grant allows SME organisations to apply for a 50 % match funded grant, up to a maximum amount of £3,000.  £11,447 of grant agreed over five projects; four further applications in development.  Although marked as complete for the purposes of this update, reporting against this action remains ongoing.
4.2		Open Century II Business Incubation Centre.	Quarter 2	Complete	Building work complete and opened to tenants November 2023 following delays in utilities connections (see case study below). Reservations on space are being taken from potential tenants.
4.3		Deliver a programme of workshops to 150 business entrepreneurs to provide start-up advice and support (to both pre-start and new start businesses).	Quarter 4	On track	Cumulatively over Quarters 1 and 2 the start-up advisor team assisted with 166 enquiries from pre-start and early-stage businesses. 27 workshops have been held with 112 attendances from 75 unique individuals. Workshops have included exploring the basics of self-employment alongside delivery of the 3-module start-up programmes and specialist topics such as: finance, branding, optimising marketing, building an online business, branding, sales and using artificial intelligence to generate marketing content.

## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

4.4		Continue to deliver ‘Pathways to Success’ and ‘Inspire’ support programmes ensuring at least a further 88 residents secure employment or training.	Quarter 3	Complete	Both Pathways to Success and Inspire have exceeded the targets set throughout the period of the projects and this is expected to continue up to the end of both projects in December 2023.  During the first six months of 2023/24 the Inspire/Pathways team have supported 108 people into employment and 94 into training against a nine-month target of 88 combined.
4.5		Agree a local labour policy to encourage and/or enable local people to access job opportunities arising from major development sites.	Quarter 3	Known delays	A report is being prepared for Cabinet in early 2024, seeking approval to adopt a local labour policy using planning conditions. This will be through the production of an interim planning statement or SPD, providing detailed advice to developers about how the policy within the Local Plan will be implemented.
4.6	<b>Delivering regeneration schemes that bring investment and opportunity, both in Rotherham town centre and in our towns and villages</b>	Commence construction works for the Markets and Library redevelopment.	Quarter 3	Complete	Following approval at Cabinet in August 2023, an enabling works contract was agreed with Henry Boot Construction Ltd. These works began in September and include a range of preparatory and initial construction works to facilitate the wider redevelopment of the markets complex.
4.7		Commence construction works on Riverside Gardens.	Quarter 3	Will not be met	Delayed following procurement exercise. This, coupled with the need to extend the design period, has led to delays in delivery which will push the commencement of construction past the end of the financial year.  The revised target date is June 2024.

## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

4.8		Demolish the existing Swinton Library building, move the library and neighbourhood hub to the redeveloped Customer Service Centre, and refurbish the Civic Hall.	Quarter 3	Known delays	<p>Refurbishment of the Civic Hall is now complete.</p> <p>Works to the new library (former Customer Service Centre) were delayed due to roof leaks but have now started.</p> <p>Practical completion of the new library is anticipated before the end of the financial year. However, demolition of the old library is likely to happen post 2023/24.</p>
4.9		Practical completion of Forge Island construction works and hand over to tenants.	Quarter 4	On track	Construction progressing to allow hand over to tenants as scheduled.

## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

4.10	Acting as accountable body, monitor and support partners to deliver projects across Rotherham with funding secured by the Council through Town Deal, Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and Future High Street Fund (FHSF), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wentworth Woodhouse</li> <li>• Maltby Skills Academy</li> <li>• Grimm and Co</li> <li>• Gulliver’s Skills Academy</li> <li>• Magna.</li> </ul>	Ongoing to Quarter 4	On track	<p>Monitoring arrangements: subject to the Pathfinder pilot, which will allow more local flexibility in moving funding between projects and programmes, LUF leisure economy projects will be monitored through the extended Town Deal Board as of November 2023.</p> <p><b>Wentworth</b> – works commenced in spring 2023 and completion is expected in summer 2024. The Pathfinder pilot is expected to commence imminently to formalise acceptance of the new timescales. A viability gap is still being reported following a value engineering and phasing exercise, therefore additional funds have been earmarked through UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).</p> <p><b>Maltby</b> – following delays caused by discovery of a bat roost, the new expected construction completion date is April 2024. A viability gap is still being reported following a value engineering and phasing exercise, therefore additional funds have been earmarked through UKSPF.</p> <p><b>Magna</b> – the project is progressing in line with original profile. The enabling projects, including modernisation of the café and upgrades to the red wall and the earth and air pavilions, are now complete. Completion of the remaining pavilions is expected in March 2024.</p> <p><b>Gulliver’s</b> – changes to the scheme, which is now categorised as a leisure-based skills centre, were formalised through a new planning application over the summer. Mobilisation has now begun on site and the works are expected to complete in June 2024. A viability gap is still being reported following a value engineering exercise, therefore additional funds have been earmarked through UKSPF.</p> <p><b>Grimm &amp; Co</b> – FHSF funded works are complete. Funding was secured from SYMCA to support fit-out, due to be complete by the end of 2023.</p>
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## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

4.11		Let the contract for the construction works to deliver new workspace and commercial units comprising the Towns Fund scheme at Templeborough.	Quarter 4	On track	Pre-contract services agreement contract let in July 2023. Full contract due to be let in January 2024.
4.12	<b>Working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs, paid at the Real Living Wage or above, and apprenticeships</b>	Work with partners to develop a 12-month plan to collectively drive the social value agenda and determine governance arrangements to support delivery.	Quarter 2	On track	There is a high level 12-month action plan and agreement to relaunch the partnership social value charter and improve partner engagement.  Agreement to organise a workshop to include representation from all partners to determine what is achievable and develop a more detailed plan. A date for the workshop and its full scope and approach is to be agreed in December.
4.13	<b>People having opportunities to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential</b>	Deliver the Advance Project, assisting 50 residents to improve their qualifications and enhance their career prospects.	Quarter 4	Complete	Total outputs for the ESF funded project (to December 2023) have now been achieved, ahead of schedule, with a total of 384 people assisted.  UKSPF funding has been secured to continue the project from January to March 2024, with a further bid in to take this through to March 2025.  Although marked as complete, this action remains ongoing, and progress will continue to be reported.



## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

4.14		Procure a programme of activity (Multiply) that engages adults (with numeracy levels below level 2) in informal learning to boost their maths skills.	Quarter 3	Complete	Grants awarded to a range of organisations, mainly from the local vol/comm sector, to deliver Multiply activity.  Activities have commenced and are currently on track, with monthly monitoring to ensure this remains the case.  Although marked as complete, this action remains ongoing, and progress will continue to be reported.
4.15	<b>Strengthening digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all</b>	Agree a Digital Inclusion Strategy.	Quarter 2	Complete	Digital Inclusion strategy produced and endorsed by partnership chief executives in July 2023. The strategy and associated action plan were endorsed by Cabinet on 18 September 2023.

# Expanding Economic Opportunity

## Outcomes

- A growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress
- Delivering regeneration schemes that bring investment and opportunity, both in Rotherham town centre and in our towns and villages
- Working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs, paid at the Real Living Wage or above, and apprenticeships
- People having opportunities to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential
- Strengthening digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
EC01	Proportion of working age population who are in work (or actively looking for work) in Rotherham	RE - Planning, Regen. & Transp.	Simon Moss	High	Q	77.0%	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Achieve national average	↓	✗	<p>The data for Economic Activity is taken from the Annual Population Survey. The survey releases data quarterly but usually with a 6 month time lag. The data released is based on surveys conducted with residents over a 12 month period rather than a quarter. The data presented here relates to Apr 2022-Mar 2023.</p> <p>74.2% of Rotherham's working age population is economically active. In comparison, Yorkshire &amp; Humber and Great Britain are at 77.2% and 78.4% respectively.</p> <p>Currently Rotherham is 4.2% below the national average. The gap has been widening, it was 1.6% (Jul21-Jun22), 2.3% (Oct21-Sep22) and 3.4% (Jan22-Dec22).</p>
EC02a	Optimistic about the future: a) Proportion optimistic about the future of Rotherham as a place to live	RE - Planning, Regen. & Transp.	Simon Moss	High	A	57%	51%	Not Available	56%	56%	>57%	↑	✗	Results from this year's survey (Wave 13) has seen a 5% increase based on last year's results, so just 1% off the target.
EC02b	Optimistic about the future: b) Proportion optimistic about the future of Rotherham town centre	RE - Planning, Regen. & Transp.	Simon Moss	High	A	24%	27%	Not Available	27%	27%	>24%	→	✓	Results from this year's survey (Wave 13) has seen a consistent result compared to previous year. Exceeding the CP target by 3%.
EC03	Number of new businesses started with help from the Council	RE - Planning, Regen. & Transp.	Simon Moss	High	Q	103	55	9	14	23	60	↑	✗	<p>During the quarter, in addition to supporting 34 pre-start entrepreneurs, 26 existing early-stage businesses were assisted (included in the advice and support figure), the team responded to 95 new enquiries, and held 16 workshops. There is a trend towards more very early-stage businesses requiring support, having registered as self-employed but trading at low levels. The Businesses Centres are at their highest occupancy since pre-Covid so the number of new businesses moving in can be limited by the availability of smaller units. Enquiry levels tend to be lower over the summer period, increasing in Q3 and Q4. Century2 is due to open in early November, and this will provide much needed additional capacity in the Manvers area. It will immediately boost the numbers associated with this measure.</p>
EC04a	Actions taken in Rotherham to promote progressive and sustainable Economic Development: a) Survival rate of new businesses supported in RiDO Business Centres over the first three trading years	RE - Planning, Regen. & Transp.	Simon Moss	High	A	93.0%	86.0%	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	81%	◆	△	The survival rate is reported at year end (Q4).
EC04b	Actions taken in Rotherham to promote progressive and sustainable Economic Development: b) Provide advice and support to local businesses to help them recover and grow.	RE - Planning, Regen. & Transp.	Simon Moss	High	Q	136	540	153	120	273	400	↓	✓	<p>Target amended for 2023-24.</p> <p>Advice and support target for the year is 400. The delivery of 273 places so far this year puts the service on track to exceed this target.</p>
EC05	Number of engagements with libraries' services which help people learn, acquire new skills or get a job	RE - Culture, Sport & Tourism	Polly Hamilton	High	Q	41,577	93,442	25,413	28,641	54,054	80,000	↑	✓	<p>DoT based on comparison to the number in Q2 22-23 as this is a measure determined by seasonal factors. In Q2 23-24 there were 37,618 more engagements than in Q1 22-23.</p> <p>Performance has already achieved 67% of its target for the year.</p>
EC06	Proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council as a percentage of the workforce	ACEX - HR	Tony Bryant (Interim)	High	Q	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	1.5%	↑	✗	<p>Performance improved slightly in Q2, however remains off target.</p> <p>Intranet support and guidance has been refreshed to include myth busting, FAQs, videos and case studies for potential apprentices and line managers.</p> <p>Further development of career pathways for critical roles being undertaken in each directorate - aligning these where possible to the new starter apprenticeship offer - ongoing.</p> <p>Review of organisation design options to create roles that support career pathways.</p> <p>Exploring apprenticeship options for key feeder roles e.g. customer services, business support.</p> <p>Ongoing review at Workforce Strategy Board.</p>
EC07	Number of online customer transactions	FCS - Customer, Info & Digital	Luke Sayers	High	Q	200,200	185,935	47,803	41,292	89,095	185,400	↓	●	<p>Measure definition amended for 2023-24 to remove reference to 3% increase year on year. The target remains unchanged.</p> <p>The number of transactions for Qtr2 represents 22.3% of the year's target of 185,400; which, when combined with digital transactions for Qtr1 (47,803) means that the cumulative total of 89,905 falls slightly short of the 6 month target of 92,700.</p> <p>Qtr4 generally records the highest number of online transactions; partly due to the launch of the garden waste collection service, in addition to winter weather related requests. Increased demand later in the year may therefore restore the balance.</p>

## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

### CASE STUDY

#### Launchpad business support service

Rotherham Launchpad believe in empowering people to achieve their goal of creating their own business. Through a range of workshops, expert advice, and one-to-one support the launchpad can help businesses to reach their full potential. They work with people at any point in their journey, whether that's beginning, middle, or end.



Simon and Karen Athey came to the launchpad at the start of their journey and have recently opened Bright Optics Limited in Brinsworth.

Simon worked as an optician for 20 years, but he and his wife, Karen, had a vision to open their own opticians in their local community. It was important to the couple that their business offered a more personal feel, enabling them to connect with their clients to provide the best service possible. They had dreamt of opening their own store for years, but the perfect unit, in the right location, wasn't available until recently.

The pair made the first step in their journey when they reached out to Rotherham Launchpad. Since then, the launchpad have worked closely with them providing one-to-one support, online workshops and pointing them in the right direction so they could forge their own path. Freedom and flexibility are what the couple values the most about working for themselves, as they can stock a wide range of items unique to their customers.

Karen said: *"Rotherham Launchpad has been invaluable to our business journey and helped to build our confidence immensely. The people that run it are friendly, helpful, and extremely knowledgeable. It feels like you're talking to someone who really invests in you and your idea and wants to see it succeed as much as you do."*

Simon said: *"We know first-hand how nerve-wracking it can be to go through this process and quite literally hand over your hopes and dreams for your future, but after the amazing experience we've had, I say just do it. The team will be able to guide you in the right direction and help turn your business idea into your reality."*

## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

### CASE STUDY

#### Official opening of Century 2 business incubation hub

A second business incubation hub has officially opened in Rotherham in November 2023. Rotherham Council has invested £5.4million to create 20 new workshops, 16 offices and two laboratories at Century 2 Business Park, Manvers.



Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, Cllr Denise Lelliott, said: *"Our investment will create more better paid jobs and increase spending in the local economy as a result."*

*"We're building on the existing success story at Manvers by creating a new vibrant workspace where more entrepreneurs and small businesses can get the support they need to grow. These are exciting times for small businesses who can tap into the specialist expertise offered by Rotherham Council."*

Micro and start-up businesses will benefit from the high-quality serviced spaces now available at Rotherham Council's fifth business hub.

The neighbouring Century Business Park has supported over 400 businesses since it was set up 22 years ago.

Century 2 will feature a central reception and lettable conference facilities for large meetings and functions. Externally, the site will include car parking, cycle storage and electric car charging points.

A fabric first approach has been taken towards creating a more sustainable building and renewable heating will be incorporated within the office spaces via air source heat pumps.

The site is located just off the A6195, with links to M1 and A1. It will be managed by the Council's Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO), which manages similar facilities across the borough.

Sarah Rimmington, a Director at independent travel agency SANS Travel and her three colleagues moved from working at their homes to the Century 2 business hub last month.

Sarah enthused: *"Business is absolutely booming. This place is cost effective and provides us with an excellent working environment. We've never looked back since moving in – it's perfect."*



## 6.4 THEME 4 – EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

*“It’s a new building with great facilities, easy to get to and has secure parking. The facilities are fantastic too. There’s a Board Room if we need it, and a shower room if we want to bike or run to work.”*

*“We’re living our dream right now. We’re happy what we’re doing, offering fantastic customer service and bringing customer’s dream holidays to life. We’ve expanded quicker than we thought possible and are just happy to be doing what we do best within our local community.”*

Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport, Simon Moss, said: *“Century 2 is already home to a number of small businesses that are enjoying the benefits of working out of a purpose-built modern environment.”*

*“As a Council we’re constantly striving to support local entrepreneurs and people thinking about launching their own business. Anyone wanting to know more about Century 2 or the opportunities open to them should give us a call or send us an email.”*



## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Our vision is to create a clean and welcoming environment across the borough, and in turn secure our natural environment for the next generation.

Outcomes – our ambition	How we will get there
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increasing satisfaction with the cleanliness of the borough</li><li>Creating better transport systems for future generations</li><li>Reducing the risk and impact of flooding and other environmental emergencies</li><li>Contributing to reducing carbon emissions across the borough.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ensure our streets are clean by providing an effective response to fly-tipping and littering, and continually improving our approach to street cleaning</li><li>To continue to invest in our urban green spaces and country parks, maintaining our four Green Flag accredited parks, whilst aiming for additional accreditations</li><li>Complete masterplans for the borough's three country parks, with an ambition to enhance services provided at these parks, whilst improving the appearance, cleanliness and welcome of our green spaces</li><li>Work with regional partners to deliver public transport improvements such as a new Tram-Train stop at Magna, as well as longer term aims a railway station at Waverley and a new mainline station for Rotherham</li><li>Develop a new Cycling Strategy and invest in new cycleways across Rotherham</li><li>Continue the roll out of public charging points to make electric vehicles a more viable option for residents and visitors</li><li>Deliver flood alleviation projects and work with communities and businesses to develop flood resilience measures in the worst-affected areas</li><li>Deliver a renewable energy generation project by 2025</li><li>Plant a minimum of 500 new trees every year</li><li>Encourage our suppliers to reduce their emissions through implementation of the Council's Social Value Policy</li><li>Support residents to access nationally available insulation grants to improve energy efficiency.</li></ul>

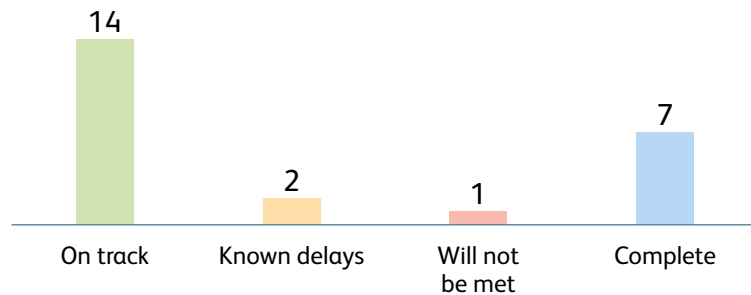
## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

### HEADLINES – EVIDENCING OUR PROGRESS

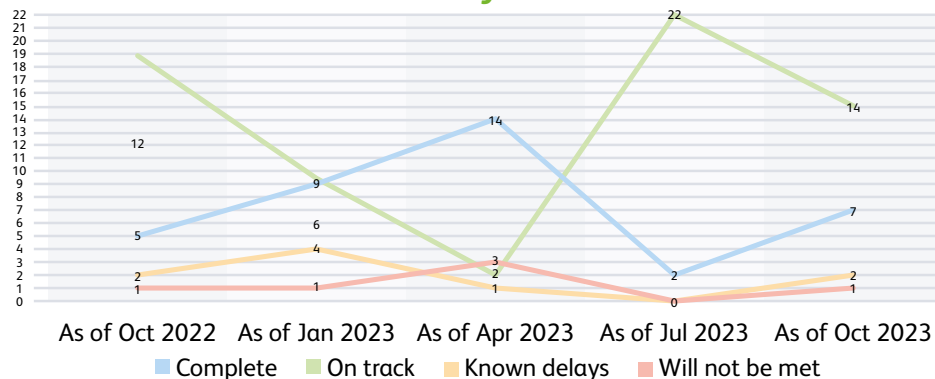
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are eight headline performance measures and 19 priority actions/ milestones contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress.

#### YEAR AHEAD ACTIONS AND MILESTONES

Year Ahead Delivery Plan Actions Status

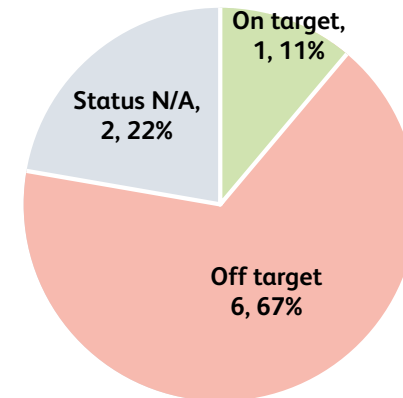


Year Ahead Delivery Plan Action Trend

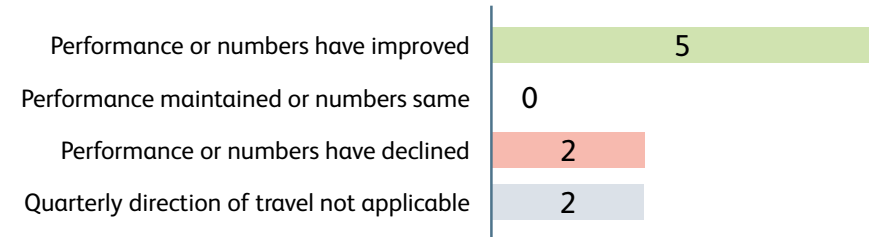


#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance Measures Status



Performance Measures Direction of Travel



## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

### NARRATIVE – THE BIGGER PICTURE

This theme aims to create clean and welcoming places across the borough, supporting environmentally friendly activity and initiatives that cut carbon emissions, helping to secure and preserve our natural environment for the next generation. Recent progress is outlined below.

Enhancements to street cleaning and weed removal across the borough are continuing. A new IT system was launched in June 2023 to improve the cleanliness of the borough by providing better performance monitoring, maximising resources, and improving how the public report and receive feedback on local issues. Data from the system is currently being gathered for analysis to understand how this can be used to enhance service provision and identify efficiencies. The Council has also procured a new Household Waste Recycling Service which commenced in October 2023. The new contract provides a number of benefits, including real living wage being paid across all sites, pop up HWRCs to reach the wider community, new operating equipment; signage and wider re-use provision. Furthermore, a trial for narrow access waste collection vehicles is currently taking place to ensure routes are fully optimised.

A total of 14 (nine fixed penalty notices, three small-fixed penalty notices and two successful prosecutions heard in Court) fly-tipping and 466 other environmental crime effective enforcement actions were taken between April 2023 and September 2023. Both performance measures are not currently at expected levels, and a performance clinic has taken place, as well ongoing monthly performance meetings with the service provider.

The masterplans at both Thrybergh and Rother Valley country parks are progressing, but behind schedule. These will bring a new café and visitor facilities at both Thrybergh Country Park and Rother Valley Country Park.

The delayed designs and costings are due to a further analysis of the components and materials, the full outcome of which will not be known until January 2024.

Delivery of significant projects as part of the Transforming Cities programme is continuing, aiming to create better and more sustainable transport systems. Sheffield Road cycleways construction commenced on 30 May 2023 which will create new segregated cycle tracks extending the existing route from the Sheffield City boundary near to the Magna Science Adventure Centre on the A6178 through to Rotherham Town Centre. Moor Road cycleways construction completed in July 2023 and Maltby bus corridor construction commenced in July 2023 to improve bus journey transport times and reliability.

The structural repair of the Centenary Way Viaduct remedial works scheme is delayed due to traffic management implications of construction. The new programme is to align with the completion of the Sheffield Road cycle route and the works on the M1 and the works are due to take place in summer 2024 for completion in Quarter 3 2024/25.

On Friday 20 and Saturday 21 October 2023, after experiencing heavy rainfall from Storm Babet areas of Rotherham sadly experienced flooding, affecting communities, businesses, and the environment. At locations within the Borough the River Rother burst its banks/overtopped and the River Don led to instances of flooding challenges at numerous locations. The impacts of the recent events are being reviewed and factored into the flood defence/mitigation schemes which are scheduled to achieve 'Shovel Ready' status in 2023/24.



## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Various actions are continuing to contribute to reducing carbon emissions across the borough. A Fleet Programme Officer has been appointed and is currently consulting with individual services to move the Fleet Replacement Plan forward. In addition, a trial has commenced of an alternative low carbon fuel known as ‘Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil’ in place of diesel across a sample size of 10 vehicles, which aims to deliver a 90 % carbon reduction from emissions. If the trial is successful, this may be implemented across the wider fleet for vehicles that are not currently in the fleet replacement plan with the aim of improving borough wide emissions from council vehicles.

The ECO4-FLEX project is still proving very popular with residents in the borough to support residents who need help in applying for government grants and for residents needing support to improve their home’s energy efficiency. The number of installers permitted to have ECO4-FLEX work signed off via the Council increased from four in August 2022, to ten as of September 2023. This now allows more domestic retrofit projects to be completed in the borough, resulting in the increased rate of decarbonisation of our private housing stock. Work has been signed off on 157 properties and 41 Community Energy Support Scheme household support projects since April 2023 and in the last 11 months the Council has saved residents approximately £3,507,592.40 in total across the 520 projects delivered.

In relation to renewable energy generation, a pre-planning application has been submitted on a potential site to confirm suitability for renewable energy generation.

Furthermore, approval was gained from Cabinet in October 2023 to progress to procurement for the Government Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funded scheme at Drummond Street car park. The scheme will provide solar photovoltaic canopy, ultra-rapid bays, rapid bays, fast bays, and standard bays.

## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

### YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN TRACKER

A cleaner, greener local environment					
Ref	Outcome	Activity	Timescales for delivery	Status	Rationale for status
5.1	<b>Increasing satisfaction with the cleanliness of the borough</b>	Implement a new IT system (Confirm), which will improve the cleanliness of the borough by providing better performance monitoring, maximising use of resources and improving how the public report and receive feedback on local issues.	Quarter 2	Complete	New IT system Confirm launched within grounds and streets service since 12 June 2023. The system provides a digital workflow for frontline staff reporting on bin cleansing operations and will soon be expanded to cover all of the grounds and streets function. Data is being gathered for analysis during quarter three to understand how the data can be used to enhance service provision. This will be used to identify efficiencies on each schedule, with the opportunity to change frequencies if required.
5.2		Procure a Household Waste Recycling Service.	Quarter 3	Complete	New contract with HW Martin commenced on the 31 October 2023 at all four Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The new contract provides a number of benefits, including real living wage being paid across all sites, pop up HWRCs to reach the wider community, new operating equipment; signage and wider re-use provision. There are currently no issues with the mobilisation plan of the new contract.
5.3		Procure new narrow access vehicles and introduce a new narrow access waste collection round.	Quarter 3	On track	Narrow access business case draft completed and shared with procurement for review. The narrow access driver and loader are in post. Service running a trial of the narrow access route, and this will be optimised as part of a wider route optimisation project. A vehicle has been hired for trials whilst awaiting the purchase.

## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

5.4		Pilot a commercial waste recycling service.	Quarter 3	Complete	The pilot is now complete and business recycling is to be rolled out to all existing customers, both internal and external. This will include free paper and card collection business waste service until March 2024. New fees will be agreed for the full new chargeable business waste collections from April 2024.
5.5a)		Commence construction of the new Café and Visitor facilities at Rother Valley Country Park, supported by Levelling Up Fund.  <i>(Also links to Every Neighbourhoods Thriving outcome and to maintaining Green Flag status as per Council Plan).</i>	Quarter 3	Known delays	Stage 4 designs will be complete January 2024.  Delayed design and costing due to requirement for further analysis of the components and materials, the full outcome of which will not be known until January 2024.
5.5b)		Commence construction of the new Café and Visitor facilities at Thrybergh Country Park, supported by Levelling Up Fund.  <i>(Also links to every Neighbourhoods thriving outcome).</i>	Quarter 3	Known delays	Delayed design and costing due to requirement for further analysis of the components and materials, the full outcome of which will not be known until January 2024.

## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

5.6 (a)	<b>Creating better transport systems for future generations</b>	Progress delivery of the Transforming Cities Fund and the Active Travel Fund programmes, including: a) Commence construction of the Sheffield Road Cycleway.	Quarter 2	Complete	Sheffield Road cycleways construction commenced on 30 May 2023.
5.6 (b)		b) Complete construction of the Moor Road, Manvers cycle route.	Quarter 1	Complete	A high quality, direct cycle route has been created between the A633 Manvers Way and Wath town centre, allowing residents and workers easy access between the key employment sites of Manvers and Wath-upon-Deane, via Manvers Way. Moor Road cycleways construction completed in July 2023.
5.6 (c)		c) Commence construction A.631 Maltby bus corridor.	Quarter 1	Complete	Maltby bus corridor construction commenced in July 2023.
5.6 (d)		d) Complete construction of the Broom Road Active Travel Scheme	Quarter 4	On track	Broom Road active travel scheme due to complete January 2024.

## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

5.7		Complete structural repair of the Rotherham Council funded Centenary Way Viaduct remedial works scheme.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	<p>Design progressing with some follow up minimal investigation works to aid the design development.</p> <p>Key issue around maximising the use of Network Rail possessions and discussions currently taking place.</p> <p>Due to the traffic management implications of the construction, the works are now scheduled to take place summer 2024 to coincide with the school holiday periods and completion by Quarter 3 2024/25. The programme has also been aligned with the completion of the Sheffield Road cycle route and the works on the M1.</p>
5.8		<p>Complete submission of the Outline Business Case (OBC) for Rotherham Mainline Station.</p> <p><i>(Also links to expanding Economic Opportunities theme and outcome).</i></p>	Quarter 4	On track	<p>Outline Business Case is being drafted with technical input from Network Rail, Transport for the North and Train Operating Companies, alongside a complementary Masterplan to help drive the strategic case and identify land acquisition, place making, land use and access.</p> <p>An analytical exercise regarding timetabling has been completed, to outline the level of service that can be designed into the station specification. This will drive both the economic and financial cases for the Outline Business Case. South Yorkshire Mayors Combined Authority are continuing to support.</p> <p>The Network North announcement from Government which effectively ceased the construction of HS2 will have significant implications for how the business case for the Mainline Station can be positioned.</p>

## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

5.9		<p>Work with regional partners, including South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Transport for the North and Network Rail to deliver the Council's Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) programme funded public transport improvements, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress construction of a new Tram-Train stop at Magna</li> <li>• Parkgate Link Road and Park &amp; Ride TCF Scheme</li> <li>• Work with SYMCA to finalise the drafting the Outline Business Case for the new railway station at Waverley.</li> </ul>	Quarter 4	On track	<p>The Magna Tram-Train design is making good progress. Planning application due for submission November 2023, with start on site due March 2024.</p> <p>Parkgate works programme on track.</p> <p>Waverley Station Strategic Outlines Business Case approved, enabling the scheme to progress to Outline Business Case. Scheme named as scheme to be funded under Network North proposals.</p>
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## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

5.10 (a)	<b>Reducing the risk and impact of flooding and other environmental emergencies.</b>	Continue to progress 'Shovel Ready' flood defence/ mitigation schemes and complete Stage 2 (initial design work and engagement with third parties), including: a) Rotherham Renaissance	Quarter 3	On track	Work is continuing to reduce risk (from the River Don) through Rotherham Town Centre, Parkgate and Kilnhurst (including works at Kilnhurst primary school).  Consultants are approaching the completion of several draft outline designs and reports for the preferred option.  At the July 2023 Yorkshire and Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meeting, the Council bid for £1.9m of Local Levy funding was approved to support ongoing pre-construction development work.
5.10 (b)		b) Parkgate and Rawmarsh	Quarter 4	On track	Work is continuing.  Of the £1.9m secured, £0.5m of this funding has been allocated for the Parkgate & Rawmarsh Flood Alleviation Scheme project.
5.10 (c)		c) Whiston Brook	Quarter 4	On track	Work is continuing, however flooding occurred in October 2023 from Storm Babet.  Of the 1.9m secured, £0.5m of this funding has been allocated for the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme project.  In August 2023 an updated newsletter was distributed to the residents and business within the Whiston Brook catchment to update them on the current progress of the Flood Alleviation Scheme and to provide using information about flood risk.
5.10 (d)		d) Eel Mires Dike	Quarter 2	Complete	Completion date for Stage 2 (Initial design work and engagement with third parties) was Autumn 2023.  Work is continuing in Laughton common, near Dinnington, however flooding occurred in October 2023 from Storm Babet.

## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

5.10 (e)		e) Catcliffe Pumping Station	Quarter 3	On track	<p>Work is continuing, however a substantial number of residential properties flooded internally due to River Rother over topping during Storm Babet in October 2023.</p> <p>Of the £1.9m secured, £0.4m of this funding has been allocated for the Catcliffe Pumping Station project however, this will now be subject to full review following the recent flooding.</p>
5.10 (f)		f) Culvert Renewal programme	Quarter 4	On track	<p>The Council's longlist of culverts (pipes/structures which carry the watercourse) to be investigated for renewal have been CCTV surveyed and cleansed. Further work using the information from the surveys is being analysed to determine how flood risk can be reduced at several of the culvert locations. The estimated completion date for Stage 2 (Initial design work and engagement with third parties) is Winter 2023.</p>
5.11	<b>Contributing to reducing carbon emissions across the borough</b>	Implement the fleet replacement plan including the procurement of 64 electric vehicles.	Quarter 3	On track	<p>A fleet programme officer has been appointed and is currently consulting with individual services to move the plan forward. In addition, a trial has commenced of an alternative low carbon fuel known as 'Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil' in place of diesel across a sample size of 10 vehicles, which aims to deliver a 90% carbon reduction from emissions. If the trial is successful, this may be implemented across the wider fleet for vehicles that are not currently in the fleet replacement plan with the aim of improving borough wide emissions from Council vehicles.</p>



## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

5.12		Identify suitable site(s) to develop low carbon energy generation plans as part of the Council's commitment to deliver a renewable energy project by 2025.	Quarter 4	On track	A pre-planning application has been submitted on a potential site to confirm suitability for renewable energy generation. Officers are currently reviewing the report to inform next steps, including exploring the impact of the new Biodiversity Net Gain legislation.
5.13		<p>Support residents to apply for energy efficiency grants through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) programme and the Council's Community Energy Support Scheme (CESS) with at least:</p> <p>a) 600 ECO4 projects signed off</p> <p>b) 300 CESS household support projects completed.</p>	Quarter 4	On track	<p>The ECO4-FLEX project is still proving very popular with residents in the borough. The number of installers permitted to have ECO4-FLEX work signed off via the Council has now increased from four in August 2022 to ten as of September 2023.</p> <p>This now allows more domestic retrofit projects to be completed in the borough each month, resulting in the increased rate of decarbonisation of our private housing stock.</p> <p>Each of these new installers has been carefully screened by the Energy team and RMBC trading standards. The average funding per ECO4-FLEX project is currently at £6,745 per property. This has meant that in the last 11 months the Council has saved residents approximately £3,507,592.40 in total across the 520 projects delivered.</p> <p>Latest figures relating to project sign off:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 157 ECO4 projects signed off since April 2023.</li> <li>• 41 Community Energy Support Scheme household support projects since April 2023.</li> </ul>

## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

5.14		Develop and agree an electric vehicle charging strategy.	Quarter 4	On track	<p>A report on Rotherham Council Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Expansion was approved at Cabinet on 16 October 2023.</p> <p>The EV Infrastructure Strategy is currently being developed through the Council EV Infrastructure Working Group and is on track to be approved by Cabinet in March 2024.</p>
5.15		Approve design for the Government Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funded scheme at Drummond Street car park (Scheme will look will provide: solar photovoltaic canopy, ultra-rapid bays, rapid bays, fast bays, and standard bays).	Quarter 4	On track	<p>Approval has been gained from Cabinet on 16 October 2023 to receive the funding and progress procurement. The next stage will be to commence the procurement process. There are two design components for this programme, including the infrastructure design and the charger which will be managed by concession by a third party. The design will be specified in advance of the procurement process.</p>

A Cleaner, Greener Local Environment

- Outcomes
- Increasing satisfaction with the cleanliness of the borough
  - Creating better transport systems for future generations
  - Reducing the risk and impact of flooding and other environmental emergencies
  - Contributing to reducing carbon emissions across the borough

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
EN01a	Fly tipping and environmental crime: a) Effective enforcement actions; fly-tipping	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	Q	61	45	6	8	14	60	↑	×	<p>Target amended for 2023-24.</p> <p>Breakdown of 8 enforcement actions: 5 Fly Tipping FPN's 2 Small Fly tipping FPN's. 1 Prosecutions secured for Fly Tipping offenses</p> <p>A review is being carried out to see if the scope of this measure could be expanded to include in total: P52 (Failed to Produce Waste Transfer) current YTD - 0 P10 (Domestic Duty of Care - FPN) - current YTD - 1 P61 (Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 47 Notice) - current YTD - 0 PF1 (Environmental Protection Act Section 59 Fly Tipping Notice) - current YTD - 6 AQK (Number of Vehicle Seizures) - current YTD - 0 Prosecutions secured for S33, S34, S87 and/or S88 breaches of the Environmental Protection Act - current YTD - 2 as they are all fly-tipping related enforcement actions.</p> <p>This metric measures FPNs issued specifically for fly tipping. Wider activities such as other FPNs, warnings issued in advance of prosecutions are all part of the work the council undertakes to combat enviro-crime.</p>
EN01b	Fly tipping and environmental crime: b) Effective enforcement actions; other environmental crime (cumulative)	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	Q	780	1245	150	316	466	1,500	↑	×	<p>Target amended for 2023-24.</p> <p>Enforcement actions taken against Enviro-crime in partnership with Kingdom (now LA Support) and Doncaster Council have seen an increase in Q2 figures, in comparison to Q1 which was 150.</p> <p>Recruitment and retention of enforcement staff remains a barrier to improved performance and plans to better communicate to residents the purpose and role of these officers and how their work fits with our aspirations for the borough is in development with the Comms team. Whether this will be enough to bring this measure back on track will need to be monitored carefully.</p>
EN02	Proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting)	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	High	Q	38.8%	38.5%	48.4%	43.7%	46.1%	45%	↓	×	<p>This is not an actual figure as the actual recycling rate figures are done 3-months in arrears in order for the service to collate the data / figures.</p> <p>NB -This is just % of kerbside waste that is collected for recycling, not overall recycling rates, so is purely driven by what residents put in their bins.</p> <p>Also please see official figures from Q1 Waste Dataflow: Recycling Rate – 48.4% % to Landfill – 0.4%</p> <p>Comms are doing a press-release as part of "Recycling Week" (17th - 23rd October) to encourage Rotherham residents to correctly recycle to reduce the amount of contaminated waste.</p>

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
EN03	Number of official complaints relating to: a) street cleaning b) grounds maintenance c) waste management	RE - Comm. Safety & Street Scene	Sam Barstow	Low	Q	a) Street Cleansing 5 b) Grounds Maintenance 17 c) Waste Management 143 Total Complaints= 165	a) Street Cleansing 20 b) Grounds Maintenance 16 c) Waste Management 230 Totals Complaints = 266	a) Street Cleansing 4 b) Grounds Maintenance 1 c) Waste Management 58 Totals Complaints = 63	a) Street Cleansing 2 b) Grounds Maintenance 6 c) Waste Management 42 Total Complaints = 50	113	190	↑	✗	Measure definition amended for 2023-24 to remove reference to service requests. The target remains unchanged.  50 complaints were received in Q2, which is 13 less than received in Q1 (63). This means for four consecutive quarters the number of complaints has been decreasing. The measure is rated red as 4 quarters with similar levels of complaints would see the measure exceeding the Council Plan target of 190.  The Waste Management service receives most complaints, and have conducted a review of complaints received. It was found that the trend is generally decreasing except for May 23 which saw a total of 26 complaints. This period did coincide with a period when a large number of new drivers and loaders took over routes where they may not have been familiar with rounds.  The main themes identified as causing complaints, are being addressed by the service with new coaching documents and performance measures introduced.
EN04a	Overall carbon dioxide emission levels for the Council: a) Operational property portfolio decarbonisation, solar PV and other energy generation, street lighting.	FCS - Finance	Rob Mahon (Temporarily transferred from R&E)	Low	A	b. Mains Electricity 1,875.30 c. Natural Gas Heating 1,698.49 d. Streetlighting 1,383.63 f. Onsite Generation 4.09  Total = 4,961.51 %Annual Change - 4.15%	b. Mains Electricity 1,782.05 c. Natural Gas Heating 1,703.36 d. Streetlighting 1,266.74 f. Onsite Generation 0.28  Total = 4,752.43 %Annual Change - 4.21%	Not Available	b. Mains Electricity 1,782.05 c. Natural Gas Heating 1,703.36 d. Streetlighting 1,266.74 f. Onsite Generation 0.28  Total = 4,752.43 %Annual Change - 4.21%	Latest data for 2022/23 published Q2 2023/24. Data for 2023/24 will not be available until Q2 2024/25.	10% reduction by 2024	↑	✗	The status and DoT are based on the latest data for 2022/23 published Q2 2023/24. Greenhouse gas emissions from EN04a sources have decreased over the last three financial years, driven by Council activity and decarbonisation of the UK electricity system. Data for the 22/23 financial year indicates a 4.21% reduction in carbon emissions across the corporate estate, against an overall target of 18%. It is not expected that the 2023/24 target of a 10% reduction in emissions during the year can be achieved however the Council continues to carry out actions to reduce gas emissions. Alongside the decarbonisation of the grid, the Council has committed to decarbonising five Council buildings which will further reduce carbon emissions. Investigations are also underway with regards to the feasibility of 'sleeving power purchase arrangements' (PPA) as a potential source for our electricity, which allow customers to directly purchase renewable energy directly from the generator with reduced costs. A PPA would offer steep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from the moment the contract commenced, though this project is still 'in concept' and would require funding and other approvals prior to implementation. Data will not be available for the period 2023/2024 until Q2 of 2024 when verified invoicing is available from our energy supplier.
EN04b	Overall carbon dioxide emission levels for the Council: b) Corporate fleet, grey fleet, EV charging infrastructure.	FCS - Finance	Rob Mahon (Temporarily transferred from R&E)	Low	A	a. Corporate Fleet 2,411.77 e. Grey Fleet 272.92 g. EV Charging 0.56  Total =2,685.25 %Annual Change = 1.59%	a. Corporate Fleet 2,390.29 e. Grey Fleet 381.31 g. EV Charging 0.47  Total = 2,772.07 %Annual Change = 3.23%	Not Available	a. Corporate Fleet 2,390.29 e. Grey Fleet 381.31 g. EV Charging 0.47  Total = 2,772.07 %Annual Change = 3.23%	Latest data for 2022/23 published Q2 2023/24. Data for 2023/24 will not be available until Q2 2024/25.	10% reduction by 2024	↓	✗	The status and DoT are based on the latest data for 2022/23 published Q2 2023/24. Greenhouse gas emissions from EN04b sources have increased over the last three financial years, driven by increasing business mileage since the end of COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. Data for 22/23 financial year indicates an increase of 3.23% against a target of 18% reduction. It is not expected that the 2023/24 target of a 10% reduction in emissions from fleet and EV infrastructure during the year can be achieved however the Council continues to carry out actions to reduce these types of gas emissions. Data for 23/24 will not be available until Q2 of 2024, however there are a number of programmes ongoing which will result in a significant reduction in greenhouse emissions from the Council's fleet if successful. The Council has committed to the replacement of 64 fleet vehicles with electric alternatives and a trial of ten vehicles with Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biodiesel is currently underway. HVO biodiesel is a 'drop in fuel' and would result in a significant cut in fleet emissions if implemented.
EN05a	Number of trees planted by the Council a) Number of Hectares	RE - Culture, Sport & Tourism	Polly Hamilton	High	A	9.4	21	0	0	0	5	◆	△	Measure defined as the number of hectares of land given to woodland creation.  No planting will take place until Q3.
EN05b	Number of trees planted by the Council b) Number of trees	RE - Culture, Sport & Tourism	Polly Hamilton	High	A	22,139	2,397	0	0	0	500	◆	△	No planting will take place until Q3.
EN06	Proportion of council housing with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated C and above	ACHPH - Housing	James Clark	High	A	46.48% (Oct'21)	50.9%	51.2%	52.4%	51.9%	50.0%	↑	✓	Proportion of council housing with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated C and above = 52.76%. Average Energy Score for all dwellings is 69.02, which is Energy Rating Band C. Boiler installations up to 30th September 2023 have been imported into NEC and the recalculated ratings are included in these figures.  There is still further work required to existing energy data where properties have had capital works that have, for example, improved loft, cavity and external insulation. Given the age of stock condition data (50%+ being 10 years old or more and that c7,000 EPC certificate are valid it is likley this may esult in the reported figure being restated by end of the financial year.

## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

### CASE STUDY

#### Construction of the Moor Road, Manvers cycle route

Cycling has a range of economic, health, wellbeing, traffic management and environmental benefits. The Council is committed to significantly increasing cycling in the borough. There are ambitious plans for a high-quality cycle network and infrastructure and a comprehensive Cycling Strategy has been developed.



A recent addition to the cycling network is the Manvers to Wath Cycle route. The project has been funded through the Department for Transport's Transforming Cities Fund, aligning to the objectives of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority's Transport Strategy and Active Travel Implementation Plan.

The scheme itself is a high-quality, direct route between the A633 Manvers Way and Wath town centre, allowing residents and workers easy access between the key employment sites of Manvers and Wath-upon-Deane, via Manvers Way. It links Manvers Way and Moor Road with a two-way cycle track, joining Moor Road at its northern end. It continues across Biscay Way, via a dedicated cycle crossing, and continues along the southern section of Moor Road to lead into Wath town centre.



## 6.5 THEME 5 – A CLEANER, GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Constructed from February to July 2023, it is a timely infrastructure contribution to the Dearne Valley Corridor, identified as both a growth area and as an area of transport poverty. Despite the employment opportunities, access to Manvers by public transport is poor. In addition to this, car ownership amongst many of the communities in the Dearne Valley, including Wath upon Dearne, is also low demonstrating a need for alternative modes of transport.

As well as facilitating connectivity, the scheme encourages residents to adopt active travel over car travel to lower the number of vehicles that use the road network and thereby reducing congestion and road safety risks.



Work to repaint and refurbish the blue Manvers Way Footbridge was also undertaken from July to November 2023, to coordinate the works, minimise disruption and control costs. The scheme was successfully delivered by the Council with money secured from the Department for Transport's Transforming Cities Fund by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

## 6.6 THEME 6 – ONE COUNCIL

As a Council we have an important part to play in addressing the challenges faced and achieving better outcomes for the people of Rotherham. Our vision is to work with communities to deliver responsive and modern services that are easily accessible to all.

Outcomes – our ambition	How we will get there
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effective customer services – residents know we mean what we say, are kept informed and can access the services they need in the way that suits them</li><li>• Engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customers</li><li>• Sound financial management and governance arrangements</li><li>• Effective leadership, working with our partners to achieve better outcomes across the whole borough.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with services, partners and communities to promote equality, celebrate diversity and ensure fairness for everyone</li><li>• Communicate and engage with residents so that they feel informed about council services and how to access these</li><li>• Work in an efficient, open, transparent and accountable way, in partnership with key stakeholders</li><li>• Work to improve customer satisfaction, including by developing and implementing a new set of customer service standards.</li></ul>

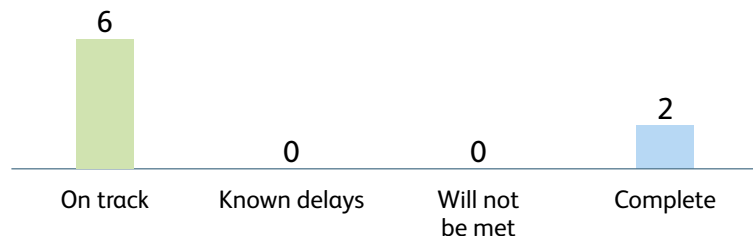
## 6.6 THEME 6 – ONE COUNCIL

### HEADLINES – EVIDENCING OUR PROGRESS

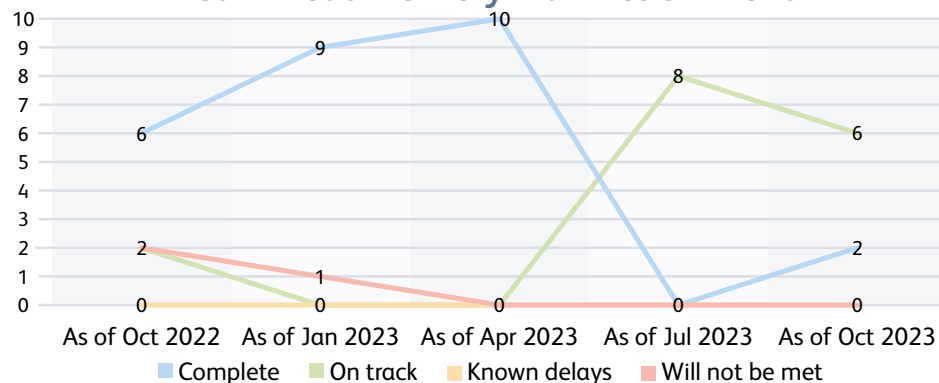
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are 11 headline performance measures and 8 priority actions/ milestones contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress.

#### YEAR AHEAD ACTIONS AND MILESTONES

Year Ahead Delivery Plan Actions Status

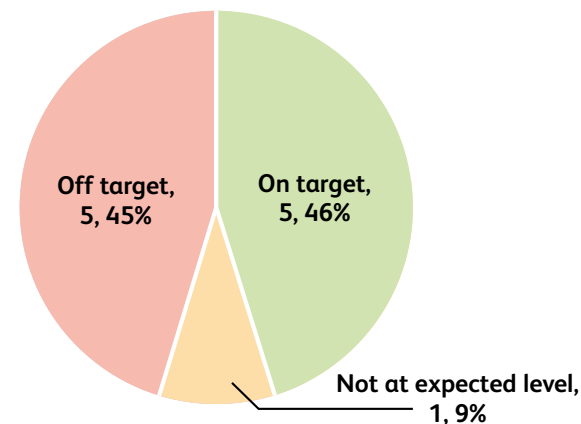


Year Ahead Delivery Plan Action Trend

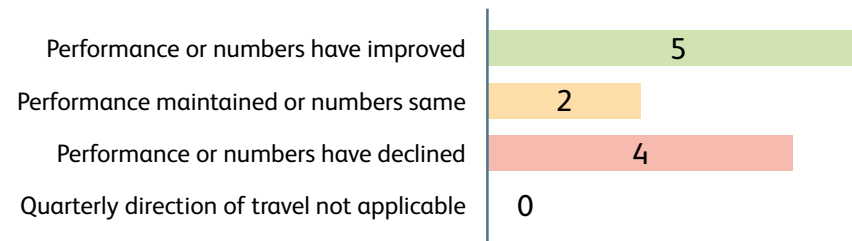


#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance Measures Status



Performance Measures Direction of Travel





## 6.6 THEME 6 – ONE COUNCIL

### NARRATIVE – THE BIGGER PICTURE

The One Council theme is focussed around working with communities to achieve the Council’s vision and deliver responsive and modern services which are accessible to all.

Since the last update, significant progress has been made on implementing the recommendations of Customer Services Peer review which was carried out by the Local Government Association (LGA). To date, all the actions have been completed for four of the recommended improvement areas and, for the remaining two improvement areas, the actions are 50 % complete with all on target to complete by the end of March 2024. An Equalities Impact Assessment is also in place for the Customer Access Strategy.

In addition, call answering times in the Corporate Contact Centre remain well ahead of target and this is despite resource pressure in the second quarter. Increased capacity significantly increased the Contact Centre’s ability to answer more calls more quickly and this has been supported by the call back facility, which continues to be an effective way to manage short bursts of peak demand. 5,000 people used this facility during Quarter 1, receiving a call back on average within 15 mins.

Performance in responding to complaints within timescales is just short of the target, 84 % being answered in time, against a target of 85 %. There has been significant improvement in the proportion of residents who feel that the Council keeps them informed (50 % saying that the Council does this “very well” or “fairly well”) as well as a significant increase in the proportion of residents who think that the Council acts on the concerns of residents (now 51 % of residents think concerns are acted, compared to 42 % last year). These figures are now very close to the national average for all local authorities.

The new Management Development Programme has now been launched and managers can express an interest in participating. The employee opinion survey was launched in November, with results expected in 2024. The proportion of Personal Development Reviews completed is currently higher than in the comparative period for 2022/23.

The new Workforce Plan sets out key activity to become an employer of choice, including a review of how the Council attracts, recruits, develops and retains staff from different sections of the community. Targeted events are continuing to be held in our communities, to remove barriers to recruitment and enable the Council’s workforce to reflect the population of the Borough more closely. The recruitment of a Senior Community Engagement Officer is now underway to support with this activity. The proportion of disabled employees exceeds the target, and the proportion of young employees (those under 25) is continuing to increase, whilst the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic employees has remained constant.

Sickness absence levels have been decreasing, with covid having less of an impact on the rolling 12-month absence calculation. However, there has been a slight increase in sickness absence in Quarter 2. Additional support is being provided to managers and updated absence management information reports have been issued. This is alongside absence management clinics, which are continuing to take place to advise and upskill managers. Absence data is also being shared with senior management to ensure effective oversight. Managing attendance is a standing agenda item at Workforce Strategy Board and regular deep dives are undertaken to identify common themes and share best practice.

## 6.6 THEME 6 – ONE COUNCIL

The LGA Corporate Peer Review is now complete. The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Team visited the Council in June 2023, and their report, along with an agreed action plan, was considered at Cabinet on 18 September 2023. During their time in the borough the Peer Team had more than 40 meetings, with more than 100 members, staff and partners regarding the Council. A progress review visit from the LGA is scheduled to take place in December 2023.

The Council produced and published its draft accounts for 2022/23 on time. The Council's external audit has commenced although the auditors have indicated that, due to their own resource issues, there may be a delay in certification of the accounts and the VFM conclusion.

Quarterly Strategic Partnership Group meetings have continued through the period with the first full meeting held in June 2023 and the second in September 2023. Two stakeholder events to promote collaborative working across agencies and progress the Rotherham Together Plan are planned in the year, the first was held in September 2023 and the second event is due to be held in March 2024.

The Member Development Programme is continually refreshed, and regular updates scheduled covering the 'Need to Know' sessions. Members are regularly asked what they would like to see included in the Member Development Programme particularly to aid delivery of ward priorities and to support them in their Neighbourhood Leadership role. Member Sessions are now normally delivered via Teams to aid attendance at each session by as many members as possible although there are a handful of sessions delivered physically during October/November 2023 due to the nature of the session being delivered e.g. Trauma Matters Training, CPR/Defibrillator Training. Equality Impact Assessment to be completed by Quarter 3.

Mid-Term Reviews are being implemented on a tranche basis, with the newly elected cohort of Members from 2021 offered the first opportunities for a review. Work is now taking place to ensure that the themes arising from discussions relating to development and supporting delivery of Ward Priorities are being captured in the Member Development Programme and the proposed Member Induction Programme for 2024.

Furthermore, feedback from Members is being captured regarding learning and development requirements to help shape the draft 2024 Member Induction Programme.

## 6.6 THEME 6 – ONE COUNCIL

### YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN TRACKER

One Council					
Ref	Outcome	Activity	Timescales for delivery	Status	Rationale for status
6.1	<b>Effective customer services – residents know we mean what we say, are kept informed and can access the services they need in the way that suits them.</b>	Implement the findings from the Local Government Association (LGA) Customer Services Peer Review.	Quarter 4	On Track	All actions completed for four out of six recommended improvements. Of the remaining two, both are more than 50 % complete with all on target to complete by March 2024.
6.2	<b>Engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customers</b>	Launch new management development programme.	Quarter 1	Complete	The management development programme has been developed and was officially launched in November 2023, with managers being able to express an interest in participating.

## 6.6 THEME 6 – ONE COUNCIL

6.3		Deliver the Employee Opinion survey for 2023.	Quarter 3	On track	Provider has been procured and has been launched in Quarter 3. Deadline for completion by staff is 15 December 2023.
6.4		Undertake targeted events and campaigns to engage with residents to remove barriers to recruitment and ensure employment opportunities are maximised.	Quarter 3	On track	Recruitment of Senior Community Engagement Officer is underway to support with this activity is on track for completion for Quarter 3.
6.5	<b>Sound financial management and governance arrangements</b>	LGA Corporate Peer Challenge to review the capacity, governance, leadership, and finances to deliver on the Council's ambition.	Quarter 2	Complete	Now complete. The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Team visited the Council in June 2023, and their report along with an agreed action plan was considered at Cabinet on 18 September 2023.  Although the Corporate Peer Challenge has now been undertaken, work is continuing to ensure that the action plan is completed in an appropriate timescale.  A progress review visit is scheduled to take place in December 2023.
6.6		Gain an unqualified audit opinion on the Council's Statement of Accounts and a positive Value for Money assessment outcome.	Quarter 4	On track	The Council has produced draft accounts on time and has published them. The Council's external audit has commenced although Grant Thornton have indicated that, due to their own resource issues, there may be a delay in certification of the accounts and VFM.

## 6.6 THEME 6 – ONE COUNCIL

6.7	<b>Effective leadership, working with our partners to achieve better outcomes across the whole Borough</b>	Facilitate quarterly Strategic Partnership Group meetings and undertake two stakeholder events to promote collaborative working across agencies and progress the Rotherham Together Plan.	Ongoing – Quarter 4	On track	Quarterly meeting established with the first the first full meeting held in June 2023 and the second in September 2023.  The first of the two stakeholder events was held in September 2023. The second event is due to be held in March 2024.
6.8		Refresh the member development process using the member development survey and member personal development plans.	Quarter 3	On track	The Member Development Programme is continually refreshed, and regular updates scheduled covering the ‘Need to Know’ sessions. Members are regularly asked what they would like to see included in the Member Development Programme particularly to aid delivery of ward priorities and to support them in their Neighbourhood Leadership role.  All Member Sessions are now delivered via Teams to aid attendance at each session by as many members as possible although there have been a handful of sessions delivered or are set to be delivered physically during October/November 2023 due to the nature of the session being delivered e.g. Trauma Matters Training, CPR/Defibrillator Training.

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
OC01	Proportion of complaints closed within timescales	ACEX - Policy, Perf & Intell.	Fiona Boden	High	Q	85%	85%	91%	80%	84%	85%	↓	✗	Performance has declined in Quarter 2 in comparison to Q1 2023-24 and Q2 2022-23 and the Council Plan target has not been achieved. The year to date figure is however 84% and only slightly off the 85% target.
OC02a	Satisfaction: a) The proportion of residents who feel that the Council keeps them informed	ACEX - Comms. & Marketing	Emma Hollingworth	High	A	50%	48%	Not Available	50%	50%	>50%	↑	✓	50% of Rotherham respondents in 2023 said that the Council keeps residents ‘very well’ or ‘fairly well’ informed about the services and benefits it provides. This is lower than the most recent national result (55%) and the same as the average percentage across all Rotherham surveys (50%). Younger respondents (aged 18-24) were more likely than older people to think that the Council keeps residents well informed.
OC02b	b) To what extent do you think that the Council acts on the concerns of local residents	ACEX - ACEX	Emma Hollingworth	High	A	48%	42%	Not Available	51%	51%	>48%	↑	✓	51% of respondents in Rotherham answered positively when asked about the extent to which the Council acts on the concerns of residents (i.e. ‘a great deal’ or ‘a fair amount’). This is the joint highest response across all surveys and similar to the national result (52%). Locally there was an increase of 9% in satisfaction levels between 2022 and 2023. Respondents aged 18-24 were most likely to think that the Council acts on the concerns of local residents (82% responded positively) whilst those aged 55-64 were least likely to have this view.
OC03	Average customer wait time to corporate contact centre (in minutes)	FCS - Customer, Info & Digital	Luke Sayers	Low	Q	Not available - New measure for 22/23	6 mins 8 secs	2 mins 54 secs	2 mins 31 secs	n/a	6 (Quarterly target)	↑	✓	Performance against Council KPI OC03 (6 minutes average customer wait time to corporate contact centre per quarter) achieved Although Qtr2 included a peak period of leave (summer school holidays), the increased capacity significantly increased the contact centre's ability to answer more calls more quickly. The call back facility continues to be an effective way to manage short bursts of peak demand - 5,000 people used this facility during Qtr1, receiving a call back on average within 15 mins.
OC04	Number of council working days lost to sickness per full time equivalent post	ACEX - HR	Tony Bryant (Interim)	Low	Q	13.57	12.79	12.51	12.63	12.63	10.30	↓	✗	The 10.3 days lost per FTE target is based on benchmarking by the CIPD of public sector organisations with over 5000 employees, reflecting absence levels in similar sized organisations in the public sector. Sickness absence levels have been decreasing, with covid having less of an impact on the rolling 12 month absence calculation, additional support provided to managers and updated absence management information reports, however these increased slightly in Quarter 2. Absence management clinics are continuing to take place to advise and upskill managers. Absence data is also being shared with senior management to ensure effective oversight. Managing attendance is a standing agenda item at Workforce Strategy Board and regular deep dives are undertaken to identify common themes and share best practice.
OC05	The proportion of completed annual staff performance development reviews	ACEX - HR	Lily Hall	High	Q	78.6%	96.5%	9.4%	67.8%	67.8%	95%	↑	●	The proportion of PDRs completed is currently higher than Q2 2022-23. DoT based on comparison to Q2 2022-23. Expected that the target will be achieved by year end.
OC06a	Diverse workforce: a) Overall proportion of disabled employees	ACEX - HR	Tony Bryant (Interim)	Rep. of borough	Q	9.3%	9.7%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9%	➡	✓	Currently on track to achieve year end target. The new Workforce Plan sets out key activity to become an employer of choice, including a review of how the Council attracts, recruits, develops and retains staff from different sections of the community.

Ref	Key Performance Indicators	LEAD SERVICE	LEAD OFFICER	Good is?	Qtrly or Annual?	2021/22 (Yr End)	2022/23 (Yr End)	2023/24				Direction of travel	Progress against target	Notes
								QTR 1 (Apr-Jun)	QTR 2 (Jul-Sep)	Yr to Date	TARGET			
OC06b	b) Overall proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic employees	ACEX - HR	Tony Bryant (Interim)	Rep. of borough	Q	4.7%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	5.4% (2023-24) 6.3% (2024-25)	➔	✗	Incremental target for 2023-24.  Seek to achieve 6.3% working age population in the borough by 2024-25, ONS Census. The new Workforce Plan sets out key activity to become an employer of choice, including a review of how the Council attracts, recruits, develops and retains staff from different sections of the community.
OC06c	c) Proportion of workforce under 25	ACEX - HR	Tony Bryant (Interim)	Rep. of borough	Q	4.2%	2.9%	3.1%	3.3%	3.3%	3.8% (2023-24) 4.6% (2024-25)	⬆	✗	Incremental target for 2023-24.  Benchmark LGA Average in Local Government December 2021. The new Workforce Plan sets out key activity to become an employer of choice, including a review of how the Council attracts, recruits, develops and retains staff from different sections of the community.
OC07a	Council tax and business rates collected: a) Proportion of Council Tax collected in the current financial year compared with other Met Councils	FCS - Finance	Rob Mahon	High	Q	97.42%	97.01%	27.05%	53.08%	53.08%	Top Quartile	⬇	✓	The final collection performance for 22/23 of 97.01% was a 0.41% decrease on 97.42% reported in 21/22. Performance had been impacted by tax payers being affected by increases in the the cost of living, the large proportion of Council Tax staff time taken up dealing with the Energy Rebate work rather than collecting Council Tax and a high level of vacancies on the team. The target of Top Quartile Metropolitan Council was however achieved with Rotherham being 5th best Metropolitan Council.  Collection rates are down on last year while recovery notices issued are up, which may be as a result of the cost of living increase.  DoT based on comparison to with Q2 performance in 22-23.
OC07b	b) Proportion of business rates collected in the current financial year compared with other Met Councils	FCS - Finance	Rob Mahon	High	Q	97.40%	97.10%	27.05%	52.90%	52.90%	Top Quartile	⬇	✗	The final collection performance for 22/23 of 97.10% was a 0.30% decrease on 97.40% reported in 21/22.  The target of Top Quartile Metropolitan Council was not achieved with Rotherham being 18th best Metropolitan Council for Non Domestic Rates collection. Performance last year was affected by the cost of living crisis putting additional pressures on businesses. Additionally, over recent years the introduction of a number of different reliefs for Business Rates has affected each council differently based on the make up of their business rates portfolio with some councils in 22/23 seeing large increases in collection rates (eg Walsall 26th best to 2nd best) and some with large reductions (Knowsley 2nd best to 31st).  Collection rates are down on last year while recovery notices issued are up, which may be as a result of the cost of living increase.  DoT based on comparison to with Q2 performance in 22-23.



## 6.6 THEME 6 – ONE COUNCIL

### CASE STUDY

#### **Independent Corporate Peer Challenge conducted by the Local Government Association (LGA) praised Council improvements**

The independent LGA peer challenge team visited Rotherham in June 2023 and gathered information from staff, elected members and partners. The team was made up of leading local government figures, including former Rotherham Commissioner Mary Ney.

A final report published in September 2023 stated that the Council is ‘in a very good place’. It recognised that the Council had undergone an impressive transformation, saying; ‘It is ambitious and has well-established and robust foundations, along with several notable and commendable practices that other councils can learn from.’

The report praised the Council’s staff, saying; ‘*The peer team met some really good quality staff from across the Council. They were motivated, dedicated and determined to deliver the best outcomes for residents. They knew the priorities of the Council and wanted to do their best to deliver against them.*’ It also noted ‘*excellent and effective Member (councillor) and officer relationships built on mutual trust.*’





## 6.6 THEME 6 – ONE COUNCIL

The authors noted the significant investment secured, seen through the extensive £610m investment programme, the stable financial position and clear ambition and plan to achieve an ‘outstanding’ rating in future OFSTED assessments for children’s services.

The report concluded that ‘Rotherham Council serves the town well and is today an impressive organisation.’

The report made a number of recommendations for further development, including celebrating achievements, and using the investments already underway to attract private sector investment at scale to support a more inclusive economic future. In response to the report, an Action Plan was developed and approved by Cabinet in September 2023.

Councillor Chris Read, Leader of Rotherham Council, said: *“The report is testament to the hard work that council staff and elected councillors have been undertaking over the last few years; determined to improve the Council and the services it provides to residents, even at a time when funding has been taken away from us in a way councils have never seen before. Based on hundreds of conversations with our staff and partners, as well as examining our data and how it compares to other councils, it provides an important independent assessment of how far we have come. But it also points us in the right direction for the future and continuing to create more opportunities for our residents.”*

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive at Rotherham Council, said: *“The Corporate Peer Challenge provided the opportunity to gain an external view on what is working well as well as to consider our plans and ambitions going forward. So many people work so hard for our community, week in and week out, often in difficult circumstances, so it’s great to see our brilliant Council staff receiving this feedback from experts from across the country, including from Mary Ney who has known Rotherham right back to the 2014 inspection. Over the coming weeks and months we will be considering how we best use the feedback to continue to improve.”*

This endorsement came on the back of the Council being named the ‘Most Improved Council’ in the country at the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards in 2022.

The peer challenge team considered five themes, which form the core components of all Corporate Peer Challenges: local priorities and outcomes, organisational and place leadership, governance and culture, financial planning and management, and capacity for improvement.

The Corporate Peer Challenge Cabinet Report is available on the Council website [here](#).



## Appendix 2

### PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
<b>Equality Analysis title:</b> Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2022-25 Mid-Year Report for 2023-2024	
<b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA):</b> November 2023	
<b>Directorate:</b> Assistant Chief Executive	<b>Service area:</b> Policy, Performance and Intelligence
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Simon Dennis	<b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk">simon.dennis@rotherham.gov.uk</a>
<b>Is this a:</b> <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	
<b>If other, please specify</b>	

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

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Tanya Lound	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement and Risk Officer
Simon Dennis	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager
Steve Eling	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Policy and Equalities Manager
Michael Homes	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Partnership Officer
Leonie Wieser	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Policy Officer
Florence Drew	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement Officer

## 3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

### Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

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

The Council Plan is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. This plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan sits alongside the Council Plan. To ensure delivery of the Council Plan, the annual Year Ahead Delivery Plan runs until March 2024 and, following a review will be updated for the 2024-25 financial year. This is the first mid-year progress report to Cabinet for the 2023-24 financial year.

The report focuses on progress made in delivering the 98 priority actions/milestones contained within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and the 66 headline performance measures that best demonstrate progress in achieving the 26 key outcomes. It also brings together wider information, key facts and intelligence to explain how the Council is working and performing, including timelines and case studies to demonstrate our impact.

Through directorate and service-level business plans the Council carries out wider work to measure performance and quality. This report is intended to provide an overview of the contribution that the Council makes across all its activities to improving Rotherham as a place to live, work and spend time.

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

A mix of contextual equalities information, such as the census, and consultation on the Council Plan is provided here.

### Population

- Population estimates indicate that the borough is becoming increasingly diverse with significant international migration, mainly from other EU countries. Based on the 2021 census, the proportion of residents from ethnic minority communities increased from 8.1% in 2011 to 11.7% in 2021. Ethnic diversity is most evident amongst young people illustrated by the 20.5% of school pupils who were from ethnic minority groups in 2023. The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British, with 3.8% of residents in 2021 and 6.3% of school pupils in 2023.
- Rotherham's ethnic minority population is very concentrated in the inner areas of the town (in Boston Castle/Rotherham East and Rotherham West wards 63.3% of residents are from ethnic minority communities) whilst the outer areas were 95.3% White British in 2021. 42% of residents from ethnic minorities live in areas that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country and for some groups the figure is higher. This compares with the Borough average of 19.5%.
- The population is ageing; Rotherham has 52,228 people aged 65 years or over or 19.6% of the population, above the national average of 18.4%. The population aged over 65 is projected to increase to over 21% by 2026, with the largest increase being in the number of people aged over 75.

### Economy

- Rotherham has a polarised geography of deprivation and affluence with the most deprived communities concentrated in the central area whilst the most affluent areas are to the south, although the overall pattern is complex.
- Rotherham is one of the 20% most deprived areas in England with 13,836 children living in "absolute poverty" 2020/21.
- The inequality in the pay gap between men and women is substantial. According to the 2023 ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings full-time male workers in Rotherham earn £8,881 more than full-time female workers, on average (median gross annual pay). This means women's pay in Rotherham is only 75% of men's pay, compared with 85% nationally.
- In the consultation for the Council Plan, 45% of respondents stated there were not enough job opportunities in their area, as opposed to 19% who stated there were enough. Those with no disabilities were more likely to state there were enough job opportunities in their area (21%) than those with disabilities (15%), with female respondents more likely to be unsure about the opportunities (37%), than men (32%).

### Health and wellbeing

- Rotherham had 56,177 people with a limiting long-term health problem or disability in 2021, with 9.8% saying this limits their activity a lot, compared with the average of 7.3% in England. Although there have been health improvements, health inequalities remain and in some cases are widening.
- Health inequalities are also significant, both between the borough and the national average and between the most and least deprived communities in Rotherham. In addition to these factors, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities, with the most disadvantaged communities being hit the hardest.
- In the Council Plan consultation, in response to the question on what would have the biggest positive impact on wellbeing and quality of life, men (30%) and those without a disability (27%) were more likely to state environmental improvements (23% overall), while more women and those with a disability stated 'More things to do in the community' (16% women, 22% with disability, 13% overall). Male respondents (14%) and those with a disability (12%) were also more likely to state 'improved working conditions' as factors (8% overall).

### Neighbourhoods

- In the survey consultation on the Council Plan, men were more likely to say they used parks daily (46%) than women (28%), while women were more likely to never use parks at all (7%), than men (1.2%).
- With regards to crime and community safety, tackling anti-social behaviour (79%), tackling crime such as car crime (67%), and protecting vulnerable older people (62%) emerged as respondents' top priorities, over preventing harassment and violence against women and girls (42%), and preventing hate crime (includes disability/ racial/ religious/ homophobic/ transphobic crimes) (35%) – which might partly be due to the age profile and the overrepresentation of older age groups, as well as the underrepresentation of religious and ethnic minorities.

The statistics above have been updated to reflect the 2021 Census data.

### Resident Satisfaction Survey

The Council Plan includes eight performance measures from the Resident Satisfaction Survey. The 2023 results included:

- **Satisfaction with Local Area as a Place to Live** – 82% of respondents in reported feeling 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied' which is just above the average (80%) recorded level across all waves. Adults aged 45-54 were the *least* likely to report being 'satisfied' (74%). People aged 18-24 years and aged 65+ are the *most* likely to be satisfied with their local area (91% and 84% respectively).  
**Satisfaction with Rotherham as a Place to Live** – 65% of respondents said that, overall, they were 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied. This was above the average across all of the previous surveys (61.5%), although there has been considerable fluctuation between waves. Respondents aged 18-24 were most likely to feel satisfied with Rotherham as a place to live, with 73% satisfied. Respondents aged 45-54 had the lowest level of satisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live, with only 59% satisfied. Dissatisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live was highest amongst people aged 45-54.
- **Feelings of Safety** – 92% of respondents in Rotherham said they felt 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' during the day when outside in their local area (higher than the figures observed nationally at 90%). 62% reported the same feelings of safety after dark, lower than the figures observed nationally (71%). There was a significant difference between men and women's feelings of safety after dark in the Rotherham survey, with 71% of men reporting feeling 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' compared to only 54% of women. Young people aged 18-24 are most likely to feel safe after dark and those aged 25-34 least likely to feel safe. People with low skilled, manual occupational backgrounds are least likely to feel safe.
- **Feelings of Optimism** – 56% of respondents reported feeling 'very optimistic' or 'fairly optimistic' about the future of Rotherham as a place to live, above the 54% average across all surveys. People aged 25-34 were the most likely to be optimistic about the future of Rotherham as a place to live (70%) and men were more optimistic than women overall. Fewer respondents felt as positive about the future of Rotherham town centre (27% felt 'very optimistic' or 'fairly optimistic') as they did about the future of the wider borough. This is above the average of 23% across all nine surveys, and the joint highest result since the question was first asked in June 2017. 40% of respondents were not optimistic at all about the town centre. Young people aged 18-24 years were the most optimistic about the future of Rotherham town centre (44% were optimistic), whereas people aged 55-64 were most likely to not be optimistic. There is no comparable national data for these questions.
- **Keeping Residents Informed** – 50% of Rotherham respondents said that RMBC keeps residents 'very well' or 'fairly well' informed about the services and benefits it provides. This is lower than the most recent national result (55%) and the same as the average percentage across all Rotherham surveys (50%). Younger respondents (aged 18-24) were more likely than older people to think that the Council keeps residents well informed. It

should be noted that this measure covers not only corporate communications but could also refer to face to face or any other types of council touchpoint that the customer experiences.

- **Responsiveness of Rotherham MBC** – 51% of respondents in Rotherham answered positively when asked about the extent to which RMBC acts on the concerns of residents (i.e. 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount'). This is the joint highest response across all surveys and similar to the national result (52%). Locally there was an increase of nine percentage points in satisfaction levels between Waves 12 and 13. Respondents aged 18-24 were most likely to think that the Council acts on the concerns of local residents (82% responded positively) whilst those aged 55-64 were least likely to have this view.

#### **Council Plan data Quarter**

- The Council Plan includes three performance measures which aim to create a diverse workforce and quarter data includes within the report states:
  - Overall proportion of disabled employees – 9.87% against a year-end target of 9%
  - Overall proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic employees – 4.45% against a year-end target of 5.4%
  - Proportion of the workforce under 25 – 3.29% against a year-end target of 3.8%.

The targets are designed to drive the Council towards having a workforce that better reflects the diversity of the Borough. The new Workforce Plan sets out key activity to become an employer of choice, including a review of how the Council attracts, recruits, develops and retains staff from different sections of the community.

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

Promoting equality, celebrating diversity, and ensuring fairness for everyone runs throughout all the themes in the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan and updates are now obtained from directorates in relation to actions being taken to consider equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) for each of the Year Ahead Deliver Plan actions. EDI has also been built into the case study templates for officers to obtain specific examples.

However, some updates are still lacking detail with regards to actions/activities to gain a better understanding of communities and the equality data being collected and used to better inform activities, along with gaps. It therefore remains unclear for some areas, how outcomes for different communities and protected characteristic groups are being improved.

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

Progress updates on the Council Plan Year Ahead Delivery Plan are produced on a quarterly basis (twice internally and twice publicly in January and July). Public updates are reviewed by Cabinet and Scrutiny and are available online. The update reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny include progress in relation to actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, as well as performance relating to a suite of key performance measures and case studies.

In addition, as the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities are implemented, services are required to complete an equality screening and/or analysis to ensure due regard has been given and that there is an understanding of the effects of a strategy, policy, service or function on those from a protected characteristic group, where this is applicable to do so.

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

To help inform the priorities and actions in the Council Plan, various consultation exercises took place between August and September 2021. There were over 1,300 interactions



	<p>across all engagement methods. The consultation was part of an ongoing dialogue between the Council and members of the public.</p> <p>Customers are consulted and engaged in different ways by services when delivering the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.</p> <p>The performance measures monitored include resident satisfaction and a resident satisfaction survey is conducted annually in June. In June 2023, a statistically representative random sample of 501 Rotherham residents (aged 18 or over) was polled mainly by landline telephone using quotas set by age and gender. The data was further weighted to reflect the age, gender, and social grade profile of Rotherham. This ensures that the sample is as representative of adults in the borough as possible as there is often a bias in the profile of people who respond to any survey. See results from 2023 survey above.</p> <p>Some performance measures are also based on customer perceptions in relation to the quality of the service received.</p>
<p><b>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b></p>	<p>Engagement with staff was undertaken through directorates contributing to writing the report informing us of progress made on actions/milestones that applied to them. Staff also provided performance data and contributed to the gathering of case studies used in this report.</p> <p>Throughout the development of the report, Cabinet Members are briefed.</p> <p>Furthermore, the headlines are shared with the Assistant Director Group and Strategic Leadership Teams.</p> <p>Wider Leadership events and staff briefing sessions also include highlights in relation to the process being made.</p>

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

##### How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?

(Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Equalities is cross cutting throughout the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan. Of the five guiding principles, two in particular aim to meet residents' and communities' differentiated needs:

- Expanding opportunities for all
- Working with our communities

Expanding opportunities encompasses the Council's essential priority to tackle inequality striving to ensure that the health and life chances of the most disadvantaged communities are improving the fastest. To complement this approach, 'working with our communities' ensures that to achieve the best outcomes for local people, local residents are involved in the things that matter to them and services are designed based on input from those who use them. This will enable service users to take an active role in improving access to services, highlighting any barriers for those sharing protected characteristics in designs and services, making sure that specific needs are met.

There is also an outcome focussed on addressing inequalities and leaving no one behind within the 'people are safe, health and live well' theme. This will involve providing support to our communities at a level that is proportionate to the degree of need – taking a universal approach where appropriate whilst also providing targeted support to those who most need it.

Furthermore, the underlying 'One Council' theme encompasses two specific areas, which ensure different needs are met:

- All customers at the heart of everything we do
- Engaged, diverse and skilled workforce who feel empowered to adopt new ways of working to meet the needs of all customers.

The Council's commitment to place all customers at the heart of service delivery includes a strengthened approach to equalities and being inclusive. This will involve working with services and partners to promote equality, celebrate diversity and ensure fairness for everyone. The commitment to an engaged, diverse and skilled workforce is expected to improve the council's response to diverse customer needs, by bringing a more differentiated understanding of equality and diversity considerations and barriers.

The six-monthly progress reports capture progress in relation to all activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and a suite of key performance measures.

Within **five themes of the Council Plan**, a series of universal offers are aimed at all of Rotherham's residents, while several actions are specifically aimed at tackling inequalities and issues of access. The following expands both on the universal and the targeted offers within each theme.

### **Every neighbourhood thriving**

Activities in this area are aimed at meeting the needs of all residents and ensure they benefit from thriving neighbourhoods. The priorities of making neighbourhoods welcoming and safe, local people having access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces, improved local town and village centres, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and improving street safety are for the benefit of all residents regardless of protected characteristics. Residents, organisations and businesses are encouraged and enabled to use their skills and resources to help others.

Individual services, such as parks, libraries, cultural offers and neighbourhood working will each undertake an equality analysis, where required to do so, to identify gaps, making sure that any physical, cultural, language or other access barriers are identified, and all residents have offers meeting their needs.

Progress made which links to improving equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes include:

- 25 Ward Plans produced and published - Borough-wide and local VCS organisations and groups representing communities with protected characteristics were invited to contribute the priorities. Census data and other equalities data also used to inform the priorities and reports to Council include case studies illustrating the impact of neighbourhood working

- Currently appointing to a position which will be responsible for implementing a new model of equalities engagement and to build stronger networks and connections with communities
- Following the completion of an open process in accordance with the Rotherham Compact, a lead partner has been appointed and undertaken a stakeholder engagement exercise to inform the co-design of the new infrastructure contract
- Thurcroft's library and neighbourhood hub reopened in November 2023 following an extensive refresh. The facilities now offer improved accessibility and provide more opportunities for people to benefit from the library and its services, whilst also providing a new flexible space for activities and events
- Number of cultural events have been held in various locations across the Borough. All events consider equalities including translation services and BSL for entertainment activities. Other examples include ensuring that artists and performers appropriately reflect the demographics for each event and provision at all events for disabled visitors
- Rotherham Show in September 2023 continued to be hugely popular free event for everyone to enjoy, attracting approximately 88,000. This year, there was a sensory area to provide a calming space for neurodiverse and disabled adults and children, delivered in partnership with Sense and mobility access was improved, with an increased number and range of mobility scooters available. The show received a 97% satisfaction rating from survey responders. A commissioned survey from QA also showed that families were the biggest audience, and visitors were made up of 69% Rotherham residents and 31% Outside visitors. The ethnic group split of visitors this year was 79% White British, 8% Asian or Asian British, 7% Black British and 3% Mixed heritage, which is a large shift from last year's audience being 91% White British
- Improved accessibility at Rosegarth shopping parade, Aston following works which completed in July 2023, as part of the Council's Towns and Villages Fund. The area now boasts improved accessibility to the shops, through new steps and ramp access. New paving and footway improvements make it easier for residents and businesses to access the shops, which line the parade. Detailed consultation has taken place on all Towns and Villages fund projects that have equalities implications. These have mainly focused on accessibility, where existing layouts have been improved to meet current best practice.

### **People are safe, healthy and live well**

Actions in this area are aimed at protecting everyone's physical and mental health, while focusing on the most vulnerable.

Within the priority for people to feel empowered, safe and live independently for as long as possible, actions focus on people with learning disabilities and their carers, independent living and adult social care ensure that the needs of these vulnerable groups are prioritised. Notably, in this area, a range of engagement and co-production exercises have been undertaken or are ongoing, with a range of diverse communities, to ensure that their views are taken into account in service design and delivery and their needs are met., This is central to improving accessibility and enabling inclusive services.

More generally, ongoing monitoring and improvement of services contributing to this theme is key, as the most vulnerable often face the most barriers. Monitoring should identify and address gaps in provision, and in particular ensure that individuals sharing several protected characteristics, and thus potentially facing multiple barriers, can access the support they need.

Progress made which links to improving equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes include:

- A new public health improvement and prevention campaign has been launched to provide advice on areas such as smoking, tobacco control, food and physical activity. Engagement with local people has been critical as part of the development of the campaign, and has included targeted work to reach those living in the most deprived communities of the

borough. Sessions were also held to ensure that the views of specific target communities were captured, including ethnic minority communities, people with learning disabilities and older people.

- Drug treatment and recovery services are being expanded to increase the number of people successfully supported to 1,555. The new service model includes both a dedicated family worker and women specific worker. Which will improve female specific treatment options in the service.
- Engagement has started to co-produce with people with a learning disability, and their carers, the priorities for learning disability services transformation over the next three years. The engagement has been shaped and led by a consortium of organisations that are experienced in co-production and accessibility.
- Work is ongoing to commence the building groundwork for Castle View which will provide new day opportunities for people with high support needs. Engagement with staff, customers and family members is critical to support the development of a diverse and inclusive new day service, accessible to all those who would like to attend. Initial engagement sessions held and further sessions to take place at key stages of the programme. Advocacy support has been arranged for all sessions.
- Carers Conversations (co-production workshops) have taken place in Sept/Oct to ensure inclusion of diverse unpaid carer groups/individuals, through engagement with a range of VCS organisations to engage representation of organisations that support people with protected characteristics
- Council Tax support for those eligible, free school meals and hardship grants
- A new model for crisis food provision for the borough has been agreed.
- Housing Growth Programme continues to be delivered, which includes a range of homes designed in consideration of the needs of those with disabilities and/or in need of carer support.

### **Every child able to fulfil their potential**

Actions under this theme are aimed at children having the best start in life, children and young people being safe from harm, feeling empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations, whilst also having fun things to do and safe places to go.

Activities aim to address educational inequalities through collaborative working with schools and partners, so all children are ready to attend school and learn and are able to engage in future education, training, and employment. This will give all young people the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of ability.

Some actions specifically target support to those who are disadvantaged, vulnerable or have disabilities. Specific actions to open new residential homes will enable looked after children to access the best local placements whilst other specific actions aim to improve opportunities and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), so they can get the best start in life. Activities for young people to have things to do and safe places to go have also been designed so that accessibility is ensured as much as possible.

Ongoing monitoring of actions within this theme will help to identify further areas where equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes can be improved and considered further.

Services contributing to this theme, again, will carry out equality analyses where appropriate and monitor equality data.

Progress made which links to improving equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes include:

- The Council's Written Statement of Action (WSOA) signed off from the Department for Education in June 2023. Actions taken through the WSOA will support opportunities for pupils with SEND.
- Rotherham Relationships Charter launched April 2023, this seeks to reduce marginalisation and improve outcomes for families experiencing conflict from all communities
- The Family Hub's Programme has a digital offer available in a number of alternative languages, supporting families who cannot access face-to-face services. Multiple in-person services are to co-locate to increase in-person accessibility.
- New children's residential homes are being developed, enabling looked-after children to remain in the borough where appropriate.
- An independent travel training offer has been developed for children and young people with an Education Health and Care Plan to increase their independence skills.
- The Rotherham Loves Reading Project is increasing representation across the range of books available for access and a specific reading for pleasure project has been developed to support Looked after Children in primary schools.
- Children's Capital of Culture is being co-designed with children and young people from all communities to ensure that it offers opportunities for all children and young people in Rotherham e.g., providing free activities and language translations on marketing materials.
- The play improvement programme includes plans for disability access play equipment.

### **Expanding economic opportunity**

Aims for this theme include growing the economy to provide decent jobs and chances to progress; rejuvenating places through regeneration schemes across the borough; giving people the chance to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential; working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs paid at the living wage or above and more apprenticeships; and increasing digital access through infrastructure enhancements and skills development.

Contributing to these aims are projects supporting residents to gain skills and enhance their employment prospects, a range of regeneration programmes across the borough, action around social value and local labour policies, and the development of a digital inclusion strategy.

Equality analysis and monitoring will be carried out where appropriate to ensure vulnerable residents sharing protected characteristics benefit from this support. Given the gender pay gap in Rotherham is substantial and above the national average, activities in this area will need to be monitored closely to ensure they do not widen the gap.

Activity that links to improving equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes includes:

- The Council is actively promoting the living wage accreditation
- A range of initiatives are supporting residents to improve their skills and enhance their employment prospects, including the Pathways project which helps unemployed people into work or training, job seeker support sessions in libraries, and the Advance project, which helps people in work to gain skills and further their careers. The Advance project has used participant monitoring data to target groups with a low take-up. For example, the project has worked closely with Working Win, the South Yorkshire work and health project, to target participants with disabilities, as monitoring data showed low registrations from people with disabilities in the first half-year of the project.
- Local labour clauses are being applied to major planning permissions, increasing the chances for local people to access jobs.
- Regeneration project designs are developed in consultation with Rotherham residents and construction of new buildings and facilities includes consideration of accessibility. For

example, at Century II, provision has been made for the needs of wheelchair and semi ambulant users in the design of the new building and development site.

- Consultation with residents to help establish Rotherham's digital inclusion baseline and identify actions to reduce digital exclusion. The digital inclusion strategy, which has now been agreed, will include activity to target places and groups that are most at risk of exclusion.

It will be important to assess and monitor the extent to which these activities are directly addressing the inequalities identified in section 3, for example the gender pay gap and geographical disparities.

### **A cleaner, greener local environment**

The priorities of making neighbourhoods cleaner and greener are for the benefit of all residents regardless of protected characteristics.

This theme encompasses reductions in carbon emissions, working towards net zero targets, better transport systems for future generations, reduced risks of flooding and other environmental emergencies. There are no immediate equality implications in this area, although any direct impacts on residents, such as through actions in housing, transport and in work with community organisations, will be monitored.

Progress made which links to improving equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes include:

- New contract with HW Martin for the four Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) provides a number of benefits, including real living wage being paid across all sites, pop up HWRCs to reach the wider community, new operating equipment; signage
- Equality Analysis undertaken for the cafes and new facilities at Rother Valley Country Park and Thrybergh Country Park. Disabled carparking spaces will be available adjacent to the café at Thrybergh. Sheltered outdoor seating and tables will accommodate the needs of those who are immune-suppressed. New landscaping down to the water's edge will be accessible to those with prams, people in wheelchairs and mobility scooter-users
- Delivering bus, tram and cycle improvements through the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) programme. The work on the A631 Maltby bus corridor will improve bus journey transport times and reliability, while the work on the Sheffield Road Cycleways, alongside other investments, aims to connect developing communities and support healthy lifestyles for a wide range of people
- The new cycle route at Moor Road, Manvers provides an alternative mode of transport to the Dearne Valley Corridor. The area was identified as both a growth area and as an area of transport poverty
- In response to the Storm Babet flooding skips were provided for residents to use in Catcliffe and Treeton and Council staff visited residents in the affected areas to help clear furniture and household items. A rest centre was also established at Catcliffe Memorial Hall to provide support and advice
- Work has begun on developing a new Local authority ECO4-FLEX referral route to target vulnerable residents not currently eligible
- For a number of projects within this theme, equality impacts will be considered at scheme design stage.

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

No problems or barriers have been identified or flagged as part of the reporting process.

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

<p><b>barriers?</b></p> <p>Yes as detailed above.</p>
<p><b>What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?</b> (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)</p> <p>No negative impacts expected – any targeted activities are based on known needs and vulnerabilities.</p>

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



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

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

<b>Title of analysis:</b> Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2022-25 Mid-Year Report for 2023-2024
<b>Directorate and service area:</b> Assistant Chief Executive, Policy, Performance and Intelligence
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Simon Dennis
<b>Summary of findings:</b>
<p>The Year Ahead Delivery Plan addresses inequalities in several of its key themes, including the overarching theme 'One Council' and guiding principles, with the aim to reduce inequalities and for the council's services to deliver for all residents. Equality and access data will need to be monitored closely, especially in the 'People are safe, healthy and well' and 'Everyone has economic opportunities' themes, as these are areas of considerable existing inequalities, which will make it more difficult for some individuals and groups to access opportunities and services.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Provide update reports to Cabinet twice a year, including consideration of the equality implications.	All	Six monthly
All services to undertake equality analyses where applicable and monitor.	All	Ongoing
Continue to obtain updates from directorates, regarding what has been done to consider equalities when delivering the Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/activities.	All	Quarterly

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

## 6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Jo Brown	Assistant Chief Executive	December 2023
Cllr Chris Read	Leader	December 2023

## 7. Publishing

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

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

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

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	11 December 2023
<b>Report title and date</b>	Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2022-25 Mid-Year Report for 2023-2024
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	14 December 2023
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	14 December 2023

## Appendix 5 - Carbon Impact Assessment – Council Plan Update

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	N/A	<p>The Council has developed a heat decarbonisation plan, which targets operational buildings with heating systems that are reaching the end of their serviceable life.</p> <p>Greenhouse gas emissions from have decreased over the last three financial years, driven by Council activity and decarbonisation of the UK electricity system. Data for the 22/23 financial year indicates a 4.21% reduction in carbon emissions across the corporate estate, against an overall target of 18%. It is not expected that the 2023/24 target of a 10% reduction in emissions during the year can be achieved however the Council continues to carry out actions to reduce gas emissions.</p> <p>A pre-planning application has been submitted for a potential site to confirm its suitability for renewable</p>	Completion of the new Century business centre at Manvers and delivery of a range of business support and advice projects to help local companies recover are likely to increase emissions from new office buildings or other businesses.	<p>Asset Management Board adopted a policy that all new and refurbishment properties will look at the feasibility of low carbon heating and energy efficiency measures as a first option. Business centres are included in the Council's decarbonisation Plan.</p> <p>Alongside the decarbonisation of the grid, the Council has committed to decarbonising five Council buildings which will further reduce carbon emissions. Investigations are also underway with regards to the feasibility of 'sleeving power purchase arrangements' (PPA) as a potential source for our electricity, which allow customers to directly purchase renewable energy directly from the generator with reduced costs.</p>	<p>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all Cabinet reports.</p> <p>All emissions from operational buildings are monitored and reported publicly.</p>

		<p>energy generation. Officers are currently reviewing the report to inform next steps, including exploring the impact of the new Biodiversity Net Gain legislation.</p> <p>Following the launch of the Family Hubs programme other organisations will be co-locating across Council buildings, which could increase building emissions.</p>			
Emissions from transport?	N/A	<p>A fleet conversion plan has been developed and a fleet programme officer has been appointed. In addition, a trial has commenced of an alternative low carbon fuel known as 'Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil' in place of diesel across a sample size of 10 vehicles, which aims to deliver a 90% carbon reduction from emissions. If the trial is successful, this may be implemented across the wider fleet for vehicles that are not currently in the fleet replacement plan with the aim of improving borough wide emissions from Council vehicles.</p> <p>A draft Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy has been developed and a working group has been set up to review and further develop the draft Strategy for discussion with Members and</p>	<p>Transforming Cities Fund programme includes various bus, tram, and cycle improvements. These will be expected to reduce transport emissions.</p> <p>Decreases may be offset by induced demand for transport arising from other projects (e.g. Century Business Centre). Currently not possible to calculate net impact.</p> <p>The plan for neighbourhood road safety engagement, including 20 mph zones, will if successful decrease emissions.</p> <p>The Government Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funded scheme at Drummond Street car park has been approved by Cabinet. The scheme will look will provide a solar photovoltaic canopy, ultra-rapid bays, rapid bays,</p>	<p>See actions outlined in previous two columns.</p> <p>An Independent Travel Training offer has been developed to support children with special educational needs or disabilities who would normally access the Council's Home to School transport services. This initiative is promoting more sustainable travel and transport solutions.</p>	<p>Approaches to monitoring vehicle usage, emissions and fuel efficiency.</p> <p>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</p> <p>Data captured from the pilot to monitor and assess the environment in local areas.</p>

		<p>to agree timeframe for Cabinet.</p> <p>A report on Rotherham Council Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Expansion was approved at Cabinet on 16 October 2023.</p> <p>Greenhouse gas emissions from these sources have increased over the last three financial years, driven by increasing business mileage since the end of COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. Data for 22/23 financial year indicates an increase of 3.23% against a target of 18% reduction. It is not expected that the 2023/24 target of a 10% reduction in emissions from fleet and EV infrastructure during the year can be achieved however the Council continues to carry out actions to reduce these types of gas emissions.</p>	<p>fast bays, and standard bays. The next stage will be to commence the procurement process. There are two design components for this programme, including the infrastructure design and the charger which will be managed by concession by a third party. The design will be specified in advance of the procurement process.</p> <p>New systems implemented to monitor and assess the environment in local areas and enable improvements in grounds maintenance and street cleansing. This will help to reduce unnecessary visits/travel to certain zones.</p>		
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	N/A	<p>An action plan to tackle single use plastics has been approved by Cabinet as part of the wider Climate Change Action Plan in March 2023.</p>		See actions outlined in previous two columns.	<p>Improved information and data to take further action in reducing waste, improving recycling rates and reducing contamination.</p> <p>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</p>

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	N/A		<p>The Council is continuing to deliver on its commitment to build 1,000 new homes through the Housing Growth Programme, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Commencing groundwork on new homes across sites in Eastwood, Harthill and Maltby (forecasting 99 homes)</li> <li>b) Commencing groundwork on new homes in Canklow as part of a joint development with a new day opportunities centre, "Castle View" (forecasting 25 homes)</li> <li>c) Completing 13 new homes across sites in East Herringthorpe &amp; Thrybergh</li> </ul> <p>In addition to this, the Council are also providing four new two-bedroom homes to make sure looked-after children and young people in Rotherham can stay in the borough, all due to open by the end of Quarter 4.</p>	<p>Housing Strategy for 2022-2025 includes the Green Housing Strategy to reduce energy costs and improve efficiency of homes.</p> <p>The ECO4-FLEX project is still proving very popular with residents in the borough. The number of installers permitted to have ECO4-FLEX work signed off via the council has now increased from four in August 2022 to ten as of July 2023.</p> <p>This now allows more domestic retrofit projects to be completed in the borough each month, resulting in the increased rate of decarbonisation of our private housing stock.</p> <p>This has meant that in the last 11 months the Council has saved residents approximately £3,507,592.40 in total across the 520 projects delivered.</p>	<p>Establish housing stock emission baselines, consolidating the available intelligence and gathering further data as required, using existing data on council-owned housing stock, and developing intelligence on the wider housing stock across the Borough.</p> <p>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</p>
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			These houses will imply an increase in emissions from domestic buildings, however in the case of buildings being taken up by existing residents this may not be significantly different to current domestic emissions from those residents.		
Emissions from construction and/or development?	N/A	<p>Construction and planned developments, such as improving the condition of local neighbourhood roads through the 2024 roads programme, provision of the new library at Thurcroft, building works to improve day facilities, developing new and improved play areas for children and young people, a feasibility study for the Rotherham Theatre will increase emissions.</p> <p>Plans for large scale developments and improvements, such as the towns and villages fund, construction of the market and library schemes as part of Future High Streets Fund programme and construction of the leisure development on Forge Island could significantly increase carbon emissions.</p> <p>Plans connected to the construction of flood</p>		<p>Introduction of further SPDs (supplementary planning documents) relevant to climate change – SPDs can elaborate on Local Plan policies, giving developers additional technical guidance, speeding up applications and resulting in better quality development for the community and environment.</p> <p>See actions outlined in previous two columns.</p>	Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.



		alleviation schemes and barriers, such as achieving 'shovel ready' status for the priority flood alleviation schemes, securing funding to implement the schemes, embankment will all entail emissions.			
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	N/A		<p>24,000 trees have been planted to date, over the last two years since November 2021. Activity will commence again in November 2023 and a further update will be provided once the tree planting season is over.</p> <p>Improvements in the approach to weed control and removal, as well as sustainable management of verges and greenspaces to encouraging biodiversity and increase wildflower areas, with potential (but likely negligible) impact on carbon capture.</p>	.	<p>The Council currently has little data related to carbon sequestered via trees, limiting our understanding of the planting required to offset emissions.</p> <p>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</p>

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

25 ward plans produced and published informed by local communities, many of which include priorities to improve the local environment and tackle climate change.

The Climate Change Action plan and was refreshed and approved at Cabinet on the 20 March 2023 alongside the Climate Change Annual Report.

To ensure the Council remains focussed on working towards the outcomes and commitments set out in the Council Plan, a review of the Council Plan performance measures will be carried out, and a new Year Ahead Delivery Plan developed for 2024-25. These include performance measure targets and new actions/activities which will contribute to reducing carbon emissions across the borough during the financial year.

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

Given that this is a progress report, and implies no direct recommendations or decisions, there are no relevant emission impacts to consider. Where progress on certain actions has implied a specific definable impact on emissions, this has been included indicatively.

Supporting information:

Completed by:  
(Name, title, and service area/directorate).

Tanya Lound  
Simon Dennis  
Michael Holmes  
Leonie Wieser  
Florence Drew

Policy, Performance and Intelligence, Assistant Chief Executives Directorate.

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

Directorate Year Ahead Delivery Plan trackers and KPI data for Quarter 2.

Council Plan targets and Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions for 2023-24.

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

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

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 22 January 2024

**Report Title**

HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2024-25

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

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the report**

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

**Report Author(s)**

Paul Elliott, Head of Housing Income and Support Services  
01709 822494

Kath Andrews, Finance Manager

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide – all wards

**Report Summary**

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) records all expenditure and income relating to the provision of Council housing and related services, and the Council is required to produce an HRA Business Plan setting out its investment priorities over a 30-year period. Following the introduction of HRA self-financing in 2012, the Council was awarded control over its HRA in return for taking on a proportion of national housing debt.

The proposed 2024/25 HRA Business Plan makes funding provision of £126m for hundreds more Council homes by 2026 and commits £856m to investment in the housing stock, alongside day-to-day housing management and repairs and maintenance costs. Over the short to medium term forecast, the Business Plan is operating at or around the minimum balance, with a small surplus of £9.432m by Year 30 of the Business Plan period. However, it is likely that investment in decency and energy efficiency will need to increase over the coming years: the Business Plan makes provision for enhanced stock condition surveys which will support future investment decisions.

Alongside providing the draft HRA budget for 2024/25, the report recommends proposed increases in housing rents, non-dwelling rents, District Heating charges and other service charges. It is recommended that Council dwelling rents are increased by 7.7%.

## **Recommendations**

That Cabinet recommends to Council to: -

1. Approve the proposed 2024-25 Base Case Option C for the HRA Business Plan.
2. Note that the Business Plan will be reviewed annually to provide an updated financial position.
3. Agree that Council dwelling rents are increased by 7.7% in 2024/25 (Option 3).
4. Agree that the Council should retain the policy of realigning rents on properties at below formula rent to the formula rent level when the property is re-let to a new tenant.
5. Agree that shared ownership rents are increased by 9.4% in 2024/25.
6. Agree that charges for garages and parking spaces, communal facilities, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities are increased by 6% in 2024/25.
7. Agree that the District Heating unit charge per Kwh is set at 15.27 pence per kwh, a decrease of 4.2% (0.67 pence per kwh).
8. Agrees that the decision to reduce the price of District Heating Charges further during 2024-25 be delegated to the Assistant Director of Housing in conjunction with the Assistant Director of Financial Services following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing. The delegation would only be used to respond to a change in Government policy or a significant change in the Ofgem price cap that has the effect of necessitating a lower unit price.
9. Approve the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix 6.

## **List of Appendices Included**

- Appendix 1 HRA Operating Statement
- Appendix 2 Rent payable by number of bedrooms
- Appendix 3 HRA Business Planning assumptions
- Appendix 4 Summary of Modelled Business Plan Scenarios
- Appendix 5 Non-dwelling rent, service charges and Furnished Homes charges 2024/25
- Appendix 6 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2024/25
- Appendix 7 Affordability Analysis

Appendix 8 Equalities Assessment  
Appendix 9 Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

HRA Business Plan 2024/25  
Rent Setting and Service Charges 2024/25  
DCLG Guidance on Rents for Social Housing  
Annual Housing Development Report to Cabinet

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

**Council Approval Required**  
Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**  
No

**HRA Business Plan 2024/ 25****1. Background**

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposals for the HRA Business Plan alongside proposed rents, service charges and fees for 2024/25 and presents the draft HRA budget for 2024/25. The HRA is a self-financing, ring-fenced account which retains and uses housing rental income to fund landlord services, deliver the capital programme and invest in new housing.
- 1.2 As in previous years, the HRA Business Plan seeks to drive housing growth to assist in meeting the Council's housing objectives, which includes delivering hundreds of new Council homes by 2026. The overall approach is to ensure Council homes are safe, good quality and well-managed, while protecting surpluses as far as possible so these can be invested in new affordable housing, and to ensure the HRA is well-placed to respond to ongoing inflationary and future cost pressures as they arise.
- 1.3 The HRA Business Plan is updated annually to ensure it reflects the current operating environment. This year's Business Plan prioritises investment in the following areas:
- Continued delivery of housing growth
  - Safety and quality of the housing stock, including damp and mould
  - Preparation for proactive consumer regulation from April 2024
  - Meeting statutory minimum energy performance standards in the housing stock by 2030
  - Refreshing the Council's stock condition data by 2026.
- 1.4 The overall position remains challenging. Substantial inflationary pressures are evident in some costs increasing by more than 15% over the last two years, pressures felt most acutely in the Housing Delivery Programme. The Government's decision to limit rent increases in 2022/23, led to a permanent reduction of financial capacity within the Business Plan. It is likely that investment in the quality and energy efficiency of the council stock will need to increase over the coming years, putting further strain on the Business Plan. At the same time, the Council wishes to support tenants to manage their finances during a cost-of-living crisis, recognising that housing costs are often the largest single financial outgoing residents face.
- 1.5 Set against these challenges, day to day financial performance remains strong in key areas of the business, resulting in high income collection rates and value for money services for Council tenants. This allows the Council to invest HRA resources in housing growth so that more residents can enjoy the benefits of a well-managed, affordable, good quality home.
- 1.6 The policy of Right to Buy means there is the potential for HRA income to drop while the housing debt position remains static. This means Housing Services must continue to become more efficient and the Council should aim that new build housing schemes break even over the long term. This will

ensure there are sufficient resources to service the debt to ensure long term viability of the Business Plan.

- 1.7 The Government's rent setting policy allows social housing providers to increase rents by Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) plus 1%, i.e. 7.7% in 2024-25. Around two thirds of tenants in Rotherham are in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit which wholly or partially covers their rent. Given the rate of inflation in 2023-24, a one-off rent cap was introduced for one year and was set at 7%, which the Council followed.

## 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 As at 31 March 2023 the Council owned 19,963 homes, 614 leasehold homes, 108 shared ownership homes and 3,406 garages with a turnover from rents and other sources approaching £96.7m per annum (excluding the sale of new properties).

- 2.2 The overall financial strategy for the proposed HRA Business Plan is focused on:

- Supporting more new affordable housing – £126m investment concentrated in 2024-2026 including expected grant income, Right to Buy receipts and commuted sums, subject to Cabinet approval of the Housing Development Programme.
- Ensuring rent-setting policy supports a sustainable Business Plan while taking into account cost of living pressures.
- Keeping tenants safe and well-housed through robust management of landlord compliance duties including damp and mould, maintaining the Decent Homes standard and achieving EPC by 2030.

- 2.3 Notable investments contained within the proposed 2024-25 Business Plan include increasing to c£111m the funding allocated to capital investment in the housing stock over the life of the Plan. Additional investments are proposed to ensure the Housing Service is well-placed to respond to the introduction of proactive consumer regulation in April 2024, and stock condition surveys to build the evidence base to support a thorough review of capital investment priorities.

- 2.4 A full review of the HRA Business Plan is proposed to take place in 2024-25. This will include reviewing the capital programme, debt management strategy, reserves position and underlying assumptions.

## 2.5 Housing Rents and Service Charges

- 2.5.1 There are three rent types within the HRA – Social Rent, Affordable Rent and Shared Ownership Rent.

## 2.6 Social Rent

- 2.6.1 The amount the Council can increase rents by is governed by the Rent Standard which is published by Government to ensure all social housing is



affordable and follows the same rules and regulations. This formula allows social housing rent to be increased by a maximum of CPI (6.7% as at September 2023) plus 1% each year until 2024-25. Three options for rent increases in 2024/25 have been considered and are set out from paragraph 2.10.

## 2.7 **Affordable Rent**

- 2.7.1 Where the Council has been successful in securing grant income from Homes England to deliver Affordable Rent properties, the new properties will be managed in line with existing policies, for example mutual exchange, succession, subletting etc. The key difference for grant funded properties, compared to Social Rent properties, is the method of managing the rent values which is prescribed by the Government. These are contained within the Capital Funding Guide for Homes England grant and the Rent Standard.
- 2.7.2 The Council is required to rebase (revalue) the Affordable Rent value on each occasion that a new Affordable Rent tenancy is issued (or renewed) for a particular property; and ensure that the rent remains at no more than 80% of gross market rent (inclusive of service charges) as of the date the property is re-let.
- 2.7.3 All Affordable Rent properties are revalued in October and March each year to provide a valid rent value for when Affordable Rent properties are re-let. The rebased Affordable Rent will only apply to new tenants or tenancies.
- 2.7.4 The actual rents for existing tenants in Affordable Rent properties will only be adjusted in April each year as per the existing annual rent and charges review process.

## 2.8 **Shared Ownership Rent**

- 2.8.1 The Council is the landlord for 108 Shared Ownership properties. Rent increases for shared ownership properties are subject to a different formula than Social Rents or Affordable Rents. The formula is Retail Price Index (RPI) (as at September 2023 = 8.9%) plus 0.5%, an increase of 9.4%. Applying this formula means rents would increase on average by £20.79 per month from £221.18 to £241.97. This is the recommended approach for Shared Ownership rents.

## 2.9 **Housing rent options and the impact on the HRA Business Plan**

- 2.9.1 Three rent increase options have been modelled for business planning purposes and are detailed below. A 6% increase in service charges is assumed. For the purposes of comparison, the proposed capital investments outlined in this report are consistent across all rent setting options.
- 2.9.2 An overview of the Business Plan's underlying assumptions including total investment in repairs and maintenance, capital investment and supervision and management detailed later in this report and at Appendix 3.

## 2.10 **Option 1 - 5% rent increase (CPI minus 1.7%)**

- 2.10.1 This option would result in an average rent increase of £4.25 per week from £84.98 to £89.23 per week. A summary of average rent payable by number of bedrooms is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.10.2 The average Affordable Rent in 2023/24 is £109.32 when aggregated over 52 weeks. The 2024/25 average weekly rent based on an increase of 5% would be £114.78, an average increase of £5.47 per week.
- 2.10.3 This option would generate £4.43m additional income in 2024/25 when compared to 2023/24. This is equivalent to the funding required for 630 new kitchens or 800 new heating systems each year.
- 2.10.4 This option would not cover the inflationary increase in HRA costs expected in 2024/25.
- 2.10.5 Savings of £67.1m would be required over the life of the Business Plan. This includes a £2.7m saving from Year 3 (2026/27) and then an average saving of £2.4m every year for rest of the Plan period. This scale of savings would require a significant reduction in operating costs and smaller capital programme, which would mean revisiting service standards and putting at risk achievement of minimum decency and environmental efficiency standards.
- 2.10.6 This option would result in a reduction in the scale of the housing delivery programme alongside a reduction in the specification and space standards of the Council's new build properties.

## 2.11 **Option 2 – 6.7% rent increase (CPI)**

- 2.11.1 This option would result in an average rent increase of £5.69 per week from £84.98 to £90.67 per week. A summary of average rent payable by number of bedrooms is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.11.2 The average Affordable Rent in 2023/24 is £109.32 when aggregated over 52 weeks. The 2024/25 average weekly rent based on an increase of 6.7% would be £116.64, an average increase of £7.32 per week.
- 2.11.3 This would generate £5.9m additional income in 2024/25 when compared to 2023/24 and £3.6bn income over the life of the plan. This is equivalent to 850 new kitchens or 1080 heating systems per year.
- 2.11.4 This option would not cover the inflationary increase in HRA costs for 2024/25.
- 2.11.5 To balance the Business Plan, savings of £45.4m would be required including a £2.3m saving in year 4 (2027/28) of the Plan which would mean a reduction in the capital programme that year. Savings from year 9 (2032/33) would need to be managed through a combination of lower repairs and maintenance or supervision and management costs, and / or a reduced capital programme.

## 2.12 **Option 3 – 7.7% rent increase (CPI plus 1%) – recommended**

- 2.12.1 This option would result in an average rent increase of £6.54 per week from £84.98 to £91.52 per week. A summary of average rent payable by number of bedrooms is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.12.2 The average Affordable Rent in 2023/24 is £109.32 when aggregated over 52 weeks. The 2024/25 average weekly rent based an increase of 7.7% would be £117.73, an average increase of £8.42 per week.
- 2.12.3 This option would generate £6.82m additional income in 2024-25 when compared to 2023-24 and £3,668m over the life of the Plan. This is equivalent to 960 new kitchens or 1,240 heating systems per year.
- 2.12.4 This option would come closest to covering the inflationary increases in HRA costs and it would enable all of the investments described in this report to go ahead, requiring no further savings in the medium term. In order to balance the Plan, savings of £33.5m would be required across years 20-30 of the Business Plan period (2044-54).
- 2.12.5 This option is consistent with recent decisions made by the Council to increase rents by the limit imposed in the Government's Rent Standard and is the recommended approach for this year. Whilst it appears a significant increase, it is against a back-drop of significant cost inflation in the HRA of around 17.8% over the past two years.
- 2.12.6 Any lowering of the base rent will have a permanent effect on the money available to support the HRA as future increases will be from the lower rent level. This will lead to a long-term risk that reserves will be lower and future shocks, such as the unforeseen energy increase of the last year, and the impact of flooding, will be more difficult to weather.

## 2.13 **Formula Rent**

- 2.13.1 Since 2015 the Council's policy has been when a property is re-let, or first let in the case of an acquisition or new build, rent is set at the formula rent. It is proposed this policy continues for 2024-25 given the additional income this generates over the life of the Business Plan. The amount raised through this policy depends on which rent increase option is selected:
- If rents were increased by 5% in 2024/25 the policy to re-let at formula rent would generate £111m over 30 years
  - If rents were increased by 6.7% in 2024/25 the policy to re-let at formula rent would generate £85m over 30 years
  - If, as recommended, rents were increased by 7.7% in 2024/25 the policy would generate approximately £69m over 30 years.
- 2.13.2 Government policy is that the formula rent will increase by 7.7%. Therefore, the additional income generated is higher at 6.7% and higher still at 5% as the base rental income is lower due to the lower rent increases and therefore the differential between rents and formula rent is greater. The average weekly rent for new lets at formula will be £97.34 per week.

## 2.14 **Furnished Tenancy Charges**

- 2.14.1 The recommended option for dwelling rents will also apply to tenants with a Furnished Tenancy. As such, Furnished Homes charges are subject to the same inflationary increase as standard rents (5% for Option 1, 6.7% for Option 2 or 7.7% for Option 3). If Option 3 is approved these charges will increase by 7.7%. This would generate additional income of £724k in 2024/25. A full list of Furnished Homes charges and proposed values for 2024/25 is included in Appendix 4.

## 2.15 **Fees and Service Charges**

- 2.15.1 This report also considers the potential increase in HRA non dwelling rent fees and charges for 2024/25 and proposes a 6% increase. A full list of Fees and Service charges for the HRA for 2024/25 is included at Appendix 4.
- 2.15.2 The proposed increase of 6% would generate additional income of approximately £43.7k in 2024/25 compared with current charges.
- 2.15.3 There are a number of leasehold management charges that are based on the full recovery of actual costs. These are excluded from this report as they are not standard charges that are subject to an inflationary increase. These are included for information in Appendix 4.

## 2.16 **District Heating**

- 2.16.1 There are currently 18 different schemes and approximately 1,260 properties which receive heat through the council's District Heating service.
- 2.16.2 During 2017/18 there was an extensive review of District Heating pricing to ensure that charges are fair and reasonable to all tenants. A revised schedule of charges was approved by the Council on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Scheme charges remained unchanged until April 2022, when a tapered increase over four years was agreed.
- 2.16.3 In early 2023 the energy market saw unprecedented increases in prices for gas and electricity and this had a significant impact on the costs of operating the Council's District Heating scheme into 2023/24. In 2023/24 the deficit was cushioned by Energy Bill Discount Scheme (EBDS) income of c£1.2m, which meant the service operated at a deficit of c£200k rather than £1.4m had EBDS income not been available. It is not yet known whether EBDS will be available in 2024/25.
- 2.16.4 Given the volatility of energy prices the Council took the decision in July 2023 to match the average District Heating bill to the Ofgem price cap for July – September 2023.
- 2.16.5 It is proposed to continue this approach into 2024-25 and match the average District Heating bill to the Ofgem price cap for January – March 2024. The annual cost to customers will depend on their actual usage, therefore the

annual cost could be higher or lower than the Ofgem price cap. A series of options for District heating pricing have been modelled in the table below. The options are expanded from paragraph 2.16 onwards.

- 2.16.6 A tapered increase to the weekly pre-payment charges has been applied based on property size to ensure the charges are reasonable. Customers will be advised of their usual annual usage so that they can consider their payment options.

**Table 1 – Options for District Heating pricing 2024-25**

		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
District Heating Schemes	Current Charges	Retain Current Charge	Full cost recovery (utilities only)	Ofgem Cap (Jan-Mar24)
	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
Expenditure (Fuel only)	1,635,844	1,701,105	1,701,105	1,701,105
Net Income	-1,440,494	-1,400,348	-1,700,817	-1,348,466
Deficit	195,350	300,757	288	352,639
Unit Rate KWh (inc VAT)	15.94p	15.94p	19.81p	15.27p
Increase/(decrease) 23/24 vs 24/25	0.00	0.00	3.87	-0.67
Percentage change to unit rate		0.00%	24.28%	-4.20%
Pooled Schemes Weekly Pre-payment Charge (inc VAT)	£	£	£	£
Bedsit	9.50	9.50	13.50	9.50
1 Bed	17.50	17.50	20.50	16.50
2 Bed	21.50	21.50	26.50	20.50
3/4 Bed	28.50	28.50	34.50	26.50
Weekly repayment charge % increase		0.00	+17% to +42%	-0% to -7%
Annual Prepayment Charges (incl. VAT) **	£	£	£	£
Bedsit	494.00	503.50	715.50	503.50
1 Bed	910.00	927.50	1,086.50	874.50
2 Bed	1,118.00	1,139.50	1,404.50	1,086.50
3/4 Bed	1,482.00	1,510.50	1,828.50	1,404.50
Average annual bill	1,074	1,002	1,246	960
** 2023/24 is a 52 week year, 2024/25 is a 53 week year				

- 2.16.7 The prepayment charge is the amount a customer would pay to their rent account on an annual basis. Customers will be advised of their average annual usage.
- 2.16.8 Customers who require assistance can access the Council's Energy Crisis scheme to receive further cash support and are able to access ongoing support through the financial inclusion team.
- 2.16.9 As in 2023-24, it is recommended that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director for Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Assistant Director for Finance to amend District Heating pricing should there be a significant movement in the Ofgem price cap.

## 2.17 **Option 1 – Retain existing charges**

2.17.1 This option would see the unit rate remain unchanged at 15.94 pence per kwh and would mean an average annual cost per user of £1,074. There would be an average deficit of £155 per user as full cost recovery would not be achieved. This would result in a potential pressure on District Heating budgets of £195k.

2.17.2 Legislation allows full cost recovery of fuel costs. However, the proposed option maintains average costs for customers at the price set by Council in July 2023, which was equivalent to the Ofgem price cap for July – September 2023, but will be higher than the Ofgem price cap for January – March 2024.

2.17.3 Table 1 shows the impact of this proposal in terms of the actual unit charge, weekly and annual prepayment charges per type of property, and the HRA deficit position.

## 2.18 **Option 2 – Full cost recovery (utilities only)**

2.18.1 This option would see the unit rate increase to 19.81 pence per kwh and would mean an average annual cost per user of £1,246. There would be no deficit as full cost recovery would be achieved.

2.18.2 Legislation allows full cost recovery of fuel costs. However, the option is not recommended as it would mean customers on District Heating would be paying more than other residents who are protected by the Ofgem price cap.

2.18.3 Table 1 shows the impact of this proposal in terms of the actual unit charge, weekly and annual prepayment charges per type of property, and the HRA deficit position.

## 2.19 **Option 3 – Match to Ofgem Price Cap Jan to March 2024 (recommended)**

2.19.1 This option would see a reduction in the unit rate to 15.27 pence per kwh and would mean an average annual cost per user of £960. There would be an average deficit of £280 per user as full cost recovery would not be achieved. This will mean the HRA will be paying c£353k in 2024/25 towards the cost of District Heating. This is c£1m lower than the contribution in 2023/24 would be had the Council not received EBDS income.

2.19.2 The proposed option maintains the link to the Ofgem price cap and means the average District Heating bill will be equivalent to that of a resident on mains gas.

2.19.3 Table 1 shows the impact of this proposal in terms of the actual unit charge, weekly and annual prepayment charges per type of property, and the HRA deficit position.

## 2.20 **Housing Development Programme**

2.20.1 The Council has been very successful in using HRA land and finances to build and acquire new Council homes. The Council has recently acquired its 500<sup>th</sup> Council home added to the housing stock since 2018 and the Business Plan includes c.£126m additional investment to deliver hundreds of new Council homes by the end of 2025/26. The precise mix of schemes, number and types of homes and levels of investments are all subject to separate Cabinet approvals or officer delegations where these are in place. For the purposes of the Business Plan, investment is assumed to support delivery of an additional 565 new homes from 2024/25 onwards.

2.20.2 The modelling makes assumptions about the level of grant income available from Homes England and other agencies, which in practice must be negotiated scheme by scheme. While it makes an allowance for the cost pressures facing the housing development industry, all costs remain projections as actuals will be highly dependent on the nature of the sites, the construction method, specifications, and property types. Options to reduce costs may need to be explored. This could include switching rent types, delivering more smaller properties and amending specifications.

## 2.21 **Repairs and maintenance**

2.21.1 Ensuring adequate investment in the repair and maintenance of the housing stock is essential to keep tenants safe, provide good quality homes, and mitigate against more substantial costs later. The Housing Property Service and its contractors complete approximately 90,000 repairs and servicing visits every year.

2.21.2 To reflect the importance of this service, the Business Plan proposes an increase in spending by £1.9m to £24.5m in 2024-25 and by a further £1m per year from 2026-27 to reflect expected future cost inflation.

2.21.3 Key investments in 2024-25 include:

- Further strengthening the Council's property compliance functions reflecting the increasingly complex landscape of regulation and legislation, and to ensure our tenants are kept safe in their homes and the Council retains a tight grip on this high-risk area of the business.
- Damp and mould: the Council has seen a two-fold increase in damp and mould enquiries over the past year and costs have increased significantly. As a result, the budget for 2024/25 is increased by £800k to £2m.
- Planned repairs budget will increase from £2m to £3m to reduce a backlog of works for fascia's, soffits, rainwater goods and front doors.
- £500k has been set aside to start a 2–3-year programme of stock condition surveys to ensure the Council has a firm grip of the quality and condition of its homes, and so potential future investment needs can be clarified.
- £50k has been allocated to support the maintenance of children's play areas that are located on housing land.

## 2.22 **Capital investment in existing homes**

2.22.1 Ensuring adequate capital investment in the housing stock ensures that the repairs and maintenance service is focused on day-to-day minor repairs and cyclical servicing. It is also required to ensure the Council's housing stock is decent, energy efficient and safe to live in. Over the life of the Business Plan £881m capital investment has been allocated to ensure our housing stock is well maintained. This is an increase of £120m since the last iteration of the plan.

2.22.2 In 2024/25 it is planned to invest £31.9m in the housing stock. This will pay for items such as new kitchens, bathrooms, boilers and roofs where it is far more cost effective to do these on a planned programme of works. As referenced in 2.22 it is the intention to significantly expand surveying capacity in 2024-25 to improve our understanding of the housing stock and the level of investment that may be required in the future.

2.22.3 Based on current stock condition data the priorities for investment in 2024-25 are:

- Achieve EPC C by 2030 across the housing stock.
- Maintain the Decent homes standard.
- Increase the budget for major voids by £2.6m to £6.8m (this is partly offset by an anticipated reduction in the minor voids budget by £1m).
- Boilers and central heating - £4.5m will be spent replacing old and inefficient central heating systems.
- Flood remedial works at Catcliffe have been budgeted at c£1.2m.
- Aids and Adaptations will reduce by £300k to £2.6m as historical backlogs have now started to reduce.
- Almost £1m for environmental works schemes, including funding for replacement of play equipment on housing land.

## 2.23 **The transition to Net Zero**

2.23.1 The current iteration of the Business Plan does not take account of any costs associated with the Council achieving net zero carbon by 2050 other than those required to achieve at least EPC C by 2030, for which £11m is set aside. Work carried out last year suggested the total costs of achieving net zero could be c. £585m or more, which is unaffordable.

2.23.2 As a result, this means that attracting external funding to progress net zero commitments becomes even more significant. In 2023/24 the Council completed its first major retrofit scheme in Maltby, funded in part by the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. To support further funding applications and



the development of a comprehensive investment plan for retrofit, it is proposed that a new Housing Retrofit Officer post is created during 2024/25.

## 2.24 Supervision and management

2.24.1 A budget of £32.15m is proposed for 2024-25. This is a decrease of £1.15m from last year due to lower utility costs.

2.24.2 A summary of the proposed supervision and management budgets is detailed in the table below:

<b><u>Supervision and management expenditure</u></b>	<b>24/25</b>	<b>23/24</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Contributions to General Fund	13,051,791	12,088,100	963,691
Salaries	12,329,533	11,200,000	1,129,533
Utilities	2,159,519	6,000,000	-3,840,481
Contracted services	1,326,798	1,250,000	76,798
Computer software and maintenance	499,260	525,000	-25,740
Pension strain	396,000	400,000	-4,000
Other items <£100k	2,384,009	1,832,610	551,399
	<b>32,146,910</b>	<b>33,295,710</b>	<b>-1,148,800</b>

2.24.3 The supervision and management budget reflects additional posts to support expanded repairs and maintenance and housing development programmes. It also includes new regulatory fees proposed by the Regulator of Social Housing and makes an allowance for likely salary and other costs that may be incurred to prepare for an inspection of the Housing Service and increased regulatory and data collection obligations.

2.24.4 Additional salary budget has been set aside to support proposals that could enhance the Council's housing management and tenancy sustainment activities in light of the increase in the number of Council tenants who require support to sustain their tenancies.

2.24.5 The Business Plan assumes continuation of Ward Housing Hub funding at the same levels as 2021-24, at approximately £216k per year. A review of the delivery model for Ward Housing Hubs will be undertaken owing to recurring underspends. One of the objectives of the review will be to simplify funding streams available to ward councillors.

## 2.25 Impact on tenants

2.25.1 There are 14,447 tenancies in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit who would not be directly affected by an increase in rent and approximately 5,250 tenancies that would be directly affected by a rent increase, as they would pay themselves from their household income. The tenants in receipt of benefits (Housing Benefit or UC) who would see their benefit entitlement adjusted to meet an increase in rent are:

- 7,548 households who are on Universal Credit
- 4,228 households who are on full Housing Benefit entitlement
- 2,671 households who are on part Housing Benefit entitlement

### **Affordability**

- 2.25.2 An affordability analysis shows that based on a 5%, 6.7% or 7.7% rent increase, those aged under 25 and on benefits would struggle to meet housing affordability tests given working age benefits are lower for this age group. Irrespective of rent increase, the affordability challenge is the same as it is the non-housing element that is less. This is an issue which has existed for a number of years. Other age groups would meet affordability tests assuming they only spent on essential items.
- 2.25.3 Tenants in part time work (assumed 20 hours for modelling purposes) and in receipt of the National Living Wage would still be in receipt of Universal credit and so in all scenarios their rent would be covered in full by an increase in Universal Credit.
- 2.25.4 Tenants working full time and paid the National Living Wage would see a slight drop in affordability. Their disposable income after rent, TV licence, Council tax, utilities, food and transport would reduce by £4.53 to £32.37 per month depending on the size of the property.
- 2.25.5 Affordability modelling has been undertaken using Policy in Practice software. This software is used to assess all new tenants' ability to afford properties they have been offered, prior to signing a tenancy agreement. A detailed analysis of affordability is attached at Appendix 7.
- 2.25.6 With the increase in tenants on Universal Credit there was a risk that arrears would rise as the monies would be paid directly to the tenant. As arrears have fallen over the past five years, this risk does not appear to have materialised. However, a tenant in receipt of Universal Credit will still have on average a higher arrears balance than other tenants. As a result, the Council's Tenancy Support Team continue to work intensively with tenants on Universal Credit to mitigate any potential arrears.

### **Supporting tenants with financial pressures**

- 2.25.7 A key priority is the ongoing work to mitigate the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. The Council is committed to supporting tenants and will do this through continuing early intervention and arrears prevention. Work will continue to support tenants to pay their rent, including offering additional support to vulnerable tenants to help with money, benefits and debt advice.
- 2.25.8 The Council and its partners provide a comprehensive package of support to tenants and residents facing crisis. Current support offered in Rotherham includes:

- RMBC Tenancy Support Service – provides practical support on all tenancy related issues including debt and budgeting. The team has access to funds to support people in crisis i.e., no gas/ electric. Tenants must be willing to engage with the service in order to receive financial benefit.
- Age UK Age Related Benefit Advisory Service – provides support and guidance to residents aged 65 and over to claim all age-related benefits to maximise income. The service also provides holistic support in other areas of concern i.e., fuel poverty/ home insulation etc.
- Council's Discretionary Housing Payment Fund (DHP Fund) – residents with rent arrears can apply to the Fund for assistance to clear or reduce their debt, subject to qualifying criteria.
- Employment Solutions – provides support and assistance to people looking to access training and employment in order to better their financial situation. The team also has access to funding to help people in crisis i.e., no food/ heating. Participants must be willing to engage with the service in order to receive financial benefit.
- Council's Energy Crisis support fund – offering one-off grants of £250 to help with energy costs.
- Council's Advocacy and Appeals Team – providing people with practical support to maximise their income by claiming any benefits they are entitled to. The Team can assist with applications and with mandatory reconsideration and appeals/ tribunals.
- Foodbanks – provided through Liberty Church, the Trussell Trust and Rotherham Foodbank. Vulnerable tenants can be supported through the provision of free food parcels in times of crisis.
- Social Supermarket – Rotherham Minster and VAR support residents through the provision of a social supermarket that allows members to pay £3 a week for a maximum of 3 months to allow them to shop in their store. This service transitions people from foodbank dependency and promotes empowerment through teaching budgeting skills.
- Rotherfed 'Making your money go further' project – this project works with communities to deliver bespoke advice on how tenants and residents can save money and manage on a limited income.
- Citizens Advice Rotherham – provides advice and guidance to all residents on money management and debt solutions, enabling clients to resolve the cycle of debt.

2.26

## **Private Sector Rents**

2.26.1

Even with the proposed rent increase of 7.7% Council rents will still offer far better value than those in the private sector. The table below illustrates the average Council rent to the average Private sector rent in Rotherham.

	<b>1 Bed</b>	<b>2 Bed</b>	<b>3 Bed</b>	<b>4 Bed</b>
<b>Average weekly Council rent £ (assuming 7.7% increase)</b>	82.91	90.31	97.61	108.14
<b>Average weekly Private sector rent £</b>	115	150	178	276

### 3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 A series of options were considered as part of scenario modelling, and these are detailed at Appendix 3 of the report. Options for rent increases are outlined in the main body of the report.
- 3.2 The recommended option results in an Operating Surplus at Year 30 of £9.4m and ensures expenditure is affordable throughout the life of the Business Plan assuming there is a reduction in expenditure of £3.04m on average per year in repairs and maintenance from Year 20 of the Plan.
- 3.3 The recommended option enables delivery of the housing growth delivery programme, ensures all statutory compliance functions are met alongside resources to meet requirements of the new social housing regulations.

### 4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Council has an active tenant engagement service supported by a Tenant Engagement Framework and a commissioned Tenant Federation contract. The HRA Business Plan proposes increased investment in Tenant Involvement Services and increased capacity in housing management teams which should enable further strengthening of these service areas.
- 4.2 Members have been consulted on various aspects of the components that make up the HRA Business Plan.
- 4.3 Consultation on services provided by Housing are undertaken throughout the year via the Housing Involvement Panel. This panel meets bi-monthly. The Housing Service also hold numerous tenant consultation events throughout the year, for instance the annual tenants conference. These provide an insight into tenant priorities and inform development of the business plan.

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

5.1 The table below shows the approval timeline:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
22/01/24	Cabinet decision making meeting
28/02/23	Council
1/03/24	Rent and Service charge letters posts
1/04/24	New charges take effect

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

6.1 In developing the HRA Business Plan the CIPFA / CIH code of practice for a self- financed housing revenue account; the Financial Viability principle has been considered which states that: -

- The housing authority has arrangements in place to monitor the viability of the housing business and take appropriate actions to maintain viability.

6.2 The HRA Business Plan is reviewed and updated annually to take account of changes to all income streams and the revenue and capital costs of managing and maintaining HRA properties and tenancies. It also considers Capital investment in new build and housing acquisitions for affordability.

6.3 Financial Position of the Housing Revenue Account

The table below demonstrates the current financial position with a general revenue reserve balance forecast to be £13.980m, a forecast major repair reserve of £5.051m and a forecast 'One for One' Right to Buy receipt balance of £4.954m as at 1 April 2024. A summary of the proposed income and expenditure for 2024-25 is below:

Based on the recommended 7.7% increase in dwelling rent income and an increase in service charges of 6%, budgeted income of £104.3m is anticipated to be collected in 2024/25 and this is reduced by £97.2m of budgeted expenditure, which represents the net cost of delivering the service.

As budgeted income is greater than the net cost of delivering the service, there is an overall net income of £7.4m to the service after interest received. This will be used to part-fund the Housing Growth Programme.

Housing Revenue Account	Current Budget 2023/24	Proposed Budget 2024/25	Difference
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure	94,972	97,265	2,293
Income (including service charges)	-96,701	-104,344	-7,643
<b>Net Cost of Service</b>	<b>-1,729</b>	<b>-7,079</b>	<b>-5,350</b>
Interest Received	-200	-350	-150
<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>-1,929</b>	<b>-7,429</b>	<b>-5,500</b>
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	1,929	6,000	4,071
Transfer to Reserves	0	1,429	1,429
<b>Surplus/Deficit for the Year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>HRA Reserve Balance</b>	<b>13,980</b>	<b>15,409</b>	<b>1,429</b>

A copy of the proposed draft detailed HRA budget 2024-25 is attached at Appendix 6.

- 6.4 The HRA operating balance is forecast to reduce to the minimum sustainable level for Years 4-5 in the Business Plan and from year 18 onwards. The minimum balance is £5.0m in Year 1 and uplifted by CPI annually and is the minimum level required to manage financial risk.
- 6.5 To maintain adequate operating balance levels Housing Growth projects will need to breakeven. This will support the overarching strategy for the Business Plan to promote growth rather than manage decline. This will be managed via existing capital governance routes.
- 6.6 No additional borrowing is required to fund Housing Growth. The BP model assumes funding will be available from existing capital receipts and from new capital grants, Right-to-Buy one-for-one receipts and existing Right to buy Receipts.
- 6.7 The HRA BP model has been balanced by the inclusion of potential savings. These are shown in the table at Appendix 3.
- 6.8 There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

## 7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 It is vital that the Council has and maintains a robust HRA Business Plan, which is subject to regular review and scrutiny to enable the Council to comply with the duties placed upon it. The HRA provisions in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 include the duty in January or February each year to formulate proposals relating to HRA income and expenditure. Those proposals are contained in this report.
- 7.2 The HRA specifically accounts for revenue expenditure and income relating to the Council's own housing stock and is ring-fenced from the Council's General Fund as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which specifies the items that can be charged and credited to it. The account

must include all costs and income relating to the Council's landlord role. The Council has a legal duty to budget to ensure the account remains solvent and to review the account throughout the year.

7.3 Under Section 24 of the Housing Act 1985 (the 1985 Act) the Council has a broad discretion in setting such reasonable rents and other charges as it may determine, and the Council must from time-to-time review rents and make such changes as circumstances may require.

7.4 The duty to review rents and make changes is itself subject to the requirements for notice of a variation set out in Section 103 of the 1985 Act. This will follow any Council decision following a recommendation from Cabinet.

7.5 Local authorities must set rents from 1 April 2020 in accordance with the Governance Policy Statement on Rents for Social Housing 2019.

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

8.1 There are no immediate human resource implications.

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

9.1 There are no implications for CYPS or Vulnerable Adults.

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

10.1 The Local Authority is aware of its duties under the Equality Act 2010 to promote equality, diversity, cohesion and integration and has ensured that the HRA Business Plan is compliant with that duty. An initial equalities screening has been carried out to assess the impact of these proposals and due to the scale of investment and nature of households affected the Council has completed an Equality Impact Assessment for this plan. This will ensure the Council continues to promote positive impact and reduce or remove negative impact as a result of the proposed investments. An Equalities Analysis is attached at Appendix 8.

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

11.1 The HRA Business Plan sets out the proposed value of investment in the housing service for the next 30 years. Given the Government's commitment for the UK to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 this will require substantial investment in the Council's housing stock over the life of the Business Plan. Initial estimates put the cost of this at circa £600m which represents a formidable challenge to the HRA. As a result, this means that drawing in external funding to progress net zero commitments becomes even more significant. Participation in national grant funding schemes will be prioritised.

11.2 A copy of Carbon impact assessment is attached at Appendix 9.

## 12. **Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 This proposal is about making effective use of Council assets and managing them to best effect. It contributes to the sustainable neighbourhood's agenda by addressing future investment needs and will help deliver a better quality of affordable housing to the community.

## 13. **Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 Self-financing involved a significant transfer of risk from Central Government to the Council. Variables such as interest rates, cost inflation, number of homes owned etc. are all risks managed by the Council.
- 13.2 Any adverse changes in rental income (for example as a result of welfare reform or changes in the number of Right to Buy sales) must be managed locally.
- 13.3 The risk management plan follows the Council's risk management methodology and approach. It includes a clear description of the risk, an assessment of probability and impact of the risk, a summary of controls and information on when the risk will be reviewed.
- 13.4 Significant risks will be placed on the Corporate Risk Register and risk issues will be escalated as necessary.
- 13.5 The Council has risk-based reserves to ensure that HRA reserves are maintained at the appropriate level. The reserves will be maintained at the appropriate level to fund potential future financial pressures from risks such as welfare reform and investment requirements.

## 14. **Accountable Officers**

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	8/01/2024
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	04/01/2024
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	03/01/2024

*Report Authors:*

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
HRA Business Plan  
Operating Account  
(expressed in money terms)

Appendix 1 - HRA Business Plan Operating Account

		Income				Expenditure							Net		Transfer		Surplus		Surplus		Surplus	
Year	Year	Net rent	Other	Misc	Total	Managnt.	Depreciat	Responsi	Other	Misc	Total	Capital	Operatin	Repayme	Transfer	from / (to)	(Deficit)	Surplus	(Deficit)	Interest	(Deficit)	
		Income	income	Income	Income	£,000	ion	ve &	Revenue	expenses	expenses	Charges	(Expendi	nt of	to MRR	Revenue	for the	b/fwd			c/fwd	
		£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	ture)	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	
1	2023.24	86,256	8,359	5,359	99,973	(33,313)	(24,021)	(22,683)	0	(523)	(80,539)	(13,224)	6,211	0	0	0	(1,929)	4,281	13,980	128	18,389	
2	2024.25	94,370	8,129	855	103,354	(32,147)	(25,548)	(24,502)	0	(569)	(82,765)	(13,546)	7,042	0	0	0	(6,000)	1,042	18,389	349	19,780	
3	2025.26	95,498	8,247	1,434	105,178	(33,239)	(26,218)	(26,524)	0	(594)	(86,575)	(13,213)	5,390	0	0	0	(18,076)	(12,686)	19,780	124	7,218	
4	2026.27	97,471	8,463	1,655	107,589	(33,674)	(26,988)	(27,100)	0	(611)	(88,373)	(13,213)	6,003	0	0	0	(7,611)	(1,608)	7,218	30	5,641	
5	2027.28	99,031	8,646	1,863	109,540	(34,226)	(27,226)	(27,691)	0	(626)	(89,769)	(13,212)	6,560	0	0	0	(6,478)	82	5,641	27	5,749	
6	2028.29	100,975	8,833	2,065	111,873	(34,875)	(27,690)	(28,365)	0	(642)	(91,572)	(13,211)	7,090	0	0	0	(5,976)	1,114	5,749	30	6,893	
7	2029.30	102,890	9,024	2,259	114,174	(35,725)	(28,138)	(29,047)	0	(658)	(93,568)	(13,192)	7,414	0	0	0	(6,188)	1,226	6,893	35	8,154	
8	2030.31	106,834	9,219	2,442	118,496	(36,596)	(28,580)	(29,745)	0	(674)	(95,595)	(14,036)	8,865	0	0	0	(6,652)	2,212	8,154	44	10,410	
9	2031.32	106,782	9,419	2,615	118,816	(37,487)	(29,030)	(30,460)	0	(691)	(97,667)	(15,194)	5,955	0	0	0	(7,130)	(1,175)	10,410	46	9,281	
10	2032.33	108,783	9,623	2,779	121,184	(38,401)	(29,486)	(31,192)	0	(708)	(99,786)	(13,174)	8,224	0	0	0	(7,620)	604	9,281	45	9,930	
11	2033.34	110,820	9,831	2,933	123,584	(39,336)	(29,949)	(31,941)	0	(726)	(101,952)	(13,245)	8,387	0	0	0	(8,125)	263	9,930	47	10,240	
12	2034.35	112,896	10,044	3,078	126,018	(40,295)	(30,419)	(32,708)	0	(744)	(104,166)	(13,151)	8,701	0	0	0	(8,643)	58	10,240	48	10,346	
13	2035.36	117,222	10,261	3,216	130,700	(41,276)	(30,897)	(33,494)	0	(763)	(106,430)	(13,151)	11,119	0	0	0	(9,176)	1,943	10,346	53	12,342	
14	2036.37	117,164	10,484	3,347	130,995	(42,282)	(31,383)	(34,299)	0	(782)	(108,745)	(13,225)	9,025	0	0	0	(9,724)	(699)	12,342	56	11,700	
15	2037.38	119,358	10,711	3,471	133,540	(43,312)	(31,875)	(35,123)	0	(801)	(111,111)	(12,902)	9,526	0	0	0	(10,287)	(761)	11,700	53	10,993	
16	2038.39	121,593	10,943	3,588	136,124	(44,367)	(32,376)	(35,966)	0	(821)	(113,530)	(12,582)	10,011	0	0	0	(10,866)	(854)	10,993	50	10,188	
17	2039.40	123,870	11,180	3,699	138,749	(45,448)	(32,884)	(36,830)	0	(842)	(116,004)	(12,630)	10,115	0	0	0	(11,461)	(1,346)	10,188	45	8,887	
18	2040.41	126,189	11,423	3,805	141,416	(46,555)	(33,401)	(37,715)	0	(863)	(118,533)	(12,630)	10,253	0	0	0	(11,737)	(1,484)	8,887	38	7,441	
19	2041.42	131,023	11,670	3,905	146,599	(47,689)	(33,925)	(38,621)	0	(884)	(121,119)	(12,630)	12,850	0	0	0	(12,740)	110	7,441	35	7,586	
20	2042.43	130,957	11,924	4,000	146,881	(48,850)	(34,457)	(39,548)	0	(907)	(123,762)	(12,630)	10,489	0	0	0	(10,373)	116	7,586	36	7,738	
21	2043.44	133,409	12,182	4,093	149,684	(50,040)	(34,998)	(40,498)	0	(929)	(126,465)	(12,609)	10,609	0	0	0	(10,491)	118	7,738	37	7,893	
22	2044.45	135,906	12,447	4,188	152,541	(51,259)	(35,547)	(41,471)	0	(952)	(129,229)	(12,583)	10,729	0	0	0	(10,608)	120	7,893	37	8,050	
23	2045.46	138,449	12,717	4,282	155,448	(52,507)	(36,105)	(42,467)	0	(976)	(132,055)	(12,583)	10,810	0	0	0	(10,687)	123	8,050	38	8,211	
24	2046.47	141,040	12,993	4,374	158,407	(53,786)	(36,672)	(43,486)	0	(1,001)	(134,944)	(12,583)	10,879	0	0	0	(10,754)	125	8,211	39	8,376	
25	2047.48	146,442	13,275	4,467	164,185	(55,095)	(37,247)	(44,531)	0	(1,026)	(137,899)	(12,583)	13,703	0	0	0	(13,575)	128	8,376	40	8,543	
26	2048.49	146,367	13,564	4,563	164,494	(56,437)	(37,831)	(45,600)	0	(1,051)	(140,920)	(12,583)	10,992	0	0	0	(10,861)	130	8,543	40	8,714	
27	2049.50	149,106	13,859	4,657	167,622	(57,811)	(38,425)	(46,695)	0	(1,078)	(144,008)	(12,583)	11,030	0	0	0	(10,897)	133	8,714	41	8,888	
28	2050.51	151,895	14,160	4,750	170,804	(59,219)	(39,027)	(47,816)	0	(1,105)	(147,167)	(12,583)	11,055	0	0	0	(10,919)	136	8,888	42	9,066	
29	2051.52	154,736	14,468	4,844	174,048	(60,661)	(39,639)	(48,964)	0	(1,132)	(150,396)	(12,543)	11,109	0	0	0	(10,970)	138	9,066	43	9,247	
30	2052.53	160,662	14,783	4,940	180,385	(62,138)	(40,261)	(50,139)	0	(1,160)	(153,699)	(12,540)	14,146	0	0	0	(14,005)	141	9,247	44	9,432	

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<b>Appendix 2</b>												
<b>Rent Payable by number of bedrooms and % increase</b>												
<b>Bedroom Numbers</b>	<b>Current Rent</b>			<b>5.00%</b>			<b>6.70%</b>			<b>7.70%</b>		
	<b>Average</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>
0	58.02	56.19	63.73	60.92	59.00	66.92	61.91	59.95	68.00	62.49	60.52	68.64
1	76.99	63.48	88.49	80.84	66.65	92.91	82.14	67.73	94.42	82.91	68.37	95.30
2	83.85	73.89	113.86	88.05	77.58	119.55	89.47	78.84	121.49	90.31	79.58	122.63
3	90.63	78.22	128.18	95.16	82.13	134.59	96.70	83.46	136.77	97.61	84.24	138.05
4	100.41	89.12	130.69	105.43	93.58	137.22	107.14	95.09	139.45	108.14	95.98	140.75
5	103.26	88.13	140.69	108.43	92.54	147.72	110.18	94.03	150.12	111.22	94.92	151.52
6	100.19	100.19	100.19	105.20	105.20	105.20	106.90	106.90	106.90	107.90	107.90	107.90
All	<b>84.98</b>			<b>89.23</b>			90.67			<b>91.52</b>		
Increase				4.25			5.69			6.54		

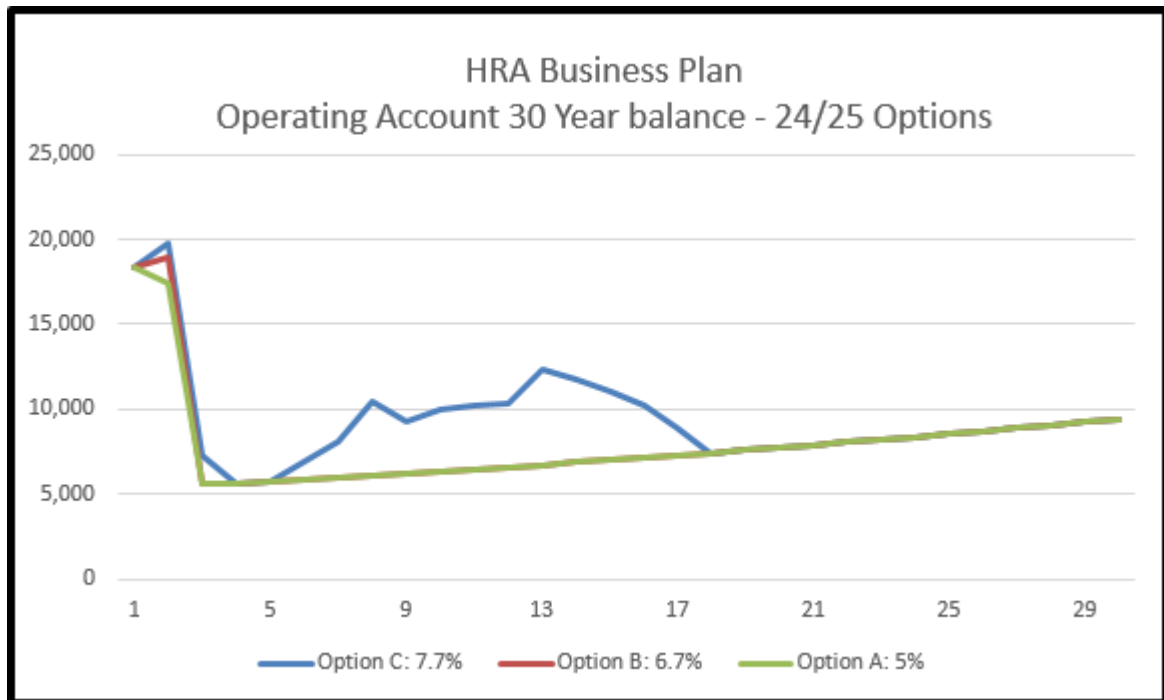
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## Appendix 3 - HRA Business Planning Assumptions

HRA Business Plan 2024/25 - Assumptions	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Rent Increase	5.0%	6.7%	7.7%
Service charge increase	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
DH Unit rate options Increase/(Decrease)	Nil	24.28%	-8.91%
New Borrowing requirement	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Debt	£333.6m	£333.6m	£333.6m
Council homes to be delivered	661	661	661
Inflation - CPI:			
Year 2	6.70%	6.70%	6.70%
Year 3	3.10%	3.10%	3.10%
Year 4	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Year 5	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Inflation - RPI:			
Year 2	8.90%	8.90%	8.90%
Year 3	4.40%	4.40%	4.40%
Year 4	2.80%	2.80%	2.80%
Year 5	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Interest rates on debt	3.90%	3.90%	3.90%
RTB projections:			
Year 1	182	182	182
Year 2	198	198	198
Year 3	193	193	193
Year 4	192	192	192
Year 5	25	25	25
Assumed S&M unit cost reduction linked to RTB	50%	50%	50%
Assumed R&M unit cost reduction linked to RTB	75%	75%	75%
Repairs & Maintenance - 30 year cost	£707.5m	£707.5m	£707.5m
Capital Repairs & Maintenance Investment Base values	£858.5m	£858.5m	£858.5m
**Capital Repairs & Maintenance Investment - excluding savings required	£825.0m	£813.1m	£791.4m
Capital Housing Growth Investment	£125.6m	£125.6m	£125.6m
Bad debt - percentage of rental income	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Void loss - percentage of rental income	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%
Reserves			
Year 1	18,389	18,389	18,389
Year 2	19,780	18,900	17,407
Year 3	7,218	5,619	5,615
Year 4	5,641	5,637	5,637
Year 5	5,749	5,749	5,749
Year 30	9,432	9,432	9,432
**Savings Required over 30 years to balance the model Savings excluded from Capital R&M in BP model	£33.5m	£45.4m	£67.1m

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Appendix 4 – Summary of modelled business plan scenarios





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Housing Revenue Account  
Non Dwelling Rents, Service Charges and Furnished Homes Charges

All the charges below include VAT where applicable

Description of Fee or Charge	Basis of Charge	Fixed Charge 2023/24 £	Charge Range		Proposed Fixed Charge 2024/25 £	Proposed Minimum Charge 2024/25 £	Proposed Maximum Charge 2024/25 £	Increase	Notes
			Minimum Charge 2023/24 £	Maximum Charge 2024/24 £					
Furnished Homes: Carpets only	Per Week	10.74			11.57			0.83	
Furnished Homes: Washer only	Per Week	3.06			3.30			0.24	
Furnished Homes: Dryer only	Per Week	2.26			2.43			0.17	
Furnished Homes: Washer and Dryer	Per Week	5.32			5.73			0.41	
Furnished Homes: Combi Washer/Dryer	Per Week	6.06			6.53			0.47	
Furnished Homes: Bronze only	Per Week	9.96			10.73			0.77	
Furnished Homes: Bronze + carpets	Per Week	20.71			22.30			1.59	
Furnished Homes: Silver only	Per Week	15.74			16.95			1.21	
Furnished Homes: Silver + carpets	Per Week	26.49			28.53			2.04	
Furnished Homes: Gold only	Per Week	25.47			27.43			1.96	
Furnished Homes: Gold + carpets	Per Week	36.21			39.00			2.79	
Furnished Homes: Platinum only	Per Week	35.94			38.71			2.77	
Furnished Homes: Platinum + carpets	Per Week	46.69			50.29			3.60	
Garage Rent / Car Park space - Council tenant	Per Week	5.62			5.96			0.34	
Garage Rent / Car Park space - Non Council tenant or council Tenants with more than one garage	Per Week	6.75			7.16			0.41	
Surface Garage plot	Per annum	67.79			71.86			4.07	
Non-surface Garage plot	Per annum	61.01			64.67			3.66	
Warncliffe Flats car park space	Per Week	7.38			7.82			0.44	
Hot Water charge	Per Week	2.19			2.19			0.00	
Cooking Gas	Per Week	1.01			1.01			0.00	
Community Facility	Per Week	5.35			5.67			0.32	
Communal Block - additional bedroom charge	Per week	22.99			24.76			1.77	
Laundry Facility	Per Week	1.79			1.90			0.11	
Contents Insurance	Per Week		0.35	4.20				0.00	Charge determined by external company
Acquired Ground Rent	Per Week	6.28			6.91			0.63	Annual Increase of 10% per tenancy agreement
Acquired Estate Fee	Per Week	3.50			3.81			0.31	Annual Increase at RPI as per tenancy agreement
Commercial hire of Neighbourhood Centre	Per Hour	10.60			11.24			0.64	
Community or Voluntary hire of Neighbourhood Centre	Per Hour	7.10			7.53			0.43	
Non resident charge to attend activity at Neighbourhood Centre	Per Session	0.53			0.56			0.03	
Estate Service Charge Eligible								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Block Service Charge Eligible								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Property Service Charge Eligible								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Mgmt								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Admin Fee								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Mgmt Fee VPC								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Mgmt Fee LTA								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Court Costs								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Capital								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Grd Rent								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Bldg Ins								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Cleaning								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold Admin								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Leasehold R&M								0.00	Full Cost Recovery
Sales/Resales - Landlords Enquiries (Flats)		150.00			159.00			9.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Sales/Resales - Landlords Enquiries (houses with services)		150.00			159.00			9.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Sales/Resales - Landlords Enquiries (houses no services)		150.00			159.00			9.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance

Housing Revenue Account  
Non Dwelling Rents, Service Charges and Furnished Homes Charges

All the charges below include VAT where applicable

Description of Fee or Charge	Basis of Charge	Charge Range			Proposed Fixed Charge 2024/25 £	Proposed Minimum Charge 2024/25 £	Proposed Maximum Charge 2024/25 £	Increase	Notes
		Fixed Charge 2023/24 £	Minimum Charge 2023/24 £	Maximum Charge 2024/24 £					
Processing resales - shared ownership		200.00			212.00			12.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Staircasing fees		200.00			212.00			12.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Remortgage Applications		75.00			79.50			4.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Further advance applications		75.00			79.50			4.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Notice of transfer		75.00			79.50			4.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Notice of charge		60.00			63.60			3.60	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Deed of covenant		75.00			79.50			4.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Copy lease (from Land Registry)		30.00			31.80			1.80	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Copy of lease if held on file		25.00			26.50			1.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Insurance policy document		25.00			26.50			1.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Standard valuation fee (basic market valuation)		200.00			212.00			12.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Lease extension/enfranchisement valuations		400.00			424.00			24.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Lease extension admin fee		200.00			212.00			12.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Enfranchisement admin fee (per unit)		150.00			159.00			9.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Home improvements / alterations (permission request - basic)		60.00			63.60			3.60	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Home improvements / alterations (permission request - complex)		120.00			127.20			7.20	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Home improvements (Surveyor report)		120.00			127.20			7.20	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Retrospective consent for alterations		150.00			159.00			9.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Deed of postponement		60.00			63.60			3.60	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Deed of variation/rectification administration fee		120.00			127.20			7.20	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Equity loan transfers, licence to assign and lease extensions		200.00			212.00			12.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Certificate of compliance		50.00			53.00			3.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Copy of Service Charge account		25.00			26.50			1.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Additional copies of correspondence		25.00			26.50			1.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Issue of Notice of Forfeiture		120.00			127.20			7.20	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Landlords Notice for Mortgage Application		50.00			53.00			3.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Landlords Approval for new mortgage		50.00			53.00			3.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Supply of Fire Risk Assessment		50.00			53.00			3.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Landlords Reference		50.00			53.00			3.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Surrender & Regrant of Lease		350.00			371.00			21.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Copy Fire Risk Assessment		25.00			26.50			1.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Right of First Refusal Discharge Certificate		50.00			53.00			3.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Change of Name		50.00			53.00			3.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Notice Seeking Possession		50.00			53.00			3.00	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Breach of lease		25.00			26.50			1.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Letter 3 on arrears/approaching lender		25.00			26.50			1.50	Ad-Hoc-Payment in Advance
Replacement Alleygate Keys - Council Tenant	AD-HOC	10.00			10.60			0.60	
Replacement Alleygate Keys - Non Council Tenant	AD-HOC	12.00			12.72			0.72	

## APPENDIX 6

<b>Housing Revenue Account</b> <b>Draft Budget Operating Statement 2024/25</b>
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**Option C: Rents increased by 7.7%**

Narrative	Full-year Budget 2023/24 £	Full-year Budget 2024/25 £	Year on Year Change £
Contributions to Housing Repairs Account	22,640,040	24,501,580	1,861,540
Supervision and Management	33,295,710	32,146,910	-1,148,800
Rents, Rates, Taxes etc.	522,520	567,900	45,380
Provision for Bad Debts	1,045,400	950,100	-95,300
Cost of capital Charge	13,247,330	13,350,000	102,670
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	24,020,590	25,547,940	1,527,350
Debt Management Costs	200,000	200,000	0
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>94,971,590</b>	<b>97,264,430</b>	<b>2,292,840</b>
Dwelling Rents	-87,115,870	-95,009,745	-7,893,875
Non-dwelling Rents	-761,250	-772,330	-11,080
Charges for Services and facilities	-7,923,660	-7,774,610	149,050
Other fees and charges	-635,780	-498,830	136,950
Leaseholder Income	-264,460	-288,180	-23,720
<b>Income</b>	<b>-96,701,020</b>	<b>-104,343,695</b>	<b>-7,642,675</b>
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>-1,729,430</b>	<b>-7,079,265</b>	<b>-5,349,835</b>
Interest receivable	-200,000	-350,000	-150,000
<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>-1,929,430</b>	<b>-7,429,265</b>	<b>-5,499,835</b>
<b>Appropriations:</b>			
Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay	1,929,430	6,000,000	4,070,570
Transfer to Reserves	0	1,429,265	1,429,265
Transfer from Reserves	0	0	0
<b>Surplus/Deficit for the year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
HRA Revenue Balance carried forward	13,979,503	1,429,265	15,408,768

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Appendix 7 - Affordability Analysis

AFFORDABILITY RATES FOR PROPOSED INCREASES AGAINST CURRENT AFFORDABILITY										
Household make-up	Bedrooms	Full UC			Working Full time (40hrs)			Working Part Time (20hrs)		
		Current Affordability	With 6.7% Increase	With 7.7% Increase	Current Affordability	With 6.7% Increase	With 7.7% Increase	Current Affordability	With 6.7%	With 7.7%
Single Under 21	1	-£22.70	-£22.70	-£22.70	£605.20	£581.89	£578.42	£245.62	£245.62	£245.62
Single Under 25	1	-£22.70	-£22.70	-£22.70	£939.94	£916.63	£913.16	£342.40	£342.40	£342.40
Single Over 25	1	£53.93	£53.93	£53.93	£939.94	£916.63	£913.16	£419.03	£419.03	£419.03
Single Parent under 25 + Child	2	£308.07	£308.07	£308.07	£1,193.14	£1,193.14	£1,193.14	£881.62	£881.62	£881.62
	3	£249.18	£245.24	£244.65	£1,134.25	£1,130.31	£1,129.72	£822.73	£818.79	£818.20
Single Parent over 25 + Child	2	£384.70	£384.70	£384.70	£1,269.77	£1,269.77	£1,269.77	£958.25	£958.25	£958.25
	3	£325.81	£321.87	£321.38	£1,210.88	£1,206.94	£1,206.35	£899.36	£895.42	£894.83
Couple Under 25 + Child	2	£324.94	£324.94	£324.94	£2,435.08	£2,409.90	£2,406.13	£1,317.63	£1,317.63	£1,317.63
	3	£266.05	£262.11	£261.52	£2,390.18	£2,362.02	£2,357.81	£1,258.74	£1,254.80	£1,254.21
Couple Over 25 + Child	2	£445.25	£445.25	£445.25	£2,435.08	£2,409.90	£2,406.13	£1,437.94	£1,437.94	£1,437.94
	3	£386.36	£382.42	£381.83	£2,390.18	£2,362.02	£2,357.81	£1,379.05	£1,375.11	£1,374.52
Amount of household disposable income after Rent, Council Tax, TV Licence, Utilities, Food, Mobile Phone and public transport costs deducted. Average costs used.								Living Wage from April 2024 Over 21 £11.44/hr; 18-20 £8.60/hr; under 18 £6.40/hr.		
<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where the adult of the family is under 25 and working that they are over 21 and getting the highest rate of National Living Wage as at April 2024.</li><li>• The age of the child for the purposes of statistics is ages under 14 years old as the average living costs increase from this age upwards according to policy in practice.</li></ul>										

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## Appendix 8

### PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
<b>Title: HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2024-25</b>	
<b>Directorate: ACH &amp; PH</b>	<b>Service area: Housing</b>
<b>Lead person: Paul Elliott</b>	<b>Contact number: 822494</b>
Is this a:	
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	
<b>If other, please specify</b>	
2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening	
<p>The annual HRA Business Plan rent setting, fees and charges report sets out all proposed income and expenditure for the HRA for the next 30 years as required by HRA self financing.</p> <p>Strategic allocation of resources within the HRA for period of 30 years.</p> <p>Specifically responding to changes in government policy, macro-economic environment and delivering 1,000 new Council homes by 2026.</p> <p>HRA Business Plan, rent setting, fees and charges 2024-25 provides information on the positioning of the HRA Business Plan to deliver 1,000 new Council homes by 2026 and deliver against the Council Plan.</p>	



The overall financial strategy for the proposed HRA Business Plan is focused on:

- Supporting more new affordable housing – £126m investment concentrated in 2024-2026 including expected grant income, Right to Buy receipts and commuted sums, subject to Cabinet approval of the Housing Development Programme.
- Ensuring rent-setting policy supports a sustainable Business Plan while taking into account cost of living pressures.
- Keeping tenants safe and well-housed through robust management of landlord compliance duties including damp and mould, maintaining the Decent Homes standard and achieving EPC by 2030

### 3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- How have you considered equality and diversity?**

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

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

The Business plan maintains investment in housing stock which allows investment in properties to install insulation, new heating systems etc. which tackle the fuel poverty agenda and the need for tenants with disabilities to have their homes heated to a warmer temperature than non-disabled tenants.

The Business plan responds to the needs of communities for affordable housing through gearing funds towards building 1000 new Council homes by 2026. The tenure, size and type of accommodation (including Disabled person units) has been informed by the Strategic Housing Market assessment.

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

The proposed rent policy of increase rents by 7.7% may adversely affect U25's on benefit as this group is paid a lower rate of benefits. It may also affect those on low incomes. An affordability analysis of such groups has been undertaken and relevant support packages identified for such groups

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

- **Key findings**

The Council currently owns circa 20,000 homes, 544 leasehold homes and 3,375 garages with a turnover from rents and other sources approaching £89m per annum.

The HRA Business Plans purpose is to outline how resources will be spent over the next 30 years ensuring we have a viable Housing Service that meets the needs and tenants and citizens of Rotherham.

The HRA Business Plan and through the application of housing policies (such as the allocation policy) will have a positive impact by breaking down some of the barriers that people face in accessing housing specific to their needs; whatever their specialist needs may be. The analysis of housing need by different need groups will help ensure that the strategy has a positive impact across all protected characteristics.

The strategy will align with other key strategies and frameworks across the Council as part of the "One Council" approach. Links to other key documents;

- Council Plan and Year Ahead Plan
- Housing Service Plan
- Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy
- Financial Inclusion Strategy
- Tenant Engagement Framework
- Housing Strategy

- **Actions**

Monitor the demographics of tenants being evicted  
 Monitor the impact of the new build houses by analysis the number of lettings according to the tenants protected characteristic.  
 Monitor attendance of tenant engagement events.  
 Respond to consultation feedback through Planning Applications.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	13/12/23
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	13/12/23
Lead person for your Equality Analysis	Paul Elliott

(Include name and job title):		Head of Housing Income and Support Services
<b>5. Governance, ownership and approval</b>		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
James Clark	Assistant Director of Housing	14.12.13
<b>6. Publishing</b>		
<p>This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.</p> <p>If this screening relates to a <b>Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision</b> a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.</p> <p>A copy of <b>all</b> screenings should also be sent to <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a> For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.</p>		
<b>Date screening completed</b>		13.12.23
<b>Report title and date</b>		HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2024-25
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>		22 January 2024
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>		14 December 2022

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## Appendix 8

### PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2024-25	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 13.12.23	
Directorate: ACH & PH	Service area: Housing Services
Lead Manager: Paul Elliott, Head of Housing Income and Support Services	Contact number: 01709 822494
Is this a:	
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

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

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Paul Elliott	RMBC	Head of Service
Kath Andrews	RMBC	Finance Manager
Mark Edmondson	RMBC	Housing Income Manager

## 3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

### **Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)**

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

The annual HRA Business Plan, Rent setting and service charges report sets out all proposed income and expenditure for the HRA for the next 30 years as required by HRA Self-financing.

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

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

HRA Business Plan for 2024-25 provides information on the positioning of the HRA Business Plan as a driver of housing growth to assist in meeting the Council's housing objectives. In essence the overall approach is to make savings where it is feasible to do so these can be invested in future housing growth and to position the housing service so it is best placed to respond to future challenges that arise.

The overall financial strategy for the proposed HRA Business Plan is focused on:

- Supporting more new affordable housing – £126m investment concentrated in 2024-2026 including expected grant income, Right to Buy receipts and commuted sums, subject to Cabinet approval of the Housing Development Programme.
- Ensuring rent-setting policy supports a sustainable Business Plan while taking into account cost of living pressures.
- Keeping tenants safe and well-housed through robust management of landlord compliance duties including damp and mould, maintaining the Decent Homes standard and achieving EPC by 2030.

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

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

**Demographic information**

- The Census population of Rotherham in 2021 is 265,800, an increase of 8,200 (+3.2%) compared with the 2011 Census, with around half living in and around the main urban area of Rotherham. The remainder live in smaller towns such as Wath, Dinnington and Maltby, and in numerous large villages and rural communities, all of which have their own distinct identities
- The 2021 Census further shows that Rotherham had 113,900 households, compared with 108,300 in the 2011 Census, an increase of 5,600 or 5.2%. In 2021, 17.7% of Rotherham's population were under 15 years, whilst 25.8% were aged 60 or over. The population of Rotherham aged 60 or over is slightly higher than the England figure of 24.2% and the Yorkshire and Humber figure of 25%.
- Rotherham's young population (under 15) increased from 46,000 in 2011 to 47,100 in 2021 (a 2.4% increase). This increase followed a 6% fall from 48,900 in 2001 to 46,000 in 2011. Whilst the school age population has increased, the number of children aged 0-4 has decreased from 15,738 in 2011 to 14,600 (a 7.3% reduction) which reflects the impact that the pandemic has had on the birth rate.
- Rotherham's older population (over 60) has increased from 61,500 in 2011 to 68,600 in the 2021 Census, an 11.5% rise (51,700 in 2001). Rotherham's population is ageing broadly in line with national trends and the percentage aged over 85 increased from 2.1% in 2011 to 2.3% in 2021.

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

45,259 children attend 117 Rotherham schools.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

The HRA Business plan will fund key activities such as the housing development programme. The plan is underpinned by analysis of housing need and demographic data which has been gained from a variety of sources including:

- Profile of applicants on Council's Housing Register (numbers of households eligible for age restricted accommodation etc). The Housing Occupational Health Team assesses households to determine their need which leads to a priority of allocation under the Housing Allocations Policy. A regular review of the profile of people on the housing register takes place to help plan for the types of new homes needed.
- Local population demographic data (Census 2021 emerging)
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation
- Profile of existing Council tenants (including protected characteristics)
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Intelligence from Strategic Housing Forum which is attended by partners that represent different interests and groups eg, homelessness and young people etc
- Ward members will receive specific briefings on potential sites in their wards and their feedback will be considered and included in individual scheme EAs
- Ward profiles contain detailed, localised information both profiling housing stock in the ward and demand
- The Strategic Housing and Development service has worked with the Neighbourhood Service to assist with consultation and dissemination of information about development in localities, identifying alignment with ward priorities. Again, any feedback will be included in individual scheme EAs.
- Housing Involvement Panel which includes Council tenant volunteers.
- Data from new rented, shared ownership and open market sales is analysed to understand the equality impact of each development. The profiling of tenants/ owners is also reflected in completions report and any lessons learnt are applied when developing new projects.

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

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

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

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

Allocation of properties are monitored by protected characteristics.  
Rent arrears are monitored by protected characteristics  
Evictions are monitoring by protected characteristics

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

Consultation on services provided by Housing are undertaken throughout the year via the Housing Involvement Panel. This panel meets bi monthly. A tenant open day is also held annually, the last one being held on October 2023.

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

Meeting with M3 managers and email seeking feedback into the business plan throughout August to November 2023.

The plan has been developed with support from Council Officers and input from the Strategic Leadership Team and Members.

Councillors, staff and partners play a vital role in the review of the business plan.

Following approval the will be effectively communicated to staff and members and training will be undertaken in-house.

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

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

The HRA Business Plan responds to the above concerns by earmarking investment in Supervision and management to increase capacity in the housing management teams to deal with the issue of complex tenancies including ASB, financial inclusion and engaging with under-represented groups.

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

The Business plan responds to the needs of communities for affordable housing through gearing funds towards building circa 1000 new Council Homes by 2026. The tenure, size and type of accommodation (including Disabled person units) has been informed by the Strategic Housing Market assessment.

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

The proposed rent increase of 7.7% may affect low income groups out of work and under 25 as benefits are capped at a lower rate than those above the age of 25. This group will therefore struggle to meet affordability tests for housing.

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

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

- RMBC Tenancy Support Service – provides practical support on all tenancy related issues including debt and budgeting. The team have access to funds to support people in crisis i.e. no gas/electric. Tenants must be actively working with the team to receive financial benefit
- Age UK Age Related Benefit Advisory Service – provide support and guidance to residents age 65 and over to claim all age related benefits to maximise income. They all provide holistic support in other areas of concern i.e. fuel poverty/home insulation etc
- RMBC DHP Fund- residents with rent arrears can apply to the RMBC Discretionary Housing Payment Fund for assistance to clear or reduce their debt subject to criteria
- Inclusive employment projects – provide support and assistance to people looking to access training and employment in order to better their financial situation. The team also have access to funding to help people in crisis i.e. no food/heating. Participants must be actively working with the team to receive financial benefit

- RMBC Household Support Fund – will be used to support vulnerable people through help with energy costs with a grant of £250 to those with a disposable income of less than £150 per month.
- RMBC Advocacy and Appeals Team – providing people with practical support to maximise their income by claiming any benefits they are entitled too. The Team can assist with application and also with mandatory reconsideration and appeals/tribunals.
- Foodbanks – provided through Liberty Church, the Trussell Trust and Rotherham Foodbank. Vulnerable tenants can be supported through the provision of free food parcels in times of crisis.
- Social Supermarket – Rotherham Minster and VAR supporting residents through the provision of a social supermarket that allows members to pay £3 a week for a maximum of 3 months to allow them to shop in their store. This service transitions people from foodbank dependency and promotes empowerment through teaching budgeting skills
- Rotherfed ‘Making your money go further’ project – This project works with communities to deliver bespoke advice on how tenants and residents can save money and survive on a limited income.
- Citizens Advice Rotherham – providing advice and guidance to all residents on money management and debt solutions enabling clients to resolve the cycle of debt.

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

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

It is not envisaged that the HRA Business Plan, rent setting and service charges report will negatively impact on community relations.

The Council will closely monitor the viability of the HRA Business Plan; current measures monitored across the Housing service include:

- Number of homes built against the Council's 1000 target
- Rental income
- Rent arrears and bad debts
- Voids and void rent loss
- Debt levels and repayment
- Reserve levels, and
- Maintenance backlog

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

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

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

<b>Title of analysis: HRA Business Plan, rent setting and service charges 2024-25</b>
<b>Directorate and service area: ACH &amp; PH – Housing Services</b>
<b>Lead Manager: Paul Elliott, Head of Housing Income and Support Services</b>
<b>Summary of findings:</b>
<p>The HRA Business Plan responds to some of the above concerns by increasing investment in Supervision and management allowing the service to increase capacity in the housing allocations teams to reduce use of temporary accommodation and re-house people quicker. Management teams to deal with issues of ASB, financial inclusion and engaging with under-represented groups.</p> <p>The Business plan, rent setting and service charges report maintains investment in housing stock which ensures investment in properties to install insulation, new heating systems etc. which tackle the fuel poverty agenda. The Business Plan also continues subsidies of District Heating to minimise fuel poverty to those households on District Heating.</p> <p>The Business plan responds to the needs of communities for affordable housing through gearing funds towards building circa 500 more new Council homes over the next 3 years (1,000 overall). The tenure, size and type of accommodation (including Disabled person units) has been informed by the Strategic Housing Market assessment.</p> <p>The proposes rent increase of 7.7% may affect low income groups in or out of work on benefits and under 25 as both benefits for this group are capped at a lower rate than those over 25.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Collect protected characteristics at tenancy sign up	A,D,S,GR,RE,SO,RoB	31.03.25

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

#### 6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
James Clark	Assistant Director of Housing	13.12.23

#### 7. Publishing

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

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

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

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	13.12.23
<b>Report title and date</b>	HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2024-25

<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	13.12.23



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#### User guidance:

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

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

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Impact unknown	Schemes to upgrade District Heating boiler houses will be funded through the HRA Business Plan, with a view to replace existing gas boilers with low or zero carbon alternatives in the long term.	A transition to low or zero carbon District Heating in the long term may cut greenhouse gas emissions across the Borough of Rotherham by 3,000 tCO <sub>2</sub> e per annum. Homes which are connected to the Council's existing district heat networks comprise ca. 1% of all domestic properties in Rotherham.		Gas supplied to District Heating boiler houses is monitored through the Council's energy procurement portfolio, however greenhouse gas emissions from its combustion are outside the scope of NZ30 reporting.
Emissions from transport?	Increased emissions / impact unknown	For new residential developments and works to existing council stock vehicle movements to and from the site will be generated during demolition and construction will create emissions through the movement of building and waste materials and personnel.	While it is possible that new households will increase vehicle movements, they may also reduce them, depending where new residents work and access services. We do not know before a development is built where new residents will move from and whether this move will increase or decrease vehicle movements.	Prospective contractors will be required to demonstrate how they will minimise and mitigate emissions from vehicle movements during construction, as part of the tendering process. Planning consent for any new housing developments will account for vehicle movements.  It is recommended that new housing development should account for access to public transport and active travel, in its location and design.	

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

				<p>least to the Government's proposed 2025 "New Homes Standard" (75% - 80% reduction compared to 2020 standards).</p> <p>The use of modern methods of construction will be considered for all new schemes, where value for money can be demonstrated as well as carbon reduction.</p>	
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase in emissions	<p>There will be emissions from the construction of new build housing and refurbishment works.</p> <p>Some new properties in the programme i.e., homes purchased by the Council as strategic acquisitions, will have a carbon impact regardless of the Council's purchase.</p> <p>It is possible that mature trees will be removed as part of the development of some new sites.</p>		<p>In designing schemes, the Council service would seek to reduce emissions via contractors using electric vehicles and specific components that have lower carbon emissions than available alternatives.</p> <p>For refurbishment schemes, emissions from retrofitting properties to a higher energy performance standard will be partially offset by increased energy efficiency.</p> <p>For new build schemes, there may be a smaller carbon impact per dwelling, where modern</p>	<p>It is recommended that a RICS 'whole life carbon assessment' or suitable alternative should be completed for at least one housing development, to provide evidence which can inform the design of future schemes and increase understanding of their respective carbon impacts.</p>

				<p>methods of construction are used.</p> <p>If trees are present on the site of a proposed development, they will be retained wherever possible. Planning consent for the removal of mature trees will depend on their equivalent replacement, plus 10%: as per 'Biodiversity Net Gain'.</p>	
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Reduce emissions	The HRA Business plan identifies funding for environmental schemes which may include tree planting.			
<p>Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:</p> <p>N/A</p>					

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

The HRA Business Plan sets out the proposed value of investment in the housing service for the next 30 years. Given the government's commitment for the UK to be achieve net zero carbon by 2050 this will require substantial investment in the Council's housing stock over the life of the business plan. Initial estimates put the cost of this at ca. £585m which represents a formidable challenge to the HRA. It is acknowledged that the Housing Service must develop a roadmap of how the Council will achieve net zero carbon across it's housing stock.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Paul Elliott, Head of Housing Income and Support Services, Housing Services
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA 207  Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer, Finance and Customer Services

**Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2023-24****Chair: Cllr Maggi Clark****Senior Governance Advisor: Caroline Webb****Vice-Chair: Cllr Joshua Bacon****Link Officer: Jo Brown**

The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to long/short list each of the commission's respective priorities:

**Establish as a starting point:**

- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

**Agree principles for longlisting:**

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

**Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.**

- T: Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
- O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
- P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
- I: Interest – what is the interest to the public?
- C: Contribution to the corporate plan

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
14 June 2023	School Accessibility Strategy Finance Update Multiply Programme
5 July 2023	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report (2022/2023) Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report Outturn report
2 August 2023	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Years two and three Rotherham Markets & Library Redevelopment
13 September 2023	LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report and Action Plan Digital Inclusion Strategy and Action plan July 2023-24 Financial Monitoring Report
11 October 2023	Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report. 2021 Census Presentation (informal)



Meeting Date	Agenda Item
15 November 2023	Medium Term Financial Strategy Update Crisis Support 2024 - 2027 Complaints Annual Report
13 December 2023	Social Value Mid-Year Report Adult Social Care Mental Health Review Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy Work Programme – mid-year update
16 January 2024	Mid-Year Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting Charges 2024-25 Local Plan Sites & Policies - Five Year Review
07 February 2024	Budget and Council Tax Report 2023/24 Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant Climate Emergency Annual Report Pre-decision tbc
13 March 2024	Social Value Annual Report LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report and Action Plan (Update – requested September 2023) UK Shared Prosperity Fund (update – requested August 2023) Pre-decision tbc
10 April 2024	Pre-decision tbc

### Items for Scheduling

Quarter 4- 2024	Spotlight Review - Byelaws/Life saving equipment (schedule summer 2024)
	Spotlight Review - Consultation and Engagement (agreed at meeting of 14 December 2022)
DATE TBC (early 2024)	Children Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – meeting with Youth Cabinet
Visits/meetings to be arranged	Cost of living pressures Focus on energy efficiency; financial inclusion; crisis food support (specifically social supermarkets); school uniform (working with the Youth Cabinet); and communications, awareness and targeting
	Employment Support Team

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**  
**1 January 2024 – 31 March 2024**

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

Contact Information:-

Democratic Services  
Riverside House  
Main Street  
Rotherham  
S60 1AE

Email: [governance@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:governance@rotherham.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01709 822477

### What is the Forward Plan?

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

### What is a Key Decision?

A Key Decision is one which is likely to:-

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

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

### What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The plan gives information about:

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

### Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Authority's Constitution, Key Decisions are taken by the Cabinet. Key Decisions are taken at public meetings of the Cabinet. The Cabinet meets once a month on a Monday at 10.00am at Rotherham Town Hall. Meeting dates for 2023/24 are:

19 June 2023	7 August 2023	16 October 2023	18 December 2023	12 February 2024	15 April 2024
10 July 2023	18 September 2023	20 November 2023	22 January 2024	18 March 2024	

### 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 and Housing
Councillor Saghir Alam	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance
Councillor Amy Brookes	Cabinet Member for Housing (Currently on maternity leave. For all Housing Portfolio matters, please contact Cllr S Allen)
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 and Environment

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
<b>KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 22 JANUARY 2024</b>								
<b>ADULT SERVICES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH</b>								
Adult Social Care Strategy for Rotherham 2024-27	November 2023	Approve the new Council Strategy for Adult Social Care 2024 – 2027.	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
Digitalisation of the Rothercare Service	September 2023	To note the Rothercare consultation outcome and approve next steps to implement a new delivery model for Rothercare.	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
Housing Delivery Programme Report 2024-25	November 2023	Approve the continuation of the Housing Delivery Programme.	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working	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, Rent Setting Charges 2024-25	November 2023	To approve HRA 2024-25 Business Plan and associated Rent and Service Charge.	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</b>								
Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy	June 2023	To approve the Children in Care and Care Leaver Strategy 2023-2026.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk
Neglect Strategy 2024 - 26	September 2023	To endorse the Neglect Strategy 2024-26	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
<b>FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>								
November 2023-24 Financial Monitoring Report	November 2023	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
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant funded decarbonisation works	September 2023	<p>To note the Council's bid for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant.</p> <p>To support the Council's use of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant to decarbonise 7 operational buildings.</p> <p>To delegate authority to agree the grant acceptance should the Council's bid for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant be approved, to the Assistant Director Financial Services.</p>	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Members of the public and relevant stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>								
Hackney Carriage Fare Increase	December 2023	To agree an increase in fares charged by Hackney Carriages licensed by the Council.	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
Local Labour Policy - Planning	August 2023	To approve the implementation of the local labour policy – planning.	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
Local Plan Sites & Policies - Five Year Review	December 2023	To approve the approach for the Local Plans Sites and Policies – Five Year Review.	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
<b>NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 22 JANUARY 2024</b>								

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S</b>								
Mid-Year Council Plan 2022-25 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Report	November 2023	<p>To note performance against the Council Plan and achievements of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan.</p> <p>That Cabinet note: ·</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.</li> <li>The data for the Council Plan performance measures for the second quarter of 2023-24.</li> </ul>	Leader of the Council	Relevant officers, Members and stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>								
New Applications for Business Rates Relief	June 2023	To consider the recommendation for a new application for Business Rates discretionary relief.	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 12 FEBRUARY 2024 OR LATER</b>								
<b>ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH</b>								
Learning Disability Strategy	December 2023	To agree the Learning Disability Strategy.	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
Rotherham All Age Autism Strategy 2024-2027	December 2023	To approve the adoption of the strategy.	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

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
Fire Safety Policy for Council Housing	December 2023	To approve the RMBC Fire Safety Policy for Council Housing.	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant	December 2023	To agree the proposed allocation of the Smokefree Generation grant to support the delivery of the Tobacco Control Plan.	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
<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</b>								
Rotherham Early Years Education and Childcare Strategy 2024 – 2027	December 2023	To approve the Rotherham Early Years Education and Childcare Strategy 2024 – 2027.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk
The Fostering Plan Update	December 2023	To receive an update on progress and agree the Fostering Plan 2023- 2026.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>								
Budget and Council Tax Report 2024-25	December 2022	That Cabinet recommend to Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the Budget and Financial Strategy for 2024/25.</li> <li>To approve the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2025/26.</li> <li>To approve the Reserves Strategy.</li> <li>To approve the proposed increase in Council Tax.</li> <li>To approve the Council's updated Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2025/26.</li> </ul>	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
December 2023/24 Financial Monitoring Report	December 2023	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
Business Rates Discretionary Relief Renewals in 2024/25	December 2023	To consider the recommendation for the annual renewal applications for Business Rates Discretionary Relief.	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>								
Overt CCTV Policy	December 2023	To approve the overt CCTV Policy	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and Appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Climate Emergency Annual Report	December 2023	To approve the Climate Change Action Plan.	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
20mph speed limits and pavement parking	December 2023	Approval of the Policy for the introduction of 20mph speed limits; and an update on the Council position in respect of pavement parking.	Leader of the Council	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 12 FEBRUARY 2024 OR LATER</b>								
<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S</b>								
Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Oral Health	December 2023	To receive the report and consider the recommendations.	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health		Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>								
New Applications for Business Rates Relief	March 2023	To consider the recommendation for a new application for Business Rates discretionary relief.	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance	Relevant Members, officers and stakeholders.	Report 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
Land off Farfield Lane, Wath upon Dearne	November 2023	To approve the the disposal of land to Barratt Homes and the acquisition of land to allow statutory allotments to be replaced.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant Members, officers, stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	Wath	Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>								
Household Waste Recycling Centre update	December 2023	To note the update on Household Waste Recycling Centres.	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 18 MARCH 2024 OR LATER</b>								
<b>ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH</b>								
Housing Delivery Programme Herringthorpe Development	December 2023	Approve the development of the Boswell Street/Arundel Road site in Herringthorpe to build a projected 45 new homes as a mixed tenure scheme, and delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to make amendments to the scheme design to optimise usage of the site according to strategic need, site characteristics, and constraints.	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	Boston Castle	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 Delivery Programme Greasbrough Development	December 2023	Approve the development of the Grayson Road site in Greasbrough to build a projected 16 new Council homes, and delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to make amendments to the scheme design to optimise usage of the site according to strategic need, site characteristics, and constraints.	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	Greasbrough	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
Housing Delivery Programme – Thornhill Development	December 2023	Approve the development of the Tenter Street site in Thornhill to build a projected 15 new Council homes, and delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to make amendments to the scheme design to optimise usage of the site according to strategic need, site characteristics, and constraints.	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	Rotherham West	Open	Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S</b>								
Social Value Annual Report and Ethical Procurement Policy	December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive the Social Value Annual Report of progress on new social value commitments and delivery against existing commitments together with market intelligence.</li> <li>To receive recommendations on a review of the Social Value Policy and priorities for the coming year.</li> <li>To approve the updated Ethical Procurement Policy.</li> </ul>	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
<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</b>								

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
SEND Sufficiency Phase 5	December 2023	To seek cabinet approval to increase number of Social Emotion Mental Health Places at Elements Academy through further capital investment to develop level of provision by 40 places.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk
Early Help Strategy 2024-2028	August 2022	To endorse the Early Help Strategy 2024-2028 and approve the monitoring and oversight of progress against the Strategy Delivery Plan.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk
The Fostering Plan Update	December 2023	To receive an update on progress and agree the Fostering Plan 2023- 2026.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>								
The Rotherham Council Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy	December 2023	To approve the Rotherham Council Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy.	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	Report and appendices.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>								
Home to School Transport Policy	December 2023	To approve the Home-to-School Transport Policy.	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Transport Capital Programme 2024/2025	December 2023	Approval of the Transport Capital Programme for 2024/2025.	Leader of the Council	Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders.	Report and appendices.	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 18 MARCH 2024 OR LATER</b>								
<b>FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES.</b>								
New Applications for Business Rates Relief	December 2022	That Cabinet approve the applications for Discretionary Business Rate Relief.	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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