



# Council

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**Wednesday 4 October 2023**  
**2.00 p.m.**

**Rotherham**  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council 

# WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

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## GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## FACILITIES

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

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

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

Contact:- Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services  
[governance@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:governance@rotherham.gov.uk)

Date of Publication:- **Tuesday 26 September 2023**

# COUNCIL

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Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

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THE MAYOR (Councillor Robert Taylor)  
DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Sheila Cowen)

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sharon Kemp)

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## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

### ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

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

### ASTON AND TODWICK

BACON, Joshua  
BARKER, Aaron

### AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST

PITCHLEY, Lyndsay  
TAYLOR, Robert Paul

### BOSTON CASTLE

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

### BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD

MILLS, Lewis H.M.  
REYNOLDS, Gregory

### BRINSWORTH

CARTER, Adam J.  
CARTER, Charlotte R.

### DALTON AND THRYBERGH

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

### DINNINGTON

CASTLEDINE-DACK, Sophie  
WHOMERSLEY, Benjamin J.  
HALL, Julia

### GREASBROUGH

ALLEN, Sarah A.  
ELLIOTT, Robert W.

### HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST

ANDREWS, Jenny  
BALL, Simon A.

### HOOBER

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

### KEPPEL

BROWNE, Tony  
CLARK, Maggi  
FOSTER, Carole

### KILNHURST AND SWINTON (EAST)

CUSWORTH, Victoria  
Vacancy

### MALTBY EAST

HUNTER, Lee J.  
TINSLEY, Adam J.

### RAWMARSH EAST

HUGHES, Rachel E.M.  
SHEPPARD, David

### RAWMARSH WEST

BIRD, Bob  
THOMPSON, Jill

### ROTHER VALE

BROOKES, Amy C.  
MIRO, Firas

### ROTHERHAM EAST

COOKSEY, Wendy  
HALEEM, Rukhsana B.  
KHAN, Tajamal

### ROTHERHAM WEST

AVEYARD, Ben  
JONES, Ian P.  
KEENAN, Eve

### SITWELL

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

### SWINTON ROCKINGHAM

MONK, Gina  
WYATT, Ken

### THURCROFT & WICKERSLEY

COLLINGHAM, Zachary A.  
COLLINGHAM, Thomas R.

### WALES

BECK, Dominic E.  
HAVARD, Marnie A.

### WATH

ATKIN, Alan  
COWEN, Sheila A.

### WICKERSLEY NORTH

ELLIS, Sue  
HODDINOTT, Emma E.  
READ, Chris

# Council Meeting Agenda

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**Time and Date:-**

Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

**Venue:-**

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

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**1. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 9 - 37)**

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 19 July 2023 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

**4. PETITIONS (Pages 39 - 43)**

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

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

To receive questions from members of the public who may wish to ask a general question of the Mayor, Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

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

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Mayor, to consider excluding the press and public from the meeting in relation to any items of urgent business

on the grounds that private information is likely to be divulged.

**8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT**

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

**9. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING (Pages 45 - 68)**

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meetings held on 10 July and 7 August 2023.

**10. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS (Pages 69 - 76)**

To report on the establishment of political groups, the political balance of the Council and the entitlement of each group to seats on the authority's committees.

**11. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 (Pages 77 - 94)**

To approve the Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23.

**12. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM DINNINGTON WARD COUNCILLORS (Pages 95 - 96)**

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

**13. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WALES WARD COUNCILLORS (Pages 97 - 98)**

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

**14. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM ANSTON AND WOODSETTS WARD COUNCILLORS (Pages 99 - 100)**

To receive updates from ward councillors from Anston and Woodsetts on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION -**

**Notice of Motion – Adoption of a proportional mechanism for nomination  
of the Deputy Mayor**

**To be moved by Councillor Drew Tarmey and seconded by Councillor  
Adam Carter:**

**That this Council:**

- a. Recognises the important role the Mayor and Deputy Mayor play in the civic life of the Borough.
- b. Accepts that every citizen in the Borough should have the opportunity over a period of time to be represented by a 'first citizen' who shares their individual values and lived experiences.
- c. Accepts that, although the roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not political appointments, it has been the convention in recent years for the majority political group to select the Deputy Mayor as a consequence of its overall voting majority.
- d. Accepts that in recent years the political composition of the council and the expectations of the public have changed; therefore, consideration should be given to the principle of political balance when mayoral appointments are made.
- e. Seeks to adopt a voluntary protocol to ensure that the right to nominate the Deputy Mayor (and therefore the mayoralty) rotates between council groups.

**Therefore, this Council resolves to:**

- a. Avoid multiple nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor by adopting a protocol to ensure that the right to nominate the Deputy Mayor rotates between political groupings on the basis of the number of 'points' accrued by that group.
- b. Adopt a points-based system, the balance of which is to be maintained by the relevant Officers, as follows:
  - a. Each political group accrues points equal to the total number of elected members in their group on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year (to a maximum of 59).
  - b. The group having the greatest number of points in any year will be invited to nominate the Deputy Mayor, and 59 points will be deducted from the balance of that group (a negative balance is permitted).
  - c. In the event of two groups having the same number of points, the group holding the mayoralty least recently invited to nominate the Deputy Mayor.

- d. Where a group is not able to nominate a member, they shall lose 50% of the points for nominating a Deputy Mayor. This rule may be waived by agreement in consultation with group leaders (for example, very small groups).
- e. In the event that a group ceases to exist its points are lost and are not transferrable to another group. Similarly, if a group splits, points will be retained by the largest of the successor groups.
- f. In the event that a member retires or is not re-elected to the council during their term as Deputy Mayor or Mayor, the same group shall nominate their successor. If the Mayor retires or is not re-elected the Deputy Mayor shall become Mayor and will serve more than one full term, the group of the departing member shall nominate the Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the year only.
- g. The adoption of this protocol does not alter the right of the Council to elect any of its members as Deputy Mayor or Mayor at the Annual Council Meeting; it is intended to provide clarity and structure to the process. This proposal is not intended to alter the existing mayoral succession plan for the next municipal year, except in accordance with the procedure outlined above. Points will begin to accrue from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

**16. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 101 - 108)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**17. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (Pages 109 - 129)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**18. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE AND LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 131 - 141)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**19. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 143 - 153)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**20. STAFFING COMMITTEE (Pages 155 - 158)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**21. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS**

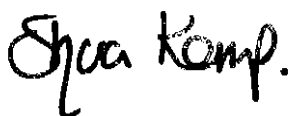
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11(5).

**22. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS**

To put questions, if any, to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairpersons (or their representatives) under Council Procedure Rules 11(1) and 11(3).

**23. URGENT ITEMS**

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.



**SHARON KEMP,**  
Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on  
Wednesday 29 November 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**



**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**19th July, 2023**

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

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

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

**1. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor asked members to join him in welcoming Councillor Hall to the Chamber and her first Council meeting as the newly elected Member for Dinnington following last week's By Election.

He was pleased to be able to welcome to the meeting, officers representing the winners of the LGC Public-Public Partnership Award for "Walk with Us" – A Toolkit for Supporting Children, Young People and Families affected or bereaved by Suicide to accept the award.

He was also pleased to invite officers to the meeting as winners of the Social Value: Public Sector Leadership Award. The award demonstrated the Council are leading the way in embedding social value into its business culture, processes and systems to ensure the needs of our communities are being met.

The Mayor was also delighted to hear that Rotherham MCVC had been awarded the prestigious 'Silver' status as part of the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme. The Rotherham MCVC volunteers should be rightly proud of this fantastic news, it was a very well deserved and suitable recognition for the significant difference their hard work has made to the military community.

The Mayor held a round of applause to congratulate all the award winners.

The Mayor expressed his sadness to be informed of the passing of Mr Frank Wells, former President of the Rotherham Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Frank who served as a Royal Air Force Policeman and was Chair of the Royal Air Forces Association, originally moved to Rotherham from Wales to work for a local business and was also a Church Warden but he would always be remembered as a very active and long-standing figure in our Armed Forces Community and he had been a pivotal part of armed

**COUNCIL MEETING - 19/07/23**

forces civic events – ever present at our town’s Remembrance Sunday Parades and Services and Armed Forces Day. Only last year after proudly performing the raising and lowering Mr Wells was presented with the Armed Forces Day flag by the former Mayor. To Frank’s son Russell and his Family, our thoughts were with you during that difficult time.

He was also very saddened to be informed of the untimely death of the former Vice Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, John Raymond Holt on Tuesday 30 May. He attended the service held for John at Doncaster Minster, the numbers in attendance, the heartfelt eulogies, and the sheer emotion evident were indicators of the regard in which he was held and how much he would be missed. The Council’s sincerest condolences went to John’s wife Lynn and his family.

The Mayor noted that since our last meeting in May his Mayoral diary has been extremely busy. Notably, he was honoured to lead Rotherham’s Armed Forces Day celebrations. The sheer number and variety of invitations was incredible, as were the universal warm welcomes he had received from organisations and groups, large and small, including from members across this chamber, he thanked them all.

His diary was filling up nicely and he looked forward to providing a further update on his activities at the next Council Meeting in October.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Resolved: That apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aveyard, Barker, Burnett, T Collingham, Mills, and Wilson.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 April 2023, be approved.

**4. PETITIONS**

The Mayor introduced the report and confirmed the receipt of 2 petitions received since the last Council meeting:

- Containing 112 signatures calling on the Council to consider speeding and overweight vehicles, Brampton Road.
- Containing 213 signatures calling on the Council to consider a pedestrian crossing near Elmwood Farm public house roundabout on A57.

The lead petitioners for the two petitions, Mr Andy Robinson and Mr Liam Fletcher both attended the meeting and presented their petitions to Council.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Council receive the petitions listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report and the lead petitioners be entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.
3. That the relevant Strategic Directors be required to respond to the lead petitioners, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Wednesday 2 August 2023.

## 5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

## 6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Question 1: Saghir Hussain asked since when has RMBC been aware of flooding of the graves at the Muslim section of herringthope cemetery and what intervention have been undertaken by RMBC before Dignity takeover.

Councillor Alam responded indicating that Dignity became contractually responsible for the Council's cemeteries in 2008. The records prior to the Dignity contract were incomplete as it was 15 years ago and well before he was first elected, therefore he could not comment on what might have happened at the time.

He went on to explain that in October 2020 Dignity commissioned Clancy Consulting Limited to carry out a full investigation into these matters. The report said *"The ground water measured was not thought to be representative of a consistent shallow groundwater body and was more likely to represent discontinuous perched groundwater"*. Since then additional drainage had been installed to ensure the ground water was able to flow away from these areas.

In his supplementary Mr Hussain noted that before Dignity took over their contract RMBC was responsible for the cemetery. Drainage was installed in 1999 so RMBC was aware of the flooding issue at that time. He felt he was not receiving a clear answer. The graves were flooded and that needed to be rectified. It was the responsibility of RMBC not Dignity, who had indicated it was prior to their engagement, to fix the issue and apologise to the muslim community for their failings. He asked if RMBC was going to fix the drainage system at the cemetery?

**COUNCIL MEETING - 19/07/23**

In response Councillor Alam clarified that he also had many relatives buried at the cemetery including his late wife. He was aware that there was an issue with ground water but not with flooding. When he became aware of the issues last year immediate action was taken and the Council forced Dignity to take action. Dignity were operationally responsible for the drainage and the Council would continue to ask them to address this.

Question 2: Shazia Yousaf noted that Councillor Saghir Alam, at the last cabinet meeting, alleged that Mohammed Omar decided to pull out of the review due to being "hounded by the community", which "created a toxic environment". Is this hearsay, or is there evidence to back this up?

Councillor Alam explained that before he went on leave, which was the week before Mr Omar was due to attend, Mr Omar was fine with the schedule of meetings. He was due to be here for almost 3 days, holding 5-6 meetings a day. Councillor Alam was not certain what happened during his leave however Mr Omar had cancelled the days he was due to attend. When he raised this Councillor Alam was told that Mr Omar had been contacted by 6-7 members of the public pressuring him about the review. Mr Omar then decided to withdraw.

Councillor Alam sought clarification that no one from their organisation was contacting Mr Omar during the 5 days before his intended visit.

In her supplementary Shazia Yousaf said it was her understanding that Mr Omar had withdrawn because all the mosques had not been invited to meet with him as most were not invited by the Mosque Council of Rotherham. Could he confirm which mosques were members of the Mosque Council that he was the Chair of?

Councillor Alam explained there were eleven mosques who were part of Rotherham Mosque Council. The stakeholder group consists of over 50 organisations invited to come and meet Mr Omar. It was unfair to say they weren't invited as every single mosque on the list was invited to the meeting and your organisation was invited to have two hours discussion with him. The whole review was completely independent. Officers had facilitated the meetings but were not involved with operational issues.

Question 3: Nida Khan noted that Councillor Read mentioned at the last cabinet meeting that he was concerned for the safety of his officers and staff during meetings with the public. Can I ask what has led to such concerns? This was a serious allegation.

Councillor Read thanked her for her question and explained that there was no allegation. What he had explained at Cabinet was that he had a responsibility for the safety of staff, and he did not want to be putting staff into difficult positions. He had been made aware of at least one instance of a member of staff being left in tears. He understood that people felt strongly about the issues and understood that people would emote strongly about those issues, which was understandable however the

Council could not put its staff in a position where they felt threatened or concerned for their safety. What he had tried to do at Cabinet, and hoped that it came across in the recording, was to offer a way, for the gentleman who attended Cabinet, that the Council could facilitate the kind of dialogue that was needed, whilst also ensuring that everybody, both sides, felt safe and secure having those conversations.

In her supplementary Nida Khan said she understood what was being said and she had been present for most of the conversations referred to, but again it was hearsay. The police were present, and no such things happened that he was alleging and there were no police records of such things. She felt that comments such as those were very derogatory. It was understood that people got very emotional when speaking about death. She indicated that they appreciated what was being offered and were waiting to know when conversations could begin.

In response Councillor Read clarified that he was not simply referring to one particular meeting but was referring to all issues which he had been informed had happened over a period of time in different locations. He appreciated the sentiment that she expressed around the need to things to move forward constructively and a meeting would be organised in a way that worked for everyone involved.

Question 4: Mr Adeel Hussain asked his question regarding Disastrous Cycling Route Development: Why does Rotherham Council bother with consultation plans if they're not interested in hearing the answers?

Council Beck thanked Mr Hussain for his question but indicated he did not recognise his description. The Council currently had two schemes underway in the town centre.

In relation to the Wellgate / Broom Road scheme, In October and November 105 people gave their views, with the majority expressing support rather than opposition.

In relation to the Sheffield Road / Westgate scheme, it was true that when the Council consulted on the first set of proposals it received a degree of opposition. The Council rethought and re-wrote the proposal: removing banned turns, keeping the junction at the top of Main Street as it was, and crucially, for businesses, creating more car parking spaces. The Council had listened, which was why revisions had been made to the scheme.

In his supplementary Mr Hussain mentioned that over 8 years people and businesses had responded to consultations with 95% indicating they did not want the cycle scheme however the Council was still proceeding. It was felt the scheme would have a negative impact on the people and businesses in the area.

**COUNCIL MEETING - 19/07/23**

In his response Councillor Beck refuted some of the views expressed. The scheme was possible because the Government had made funding available to deliver active travel schemes to make it safer for people to cycle to work or to use the town centre and those who lived in the area. He acknowledged there was short term pain associated with delivery of the schemes, however local residents and business would benefit from the scheme.

The Council did listen which was why the scheme had been radically altered receiving a more positive response. Officers spoke to local businesses, held drop-in sessions and when it was completed people would be able to see the improvements.

Question 5: Mr Eric Shaw asked for an update on Traffic Calming and 20mph Zones in the Boston Castle Ward?

In response Councillor Beck said he had been advised that as part of the Council's Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety Scheme programme a scheme had been identified for the area bounded by Moorgate Road, Alma Road, Wellgate, Broom Road, Broom Avenue and Beaconsfield Road. The Council would be consulting on the proposal over the coming months, and he would be able to respond to that accordingly and consultation would be carried out before any plans were taken forward.

The Mayor advised that questions 6 and 7 would receive a written response.

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

There are no such items that required the exclusion of the press and public from this meeting.

**8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT**

During his statement, the Leader congratulated Cllr Julia Hall for winning the Dinnington By-Election and welcomed her to her first Council meeting.

He explained that last week the Council received confirmation from the government that England's first Investment Zone would be in South Yorkshire. He noted that the Council was meeting in the so-called "spatial core" of the zone right now. It would stretch from here in the heart of town, out through the AMP and Sheffield Business Park and through to Sheffield City Centre.

He felt that the fact that the area was agreed was testimony to the hard work of staff from both councils, the MCA and the two universities. It recognised the national significance of the work being undertaken at the AMP.

The government's funding package of an additional £80m over five years was a welcome commitment, but more significantly was that they recognised the flaws in the previous government proposals, rowed back on the kind of deregulation free for all that would have been bad for the wider economy, and put more control about the kinds of incentives for businesses back into local hands.

It was expected to create 8000 new jobs and bring in 31bn worth of private investment.

This week he was delighted to be attending the annual summer celebration event organised by our Looked After Children's Council on Friday. This annual event celebrated the achievements of our Looked After Children and provided the opportunity for a lot of fun and laughter.

Other members also offered their congratulations to Councillor Hall.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester enquired if the investment zone excluded the deprived areas in the east of the borough and asked if he could elaborate on what benefits there might be in terms of employment opportunities with those areas?

Councillor Ball welcomed the investment in the region. He had previously asked a question regarding the SYMCA Strategic Plan, he had not received any response from April when it was raised, and the potholes mentioned were still on the A6321 and he would welcome an update.

Councillor A Carter welcomed the investment zones but highlighted the need to ensure those schemes represented and benefited the whole of the borough.

In response the Leader explained that the Government set out some rules about the size of the scheme. He mentioned it because it could create some challenges for parts of the borough but also for others. The Council wanted to ensure it could get the benefits of that for the borough as much as possible. There would be challenges in relation to public transport. There was a proposal for a train station at Waverley that would help to connect places in south of the borough.

He felt the more that could be done to help create greater centres of employment and greater demand for both those high-skilled jobs along with other roles the more the benefits will be felt by the more deprived areas of the borough.

**9. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 19 June 2023 be noted.

**10. ANNUAL REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Councillor Read introduced the report explaining it was the annual review of the Council's Constitution ensuring it remained fit for purpose. There were limited amendments and updates proposed. Items to make it easier to follow the flow of debates, provision for administrative amendments along with information regarding the terms of reference for the Audit Committee.

There was also a proposal in terms of allowing substitutes. Substitutes had been allowed for planning meetings for some time, but this was to ensure that, as far as possible, meetings were quorate and able to function properly.

Councillor Ball seconded the report noting all the members of the Constitution Working Group had worked together to produce the amendments which would be kept under constant review.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester welcomed the amendments but expressed concerns regarding substitutions in particular for non-aligned members. He asked if non-aligned members could call on a member from another political group to act as a substitute at a meeting on their behalf.

Councillor A Carter expressed concerns regarding the Constitution overall, in particular the officer delegations regarding the revenue budget as this took responsibility from members. He also sought clarification regarding member questions to this meeting, whereby a member had submitted a question which they were not able to ask. He expressed a need to ensure that officers understood that where the question did not specifically mention an individual and was intended to highlight a wider issue, it should be considered. Members needed to ensure that policy and boroughwide issues were able to be heard.

Councillor Read responded indicating that as a principle bringing forward a situation that may expose an individual was not something the Council would want to do. Discretion for the interpretation of the Constitution sat with the Monitoring Officer as it did in all councils.

He noted that the Chair of a committee already had the discretion to invite members to attend and speak at meetings on specific items. As part of the ongoing review of the constitution consideration would be given to enabling the scheme of delegation to be adapted to allow non-aligned members to request a member from another party to act as their substitute.



Resolved: That Council approved:

1. The Substitution Scheme set out in Paragraph 2.7 be added to the Constitution.
2. The amendments to the Motions process and the Motion/Amendment Flow Chart set out in Appendix 1 be added to the Constitution.
3. The provisions of the Constitution relating to administrative amendments set out in Paragraphs 2.15 and 2.16 be made to the Council's Constitution.
4. The amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee set out in Appendix 2.

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

Councillor Read proposed the report asking all to check the nominations listed in Appendix B of the Mayor's Letter. He noted that a further report would be brought to the October meeting to reflect the changes required after the recent by-election.

The report was seconded by Councillor Allen.

Resolved: That Council:

1. Noted the political balance of the Council has changed due to changes in the number of Conservative, Non-aligned members and the creation of a new Conservative Independent Group which took place in May 2023.
2. That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups was agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees as detailed in the Mayor's Letter.
3. That the nomination for the Local Pension Board Rotational Member and Transport for the North Audit & Governance Committee was agreed as detailed in the Mayor's Letter.

**POLITICAL GROUPS**

<b>Name of Group</b>	<b>Designated Leader &amp; Deputy Leader (Number of Members)</b>
Labour	Leader – Councillor Chris Read Deputy Leader – Councillor Sarah Allen (34 Members)
Conservative	Leader – Councillor Simon Ball Deputy Leader – Councillor Lewis Mills (14 Members) *
Liberal Democrats	Leader – Councillor Adam Carter (4 Members)
Independent Conservative	Leader – Cllr Barley (2 Members)

**\*Non-Aligned Members:** Cllr Bennett-Sylvester, Wilson, Elliott, Jones (1 x vacancy Dinnington Ward - Independent as of 24 May 2023\*)

\*The calculation that includes the outcome of the result of the Dinnington Ward Election will be brought to the next Council meeting.

**NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND PANELS****Cabinet**

Leader – Councillor Read  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working – Councillor Allen  
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor Cusworth  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health – Councillor Roche  
Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy – Councillor Lelliott  
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment – Councillor Beck  
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion – Councillor Sheppard  
Cabinet Member for Housing – Councillor Brookes  
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance – Councillor Alam

Audit Committee

Cllr Baker-Rogers  
Cllr Browne  
Cllr Wyatt  
Cllr Mills  
Cllr Elliott

Licensing Board

Cllr Ellis  
Cllr Hughes  
Cllr Wyatt  
Cllr Clark  
Cllr Pitchley  
Cllr Cooksey  
Cllr Hoddinott  
Cllr Monk  
Cllr McNeely  
Cllr Browne  
Cllr Aveyard  
Cllr Haleem  
Cllr Barker  
Cllr Castledine-Dack  
Cllr T Collingham  
Cllr Mills  
Cllr Reynolds  
1 x Liberal Democrat Vacancy  
1 x Independent Conservative Vacancy  
Cllr Jones  
Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Licensing Committee

Cllr Ellis  
Cllr Hughes  
Cllr Wyatt  
Cllr Clark  
Cllr Pitchley  
Cllr Cooksey  
Cllr Hoddinott  
Cllr Monk  
Cllr McNeely  
Cllr Barker  
Cllr T Collingham  
Cllr Mills  
Cllr Reynolds  
Cllr Jones (gifted by Independent Conservative)  
Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**COUNCIL MEETING - 19/07/23**

Planning Board

Cllr Atkin  
Cllr Bird  
Cllr Taylor  
Cllr Cowen  
Cllr Andrews  
Cllr Keenan  
Cllr Sheppard  
Cllr Khan  
Cllr Havard  
Cllr Ball  
Cllr Bacon  
Cllr Burnett  
Cllr Fisher  
Cllr Tarmey  
Cllr Elliott

Staffing Committee

Cllr Read  
Cllr Allen  
1 x appropriate Cabinet Member as determined by the  
matter to be considered  
Cllr Ball  
Cllr T Collingham

Standards and Ethics Committee

Cllr McNeely  
Cllr Griffin  
Cllr Hughes  
Cllr Sansome  
Cllr Yasseen  
Cllr Z Collingham  
Cllr Bacon  
Cllr Wilson

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Cllr Clark  
Cllr Bacon  
Cllr Baker-Rogers  
Cllr Pitchley  
Cllr Cooksey  
Cllr Yasseen  
Cllr Wyatt  
Cllr Browne  
Cllr Ball  
Cllr Tinsley  
Cllr Miro  
Cllr Elliott

Health Select Commission

Cllr Yasseen  
Cllr Miro  
Cllr Griffin  
Cllr Havard  
Cllr Bird  
Cllr Cooksey  
Cllr Sansome  
Cllr Hoddinott  
Cllr Andrews  
Cllr Keenan  
Cllr Foster  
Cllr Baum-Dixon  
Cllr Hunter  
Cllr A Carter  
1 x Conservative Vacancy  
1 x Conservative Vacancy  
Cllr Thompson  
Cllr Wilson

Improving Lives Select Commission

Cllr Pitchley  
Cllr Cooksey  
Cllr Baker-Rogers  
Cllr Griffin  
Cllr Hughes  
Cllr Monk  
Cllr McNeely  
Cllr Khan  
Cllr Haleem  
Cllr Atkin  
Cllr Bacon  
Cllr Z Collingham

**COUNCIL MEETING - 19/07/23**

Cllr Mills  
1 x Conservative Vacancy  
Cllr Bennett-Sylvester (gifted by Liberal Democrats)  
1 x Liberal Democrat Vacancy  
Cllr Barley  
Cllr Wilson

Improving Places Select Commission

Cllr Wyatt  
Cllr Tinsley  
Cllr Taylor  
Cllr Havard  
Cllr Cowen  
Cllr Ellis  
Cllr Atkin  
Cllr McNeely  
Cllr Aveyard  
Cllr Khan  
Cllr Andrews  
Cllr T Collingham  
Cllr Castledine-Dack  
Cllr Reynolds  
Cllr C Carter  
Cllr Bennett-Sylvester (gifted by Liberal Democrats)  
Cllr Barley  
Cllr Jones

Corporate Parenting Group

Cllr Cusworth  
Cllr Pitchley  
Cllr Browne  
Cllr Z Collingham  
Cllr Elliott

Introductory Tenancy Review Panel

Chair and Vice Chair to be drawn from members of the  
Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission or Improving Places  
Scrutiny Commission

Cllr McNeely  
Cllr Cooksey  
1 x Conservative Vacancy  
Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Joint Consultative Committee

Cllr Alam  
Cllr Allen  
Cllr Clark  
1 x Conservative Vacancy  
Cllr Jones

Health and Wellbeing Board

Cllr Roche  
Cllr Cusworth

Local Pensions Board

Cllr Hoddinott

Transport for the North Audit & Governance Committee

Cllr Baker-Rogers

**12. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - REVISION TO DISTRICT HEATING CHARGES 2023/24**

Councillor Brookes proposed the report explaining that in March 2023, as part of the HRA report, the Council agreed to increase the district heating charges as a result of significant inflation and the need to purchase the energy to be used at that point.

The report proposed at the meeting was responding to national policy as well as the stabilisation of the energy market meaning the Council was able to reduce bills for district heating customers. The report also sought a delegation to officers to enable them to react quickly should there be the ability to further reduce residents' bills.

Councillor Allen indicated this demonstrated the Council's willingness to show support where possible.

Councillor A Carter welcomed the proposals and that they would be back dated and sought clarification that the delegation would only be for a reduction in costs not to raise prices.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester welcomed that the proposal would be backdated for residents. He asked for a review as to how information was provided to residents be carried out to ensure information was as clear as possible going forward.

Councillor Cusworth supported the report and the benefits it would bring to the residents of the borough.

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In response Councillor Brookes confirmed that the delegation was for one year only and was to give the ability to make in year reductions only.

Resolved: That Council:

1. Noted the decision Council took in March 2023 to increase the District Heating unit charge to 20.68 per Kwh for 2023-24 so that an average bill was equivalent to the heating element of the then Government's Energy Price Guarantee, leading to a proposed District heating budget deficit of £2.592m.
2. Noted that the actual cost to the Council of purchasing energy to supply District Heating schemes is lower than the cost assumed in March 2023; and that the agreed unit charge now exceeds the Energy Price Guarantee and the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) price cap for July 2023 onwards.
3. Agreed that in light of these changes, the District Heating unit charge per Kwh for 2023-24 is reduced to 15.94 pence per kwh and weekly prepayment charges are reduced by 59% to 67% depending on property size (Option 4 in this report), bringing prices into line with the Ofgem price cap for July 2023 onwards and well within the Energy Price Guarantee.
4. Agreed that this charge should be backdated to 3rd April 2023.
5. Agreed that the decision to reduce the price further during 2023-24 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, and the approved budget deficit of £2.592m cannot be exceeded through a delegated decision.

**13. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, Councillor Clark proposed the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report. She explained that as with last year's report, the report had been aligned to the Council Plan priorities to demonstrate how the scrutiny had shaped service delivery and positive outcomes for the Rotherham residents.

A substantial portion of the scrutiny work programme focussed on monitoring specific performance objectives, key initiatives and partnership work. The work programme also retained an element of flexibility, to consider and respond to other important issues as they arose such as referrals from Council or suggestions from Members or the public.



2022/23 was an important year for Rotherham's continued recovery from the pandemic and response to the cost-of-living crisis. Across the commissions, scrutiny had looked at wide-ranging issues. Examples of this included Improving Places work on selective licensing; Health's work on access to dental care along with the Improving Lives review of the draft Child Exploitation Strategy.

One of the highlights of every year was the opportunity to work with Rotherham Youth Cabinet in the Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge. This was due to take place in July but was postponed due to exam pressures. A further highlight was participating in the LGA pilot on Scrutiny of Children's Services and the follow-up work on work planning.

A personal highlight for me was the review into modern slavery which highlighted the work across our partners and agencies. The response to the recommendations was currently being formulated and we look forward to making a timely contribution to this important agenda.

She thanked all scrutiny members for their questions, enthusiasm and dedication and each of the chairs and vice-chairs for their work during 2022-23. She also added thanks to Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor and Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor for their work on the report.

The Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, Councillor Bacon seconded the report.

Councillor Pitchley thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the work undertaken by the Chair and Vice-Chair. She also thanked members of the Improving Lives Select Commission, noting everyone was very committed and able to add value where needed.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester took the opportunity to thank Councillor Clark saying she had been the best of them, and her leadership of the Board had given him every confidence that scrutiny did work, and he thanked her for this.

Resolved:

1. That the report be noted.

#### **14. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM ROTHER VALE WARD COUNCILLORS**

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

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

Councillor Brookes noted that the overarching aim of the thriving neighbourhood's strategy was for "Every neighbourhood in Rotherham to be a thriving neighbourhood, where people are able to work together to achieve a good quality of life." It was understood as councillors, that their constituents wanted more than a ring-fenced place to live. They wanted a quality of life and a livelihood. A useful shorthand for this was perhaps to talk, as we do, of a thriving neighbourhood.

However, outside of the framework that had been constructed, people were more likely to hear reference about properties and areas, estates, villages and towns. Particularly in the private sector world of development and construction, reference to neighbourhoods was more of a footnote. And when it came to new neighbourhoods, they were viewed primarily as a means of supplementing the UK's housing stock.

Private sector delivery of this demand was alas programmed to sell, and so to value, individual properties as opposed to neighbourhoods. They traded in one-off transactions with individual clients. They were not equipped – or inclined – to ascribe a value to communal facilities or public space, let alone to collective aspirations or societal change. This was a palpable failure of the market and a disconnect from what the Council was trying to achieve as community leaders in local government.

Given this environment, the modest projects and initiatives that councillors were able to effect within the parameters of neighbourhood working were ever more important. The many qualities that combined to create a thriving neighbourhood were interwoven and mutually dependent, and it had been seen that small, inexpensive, local initiatives could have an outsize effect. Particularly in places where community had yet to be defined.

One of the challenges for Rother Vale ward as a neighbourhood unit was with geographical spread and varied composition of different villages and communities. were they one or several neighbourhoods? Did they work together, or (as was often the case) did they compete?

It was known that neighbourhoods had to be socially as well as physically constructed. Most people felt they intuitively understood those constructed boundaries and measures, in the shape of either a 'good neighbourhood' with friendly, neighbourly interactions, security, gathering places and a clean, attractive environment – or in a "bad neighbourhood", with dereliction, low trust, anti-social interaction, and isolation.

People spent the majority of their lives in their neighbourhood. This was readily recognised for the older generations whom on the whole travel for work less and were often physically less mobile. However, there was an increased impact for people of working age, for whom technology had now liberated from commuting to the workplace. A new class of people hidden away from view and left deprived of company in a way they never were before. This was a permanent societal change in the time spent in

our individual neighbourhoods that any thriving model needed to recognise. We needed to be building and supporting neighbourhoods that reasserted the social dimension of professional life now more than ever.

Finally, one of the most important of people's needs, was the need to be bound to their neighbours in a relation of trust. Most people didn't only think about GDP, they cared deeply about things like identity, community, belonging and tradition. And they were driven by things like recognition, voice and dignity. For her this was the threshold of knowing what was aimed for with thriving communities.

Councillor Miro explained that the time of his election was a time of significant change in his life and was associated with some considerable joy and excitement as he became able to exact his values and principles to the service of his local area. He was driven by a love for the environment and renewable energy and the fear from climate change. He was able to support and develop community safety supporting health, tackle social and economic issues and improve community cohesion.

These objectives would be achieved by supporting 30 projects around the Rother Vale area, working with 15 different community groups and other agencies, including schools, parish and community councils.

In November they would be supporting the planting of 100 trees and would be launching an adopt a tree scheme.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

## **15. NOTICE OF MOTION - SEWAGE DISCHARGE INTO RIVERS**

Notice of Motion – Sewage discharge into rivers

It was moved by Councillor Sheppard and seconded by Councillor Monk that:

### **This council notes:**

That there is great public concern over the recently released statistics detailing sewage discharges into our local rivers by Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent Water.

The number of occasions when this happens and the total numbers of hours involved show that these discharges have now become routine practice, rather than an emergency response to extreme weather events.

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Since privatisation, water companies in England have paid out an average of £2bn per year in dividends to shareholders, paid out huge salaries and massive bonuses to executives whilst ignoring the need to invest in their creaking infrastructure.

The effect of the horrific levels of sewage discharge into our rivers is seen in a negative impact to local wildlife coupled with the detrimental effect on the quality of life for residents who live near rivers. It also restricts the enjoyment of water-based activities for everyone.

**This council believes:**

That government inaction has allowed Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent Water, along with the other water companies in England, to prioritise their profitability as a business over their responsibilities to their customers and the environment.

Whilst this affects local areas to different degrees, as rivers flow across local authority and geographical boundaries, the government has to lead on this issue and provide a strong national response.

The rules on sewage discharges must be tightened and the Environment Agency needs to be given the resources to monitor and enforce on any breaches of the rules.

**This council resolves to:**

Write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, requesting that the government set out an ambitious strategy to reduce and ultimately eliminate sewage discharges into rivers and the sea. The financial cost of this programme must not rest on the shoulders of bill payers whilst at the same time these water companies continue to pay out dividends on their profits.

Ask our Improving Places Select Committee to invite Yorkshire Water, Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency to attend a meeting to explain what measures they are taking to reduce sewage discharges into our rivers now, plus outlining their future plans to address this issue in the medium to long-term, with annual updates on their progress to follow.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared as carried by the majority.

**16. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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

**17. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

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

**18. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS**

There were no questions for designated spokespersons.

**19. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS**

Question 1: Councillor Baker-Rogers asked to encourage participation in parkrun, please, could car parking charges be waived at the Clifton Museum car park until 1030am on Saturday mornings?

Councillor Sheppard explained that fees and charges were set annually through the budget setting report to Council in March and could not be altered at this time. Many of the events organised at the parks and green spaces by others shared objectives with the Council's own, in terms of promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging people to take part in physical activity. The income collected from parking formed part of the budget available to the Green Spaces service which ensured safe and enjoyable spaces. Reducing that income would impact on the Council's ability to provide or maintain such spaces so that activities could take place.

In her supplementary Councillor Baker-Rogers indicated that park runs were a fantastic initiative but asked how the Council would encourage participation in the Clifton Park Run?

In response Councillor Sheppard said the Council was happy to work alongside partners who had the commitment to promoting physical activity and exercise and understood they were popular events.

Question 2: Councillor Bacon asked would the Cabinet Member help me in allowing our churches in the borough to use the council's bulky waste service?

Councillor Beck indicated that as a rule the bulky waste service was only available to residential properties due to the capacity and demand for the service however if there was a particular circumstance Councillor Bacon had in mind, he was happy to discuss this.

In his supplementary Councillor Bacon indicated it would be beneficial to speak with Councillor Beck outside the meeting but was a little confused as the churches were able to subscribe to the Council's Brown Bin service but not use the bulky waste service.

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Councillor Beck agreed to speak with Councillor Bacon after the meeting about this particular issue.

Question 3: Councillor A. Carter asked what briefings had the Council Leader had regarding areas of Brinsworth and elsewhere in Rotherham becoming part of a new enterprise zone?

Councillor Read explained a report on the Investment Zone was presented to the MCA on 5 June 2023 to approve submission of an application to Government. The papers and minutes were available online or could be provided directly if needed.

In his supplementary Councillor A Carter indicated his understanding of the paper was that it included significant parts of Brinsworth including areas of Phoenix Sports Club. He queried when that location and other locations that affected the Borough announced and when was the Leader planning to discuss that and seek the views of local councillors regarding use of that land moving forward?

Councillor Read as indicated at the beginning of the meeting, the overall geography of that spatial core was subject to discussions with civil servants in London, so there had not been local consultation on each part of that. He felt the more relevant question was regarding when proposals would come forward in each place and how would resources be used. For a lot of the area £80million would not address it and he did not expect to see physical regeneration across the whole of that area. As and when proposals were available for individual places, he that would then be the appropriate time to consult with ward members and look at the communities. In relation to the specific site mentioned, he was not aware of any specific proposal for development on that site at the time of the meeting.

Question 4: Councillor A. Carter asked would the council commit to undertaking an immediate review of Wood Lane in Brinsworth, and commit to bring forward plans to open the road to local traffic?

Councillor Beck explained that when the remodelling was undertaken for the Parkway scheme, one element of that was to review the impact of re-opening Wood Lane to traffic. Following the remodelling work conducted the conclusion remained the same that there were concerns around the impact that would have on Brinsworth itself, on roads such as Brinsworth Road, Bonnet Lane and Whitehill Lane. There was a very real danger that if the Council was to pursue it that the unintended consequences may not be appreciated.

In his supplementary Councillor A Carter noted this was discussed at the recent Parish Council meeting and members from both parties were in agreement overall that it should be re-opened. It was one of the most common issues that he received from residents, and he appreciated the concerns on the Parkway and his view was that since Parkway had

happened it had changed things in terms of the likelihood that Brinsworth would become a rat run for traffic. He asked if a further review would be undertaken and share any briefings that had taken place since the Parkway had happened. He also asked if it wasn't able to be opened in both directions, could the Council commit to opening it in one direction, out of Brinsworth for example?

Councillor Beck explained that at the moment it was a designated primary public transport link and emergency vehicles could use when necessary. He committed to considering the impacts that the new Parkway scheme was having on traffic in Brinsworth.

Question 5 Councillor Jones noted that Rotherham was now in transition from a market town to an entertainment venue, to ease this transition he presumed we should be putting on events within the town centre, can you give me the exact budget the team has to deliver this?

In response Councillor Lelliott indicated she wanted Rotherham town centre to be both a thriving market town and an entertainment venue. Over the last four years the events programme in the town centre had doubled including the annual UPLIFT Skate and Arts Festival which attracted an estimated audience of 5,000 visitors and residents. The recent Rotherham Festival saw footfall in the town centre rise by 25%.

The total Council budget for events was £238,223 of which £20,000 was the net budget for town centre events. This was used to attract external funding from Flux, the Arts Council and meant that the gross budget for town centre events for this year was £287,000.

In his supplementary Councillor Jones noted at a recent meeting he'd been informed that a new two-hour format was the preferred option. He had also been informed there was no funding for town centre events. He questioned if the Council was developing the town centre as an events experience, then it should be properly funded.

Councillor Lelliott referred back to her previous answer that a total of £238,223 was available. She was delighted that the Council organised the successful Armed Forces Day celebration which was a valued part of Rotherham's activities each year.

Question 6: Councillor Jones noted that Rotherham west councillors had taken the decision to purchase an extra CCTV camera to tackle ASB, but we have now been informed that no cameras can be purchased or relocated until further notice, can you tell me why?

Councillor Alam explained the Council had invested over £800,000 in new CCTV equipment over the last two to three years, meaning a lot of new equipment had been provided. Officers were currently reviewing current provisions and future needs before undertaking further purchasing.

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He explained that the possible re-location of cameras was an option and requests to move ward cameras were prioritised based on risk and could be made via CAP's meetings. A task group would consider the appropriate risk and impact assessments prior to any changes.

In his supplementary Councillor Jones noted that one of the main reasons for requesting CCTV was to tackle anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and violence. He asked if ward members and residents could be given some idea of how long the review would take and how long they would have to wait for a camera?

Councillor Alam explained the review was being undertaken now and he could not indicate when it would end but he would raise Councillor Jones' concerns and get back to him.

Question 7: Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked did we have any indication of the amount of cheques cashed by pawnbroking services following last year's £150 council tax rebate which saw so many shocking queues outside of town centre pawnbrokers?

Councillor Read explained that unfortunately there was no way of checking where the cheques had been cashed.

In his supplementary Councillor Bennett-Sylvester felt that a substantial number of cheques had been cashed elsewhere. This was considered as part of the scrutiny process, and no one envisaged seeing queues of people trying to cash them in. He asked what lessons had been learned that, should this be needed in the future, would enable to people to access the money quickly?

Councillor Read explained that the number one lesson was that the information provided needed to be very clear that residents could exchange those cheques at Council offices for the full value and to ensure that staff were available to assist with this. He noted that the Council actually supplied the cheques to residents quicker than any other local authority.

Question 8: Councillor Monk noted that research showed that children who access early years provision for longer have improved educational outcomes. It also shows that high quality early years education benefits children from lower income backgrounds in particular. Can the Cabinet Member for Children tell me what the take up rate in Rotherham is for our 2-year-olds?

Councillor Cusworth offered thanks for drawing attention to the importance of early years education for our children. Research had found evidence that attending early year provision could improve a range of outcomes for children including laying the foundations for future long-term developmental milestones.



She explained that the take up rate in Rotherham for children receiving Early Education Funding was 90% in the Spring term 2023, 96% in the Autumn term 2022, and 88% in the Summer term 2022. These were the highest take-up rates achieved in Rotherham.

In her supplementary Councillor Monk asked how the Council could be certain it was engaging effectively with those most impacted by deprivation?

Councillor Cusworth explained that significant work was undertaken with partners and early help to support take-up in deprived areas using links across multi-agency partners, children's centres, health colleagues and wider services in order to promote the benefits. The Council had diversified its materials ensuring they were accessible to all areas of the community and targets specific areas.

Question 9: Councillor Elliot commented regarding Grange Park Golf Course, you will no doubt have seen the article in the Advertiser describing the poor condition of the course, I have had several golfers contact me saying the same. Are you able to say what discussions have taken place with the Lessees of the course in order to remedy the situation?

Councillor Lelliott explained the Grange Park Golf Course was managed by a private organisation and therefore the Council did not have any responsibility for the ground's maintenance of the course. However, discussions had taken place with the owner regarding the ground's maintenance. He explained there had been a series of dry weather, then wet weather and he was aware that under the terms of the lease he had to maintain it.

In his supplementary Councillor Jones agreed that the weather had been awful however the course was unplayable and no other courses had experienced the same issues. He asked for clarity as to whether the Council could force the owner to address these issues.

Councillor Lelliott explained the Council was working with the owner and were looking at the conditions within the lease to address this.

Question 10: Councillor Jones noted Rotherham Council were now looking into purchasing electric vehicles in larger quantities, can you please inform me what support measures and infrastructure are being put in place and what research has been done to support this decision?

Councillor Beck noted it was an ambitious programme purchasing a large quantity of electric powered vehicles. 114 vehicles had been identified to be changed and 64 of those had been identified as viable options to be replaced with electric powered vehicles.

**COUNCIL MEETING - 19/07/23**

Many authorities were considering the same issues, once of which was that a number of vehicles would be taken home by staff therefore a home charging policy would need to be developed to understand what would mean for the individuals.

The Council 30 charging bays located across the borough. It was a challenge but one the Council would make work.

In his supplementary Councillor Jones noted there were a number of inbuilt dangers around repairing both the mechanical and body damaged electric vehicles. He understood guidance had been issued to recovery mechanics not to move broken down electric vehicles without emergency services being present. He asked if the Council was satisfied that they were asking staff to use what could be unsafe equipment and was the Council following its own research or using someone else's.

Councillor Beck said the Council had learned a lot from others, but it was following its own agenda and research. A lot of research had been carried out already over the past two years prior to it being considered by Cabinet. He was confident that the Council was up for the challenge.

Question 11: Councillor Jones said last year this council voted to enforce a new policy against repeat offenders that acquire multiple non-payment of fixed penalty fines, which included removal of the offending vehicle. Can you inform me how many vehicles have been removed since the new policy was enacted?

Councillor Beck noted the policy had been in place since 2018 and to date the Council had impounded 231 vehicles for persistent non-payment of fixed penalty fines, which was a tremendous achievement. Since 1 April 2023, the Council had impounded 10 vehicles and out of those 10 vehicles, 8 had been reclaimed with full payments being made.

In his supplementary Councillor Jones asked if there were situations where the offender's car would not be removed if they were disabled for example? He also asked if the Council would consider publishing names of people who had more than five outstanding penalties in the Advertiser?

In his response Councillor Beck indicated concerns regarding any potential safeguarding issues of doing that. He would seek advice regarding this matter and respond in writing.

Question 12: Councillor Bennett-Sylvester would like to welcome the current taxi licensing review. He asked what was the estimate of how much per year a taxi licensed in Wolverhampton is undercutting the better-quality Rotherham licensed cabs?

Councillor Lelliott offered to email Councillor Bennett-Sylvester with the full answer to his question but went on to explain the cost of licensing a vehicle with Wolverhampton was approximately £135 and in Rotherham

the vehicle licence costs between £179 and £271 depending on the age of the vehicle.

She explained that licensing fees could only be set at a level that recovered the costs associated with the licensing regime. Some of those costs were fixed irrespective of the number of licence holders, therefore, a higher number of licence holders could result in decreased licence fees. In Rotherham, this element of the charge was split between the 900 vehicle licence holders. In contrast, the fees in Wolverhampton were split between the 23,000 licensed vehicles, reducing the fee charged.

In his supplementary Councillor Bennett-Sylvester said one concern was that people had registered a taxi elsewhere and was not necessarily accepting the need for change in Rotherham and he asked it would be reasonable that people were being given the choice and could lead to them feeling unsafe?

Councillor Lelliott explained that was the purpose of the review of the policy that was intended to reduce the prevalence of out-of-town taxis in Rotherham.

Question 13: Councillor Bennett-Sylvester said given details of under occupancy in town centre council buildings such as Riverside, when can we expect to see a condensation of our estate by say the selling off of underused buildings like say the town hall?

In her response Councillor Lelliott noted the Council had made a number of savings by rationalising its property estate and disposing of surplus properties. The Council had a number of operational buildings of which the Town Hall was one and the Council had no plans to withdraw from it, not least because there would be significant costs associated with recreating the chamber.

In his supplementary Councillor Bennett-Sylvester mentioned the low occupancy rates in some buildings and if the Council could not show full usage of the build, would it be better to dispose of it to realise the capital?

Councillor Lelliott explained the Council continued to review all of its operational property portfolio to ensure it used its buildings effectively and efficiently to deliver its services.

Question 14: Councillor Tarmey asked does the Cabinet Member agree with me that it took too long for the council to take enforcement action following the Kiveton Park fire?

Councillor Beck noted the fire was put out in January this year and the priority was for extinguishing the fire, which had been done. The Council committed to use any powers available to ensure it did not happen again and for the removal of the waste. An enforcement notice had been issued and had come into effect. He was not aware of any appeal by the

**COUNCIL MEETING - 19/07/23**

landowner at this time. It required the landowners to stop using the site for any further depositing of waste materials within 7 days and to remove all stored waste materials from the site within 6 months.

Councillor Tarmey asked if the Cabinet Member agreed with him that the Environment Agency had been left so badly underfunded by central Government that it was not able to take adequate enforcement action itself?

Councillor Beck agreed with this.

Question 15: Councillor Bennett-Sylvester said the HAF programmes are providing essential summer activities for children do we have figures on the percentage of places made available being booked and more importantly actually attended?

Councillor Cusworth noted that it was an essential part of the holidays and then programme had gone from strength to strength each year. The programme offered a wide range of activities and last summer 37 providers delivered 52 programmes across the borough with 14,486 children and young people receiving 14,486 meals whilst taking part.

The numbers for take up during the summer holidays were not yet available, however members were asked to promote this within their wards.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked what was being done to monitor the uptake of this programme and to ensure activities were being offered in the communities that were hardest to reach?

Councillor Cusworth said the Council was constantly striving to increase the uptake and did have an opportunity to offer unused places to those who were from other vulnerable backgrounds so that places were not wasted.

The figures for the summer could be provided when available.

Question 16: Councillor Cllr Bennett-Sylvester asked how did the amount planned to be spent on footpath replacement this year compare to the amount being spent on the Wellgate Cycle Lane?

Councillor Beck explained the resurfacing programme for this financial year was £800,000 and the Wellgate Cycling scheme would cost in the region of £3.5m however it was important to know that the £800,000 for footways was Council funded. The £3.5m for the cycling scheme at Wellgate and or all cycling schemes was funded from central Government through the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

In his supplementary Councillor Bennett-Sylvester noted that 40% of footpaths under the RAG testing system were in the red section. He queried if there was any way of obtaining further funding?

Councillor Beck noted there had been an underfunding of resurfacing of footways for a long time nationally, in terms of grants for such things. The Council was also trying to prioritise areas, such as those around schools and main walkways. It also tried to ensure funding went towards resurfacing surrounding pathways when highways works were carried out, where possible.

**20. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items to consider.

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 04 October 2023

**Report Title**

Petitions

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report provides Members with a list of all petitions received by Rotherham MBC since the last Council meeting held on 19 July 2023 and details which petitions will be presented by members of the public at this Council meeting.

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

**Recommendations**

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Council receive the petitions listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report and the lead petitioners be entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.
3. That the relevant Strategic Directors be required to respond to the lead petitioners, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Wednesday 18 October 2023.

**List of Appendices Included**

None

**Background Papers**

None

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

No

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No



## PetitionsPetitions

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council refreshed its Petition Scheme in May 2019, following its introduction in 2010 after legislative changes requiring local authorities to respond to petitions. Whilst the Localism Act 2011 repealed that statutory requirement, the Council has maintained its commitment to responding to issues raised by local people and communities in respect of matters within the Council's remit.
- 1.2 The current Petition Scheme sets thresholds for various routes that petitions can take through the decision-making process:
- Up to 20 signatures – not accepted as a petition.
  - 20 to 599 signatures – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and response by relevant Strategic Director.
  - 600 to 1,999 signatures – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and referral to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for review of the issues, followed by response by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board setting out their findings and recommendations.
  - 2,000 signatures and above – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner followed by a 15-minute debate of the petition by the Council, followed by response by relevant Strategic Director on behalf of the Council.
- 1.3 This report is submitted for information to detail the number of petitions received since the previous Council meeting held on 19 July 2023 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision-making processes.

### 2. Key Issues

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

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Number of Valid Signatures</b>	<b>Lead Petitioners</b>	<b>Directorate</b>
Provide more school places at Waverly Junior School	215 verified signatures. (233 signatures)	Mr Jamie Baggaley	Children & Young People
Todwick Roundabout Improvements	130 verified signatures. (130 signatures)	Mr Ian Sanderson	Regeneration & Environment
Melton High Street Traffic Calming	33 verified signatures. (233 signatures)	Mr Jack Greaves	Regeneration & Environment

**3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

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

**4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 This report is submitted for information in order to detail the petition received by the Council since the previous Council meeting held on 19 July 2023. There are no consultation issues directly associated with this report.

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

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

5.2 The deadline for responding to these petitions is Wednesday 18 October 2023.

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

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

**7. Legal Advice and Implications**

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

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

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

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

9.1 There are no implications for either children and young people or vulnerable adults directly arising from this report.

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

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

**11. Implications for Ward Priorities**

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

**12. Implications for Partners**

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

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

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

**14. Accountable Officers**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

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**THE CABINET**  
**Monday 10 July 2023**

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sheppard.

**17.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**18.       QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr A Mahmood enquired that as the proposed new burial site at East Herringthorpe had been declared unfit for purpose by the Environment Agency, could the public be informed as to what the Council's plans were going forward?

Councillor Alam explained his understanding was that concerns had been raised by the Environment Agency but there were mitigating factors. He felt they always put in objections to these expansions to look at water retention and he felt it was a work in progress.

The Leader clarified that this was regarding the proposed expansion of existing facilities at East Herringthorpe.

In his supplementary Mr Mahmood felt that the Environment Agency were doing their job and were informing people of what the situation was. He noted that Dignity's 35-year plan was due in March but had not yet been produced. He asked what was happening with the plan and when it would be available?

Councillor Alam indicated that Dignity had been asked to produce the 35-year plan as part of the contract agreement. Officers had been working with Dignity and this had not yet been provided therefore there would be financial sanctions put in place to encourage them to provide the 35-year plan.

The Monitoring Officer noted that the 35-year plan was something that the Council would continue to push for and continue to use all of its contractual powers in order to ensure that Dignity delivered against the contract.

Mr Arshad Azam noted that when he had attended Cabinet previously, he spoke about transparency, integrity, toxic environment amongst other things. He expressed gratitude to the Monitoring Officer for responding to

his question. He asked the Leader how everyone could meet to have civilised conversations to drive some of this forward without the need to attend lots of meetings to ask simple straightforward questions.

The Leader responded to say that where those kinds of issues existed his recommendation was that they contact the officers directly. He noted that where conversations had taken place as a larger group about these emotive subjects that these had not gone as planned. He had a responsibility for the safety of staff and councillors and did not want to put people into difficult situations. If there were particular issues or questions that needed to be raised, then the first point of contact was with the officers and where it was needed a few people could meet or speak on the phone to discuss the issue.

In his supplementary question Mr Azam suggested that was conducted with a small number of individuals. He then referred to Mr Omar regarding the proposed independent review. He felt the agenda and recommendations of the review were not independent and had been set by the Council. He queried how things could move forward with a collaborative approach. He would welcome having a small number of people, avoiding confrontation, getting together to discuss the issue.

Councillor Alam explained that Mr Omar wanted to lead on the whole process, which the Council was happy for this to happen. Mr Omar asked officers to arrange meetings with various stakeholders and he pulled out at the last minute explaining that he was being hounded by some members of the community. Mr Omar had been leading the process as the Council had wanted it to be independent and he could meet anyone he wanted.

He then explained that the Council was planning some consultation around October with key stakeholders. That consultation should not be used for operational issues. The Council had responsibility for the contract and Dignity had responsibility for service delivery. The Council wanted Dignity to be responsible for operational issues to ensure they were delivering the best service to the community.

The Leader explained the Council had committed to conducting an independent review and where others had views about what should be considered these would be considered but would also include areas the Council wanted considered as well.

## **19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 June 2023 be approved as a true and correct of the proceedings with the inclusion of the additional information requested in Minute number 168. Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Modern Slavery.

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

The Chair advised that appendices to Minute No. 181 contained exempt information, however, the meeting remained open to the public and press throughout.

**21. DISTRICT HEATING CHARGES 2023-2024**

Consideration was given to the report which recommended a revision to the District Heating charges for 2023-24. In March 2023 Council agreed as part of the annual budget setting process to increase charges in line with what was then the Governments energy price guarantee. There had now been a change in policy therefore the proposal was to reduce bills by a quarter meaning the unit price would come down to 15.49p per Kwh. The change would mean lower bills for customers and lower operating costs for the Council. The report also included a recommendation to provide delegated authority to enable the Council to respond to any changes in price without delay.

The Leader noted that he could not remember a time when District Heating charges had needed to be changed in year however that reflected the uncertainty within the energy market that everyone was feeling in their bills. When the charges were set in March, following the usual process, the Council was nearing the end of its gas procurement contract in order to fuel the District Heating schemes and the prices were exceptionally high at that moment in time. The Council took a view not to pass the full costs of that increase on to District Heating users, but that it would cap the amount they had to pay at the same rate the Government was capping energy bills for everyone else. That required around £2m of subsidy at that time. Since purchase of the gas, the price had lowered enabling the Council to bring bills for District Heating users' in line with that. The proposal was that this would be backdated to the start of the year to enable users to get the full effect of those changes. This was subject to ratification by Council so the recommendations would be passed to Council for its consideration in July.

The purpose of the delegation was clarified noting it was important for Council to retain responsibility for setting fees and charges year to year, however in this instance, given the volatility described, a time limited delegation was proposed. This would enable officers, in the event that OFGEM significantly reduced the price cap again in year to pass those benefits on to customers as quickly as possible on behalf of the Council.

The proposal would make a huge difference to families given the current pressures on cost of living.

Resolved: That the Cabinet noted the content of the report and recommended that Council:

1. Notes the decision Council took in March 2023 to increase the District Heating unit charge to 20.68 per Kwh for 2023-24 so that an average bill was equivalent to the heating element of the then Government's Energy Price Guarantee, leading to a proposed District heating budget deficit of £2.592m.
2. Notes that the actual cost to the Council of purchasing energy to supply District Heating schemes is lower than the cost assumed in March 2023; and that the agreed unit charge now exceeds the Energy Price Guarantee and the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) price cap for July 2023 onwards.
3. Agrees that in light of these changes, the District Heating unit charge per Kwh for 2023-24 is reduced to 15.94 pence per kwh and weekly prepayment charges are reduced by 59% to 67% depending on property size (Option 4 in this report), bringing prices into line with the Ofgem price cap for July 2023 onwards and well within the Energy Price Guarantee.
4. Agrees that this charge should be backdated to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.
5. Agrees that the decision to reduce the price further during 2023-24 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, and the approved budget deficit of £2.592m cannot be exceeded through a delegated decision.

## **22. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME REPORT 2023-24**

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Housing Delivery Programme, summarising progress since the previous programme report was approved by Cabinet in January 2023. Several changes were required to the programme and renewed approvals were sought accordingly. An updated list of sites proposed for development was included and Cabinet were informed of the updated list of potential strategic acquisition opportunities as part of a confidential appendix to the report.

This was the mid-year report which indicated the main achievements were around the town centre Trilogy collection, which had been a major development that had delivered 171 homes. Other notable updates were completions at Dinnington and Swallownest. The Council had employed a developer's agent to add to the existing service provision.

At the time of the meeting the Council had 609 homes completed and the projection for the end of the project in March 2026 was to complete 1125 homes.



The report included a delegation to enable the council to be nimble and reactive regarding purchases where needed to ensure no opportunities are missed.

It was clarified that the Council recognised the need for bungalows within communities and a list of the proportion of acquisitions that were bungalows would be provided to the Deputy Leader. The provision of bungalows would continue to be an important part of the acquisitions programme with the recognition for all house types across the borough.

Cabinet was provided with an extensive list of proposed acquisitions, this enabled due diligence to be carried out on the proposals and just because certain properties were not being considered at the current time, it did not preclude them from being considered in the future.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the additional Council-owned sites listed in Appendix 1 being brought forward to deliver new Council homes.
2. Approved the purchase of homes from the additional schemes identified in Exempt Appendix 2.
3. Delegated authority to the Council's Property Officer (Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport) to purchase additional homes from private developers or the open market to add to the Council's housing stock, with the agreement of the Assistant Director for Housing, Cabinet Member for Housing and Section 151 Officer.
4. Noted the other updates contained within this report and agreed to receive a further update in six months' time.

## **23. AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which introduced the Council's proposed approach to the review of the Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy, which was first introduced in 2015. It also clarified the interim measures for financial approval of all major adaptations costing above the mandatory £30,000 limit.

There had been recent feedback on Aids and Adaptations from a recent Tenant Scrutiny Panel along with new Government Guidance that had been proposed.

The scheme was run in partnership with Housing, Adult Social Care and the NHS to support residents to stay independent in their homes. It was split in two with the Minor Adaptations which could involve stair lifts and level access with Major Adaptations consisting of home extensions,

therefore there was a range of finance to consider.

The operational procedures would be considered as part of the review with an update brought back to Cabinet in December 2023.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the proposed approach to undertaking a review of the Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy and the intention to return to Cabinet with an updated policy in December 2023.
2. Delegated authority for all aids and adaptations costing over £30,000 to the Assistant Director for Housing in line with the national threshold for 'discretionary' funding and until the new policy is adopted.
3. Delegated authority for approvals of aids and adaptations costing over £50,000 to the Assistant Director for Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing in line with the current agreed policy and until the new policy was adopted.

#### **24. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2022-23**

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the final revenue and capital outturn position for 2022/23. The Council set a balanced budget position for 2022/23 as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23 approved at Council 2 March 2022.

Following approval of the budget the Council had faced some significant financial challenges that were not evident at the time of setting the budget. These include significant rise in energy prices, inflation and the Local Government pay awards. These impacts had seen the Council's base costs rise significantly during the year along with the prices of goods and services the Council procured.

The Council had identified short term in year savings to mitigate some of the forecast pressures and as a result the financial outturn was significantly improved down to £7.3m. The Council would continue to closely monitor the financial position.

It was clarified that the HRA underspend ringfenced and would remain within the HRA.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who supported the recommendations.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the revenue outturn position.

2. Noted the budgeted transfer to HRA reserves increased by £2.1m following the revenue and capital outturn positions.
3. Noted the carry forward of the combined schools balance of £2.992m in accordance with the Department for Education regulations.
4. Noted the reduced DSG deficit following receipt of Safety Valve funding, as set out in paragraph 2.14.
5. Noted the reserves position set out in paragraphs 2.51 to 2.62.
6. Noted the capital outturn and funding position as set out in paragraphs 2.63 to 2.92.
7. Noted the revised Capital Programme following year end 2022/23 as set out in paragraphs 2.93 to 2.97 and appendices 1 to 4 of this report.

## **25. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2022-23**

Consideration was given to the report which was the final treasury report for 2022/23. It reviewed the treasury activity for 2022/23 against the strategy and covered the actual Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

It explained that the Council received an annual treasury strategy report in advance of the 2022/23 financial year at its meeting on 2 March 2022 and Audit Committee received a mid-year report at its meeting on 29 November 2022, representing a mid-year review of treasury activity during 2022/23.

It was clarified that report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities as the Council was required to comply with both Codes through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

The Council's Treasury Management functions had been operating within unprecedented circumstances with the impact of the conflict in Ukraine being an additional drive of uncertainty in the financial markets along with rising inflation, energy prices and the turmoil in the bond market. Those impact led to a significant rise in interest rates during the year.

The Council had been able to manage the cash flow for the majority of the financial year without significant difficulties.

It was clarified that the Council had met all the requirements of the code which were about ensuring safe practice and not taking undue risks. It was also noted that in the previous year the Council had been able to

utilise long-term borrowing at incredibly low rates.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators outturn position as set out in Section 3 and Appendix 1.
2. Agreed that the report was forwarded to Audit Committee for information.

## **26. MAY 2023-24 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of May 2023 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year. As at May 2023, the Council currently estimated an overspend of £2.0m for the financial year 2023/24. This was due to demand led pressures on Children's residential placements and home to school transport as well as the impact of inflationary pressures in the economy, particularly on food prices, and the legacy impact of lockdown restrictions on some of the directorate's services.

The current economic climate remained turbulent, with challenges in projecting where inflation will move and the pace at which it moves. At present inflation is not reducing at the pace at which Government and the Office for Budget Responsibility predicted. It was estimated that inflation would last for a further eighteen months. This meant the council would face short term pressures that would need to be managed through the Council financial planning strategy.

The forecast position would be closely monitored by officers with any mitigating factors being implemented.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £2.0m.
2. Noted that actions will be taken as necessary to reduce the overspend position during the course of the year but that it is possible that the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2023/24 financial position.

## **27. EQUALITIES ANNUAL REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report which highlighted the progress made over the past year towards the equalities, diversity and inclusion agenda, as well as outlining next steps. The report covered key achievements and case studies from across the Council.

The report covered four themes that were developed inline with the

equality framework. It demonstrated the significant progress made towards the journey of achieving excellence under the government framework. An informal assessment was undertaken in the spring by a neighbouring authority which showed the Council was best placed to achieve its goal. It showed the leadership had a clear commitment to equality and diversity inclusion. The assessment also found that the Council had a strong self-awareness of work needed to realise its ambition. The progress made over the last twelve months had further propelled the Council on its journey.

The main purpose was to ensure it was embedded across the whole organisation, with equality being embedded within all services to mitigate the impact on protected groups.

One of the recommendations proposed during the review was already underway and through the workforce plan the organisation was looking at how to have a more representative workforce and remove barriers for people coming to the council to become an employer of choice.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered this report and felt the inclusion of case studies had strengthened the report. One additional recommendation had been proposed regarding the need to ensure that case studies in future annual reports should reference explicitly how they contribute to the equality, diversity and inclusion agendas.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet:

- a) Note the progress made over the past 12 months towards the equalities agenda.
- b) Note the next steps outlined within the Equalities Annual Report and action plan for 2023/24.
- c) That case studies in future annual reports should reference explicitly how they contribute to the equality, diversity and inclusion agendas.

## **28. LOCAL PLAN: ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to adopt the following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD):

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

Rotherham's Local Plan provided the framework for determining planning applications. Supplementary Planning Documents provided additional detail and guidance to support policies in the Local Plan. Once adopted,

they were a material consideration to be taken into account when determining planning applications.

Supplementary Planning Documents help improve planning applications, which in turn could speed up the planning process and produce better outcomes for the community.

It was clarified that the final Government guidance on the Biodiversity Net Gain was still to be published, therefore that particular SPD may need some minor amendments to ensure conformity with Government regulations, which was why the delegation has been sought within the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approved the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Documents at Appendices 1 to 5.
2. That Cabinet approved delegation to the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, to amend and republish the Biodiversity Net Gain SPD if so required, to ensure conformity with the anticipated publication of Government regulations and guidance (paragraph 5.2 refers).

## **29. WATH PROJECTS (LEVELLING UP FUND)**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to develop a programme of works delivering the investment in Wath. This was following the allocation by the Government at Spring Budget 2023, at which Rotherham Council was allocated £19,990,111 in respect of the 'Principal Areas of Growth' Levelling Up bid.

It was important that there was an inclusive Rotherham, and this was another step to achieving that aim, with sites across the borough receiving significant investment over the next few years.

A consultation meeting with traders had already taken place.

The report was welcomed but it was queried if lessons had been learned in terms of traffic measures, diversions from recent developments to lessen any potential impacts during further development. It was clarified that every effort would be taken to reduce the amount of disruption it could not be mitigated against completely.

It was confirmed that the Memorandum of Understanding had now been signed.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet accepted the Principal Areas of Growth allocation of £19,990,111 into the Capital Programme through the Grant Process.
2. That Cabinet allocated £8,940,564 to the Wath Project.
3. That Cabinet delegated the Commissioning of the design of the project based on the parameters in paragraph 2.3.1 to the Strategic Director for Regeneration and the Environment in Consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Economy and the Section 151 Officer.
4. That Cabinet agreed to the development of 'Principal Areas of Growth' projects in Wath with further detail provided to Cabinet in February 2024.

**30. ANNUAL REPORT ON COUNCIL PLAN AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS FOR 2022-2023.**

Consideration was given to the report which presented the final quarterly report and updated on progress made on the activities in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and Council Plan performance measure data for Quarter 4 of the 2022-23 financial year.

It was clarified that 80% of the committed activities had been completed with a further 7% on track for delivery. Three of the actions were delayed by less than three months and nine would not be met within the three-month target date.

The Cabinet Members commented on the report as summarised below:

- The action plans from the Employee Opinion Survey continued to be implemented with workforce planning remaining ongoing.
- The Workforce Plan would help the Council attract a diverse workforce becoming the employer of choice.
- The number of formal enforcements on aspects such as fly-tipping had increased.
- The canal barrier at Forge Island had been completed and won an award.
- The number of electric vehicle charging points was increasing across the borough.
- Sixty-four new electric vehicles would be introduced to the Council fleet over the new year or two.
- All of the Neighbourhood Ward plans for the previous year had been published on time and were well on track for all being published on time in 2023.
- Five phase 1 projects had been completed as part of the Towns and Villages programme.
- Business Education Alliance programme had delivered twelve career events with further activities planned.

- Forge Island was progressing.
- It was a balance between supporting housing growth and acquiring new properties along with supporting those at risk of or had recently become homelessness.
- Temporary accommodation continued to be a pressure on the service.
- Successful year for Adults and Public Health.
- Publication of the Health and Equalities Strategy.
- An award was won for 'A Walk with Me' which was a suicide/bereavement support pack.
- Work on new Learning Disabilities Centre was on track.
- Element Academy opened in September 2022 and had received lots of positive feedback.
- Ninety percent of children were offered one of their preferred choices secondary school places.
- Ninety-nine percent of children were offered one of their preferred choices for primary school places.
- Ninety percent of two-year-olds took up the offer of an early learning place.

This report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who felt it provided a clear picture of the Council's achievements and challenges.

Resolved: That Cabinet noted:

1. The overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.
2. The Quarter 4 2022-23 data for the Council Plan performance measures.
3. The performance reporting timetable for the remainder of the 2022-2023 year.

**31. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly.

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

**Resolved:-**

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday 7 August 2023, commencing at 10am.



**THE CABINET**  
**Monday 7 August 2023**

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alam and Brookes.

**33.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**34.       QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The first question was received from Farooq Tareen who explained he was a member of the Muslim Burial Council. He was astonished to read an article in the Star of 31 July 2023 in which Councillor Alam was quoted as saying "Last year in April there was a concern of water in one of the graves, so I came, had a look and told Dignity they needed to resolve this and put the drainage in". The grave discussed belonged to his wife. He felt the words used in the article showed a lack of empathy and compassion and asked that this be passed on to Councillor Alam.

He also wanted to know, following the Clancy Report in 2020, why there had not been any move to employ a hydrogeologist to find out the source of water in the graveyard?

He also understood that the Environment Agency had objected to the planning application for the proposed area, which was adjacent to the cramped Muslim area on issues relating to water and had declared the site unsuitable for burial and Mr Tarren asked what the alternative was going to be.

The Leader gave his condolences on the passing of his late wife. He explained that Councillor Alam was working at an employment tribunal, which was the reason for him not being in attendance. He believed that if Councillor Alam had made a poor choice of language, then he would regret that.

The Monitoring Officer explained regarding the appointment of a hydrogeologist that it was understood from the Clancy Report that the water was being held in patches was due to the clay soil and so a hydrologist was not required.

The Leader addressed Mr Tareen's concerns regarding the Environment Agency and the planning application explaining that he understood it was

being considered by the Council's planning officers and by the Planning Committee. He felt it was not unusual for the Environment Agency to express concerns about burial grounds however the planning process would decide if it was a suitable place for burials to take place.

In his supplementary Mr Tareen asked what the alternatives were if the planning permission was not granted?

In response the Leader indicated he would not speculate on alternative locations as consideration would need to be given a location where burials could take place that would be suitable for both the Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

The second question was from Mr Saghir Hussain who sought clarity on who was responsible for the cemetery at Herringthorpe. Was it the Council or Dignity? He felt there was a lot of confusion and felt the Council was speaking on behalf of dignity. He also queried who commissioned the Clancy report?

The Monitoring Officer explained that Dignity had commissioned the report and that he was answering based solely on the information contained within the report.

The Leader explained that Dignity was responsible for the operation of the crematorium and graveyards that fell within that contract, along with anything about the day to day running of those, the management of those and the commissioning of the long-term plans. Dignity had responsibility for delivering those things that were within the contract. The Council had responsibility to ensuring that the service was provided but on a day-to-day basis it was Dignity's responsibility.

In his supplementary Mr Hussain said he understood that the day-to-day operational side belonged to Dignity however this matter was not day-to-day, it was an actual subterranean issue and he sought clarification as to who was responsible?

The Leader explained that Dignity was responsible for that because it was around ensuring that the services provided were appropriate in a safe and sustainable way.

Mr Hussain went on to say that the issue was not one that had arisen in the last five years, it had been present for over two decades and was clearly evident in the graveyard. The matter had been there long before dignity arrived. RMBC had fitted systems to rectify the issue, but they were not fitted properly and there were still graves that were full of water. What was going to be done to address this?

The Leader reiterated that ensuring the graveyard functioned properly, that the graves were safe and appropriate and to a standard was the responsibility of Dignity through the contract. He was not aware of what

had happened prior to the contract but it was now Dignity's responsibility as per the contract. He had hoped that drainage had improved over the past year but if things still needed to be addressed then they needed to be raised with Dignity.

The next question was from Mr Arshed Azam who began by registering his disappointment as at the last meeting it was unanimously agreed to hold a joint meeting with all parties at the table. The responses he had received from officers to his questions were an adequate and he had been contacted a month ago regarding arranging a meeting that had still not taken place. He sought a commitment that a meeting would be arranged within a month.

The Leader understood a plan was in place for the meeting to take place, but asked the Monitoring Officer to ensure that within the next month there was an opportunity for a small group of people to come together to speak with officers and raise concerns.

The next question was from Nida Khan said that a lot of what they were saying at these meetings was based on information gained from professional reports. The Council had installed a drainage system and she believed there were no records of where it was installed. She felt that each time they attended a meeting nothing was resolved. She asked why the Council did not have records of the drainage system?

The Leader said he would refer this to the relevant service to understand what records were held on this matter.

Nida Khan also indicated that the community was concerns as there was only space for only 90 graves remaining and the community needed to know what would happen when they had been used?

The Leader explained that everyone wanted to ensure there was adequate burial spaces however he could not speculate where they would be provided. It was a priority that this was progressed however the planning process could not be rushed.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester expressed his disappointment that the plans for Thrybergh County Park had been scaled back. He had been informed this was due to inflationary pressures and queried how much of the delay in completion was down to those pressures and what could be done to speed up the delivery of the project to avoid additional costs?

The Leader said there had not been any slow time in the development of the scheme and noted that the Council was delivering a capital programme on a scale not seen in Rotherham previously. The Council had been successful in securing government grants however the economic headwinds were against the Council. He gave his assurance that the Council would deliver as much of the scheme as possible to a high quality but within the available resources.

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment explained that the principle of the scheme was around the new café facility with increased seating provision. The main aspects of the scheme still remained however the Council was seeing challenges due to inflation and market challenges in terms of materials, tendering processes etc.

In his supplementary Councillor Bennett-Sylvester noted that part of the long-term aim was a new play area and he queried what the knock-on effects would be if this was not delivered?

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment noted that lots of proposals come forward when consulting with the community. Other funding bids may become available to enable this to be considered as a project in the future.

Another member of the public raised concerns regarding the new section of the graveyard and asked if there could be a clear consensus due to religious factors that a full 5-year plan be provided so the Muslim community were aware of future plans.

The Leader agreed there was a need to ensure there was adequate burial spaces. He would check and provide a response regarding the commissioning of a long plan from Dignity.

### **35. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 July 2023 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

### **36. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair advised that appendices to Minute numbers. 38, 39, and 41, contained exempt information, however, the meeting remained open to the public and press throughout.

### **37. SEND SUFFICIENCY UPDATE - ROWAN CENTRE**

Consideration was given to the report which followed previous reports to Cabinet relating to closing the Rowan Centre as a provision following a successful transition of pupils to Elements at Dinnington where their needs could be better met. The process according to the Department for Education guidelines was followed and at the previous meeting authority was delegated to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Service to seek formal expressions of interest to enhance the education provision in the borough by seeking a sponsor to establish some provision at the site.

Nexus MAT had been identified as the appropriate partner to take forward the use of the Rowan site. This would provide an improved pathway for

14–19-year-olds to access education along with vocational learning and skills for life.

It would improve the outcomes for children and people with SEND and aid to reduce the number of those not in employment, education or training. The proposal would also provide increased capacity within special educational needs provisions within Rotherham by 25 places from September 2023.

The Leader welcomed the ability to continue an education provision on the site.

The Assistant Director: Education and Inclusion noted that this was a culmination of different areas of the Council working in partnership. It was a new and innovative approach to defining provision to meet required needs. It would create a space that allowed growth with would be focused on the best outcomes for all.

A typographical error was noted in section 2.7 of the report which mentioned that *“Twenty-five places at Hilltop Special School will be available from Autumn term 2023 in phase 1 of the project development and a further twenty-five places will be created at Kelford Special School in phase 2 of the transition of pupils in spring term 2023.”* The year of the spring term mentioned was corrected to 2024.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the development of the Rowan site to create a new high-quality learning environment for 14-19 SEND students in the Rotherham area.
2. Approved the transfer of the building and funding release from Accessibility funding to support the development of the site to meet the requirement of the SEND needs of pupils.

### **38. ROTHERHAM MARKETS & CENTRAL LIBRARY**

Consideration was given the report which detailed the proposed redevelopment of the Rotherham Markets Complex and new library, located in the town centre of Rotherham. The markets complex was one of the most significant parts of the town centre and supported over 350 businesses. A key aspect of the scheme would be working with existing traders inline with the work carried out with the Improving Places Select Commission. It was highlighted that the Council was committed to supporting existing businesses along with attracting new ones.

The library proposal had been subject to lots of consultation and engagement as part of the new Library Strategy and people were supportive of moving the library to the town centre. It would make it more accessible particularly if travelling in by bus.

It was noted that the Council was determined to see the proposal through. The scheme was a key part of the Council's Master Plan.

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment highlighted that section 2.4 of the report highlighted the work that was in front of Cabinet which would enable work to be on site. The full scheme, in terms of design and costing was scheduled to be presented to Cabinet later that year.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), who queried what lessons, if any, had been learned from neighbouring authorities. OSMB were assured that both positive and negative lessons had been taken on board. The relocation of the library was welcomed as it would be located close to its original location, which is where the main footfall was. OSMB reviewed the report and supported the recommendations.

The Leader noted the scale of the scheme proposed for the town centre and welcomed the investment and was keen for the redevelopment to commence as soon as possible.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the progress to date on Rotherham Markets and Library redevelopment.
2. Approved the enabling works for the Rotherham Markets and Library development, as detailed in Appendix 2 of this report.
3. Delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration of Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Local Economy, to award contract(s) for the works up to the values detailed in Appendix 2.

### **39. DINNINGTON PROJECT: CAPITAL REGENERATION GRANT**

Consideration was given to the report which noted that the Council had worked closely with MP's, Ward members and the Town Council as part of the bid submission. The scheme in Dinnington would address the blight in the town centre and boost the local economy. The funding would bring privately owned derelict buildings into public sector ownership enabling the creation of a new town square, with purpose built commercial units to diversify the local offer. It was a really exciting scheme.

The Leader noted that this investment sat alongside a suite of other investments in local centres. It was a huge piece of work to ensure those physical improvements across the borough and the proposal was welcomed. He noted that there would be inflationary pressures associated with the scheme which was also replicated across all other

schemes. Funding had been set aside as part of the towns and villages work to support Dinnington and Wath. The funding was still available, and it was expected that some of it would be used as the schemes progressed to ensure the community benefited in the best way possible.

A technical note regarding recommendation number four regarding the delegation to the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport on the acquisition, he clarified that those acquisitions would be within the overall budget that Cabinet agreed for the scheme. The precise prices paid would depend on the valuation given at that time.

Councillor Roche welcomed the project and the benefits it would provide.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Approved an allocation of £11,049,547 to the Dinnington project from the Principal Areas of Growth allocation.
2. Agreed to the development of 'Principal Areas of Growth' projects in Dinnington with further detail provided to Cabinet before commencement of the Scheme.
3. Delegated the commissioning of the design of the project based on the parameters in section 2.2 to the Strategic Director for Regeneration and the Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy and the Section 151 Officer.
4. Approved that the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate and agree the acquisition by agreement of the property interests at exempt Appendix 1, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy.
5. Approved to grant a Resolution in Principle to investigate the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers: in the event that terms cannot be agreed in relation to all or any of the property interests or cannot be agreed within the prescribed timeframe. A further report to be submitted to Cabinet seeking a formal resolution to acquire those property interests through the exercise of the Council's Compulsory Purchase Powers.

#### **40. GENERAL ENFORCEMENT POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which set out how the Council approached its regulatory responsibilities. This was achieved through the General Enforcement Policy which was in accordance with the regulatory code set out nationally by Government. The Policy was regularly reviewed by Cabinet and adopted. The main changes to the document centred around data protection and adhering to national surveillance legislation and

frameworks.

Consultation had been undertaken on the document, with internal partners across different services and with the charity sector and police along with others who would have cause to be involved.

Resolved: That Cabinet approved the revised General Enforcement Policy, which will be published in accordance with the Regulators Code (statutory guidance published by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills), a requirement of The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006.

**41. ROTHER VALLEY COUNTRY PARK AND THRYBERGH COUNTRY PARK LEVELLING UP FUND AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the implementation of the Levelling Up fund projects at Rother Valley Country Park and Thrybergh Country Park. It represented the continued commitment to green spaces in Rotherham whilst ensuring the public had access to spaces to be active and to relax.

Both Thrybergh and Rother Valley Country Parks were well used by local people and were well visited by people outside of the borough along with providing space for people who organise activities within those parks.

The investment at Thrybergh Country Park would see a new café with a greater seating capacity both indoors and outdoors. The investment at Rother Valley Country Park would see a new waterside café, enabling visitors to enjoy the views. This would also be enhanced by a new children's play area adjoining the new café. It would also include an events space. Improvements would be made to the car parking space including the provision of new spaces to enhance the overall visitor experience.

Consultation was undertaken with ward councillors, staff in the country parks, key stakeholders, local businesses and those who use the parks.

Councillor Beck welcomed the commitment to green spaces within the borough, in particular the investment to Rother Valley Country Park.

Councillor Lelliott expressed appreciation for the government funding received but noted it was not enough, however thanks to the hard work of officers putting funding bids together for the scheme, it was testament to their hard work and commitment to the authority along with their partnership working across directorates to ensure it was a good scheme to benefit the people of Rotherham.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the implementation of the Levelling Up project at Rother



Valley Country Park as shown at Appendix 1, 2 and 3.

2. Approved the implementation of the Levelling Up project at Thrybergh Country Park as shown at Appendix 1,2 and 4.
3. Approved the proposals to mitigate the funding gap as set out in Appendix 1.
4. Requested that a further report on the regeneration plans for both sites be presented within 12 months.

#### **42. MALTBY PROJECT (TOWNS & VILLAGES FUND)**

Consideration was given to the report which noted that the Towns and Villages Fund was a £4m Capital Programme, aiming to improve the Borough's local town and village centres. Four phases of work, delivering twenty-two schemes were allocated £3.177m in January 2022, with £823,000 left unallocated. This report provided an update on the proposals being developed for Maltby and provided options on the next steps for the twenty-third scheme within the programme.

It was important to note that the locations for the schemes and their detail was derived from ward members working with their communities and their neighbourhood teams to identify the local priorities.

The report proposed that the unallocated £823,000 be allocated to Maltby. It was explained that some pre-design work had been undertaken which resulted in the Maltby High Street development proposal. The priorities identified for the scheme were pedestrian access, hard and soft landscaping, street furniture and defining the high street. It was expected that those schemes would be delivered using internal schemes wherever possible.

Consultation on the proposals would be undertaken throughout the summer and initial engagement with ward members had already begun. There would be some wider stakeholder engagement with external partners.

The Leader noted that Maltby had been a priority within the scheme. Maltby high street was a large space that needed a lot of investment. He noted that seven schemes had been delivered through the Towns and Villages Fund, with two or three being delivered. He welcomed a prompt delivery of the scheme to benefit the community in Maltby.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the continued progress on the Towns and Villages Fund.
2. Allocated up to £823,000 to the scheme in Maltby East and delegates the delivery of the scheme to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Deputy

Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working.

**43. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - YEARS TWO AND THREE**

Consideration was given to the report which was the UK Shared Prosperity fund prospectus for years two and three. He explained that following Brexit, the Government committed to ensuring they continued regional funding under the name of the UK Shared Prosperity fund.

In terms of developing the proposed the first thing considered was what were the EU funded schemes that the borough already benefited from, particularly in terms of business support and skills to ensure that the Council was not disadvantaged, that it was not losing out on some of the work already being carried out across the borough.

The theme around this was how the Council could use the money to advance a more inclusive economy. This meant creating more indigenous businesses, more locally owned businesses creating wealth in the communities, including creating jobs for local people.

He welcomed that in line with the Council's commitment to a real living wage there was a desire to encourage those businesses to increase the rate of pay for those at the bottom end of the income scale.

It meant the Council would go further with its social value commitments to ensure local businesses were better able to access public procurement and benefit from the work that was created by the public sector spending in the borough.

It meant doing more to help local people to access job opportunities, with a set of skills proposals that would help people of all aspects meaning no one was left behind. This would enable support to be placed within the communities and for it to remain over the next two years.

He felt it was a good package of measures that would help people to move forward.

The Assistant Chief Executive explained the summary of proposals in appendix two included a list of anticipated impacts. A more detailed proposals would be developed, if approved, to clarify those impacts both in terms of outputs and outcomes for the community.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) who welcomed the standalone report covering years two and three. During its debate OSMB considered how the priorities were chosen, how the impacts were measured, and anticipated impacts and whether the proposal was ambitious enough. OSMB requested to receive an update report before the end of the municipal year. OSMB supported the recommendations.

Councillor Sheppard echoed comments raised regarding the employment solutions which had an effect on people's lives, working with people who were either a long time away from the working environment or were not able to access work. He also mentioned the value from the creation of 40 paid traineeships, and 70% of those going through a six-month traineeship were now either in education or paid employment.

Resolved: That Cabinet:

1. Endorsed the projects for submission to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority for award of UKSPF for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as follows:

- a) Local Business Support
  - i) £1,693,727 for sub-regional business support supporting three strands of "Launchpad" (start-up support); productivity and low carbon.
  - ii) £234,870 capital for Rotherham's business incubation centres.
  - iii) £234,482 for social value to coordinate and enhance social value activity, focused on increasing local spend through anchor organisations' procurement activity.
  
- b) People and Skills
  - i) £1,291,013 for Rotherham integrated skills programme (RISP) providing four projects covering the journey from initial engagement with those hardest to reach, through to sustainable employment and career progression.
  - ii) £421,502 for Children's Capital of Culture to extend and expand the traineeship programme with further capacity building support for partners.
  
- c) Communities and Place
  - i) £471,664 for Children's Capital of Culture, including investment in existing and new events and festivals across the Borough, building capacity in community organisations and groups and creating more resilient models for grass roots programmes.
  - ii) £370,094 for Open Arms Rotherham phase 2 for ongoing delivery of fortnightly one-stop shop sessions, in targeted neighbourhoods and further development of community infrastructure, including community leaders.
  - iii) £100,000 for Reaching Out Across Communities, establishing local equality networks to ensure that current and future interventions are informed by and effectively reach all of Rotherham's diverse communities.
  - iv) £280,000 for town centre events to deliver a regular

- programme and increase footfall.
  - v) £1,068,709 for the visitor and leisure economy, supporting the delivery of capital schemes across Rotherham, focused on major attractions, increasing visitor numbers, and improving skills
  - vi) £80,000 capital for Active Lives, creating additional multi-sport play zones in local communities.
- d) Rural
- i) £200,000 for a small grants programme for rural businesses supporting rural micro and small enterprises and tourism and the visitor economy.
2. Agreed to delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to determine revised and final allocations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, including allocation of funding to the three capital schemes within the 'visitor and leisure economy' proposal. This is to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of the fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the allocations above.
3. That a further report to provide to OSMB in 6 months' time indicating how the impact has been measured and monitored.

#### **44. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday 18 September 2023, commencing at 10am.

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 04 October 2023

**Report Title**

Membership of Political Groups on the Council, Political Balance and Entitlement to Seats

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

Not applicable

**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**

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, places on local authorities the duty to allocate seats to political groups and sets out the principles to be followed when determining such allocation, following formal notification of the establishment of political groups in operation on the Council.

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

The allocation of seats must follow two principles:

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

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

The Political Balance of the Council has changed following the Dinnington By-Election which was held on 13 July 2023.

There are 149 seats available on committees, boards and panels and under the calculation the Labour Group is entitled to 86 seats, the opposition Group (Conservative) has increased from 36 to 38 seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 10 seats, the Independent Conservative Group 5 seats. The seats allocated to the non-aligned councillors has reduced from 13 to 10. It should be noted that there may be minor differences between the nominal allocation and actual allocation to ensure appropriate balance across all committees.

Following ex-councillor Sansome's resignation on 14 September 2023 a vacancy has been created in the Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward. The results of the By-Election will be factored into a Political Balance report in January 2024.

### **Recommendations**

That Council are asked:

1. To note the new political balance of the Council as a result of the by-election.
2. That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees as detailed in the Mayor's Letter.

### **List of Appendices Included**

None

### **Background Papers**

The Council's Constitution.

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

No

### **Council Approval Required**

Yes

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

No

## Membership of Political Groups on the Council, Political Balance and Entitlement to Seats

### 1. Background

- 1.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, places on local authorities the duty to allocate seats to political groups and sets out the principles to be followed when determining such allocation. The main principles, which must be satisfied sequentially, include:
- (a) That the number of seats on ordinary Committees/Bodies which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that Authority, as is borne by the Members of that group to the membership of the Authority (i.e. the allocation of the **total** number of seats available must mirror the political composition of the council).
  - (b) That the number of seats on the Body (Committee, etc.), which are allocated to each political group, bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Body as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the Authority (i.e. the allocation of seats on **individual** committees must mirror the political composition of the council).
- 1.2 Local authorities are able to depart from the statutory provisions where there is no vote against doing so.
- 1.3 Those members not in a political group may still at the discretion of the Council, be allocated a due share of seats, although the Council will decide how to allocate seats to non-aligned councillors.
- 1.4 In line with the provisions of the Council's Constitution, appointments were made to committees of the Council at its annual meeting. This report confirms and updates the entitlement to seats on committees.

### 2. Political Groups

- 2.1 The Proper Officer has received formal notification, under the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, of the establishment of four political groups in operation on the Council, namely:

Name of Group	Designated Leader & Deputy Leader (Number of Members)
Labour	Leader – Councillor Chris Read Deputy Leader – Councillor Sarah Allen (34 Members)
Conservative	Leader – Councillor Simon Ball Deputy Leader – Councillor Lewis Mills (15 Members)

Name of Group	Designated Leader & Deputy Leader (Number of Members)
Liberal Democrat	Leader – Councillor Adam Carter (4 Members)
Independent Conservative	Leader – Councillor Emily Barley (2 Members)

- 2.2 Councillor Bennett-Sylvester, Councillor Wilson, Councillor Elliott and Councillor Jones are unaffiliated to a political group.
- 2.3 Ex-councillor Sansome at the date of the last Council (19 July 2023), was a Labour Councillor. The Kilnhurst and Swinton East seat is currently vacant with the By Election planned to take place in early November 2023. The seat allocation for Labour members takes account of this seat. This allocation would potentially alter the allocations to the various Committees. However, as the seat is currently vacant this has been discounted for the purposes of seat allocation on this occasion.

### 3. Allocation of Seats

- 3.1 The allocation of Committee seats as at July 2023 was as follows:

<b>Regulatory Committees/Boards</b>	<b>Seats Available</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>IC</b>	<b>NA</b>
Audit Committee	5	3	1	0	0	1
Licensing Board	21	12	5	1	1	2
Licensing Committee	15	9	4	0	1	1
Planning Board	15	9	4	1	0	1
Staffing Committee	5	3	2	0	0	0
Standards and Ethics Committee	8	5	2	0	0	1
<b>Overview and Scrutiny</b>	<b>Seats Available</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>IC</b>	<b>NA</b>
Overview & Scrutiny Management Board	12	7	3	1	0	1
Health Select Commission	18	10	4	2	1	1
Improving Lives Select Commission	18	10	4	2	1	1
Improving Places Select Commission	18	10	4	2	1	1
<b>Other Bodies</b>	<b>Seats Available</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>IC</b>	<b>NA</b>
Corporate Parenting Group	5	3	1	0	0	1
Introductory Tenancy Review Panel	4	2	1	0	0	1



Joint Consultative Committee	5	3	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>

3.2 At Council in July 2023 the following seats were gifted:

**Independent Conservative**

- Licensing Committee gifted to Non-Aligned

**Liberal Democrats**

- Improving Lives Select Commission gifted to Non-Aligned
- Improving Places Select Commission gifted to Non-Aligned

3.3 The revised allocations will be included in the Mayor's letter together with the nominations to those bodies.

3.4 The allocation process must be applied 'so far as is reasonably practicable' to achieve a balanced outcome. The allocation of the 149 seats to the political groups is determined by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Members of Political Group} \times \text{Number of Seats to be allocated}}{\text{Total Number of Members of Council}}$$

For the 149 seats available in applying principle (a) in paragraph 1.1 and providing for seats to non-aligned members in line with the Council's custom and practice, this gives:

Political Group	New Seat Entitlement
Labour	86
Conservative	38
Liberal Democrat	10
Independent Conservative	5
Non-Aligned	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>

3.5 In the table in paragraph 3.1 above, the committees and panels listed have locally agreed provisions in respect of their membership which were determined by the Council. For ease of reference additional information relating to appointments is set out below:

<b>Panel</b>	<b>Description of Role and Function</b>
<b>Employment Appeals Panel</b>	Appeal Panels shall comprise three members of the Council selected from a pool of 8 members (two of whom shall be Cabinet Members, four who shall be scrutiny members and two whom shall be members of the opposition.)
<b>Panel</b>	<b>Description of Role and Function</b>
<b>Corporate Parenting Group</b>	The Corporate Parenting Group shall comprise of five members (three of whom shall be from the majority political party and two of whom shall be from the majority opposition party).
<b>Introductory Tenancy Review Panel</b>	The Panel shall comprise of at least three elected members from the Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission or Improving Places Scrutiny Commission and a housing policy advisor.
<b>Joint Consultative Committee</b>	The Committee shall comprise of the Deputy Leader, two Cabinet Members and two members of an opposition group.

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

- 4.1 The Local Government and Housing Act and the Council's Constitution provide for the appointment of members to serve on committees and other bodies as a power reserved to the Council.
- 4.2 The Council may determine not to appoint to the committees at this meeting, however this will delay the conduct of the Council's business until the next available Council meeting. This option is not recommended.
- 4.3 As listed in the recommendations section at the beginning of the report, the preferred option is:
- That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees as detailed in the Mayor's Letter.

#### **5. Consultation on proposal**

- 5.1 The respective political groups have been advised of the requirement for political balance and have been requested to provide amendments to the Head of Democratic Services for the available seats ahead of this meeting.

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

6.1 There is a requirement for the Council to make appointments to committees, boards and panels at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to ensure it is meeting its requirements relating to political balance.

**7. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

7.1 There are no financial and procurement implications directly arising from this report.

**8. Legal Advice and Implications**

8.1 The legislative requirements are set out at paragraph 1.1 above.

**9. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

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

10.1 The appointment of members to serve on committees and other bodies of the Council will indirectly impact on children and young people and vulnerable adults through the activities and decisions of those bodies. There are no apparent direct implications at the time of writing this report.

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

11.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the report. Political groups are required to have regard to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 when nominating Member appointments to committees and other offices.

**12. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

12.1 There are no implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change arising from this report.

**13. Implications for Partners**

13.1 The appointment of councillors to serve on its committees, boards and panels is designed to have a positive impact on the Council's relationship with partners and stakeholders to enhance the relationship through the presence of accountable and elected representatives.

**14. Risks and Mitigation**

14.1 By having regard to the detail of the report above in respect of meeting statutory requirements, any risk implications will have been mitigated. Therefore, there are no risks to be borne in mind in respect of the recommendations.

**Accountable Officer(s)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

01709 823566 or [emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk)

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

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 04 October 2023

**Report Title**

Audit Committee Annual Report

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

**Report Author(s)**

David Webster, Head of Internal Audit

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

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report presents the final draft of the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2022/23 for Members' approval, having been endorsed by the Audit Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

The purpose of the Annual Report 2022/23 is to bring together in one document a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit Committee. The production of the report complies with current best practice for audit committees. It allows the Audit Committee to demonstrate it has fulfilled its terms of reference and share its achievements with the Council and is thought useful as a reminder to the organisation of the role of the Committee in providing assurance about its governance, risk management and financial and business controls.

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

The CIPFA guidance was revised and re-issued in 2022. As a result, the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference have been updated. They were agreed at Audit Committee in March and were approved by full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Copies of the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Terms of Reference are attached for information.

**Recommendations**

That the Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23 be approved.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Audit Committee Annual Report for 2022/23

**Background Papers**

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

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

No.

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Audit Committee Annual Report

### 1. Background

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

### 2. Work Undertaken during 2022/23

- 2.1 The Audit Committee met on seven occasions in the year to 31 March 2023, in accordance with its programme of work. The frequency of meetings ensures the Audit Committee can fulfil its responsibilities in an efficient and effective way.
- 2.2 During this period the Committee assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk management arrangements, control environment and associated counter fraud arrangements through regular reports from officers, the internal auditors and the external auditors.
- 2.3 The Committee sought assurance that action has been taken, or is otherwise planned, by management to address any risk related issues that have been identified during the period. The Committee also sought to ensure that effective relationships continue to be maintained between the internal and external auditors, and between the auditors and management.
- 2.4 The specific work undertaken by the Committee is set out in the report.

### 3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 This report presents the final draft of the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2022/23 for Members' approval, having been endorsed by the Audit Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

### 4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 None.

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

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

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

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

**7. Legal Advice and Implications**

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

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

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

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

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

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

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

**11. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 None.

**12. Implications for Partners**

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

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 None.

**Accountable Officer(s)**

David Webster, Head of Internal Audit

*Report Author: David Webster, Head of Internal Audit  
Tel: 01709 823282 E Mail: david.webster@rotherham.gov.uk*

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



**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT  
2022/23**

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## FOREWORD

As Chair, it is my pleasure to commend the 22/23 Audit Committee Annual Report. Thank you to all the Officers involved in its production, and in particular David Webster, Head of Internal Audit. The highlight of the report, for me, is the unqualified audit opinion of this year's accounts, an outstanding achievement that I must acknowledge. The times in which RMBC operates remain challenging. However, the professionalism and dedication of Officers, Audit Committee members, and our external auditors, Grant Thornton, have enabled the highest standards of governance to continue to be achieved.

**Cllr J Baker-Rogers, AC Chair July 2023**

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

This role is reflected in the Committee's Terms of Reference which are given below for information. During October 2022 CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) published 'Audit Committees – Practical guidance for Local Authorities and Police', an update of previous guidance from 2018. The guidance includes suggested Terms of reference for Audit Committees. These were used as the basis for proposed new Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee, which were agreed at the March 2023 Audit Committee meeting and are being presented to Council for approval on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as part of the update to the Constitution. The proposed Terms of reference for 2023/24 are also given for information.

The Audit Committee had the following membership during 2022/23:

Member	Apr 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Sep 22	Nov 22	Jan 23	Mar 23
Cllr Baker-Rogers (Chair)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cllr Cowen (Vice Chair)	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Cllr Browne (Vice Chair)							x
Cllr Ball							x
Cllr Mills	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cllr Wooding	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Cllr Wyatt	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mr Barber (Independent Member)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

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

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

### SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 2022/23.

The Audit Committee completed the following during 2022/23

#### External Audit – Grant Thornton

- Received and considered the audit plan to review the financial statements.
- Received and considered the detailed results of the external auditor's work in relation to the audit of the 2021/22 financial statements of the Council. The Committee was pleased to note that the auditors had given an unqualified audit opinion.
- Received and considered two annual reports detailing the Value For Money opinions for 2020/21 and 2021/22. The 2020/21 report included one Key recommendation concerning an inspection by Ofsted and the CQC. The 2021/22 report noted the improvement journey and the strengthening financial position, and identified a small number of improvement recommendations.

#### Internal Audit

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

- Received and approved the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2021/22. This included the Annual Audit Opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of control, risk management and governance within the Council. The Committee was pleased to receive a positive opinion.
- Received and approved the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24. The plan ensures that internal audit resources are prioritised towards those systems and areas which are considered to be most at risk or which contribute most to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives. It is designed to enable the Head of Internal Audit to give his opinion at the end of the year, but is flexible to ensure it remains relevant throughout the year.
- Monitored the delivery of the Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23 through regular update reports presented by the Head of Internal Audit. Reviewed variations to the audit plans which were considered necessary to reflect new or changed Council priorities.
- Received and considered the results of internal audit work performed in respect of each Directorate.
- Monitored the progress made by management during the period to address identified control weaknesses.
- Monitored the performance of the Internal Audit team through the regular update reports.
- Received and considered the implementation of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan for 2022 and the results of the self-assessment against Public Sector Internal Audit Standards leading to a revised plan for 2023.

### **Anti-fraud and Corruption**

- Received and approved updates to the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and considered the updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.
- Received a self-assessment against the CIPFA Code of Practice on managing the risk of fraud and corruption.

### **Risk Management**

- Continued to oversee the Council's risk management arrangements and strategy, including updates to the strategy and policy.
- Received a summary of risk management activity during 2021/22.
- Reviewed the progress made by the Council to identify and address corporate risks. This included consideration of the Strategic Risk Register twice during the year.
- Assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of each Directorate's risk management arrangements through consideration of the risks and mitigating actions identified

in their Risk Registers. Presentations were received from Strategic Directors on their approach to risk management.

## **Corporate Governance**

- Considered changes to the refreshed Code of Corporate Governance prior to approval. The Code reflects the core principles and requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework'.
- Considered the draft and final Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 on behalf of the Council, showing how the Council complied with the Code of Corporate Governance and highlighting areas of continued progress.
- Considered and approved revisions to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference after updated CIPFA guidance was published. The new Terms of Reference were recommended to Council for approval on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- Produced its own Annual Report for 2021/22 setting out the work undertaken by the committee.
- Received and considered at each meeting its own forward plan for the year ahead, ensuring that all relevant areas are covered during the year.
- Members completed a self-assessment against CIPFA Guidance for Local Authority Audit Committees. This will be used to inform an ongoing training programme for them.

## **Finance**

- Considered the unaudited draft Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.
- Considered and approved the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 on behalf of the Council.
- Received and considered a report on the final accounts closedown and accounting policies updates for 2022/23. A second closedown report showed the timetable for reporting the accounts.
- Continued to review the Council's Treasury Management arrangements. This included reviewing the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2021/22 which covered the actual Prudential Indicators, and the Mid-Year Monitoring Report which included the actual and proposed treasury management activity.
- Received a report on the Dedicated School Grant, noting the additional funding received through the Department for Education's Safety Valve Programme.

## **Ombudsman Reports**

- Considered a Public Interest Report from the Local Government Ombudsman, noting the action plan produced by the Council.

- Considered a report from the Local Government Ombudsman in private session, as directed by the Ombudsman.

### **Other**

- Received a presentation from the Chief Executive giving her insight into governance, audit and risk.
- Received and considered two update reports on progress made to implement recommendations arising from external audits, inspections and reviews.
- Received and considered reports on the Council's use of surveillance and acquisition of communication data powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). There had been no usage of these powers by the Council during 2021/22.
- Received an annual report on Information Governance, including compliance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act.
- Received a report on procurement, including the update to Contract Procedure Rules introduced during the year and the training provided to officers by the Procurement team.

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

## TERMS OF REFERENCE 2022/23

### Committee Size

To comprise:-

- Five Councillors, none of which are members of the Cabinet.
- One person who is not a councillor or officer of the Council (independent member).

### Statement of purpose

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

### Governance, risk and control

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



### **Internal audit**

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

### **External audit**

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

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

## **Financial reporting**

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

## **Treasury Management**

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

## **Accountability arrangements**

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

## TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023/24

### Committee Size

To be comprised of:-

- Five Councillors, none of which are members of the Cabinet.
- Two people who are not councillors or officers of the Council (independent members).

### Statement of purpose

- 1 The Committee's purpose is to provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements. Its role in ensuring there is sufficient assurance over governance, risk and control gives greater confidence to the Council that those arrangements are effective.
- 2 The Committee has oversight of both internal and external audit, together with the financial and governance reports, helping to ensure there are adequate arrangements in place for both internal challenge and public accountability.

### Governance, risk and control

- 3 To review the Council's corporate governance arrangements against the Good Governance Framework, including the ethical framework and consider RMBC's Code of Governance.
- 4 To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the Council
- 5 To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the Committee.
- 6 To review risk registers and consider their adequacy and effectiveness in capturing and assessing risks and completing mitigating actions.
- 7 To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
- 8 To consider reports on the effectiveness of financial management arrangements, including compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code.
- 9 To consider the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
- 10 To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the Council from fraud and corruption.
- 11 To monitor the Counter-Fraud Strategy, actions and resources.
- 12 To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.
- 13 To deal with any matters referred to the Committee by the Statutory Officers.

### Governance Reporting

- 14 To review the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) prior to approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, taking into account Internal Audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's Framework of Governance, risk management and control.

- 15 To consider whether the annual evaluation for the AGS fairly concludes that governance arrangements are fit for purpose, supporting the achievement of the Authority's objectives.
- 16 To approve the final AGS for publication.

### **Financial Reporting**

- 17 To monitor the arrangements and preparations for financial reporting to ensure that statutory requirements and professional standards can be met.
- 18 To review the draft annual Statement of Accounts following approval by the s151 Officer. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed.
- 19 To approve the final audited annual Statement of Accounts for publication. Specifically, to consider whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council.
- 20 To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

### **Arrangements for Audit and Assurance**

- 21 To consider the Council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the Council.
- 22 To consider reports on progress against actions from external inspections and audits.

### **External audit**

- 23 To support the independence of external audit through consideration of the external auditor's annual assessment of its independence and review of any issues raised by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA).
- 24 To approve the external auditor's annual plan.
- 25 To approve any revisions to the external auditor's plan.
- 26 To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports and the report to those charged with governance.
- 27 To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
- 28 To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
- 29 To consider additional commissions of work from external audit.
- 30 To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies
- 31 To provide free and unfettered access to the Audit Committee Chair for the auditors, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the Committee.

### **Internal Audit**

- 32 To approve the Internal Audit Charter.

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

### **Treasury Management**

- 44 To review Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and procedures and to be satisfied that controls are satisfactory
- 45 To receive annual reports on Treasury Management, specifically the outturn report and the mid-year report
- 46 To review the treasury risk profile and adequacy of treasury risk management processes

- 47 To review assurances on Treasury Management, for example an Internal Audit report, external audit report or other review.

### **Accountability arrangements**

- 48 To report to those charged with governance on the Committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions.
- 49 To report to full council on a regular basis on the Committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the Committee in meeting its purpose.
- 50 To submit a report on the work of the Committee to the Council on an annual basis, including a conclusion on compliance with the CIPFA Position Statement on Audit Committees.

# DINNINGTON WARD

Covering Brookhouse, Carr, Dinnington, Firbeck, Gildingwells, Laughton en le Morthen, Laughton Common, Letwell, Slade Hooton and Throapham



Councillor Sophie  
Castletine-Dack



Councillor  
Ben Whomersley



Councillor  
Julia Hall

## Report to Full Council

October 2023

### Ward priorities

- Improve the local environment.
- Support crime prevention strategies and target antisocial behaviour in hotspot areas.
- Back initiatives to improve the town centre, markets and investment in the local economy.
- To support improvements to highway maintenance
- To support and develop initiatives to improve wellbeing.



### How these ward priorities were agreed

We used a range of information to inform our ward priorities for Dinnington, including the 2021 new ward profile, previous ward priorities and the actions taken to address them and feedback from residents. We also considered statistical data and information from service providers presented in a ward briefing. Our Ward is very mixed with large rural areas and some very deprived urban streets. Over the course of our term, we have engaged with residents and existing community groups and parish councils to help them improve their local areas and to inform our priorities, which we review annually.

### How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

Our aim is to put communities at the heart of everything we do and to make people healthier, happier, safer and proud by: Working with communities on the things that matter to them; Listening and working together to make a difference; Supporting people from different backgrounds to get on well together.

Our Community Clean days are great examples of communities working together along with volunteers and partner organisations. We chat with residents while on walkabouts and street surgeries as well as engaging through social media, advocating for them when required whilst empowering them to act themselves for and with their community. We have recently partnered with Public Health and Dinnington Group Practice to start a holistic project in line with our wellbeing priority, working towards our residents being happier and healthier.

### Working in partnership

To help our ward to thrive, we work with a range of organisations, drawing on their knowledge and expertise. We recognise the amazing contributions made by partners to support our community. The ward has five established Town and Parish Councils. We arrange quarterly in person meetings with these councils, local police and Borough Council partners. Cllr Whomersley sits as a member of Dinnington St Johns Town Council and is also a local school governor. Cllr Castledine-Dack and Cllr Hall work in the town centre and are regular supporters of local businesses, attending business forums and promoting schemes to encourage shopping local.

## Progress so far

- **Improve the local environment.**

We have been delighted to support the creation of Dinnington's new Queen Elizabeth II Community Woodland. We have reached out to local schools giving children the opportunity to be involved in clearing the site of litter and then planting the trees. We attended planting days ourselves and promoted these to residents through online newsletters and our social media. We have supported, and where necessary, encouraged the Council to take action to repair damaged verges, street furniture and the town's historic cross. Other activities this term include arranging community clean days and the planting of spring flowering bulbs on Monksbridge Roundabout.

- **Support crime prevention strategies and target antisocial behaviour in hotspot areas.**

We meet monthly with local police teams to review reports from the police and discuss issues raised to us by members of the community. We have provided funding to purchase a large stock of home and vehicle security items to deter and protect people's property and arranged community safety events with local police. We work to tackle dangerous driving in our ward by joining speedwatch sessions and working with officers in the placement of vehicle activated speed signs. As the markets area is a hotspot for ASB, we funded the purchase of gate keys to allow police and shopkeepers to lock the alley gates at night between the market and shopping precinct. We believe communities should feel empowered to help improve their local area through reporting and promote the use of 101 and online reporting in our newsletters.

- **Back initiatives to improve the built environment and local economy.**

Funding for regeneration of Dinnington's high street and market, initially sought through the Levelling Up Fund, has now been secured through the Capital Regeneration Fund and we continue to support this project. We work closely with local businesses to ensure their voices are heard and passionately want to see our wonderful local businesses given the opportunity to thrive in an improved town centre. We used capital funding to enable Laughton en le Morthen Parish Council to renovate their Village Hall, letting them deliver more events for the community.

- **To support improvements to highway maintenance**

We pushed for improvements to be made to the pedestrian crossing at Laughton Common, increasing the visibility of the crossing with halo lighting. We continue to nominate areas to Highways officers to direct funds to where residents want to see improvements. We have consulted with residents of Laughton en le Morthen regarding parking issues and have worked with Council officers to install new road markings at the junction with Church Corner.

- **To support and develop initiatives to improve wellbeing**

It has been a privilege over the past two years to support 17 community groups and enable them to deliver activities to residents that improve wellbeing.

We fund the local children's centre and assist them in delivering the annual Dinnington Together event, which is free to all. This allows local families of all economic groups to meet Santa and some real reindeer as well as giving local businesses, charities and partners a chance to engage with residents through their stalls.

Alongside offering funding to groups, we also promote activities in the ward such as Rotherfed's cost of living support sessions. We produced a 'cost of living special' e-bulletins for residents to make sure they have the information they need to face the current economic climate.





Covering Harthill, Kiveton, Wales, Waleswood and Woodall



Councillor  
Dominic Beck



Councillor  
Marnie Havard

## Report to Full Council

October 2023

### Ward priorities

To support and develop initiatives to improve the local environment.

- Support and develop local litter picking groups
- Raise awareness and education around environmental issues working with local schools and community groups
- Community Clean up days
- Towns and villages fund

To support and develop initiatives to improve residents mental and physical health and wellbeing.

- To support residents during the cost of living crisis by exploring advice and guidance opportunities.

Reduce ASB and Crime in the hotspot areas

- Identify opportunities to increase facilities and activities for young people in Kiveton.

To support local community and voluntary organisations.

- To continue to support through the CLF funding and to identify other funding opportunities.
- To support networking opportunities for local organisations to come together to share ideas and best practice.

### Investing in our Area

Over the past year or so we have been busy supporting local initiatives and local community groups through a small local grants fund. Overall, we have invested £15,000 to help deliver a new play area in Harthill in conjunction with Harthill Parish Council and supported Kiveton Cricket Club and Waleswood Cricket Club with new investments at their clubs. We are delighted to be able to fund some great local projects to improve what is on offer for local people. We have made small contributions to Kiveton Football Club, Wales Parish Bowls, Harthill Well Dressing Group, Harthill Primary School, Kiveton Library, Wales Panto Players and many more



## Rother Valley Transformation

We are absolutely delighted that our efforts over the years to raise the profile and need for investment at Rother Valley Country Park have been heard. You may not be aware that there is to be a significant investment of £5.5 million managed by Rotherham Council to deliver a new lakeside café, improved play facilities and a much better visitor experience overall. This is going to happen and you will start to see work begin very soon down at the Country Park. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful outdoor space right on our doorstep and it is set to get even better!



## Housing Project

Through the Ward Housing Hub fund, 62 bungalows were fitted with security lighting to help with anti-social behaviour around their properties.

31 Bungalows on Danby Road, Keeton Hall Road, Essex Close, and Saxon Road in Kiveton Park and 31 bungalows on Carver Close, Carver Way, Hewitt Place and Winney Hill in Harthill now have the security lights fitted.

During the difficult time of the pandemic we were also able to get security lights fitted on Peregrine Way, School Close and Victoria Court.

The feedback from the residents has been very positive as they feel much safer within their homes.



## Public Realm Investment



Kiveton Park is by far the largest settlement we represent along with the most residents and footfall. Through Rotherham Council's new Towns and Villages Fund we are hoping to deliver an improvement to the public realm from the library/end of Chestnut Ave along Wales Road to the end of Limetree Ave. There is never enough money for things like this so we are hoping to ensure the allocation we do receive stretches as far as we can. This area of the village is a key focal point that hundreds of cars and pedestrians use every day. It is the civic centre of the village with the library, Village Hall and Parish Rooms all in close proximity and we are hoping to deliver an improvement on how this area currently looks.

# ANSTON AND WOODSETTS WARD

Covering North Anston, South Anston, Thorpe Salvin and Woodsetts



Councillor  
Tim Baum-Dixon



Councillor  
Drew Tarmey



Councillor  
Tracey Wilson

## Report to Full Council

October 2023

### Ward Priorities

- Represent all areas of our community.
- Make people feel safe.
- Cleaner Streets, Lanes and Open Spaces and protect the environment.
- Improvements to our Public Transport and roads system
- Develop initiatives to support local businesses.
- To support local community and voluntary organisations.

### **Memorial bench – Greenland's Park – (Cleaner Streets, Lanes and Open Spaces and protect the environment)**



On the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 a Covid memorial bench was installed next to the play area in Greenlands Park. This bench was fitted to remember the hard work that the medical centre gave during the Covid period and also to remember the people that were lost through the pandemic. With the help of Rebecca at Tree Services, two mature trees were also funded to be placed either side of the bench. The type of trees planted has particular significance. A Rowan tree which is the Celtic tree of life and the Silver Birch tree which is linked to health and healing.

### **Woodland Drive, shrub removal – (Cleaner Streets, Lanes and Open Spaces and protect the environment)**



A multi-agency project took place with regards to pruning/removing the shrubs from around the Woodland Drive estate. Ward Councillors, Housing and Neighbourhoods team conducted a number of walkabouts to identify which shrubs were problematic, overgrown and what needed completely removing. The Design Team assisted by creating an easier maintained area so it will keep future costs down. The first phase of this project is now complete with the area outside of the Neighbourhood Centre looking much cleaner. The feedback from the residents around the area has been very positive as young people used the cover of the overgrown shrubs to cause ASB. There is still a lot of shrubs that need removing around the rest of the estate so phase two is being designed using Ward Housing Hub funding.



Thornberry Animal Sanctuary approached Councillors to discuss creating an independent maker's retail quarter. Two wooden cabins were needed to realise this goal. The Councillors whole heartedly agreed to contribute towards this venture. The cabins were purchased and fitted on their popular site across from the cafe. In Jan 2023 a joint visit took place to see the cabins in use and they have already got small businesses renting a space within them. With a decent foot fall at the sanctuary, they are all doing very well in their venture. This will now bring in much needed funds for the animals in their care.

## Community Safety Event – (Make people feel safe)



On Thursday 27 July 2023 the Anston ward councillors hosted a community safety event at Woodsetts Village Hall. The event was aimed at promoting safety in the home and around the neighbourhood, with many partners attending to hand out free advice and safety resources. Those in attendance had the opportunity to speak to Councillors, the Police, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit, Rotherham Sight and Sound and RotherFed, to name just a few.

## Anston Memorial Garden – (To support local community and voluntary organisations)



Volunteers have started clearing and pruning the Memorial Garden in South Anston. The gardens have been closed for some time which has led to it becoming over grown and dilapidated, but thanks to a group of gardening enthusiasts who are dedicating their time the garden is being brought back to life. Councillors have provided funding for equipment which helps to dig over the weeds and prune a lot of the areas. Work continues to take place on the bigger projects such as the trees, summer house and bridge. After the major works are complete the Group wishes to open the garden up to the public once again.

## Additional projects that represent all areas of our community



**CCTV project in Woodsetts:** The Councillors part funded a scheme to purchase 9 brand new CCTV cameras to be fitted around the village. This will increase security and safety to residents after a spate of break ins.

**Thorpe Salvin Traffic Calming:** will hopefully include speed activated signs and reducing the speed in the village to 20mph.

**The Business Forum:** A project working with the Butterfly House and businesses from around the ward was established to identify what support they need after Covid. It was apparent that several businesses were started up during Covid and needed help finding training courses and advice on growth. The more established businesses in the area needed guidance after Covid nearly forced them to close down.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**7th August, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Baker-Rogers (in the Chair); Councillor Wyatt and Mr. J. Barber (Independent Person).

Also in attendance was Thilina De Zoysa (Grant Thornton, External Auditor).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Browne, Elliott and Mills.

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

**3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS**

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting nor had any questions being received in advance of the meeting.

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

There were no items that necessitated that exclusion of any members of the press and public.

**5. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY**

There were no items for referral.

**6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2022-23 AND SUMMARY PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Assistant Director Financial Services, Rob Mahon, which detailed how the Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy in March, 2022 and received a mid-year report in November 2022, representing a mid-year review of treasury activity during 2022/23.

The Annual Treasury Management report was the final treasury report for 2022/23. Its purpose was to review the treasury activity for 2022/23 against the Strategy agreed at the start of the year.

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The report also covered the actual Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code. Presentation of the report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The Council was required to comply with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Appendix 1 of the report submitted gave a summary of the Prudential Indicators for the Council.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The Bank of England increased interest rates to control inflation. This had resulted in a significant increase in investment returns during 2022/23 and the Council's short term borrowing costs significantly reduced as it had not needed to borrow or borrow in the high interest rate market. However, it did make it challenging to forecast and would be kept under close observation
- The Council had invested with Central Government in the last financial year as it had cash balance available. However, it did not provide a good return and was the last port of call for investment and would expect to invest in other markets first

**Resolved:-** That the Financial Outturn 2022/23 – Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators - be noted.

**7. DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT - CENTRAL RESERVE**

Further to Minute No. 23 of 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, Nathan Heath (Assistant Director CYPS) supported by Neil Hardwick (Head of Finance CYPS), presented an update report outlining the current and projected overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the recovery plans in place to enable Rotherham to operate within its annual allocation and reduce the deficit over future years. The report also outlined the national picture on the High Needs Block as part of the overall Dedicated Schools Grant and the additional funding the Government was investing in education as part of its spending review.

During recent years, Rotherham had faced growing pressure on the High Needs Budget resulting in year on year deficits of circa £5m. Following implementation of the DSG Management Plan (which included continuing to transfer monies from the Schools Block), the annual pressures had significantly reduced with an in-year DSG deficit of £1.37m in 2020/21. This was further reduced to a £0.11m deficit in 2021/22 and an overall deficit of £21.26m (before taking account of Safety Valve funding).

Following significant negotiations between the Council and the Department for Education (DfE), a Safety Valve Intervention Agreement was agreed to support Rotherham to address its long term issues linked to High Needs funding deficit. Ongoing monitoring had taken place across the implementation of Rotherham's Safety Valve Agreement with quarterly meetings held between the DfE and the Authority to both support delivery and hold accountability of the Agreement as well as submission of a financial and narrative return.

Rotherham remained on track to meet all requirements of the Agreement at the end of the 2022/23 financial year. The DSG had moved from a deficit position of £12.84m at the end of 2021/22 to a deficit of £5.93m at the end of 2022/23, a reduction of £6.91m with £6m from Safety Valve funding and £910,000 from an in-year saving.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Some of the pressures were external e.g. cost of living, pay awards etc. which had an impact and were subject to the DfE reflecting such and awarding appropriate funding uplifts.
- The aim was to develop local provision in an attempt to manage the demands and cost of the provision currently provided in order to achieve better value for money. However, the SEND population was growing year on year
- The SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 delivery of the SEND Resource base education provisions in mainstream schools was on track for delivery. SEN resource bases were provisions attached to mainstream schools providing specialist therapeutic input and support for pupils with a specific SEND need
- There were distinct pressures for special schools including the availability of staff which was a specific challenge. The specialism of provision against demand and growth did not just sit in the Rotherham centric; South Yorkshire and the Humber, to some extent, provided some challenge as there were a lot of children from other South Yorkshire local authorities placed in Rotherham schools
- There was confidence in the Strategy going forward but mindful that there were a number of variable factors as stated above
- Prior to Rotherham entering into the High Needs Safety Valve, there was a very clear strategic plan set against re-forecasting profile towards the funding that supported mainstream inclusion and less around incremental increase in specialist provision. The 9 actions in the DSG Management Plan had been worked through in discussion with the DfE and had generated the strategic intent. It had been superseded in some ways by the Government's response to the SEN Green Paper, however, there was nothing that was out of sync with Rotherham's plan

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- There was strong buy-in from primary schools for inclusion. Where a child was at risk of exclusion, an Inclusion Panel would meet made up of Head Teachers and multi-agency professionals with the School concerned presenting the information. There were no parent/carers included but were fully consulted

**Resolved:-** (1) That the actions being taken to manage the Dedicated School Grant deficit in Rotherham be noted.

(2) That the additional funding allocated to Rotherham through the Department for Education's Safety Valve Programme be noted.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT AND STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER**

With the Chair's agreement, this item was deferred until the September meeting.

**9. EXTERNAL INSPECTIONS, REVIEWS, AND AUDITS UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Tanya Lound, Corporate Improvement and Risk Officer, providing details of recent external inspections, reviews and audits as well as a summary of progress against the recommendations from all external inspections, reviews and audits setting out details of arrangements for ensuring the accountability and governance around their implementation. As previously requested by the Committee (Minute No. 66 of 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 refers), a rating system had been applied and included in the report.

Since the last report to Committee in January, 2023, 9 external inspections, reviews and audits had taken place resulting in 14 recommendations/areas for improvement 6 of which were complete and 8 in progress. The outcome was not yet known for one of the audit reviews conducted.

In addition, 29 of the ongoing recommendations relating to external inspections, reviews and audits that took place prior to January 2023 were now completed, 47 were in progress, 5 of which were delayed, and 4 required no further action/did not require adjustment.

The report included detail of progress being made in respect of the following specific areas and Directorates together with a verbal update on the outstanding recommendations:-

- Children and Young People's Services
- Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
- Regeneration and Environment Services
- Finance and Customer Services
- Assistant Chief Executive



It was also noted that the outcome of the Corporate Peer Challenge would be presented to Cabinet in September.

Monica Green, Assistant Director CYPS, was also in attendance to answer any specific questions relating to her areas of responsibility.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The format of the submitted report was much improved
- The Ofsted inspection framework did not allow for any children's home to be anything other than Good in the first 12 months. Liberty House was a short break facility
- Work was taking/had taken place with the Youth Justice Service and assurance provided that the 13 areas of improvement had been completed
- A report had been received regarding the Corporate Peer Challenge the findings of which were being worked through with the LGA. An action plan was being developed and would be submitted with the final findings to Cabinet

Resolved:- (1) That, the recent external inspections, reviews and audits which have taken place and the progress made relating to ongoing recommendations, be noted.

(2) That the governance arrangements in place for monitoring and managing the recommendations be noted.

(3) That regular reports continue to be submitted to the Audit Committee.

## **10. REVIEW OF SURVEILLANCE AND USE OF REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS**

Bal Nahal, Head of Legal Services, presented an update on the Council's use of surveillance and acquisition of communication data powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA).

As previously with the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC), the Council was required to notify the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office of the number of directed surveillance/CHIS authorisations granted in each financial year. Since the last report, the Council had not used its powers under RIPA to use directed surveillance, covert human intelligence sources or to acquire communications data. A statistical return was completed and submitted to the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office (IPCO) on 25th January, 2023.

The last inspection by the IPCO was a desk top inspection on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, which had recommended training to all officers who may be involved with RIPA authorisations. External training was provided to all officers involved or likely to be involved in the use of the powers provided

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under the RIPA legislation on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022. More recently, and to ensure that this training was up-to-date and new staff joining were aware of their roles, a further session was held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. The purpose of this was to further reduce any potential risk arising from any unauthorised activity.

In accordance with the revised Home Office Codes of Practice, the use of RIPA and review of the Policy was reviewed and re-adopted by the Audit Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. Minor changes had been made to the policy consisting of minor changes to personnel and references to revised Codes of Practice.

It was noted that the powers were used by councils who conducted a lot of Trading Standards investigations whereby covert intelligence was used. Of the 3 neighbouring authorities, Sheffield used them the most often.

Training was provided to all officers who were likely to use the powers to gain an understanding of their impact.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the Audit Committee note that the Council had not made use of surveillance or acquisition of communication data powers under the relevant legislation since it was last reported on 9th February, 2022.

(2) That the RIPA Policy with the minor amendments relating to personnel and references to the Code of Practice be approved.

**11. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

Consideration was given to a report presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, which summarised the work undertaken by the Audit Committee. Production of this report complied with current best practice for audit committees. It allowed the Audit Committee to demonstrate it had fulfilled its terms of reference and shared its achievements with the Council.

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22 included details of the Committee membership during that period, a summary of the work undertaken, information on any training and development undertaken along with listing the Committee's Terms of Reference. The updated Terms of Reference had been approved at Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 (Minute No. 219 refers).

**Resolved:** That the draft Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23 be approved for submission to Council.

**12. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, which provided a summary of Internal Audit work completed during 1st May to 30th June, 2023, and the key issues that had arisen therefrom.

The current position with regard to the revised plan was outlined in Appendix A to the report. Several audits had been added to the 2022/23 plan as a result of planning meetings with Directorate Leadership Teams resulting in some audits within that plan being delayed which in turn had a knock-on effect on the 2023/24 plan. The new plan for 2023/24, attached at Appendix A, still provided sufficient coverage for the Head of Internal Audit to provide their annual opinion at the end of the year.

8 audits had been finalised since the last Committee meeting 7 of which had received Substantial or Reasonable Assurance and one with Partial Assurance as set out in Appendix B to the report.

Internal Audit's performance against a number of indicators was summarised in Appendix C. All targets had been met apart except for the time taken to issue draft reports where 2 audits had been marginally over the target time.

It was noted that there were presently 11 actions that had been deferred from their original due dates 9 of which related to Rothercare where the service was working on a new business operating model. The position would be monitored and any issues reported.

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken between 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30th June, 2023, and the issues that had arisen therefrom, be noted.

(2) That the information contained regarding the performance of Internal Audit and the actions being taken by management in respect of their performance be noted.

**13. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN**

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee covering the period September, 2023 to July, 2024.

It was noted that Risk Management Annual Report and Strategic Risk Register, deferred from today's meeting, would be considered at the September meeting.

Resolved: That the Audit Committee forward work plan be approved subject to the above inclusion.

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**14. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business to consider.

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

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, commencing at 2.00 p.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD****28th June, 2023****Present:-**

Councillor Roche	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health In the Chair
Ben Anderson	Director of Public Health
Chris Edwards	Executive Place Director, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
Shafiq Hussain	Voluntary Action Rotherham
Scott Matthewman	Interim Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning, Rotherham MBC (representing Ian Spicer)
Dr Jason Page	Medical Director, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
Eldho Rajan	Healthwatch Manager
Clair Smith	Deputy Place Director (Rotherham Place)
Helen Sweatton	Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality (representing Nicola Curley)
Andrew Turvey	Consultant in Public Health, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust & Rotherham MBC (representing Michael Wright)
Sharon Wood	Chief Inspector, South Yorkshire Police (representing Laura Koscikiewicz)

**Report Presenters:-**

Kelsey Broomhead	Public Health Practitioner (Apprentice)
Ruth Fletcher-Brown	Public Health Specialist (Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Loneliness)
Denise Littlewood	Health Protection Principal
Sam Longley	Public Health Specialist
Lorna Quinn	Public Health Intelligence Manager

**Also Present:-**

Leonie Wieser	Policy Officer
Caroline Webb	Senior Governance Advisor

- 1. TO DETERMINE IF THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE CATEGORIES SUGGESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Resolved: That the matters considered were under the categories suggestion in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**2. TO DETERMINE ANY ITEM(S) WHICH THE CHAIRMAN IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED LATER IN THE AGENDA AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.**

There were no urgent items.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Victoria Cusworth, Dr Richard Jenkins, Sharon Kemp, Neil Thorman and Paul Woodcock.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

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

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no items of communications.

**7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2023 be agreed as a true and correct record.

**8. BREASTFEEDING-FRIENDLY BOROUGH**

Consideration was given to paper presented by Sam Longley, Public Health Specialist in respect of Rotherham Breastfeeding Friendly Borough.

Rotherham Council formally adopted the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight in January 2020. A key action within the declaration referred to creating supportive environments for all children, young people and parents by:

- promoting good relationships with food and physical activity from an early age, through childhood and into teenage years
- promoting healthy eating and activity during pregnancy
- creating supportive environments to help normalise breastfeeding

In pursuit of that ambition, in June 2022 a briefing paper was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board proposing adoption of a Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Breastfeeding Friendly Borough Declaration. This was agreed in principle by the Board.

The declaration articulated the commitment of the Council, the Health and Wellbeing Board and key partner organisations to support ongoing change to enable families to make the right choice for them, with appropriate support.

The briefing set out the progress made over the last year in respect of the following:

**Breast feeding rates:** whilst demonstrating an improvement from 34.2% in 2020/21 to 37.5%. The current breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks was significantly worse than the England average of 49.2%, although relative performance against its comparator group had improved.

**Informed and supported choice:** Rotherham was promoting a compassionate approach to health behaviour choice to ensure that infant feeding choices were well informed and supported without stigma or blame.

**Breastfeeding and climate change:** it was outlined that increases to breastfeeding rate also had the potential to reduce environmental costs that arise from infant formula production and administration.

**Breastfeeding and the cost of living:** it was estimated that bottle feeding was estimated to cost on average between £50 and £100 per month, meaning that exclusive breastfeeding for the UNICEF recommended six months was likely to offer considerable financial savings.

#### **Actions since June 2022**

- Creation of the Rotherham Breastfeeding Borough Forum, with membership from a variety of stakeholders in Rotherham which includes VCS, 0-19 service, midwifery, RMBC HR, RMBC public health team and RMBC Children and Young Peoples Service.
- The refresh of the RMBC HR Infant Feeding Policy.
- RMBC premises had been identified to enable staff and/or public to be supported to breast feed.
- A plan had been developed for RMBC staff to receive training regarding Making Every Contact Count and Breastfeeding. This would be shared to all Health and Well-being Board partner organisations and wider business in Rotherham.
- Resources developed with TRFT infant feeding team to support wider Rotherham businesses to become Breastfeeding Friendly.
- Specialist Community Public Health team for 0-19 years (25 SEND) comprising of Health Visitors (HV), School Nurses (SN) delivering the Healthy Child Programme have been recommissioned.
- A “Rotherham backs breastfeeding” campaign had been designed by the Community Infant Feeding team. A launch event was planned for Summer 2023.

- Children's Centres/ Family Hubs were to begin the process of UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative accreditation.
- Additional funding received via the Family Hub specific for an Infant Feeding Co-ordinator to enhance the support offer to families for Infant feeding.
- LA communication plan completed.
- Public Health was also pursuing this agenda at ICB level, as part of the Local Maternity Network and System (LMNS), which included recent work on breastfeeding and climate change and the cost of living.

Next steps included

- delivery of MEC infant feeding sessions,
- creation and distribution of a business pack created alongside the 'Rotherham Backs Breastfeeding' campaign to identify breastfeeding friendly business and venues in Rotherham,
- family hub development and
- enhanced offer of peer support volunteers, opportunities to promote the Rotherham Breastfeeding Friendly Borough will be sought at community events such as Rotherham Show and via the Start For Life Offer.

**Resolved:**

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Notes the 3.27% increase in Rotherham's 6-8 week Breastfeeding rate and the progress made during the last year to become a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough
2. Reaffirms its support for the ambition for Rotherham to become a breastfeeding friendly borough by signing the declaration on behalf of its member organisations.
3. Agrees a 12-month period for update.

## **9. HEALTH PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair invited Denise Littlewood, Health Protection Principal to introduce the report.

It was noted that the Health Protection Assurance Report was the first published since the pandemic. The accompanying presentation outlined the following issues:

### **Covid Response**

- 2045 Outbreaks
- Things we did exceptionally well
  - Contact Tracing – Local 0
  - Workplace Support



- Living with Covid – supporting Care homes in particular and the most vulnerable – Infection Control Support
- Decommissioning Covid Stores

### **Screening**

- All screening programmes suffered with Impact of Covid
- Action Plans and improvement plans in place for all services affected by COVID
- Most Screening programmes back on Target, although breast screening was still below pre-pandemic levels.

### **Immunisation**

- All immunisation programmes affected by COVID vaccination programme.
- Primary Childhood Immunisations – working with a number of practices to increase uptake – MMR intervention planned.
- Linking Flu and Covid Vaccination programmes going forward to increase uptake.

### **Further Health Protection links**

- Links between Emergency Planning and Env Health need to be strengthened to provide further assurance.
- Emergency Planning
  - Weather Health Alerts
  - Plans e.g. update Major Outbreak Plan
- Environmental Health
  - Air quality
  - Infectious Disease investigations

### **Upcoming Priorities**

- Focus on new and emerging concerns – working alongside UKHSA to ensure competent surveillance systems.
- Effective incident and outbreak response – explore options to address Rotherham's deficit in Community IPC.
- Tuberculosis
- Air quality
- Adverse Weather
- Sexual Health
- Anti-Microbial Resistance

Ms Littlewood referred to the framework document highlighting priorities and risks.

The Director of Public Health added that there were concerns nationally that 'anti-vax' sentiments may influence take-up rates of measles vaccinations although there appeared to be a higher level of compliance locally. It was highlighted that clinicians may not be familiar with a measles outbreak so may be slower to identify trends.

It was noted that teams were utilising data to identify any emerging issues or trends within communities, applying the learning from covid tracking. It was outlined that there were existing networks and good partnership working. It was highlighted that NHS England has developed an inclusion strategy to work with communities.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## 10. DPH ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair invited Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health to speak to the report.

Following on from the 2022 DPH Annual Report on the impact of Covid-19 in Rotherham, this year's Report considered the wider impacts of the pandemic and some of the longer-term changes in Rotherham from pre-pandemic through to March 2023. The report focused on the impact of the pandemic on people, health behaviours, community and neighbourhoods, the environment, and wider socio-economic factors. It looked at the immediate impact of the pandemic during the first wave, how Rotherham adapted to deal with the challenges presented, and the long-term effects on people and the essential services they used.

Rotherham is 35th most deprived of the 151 upper-tier local authorities in England. The pandemic highlighted how Rotherham's deprivation coupled with the unequal distribution of social determinants of health impacted resilience to Covid-19 and the outcomes for the population. These inequalities included exposure to risk factors, education, housing, employment, and led to associated inequalities in physical and mental health. The pandemic exposed these inequalities with people living in the poorest 10% of areas more likely to die from Covid-19, and left sections of society vulnerable to financial insecurity, employment loss, missing education, and unmet mental and physical health needs.

The report had been produced using both RMBC service data and community intelligence from Rotherham residents, or those who work in Rotherham. Data was analysed and contextual intelligence gathered through discussion. This information was coupled with significant public engagement.

The DPH gave a presentation, highlighting key issues for the Health and Wellbeing Board, including details of the recommendations:

### **Education:**

- Attainment for KS2 indicated there may have been impact following periods of lockdown and home-schooling with a lower percentage of pupils performing as expected in Reading, Writing and Maths in 2022 compared to 2019.

- Many children, particularly in transition cohorts, were presenting with social and emotional needs, lack of self-regulation, speech and language issues and generally not being school-ready.
- Since before the pandemic, there had been an increase in year 7 & 10 pupils reporting their mental health as poor, and 35% of this cohort had reported some deterioration in their mental health in the past two years.
- Some focus group members found workload for children difficult, there were issues with the internet, and some parents, who couldn't read or write themselves, were unable to support their children with home-schooling.

### **Education - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)**

- Following the pandemic there has been increases in pupils registered with SEND support needs, and applications for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
- More children, and more very young children, were being identified as having social, emotional, and mental health needs.
- Greater numbers of children were seen to have SEMH needs who did not present with these needs before the pandemic.
- Difficulties recruiting in the post pandemic labour market for support staff positions and within Special Schools meant there may be a lack of support available for pupils.

### **Primary care**

- 151,000 fewer primary care appointments were booked between April 2020 and March 2021 compared to the previous 12 months; the fall in appointment number was most evident in April and May 2020.
- Despite the number of total appointments decreasing from 2019/20 to 2020/21, the increased number in 2021/22 and 2022/23 had increased by almost double the number that were lost with the decrease indicating a higher level of demand post-pandemic.
- The reasons for this were not fully understood but may include the impact of lost pro-active care, changes in lifestyle habits during and since the pandemic amongst other factors.
- Focus group reflections were overwhelmingly negative predominately around the ability to get a GP appointment, and many struggled, and continue to struggle, with this.

### **Secondary care**

- At the start of the covid-19 outbreak, total A&E attendances sharply decreased reaching the lowest value in April 2020.
- Reductions in visits predate lockdown suggesting that the initial decrease in attendances were as a result of covid-19 awareness, and not lockdown itself.
- Although we might expect lockdown and subsequent social distancing measures to present reductions in infectious diseases and certain types of injuries, we expect that prevalence of other

illnesses, such as long-term conditions, will remain constant. However, concern about infection risk in health and social care workers, may have driven demand for patients to seek care elsewhere.

### **Adult care**

#### Number of adults in care

- There was a substantial decrease in the total number of people in Residential and Nursing care due to excess mortality at the start of the pandemic.
- Overall number of contacts for adult care show no overall trend over the course of the pandemic and has remained between 1,500 to 2,200 per month.

#### Integrated discharge team

- Since the pandemic, there has been an increased number of requests for support from social care to facilitate safe hospital discharge.
- These included frailty and complex needs demonstrating the rising level of need at this stage in the patient pathway.

#### Transitions

- Transitions saw scaling back of service visits, and the closure of day services placing an additional strain on carers.
- Some service used limited contact due to infection risk so had little external contact and reduced socialising with others.

#### Local picture

- Social isolation and anxiety around catching Covid were reported as the main concerns from service users.
- Vaccination offered a level of reassurance, but people were still mindful of Covid and continue to take precautions which themselves may be having wider impacts on lifestyles, care access and quality of life.
- Focus group members reflected on negative feelings around providing care or receiving care during the pandemic.

### **Housing**

#### Income and financial inclusion

- Tenancy support saw a rise in support calls following the withdrawal of the £20 uplift in UC with tenants finding paying rent more difficult.
- Longer term, the team have seen financial and emotional struggles among tenants who lost family members due to Covid-19; those who weren't main earners, those who found themselves under occupying a property having to pay penalties or downsize, and provision for those who needed support maximising their income.

### Homelessness

- The service saw a rise in people presenting as homeless with increased vulnerability and multiple support needs e.g., substance abuse and mental health needs

### Housing advice and assessment

- Demand for social housing continued to rise since the pandemic ended, although other factors such as cost of living rises were likely to be influencing this.
- Homelessness and temporary accommodation demand created additional demand in lettings, with more people placed into Band 1 (highest priority for social housing) and extended wait times for people in Band 2 and below

### **Income and employment**

- There was a significant increase in claimant levels in 2020/2021 for Jobseeker's Allowance and those who claim Universal Credit (both in, and out of work).
- The claimant count has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels in any area and the post pandemic cost of living crisis and change in economy has resulted in more people in work in poverty.
- There were significant differences throughout the pandemic between those who were out of work or unable to work due to restrictions in their sectors, and those whose employment continued. Some sectors saw rising demands creating opportunities while others were unable to operate or limited in their operation.
- Staffing issues impacted education and adult care particularly during the time of the pandemic.

### **Smoking, sexual health, and weight**

- Self-reporting current smokers in Rotherham increased in 2021 to 16.9% of adults.
- Data indicates that smoking amongst females increased faster than for males in 2021, bringing smoking rates between sexes into parity.
- The move to digital services and the retention of staff during the pandemic allowed the sexual health service to continue to operate throughout the pandemic in Rotherham.
- Contraceptive services, specifically LARC, were hampered by a lack of in-person appointments and experienced a decrease in 2020.
- There was moderate reduction in the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese in Rotherham in 2020/21.
- Year 6 (10-11 years) overweight and obesity prevalence has shown an upward trend for several years and was significantly higher than prevalence in reception.
- Post lockdown, there was an increase in self-referrals for weight management services in early 2022.

**Substance misuse, alcohol and mental wellbeing**

- There was no large influx of alcohol related presentations during 2020/21 as may have been anticipated and numbers dropped compared to 2019/20.
- Reduced number, and a smaller proportion, of patients referred by self, family, or friends in 2020/21 compared to previous years.
- Opiate treatment saw no major changes over the last two years and trends from pre-pandemic continued.
- Growing numbers in treatment as a result of exits not keeping pace with new presentations.
- Data for 2020/21 showed a shift towards more patients classified as unemployed or economically inactive presenting for alcohol treatment, which may be explained by changes to the labour market during the pandemic.
- People have struggled with loneliness, anxiety and other issues with mental health worsening during the pandemic
- Lasting impacts were still experienced by some people who were afraid to go out of the house and were living with persistent anxiety.

**Language, communication, and digital**

- Most groups reflected that the guidance and rules were unclear to confirm if they were being adhered to.
- Amendments were suggested to make the messaging easier to understand in the future.
- Although there have been benefits to a shift to a digital first approach, barriers still existed for some members of the community that required consideration moving forward.

The report outlined a series of recommendation; in summary:

1. That the population health management operational group work to develop further understanding of health and social care demand and service access underpinned by data sharing agreements and mechanisms for reporting.
2. Areas of concern and post pandemic trends should continue to be monitored.
3. For future major incidents, that the importance of good communications nationally, regionally, and locally should be recognised by partners.
4. Recruitment and career pathways within these key sectors that were attractive within the post pandemic economy should be developed by partners.
5. That people should be supported to regain the confidence to interact normally and achieve full integration with society.
6. That consideration was given to how digital first approaches were rolled out and those excluded by this were considered and able to maintain access.
7. That work to recover services to pre-pandemic positions be monitored and the impact on health inequalities and inequalities considered.

8. That actions to mitigate poverty locally through the provision of poverty friendly services should be considered.

It was outlined that the recommendations had been positively received and progress was being made.

The Chair invited comments from the Board and the following issues were raised:

- It was difficult to ascertain if tolerance levels of anti-social behaviour had changed since the pandemic.
- Primary care had been transformed; however public perception of access to primary care had worsened.
- There had an increase in numbers experiencing poor mental health.
- Whilst Rotherham was meeting local targets for operations, there was a backlog sub-regionally and nationally.
- There was an increase in length of stay in hospitals.
- Speech and language therapy were experiencing additional demands which were challenging to meet.

The Chair invited the Board to submit additional comments to the DPH for consideration.

**Resolved:** That the recommendations (as set out on page 40 of the DPH Report) be agreed.

## 11. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Chair invited Lorna Quinn, Public Health Intelligence Manager to give a presentation of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment summary of key findings (May 2023).

The JSNA summary provides key headlines structured into the key domains:

- People
- Health behaviours
- Community and neighbourhoods
- Environment
- Socioeconomic

New data in the 2023 refresh included:

- A refresh of IMD data and supporting narrative
- 2021 Census dashboard with supporting narrative
- Addition of a deprivation dashboard displaying data on the 20% most deprived communities
- Life course view (C&YP and the lifestyle survey, working-aged adults, older adults, and end of life care)
- Public health additions include 1,001 days, child mortality, NCMP, Physical activity, food, and loneliness (list not exhaustive).

Key findings were drawn from the report to illustrate issues relating to health behaviours; life expectancy; community and neighbourhoods; environment and socio-economic factors.

The Chair invited comments from the Board and the following issues were raised:

- Partners would be consulted to ascertain if the JSNA could be better utilised.
- The publication of the JSNA was a statutory requirement.
- It was outlined that dental extraction for children remained broadly at the same level; however more children were requiring mass extraction. It was estimated that approximately 10% of attendances at Accident and Emergency were for dental care.
- Numbers of looked after children accessing dental assessment was improving.
- The feasibility of options to fluoridate water supplies were being explored in South Yorkshire.
- The Integrated Care Board would have greater influence on dental care locally.
- Number of children with Education, Health and Care plans and access to timely assessment.

The Chair referred the presentation to the Health Select Commission for information.

**Resolved:** That the presentation be noted.

## 12. SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Chair invited Ruth Fletcher-Brown, Public Health Specialist to give a presentation and update on suicide prevention.

It was outlined that responsibility for suicide prevention action plans sits with local government (in England) but this cannot be achieved without working with partners.

At Place RMBC work with:

- People with living experience
- South Yorkshire Police
- NHS SY ICB (Rotherham)
- Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- RDASH
- Rotherham Samaritans & other Voluntary and Community Sector organisations
- Rotherham United Community Trust



**South Yorkshire ICB**

- People with living experience
- Public Health Leads for all 4 Local Authorities
- NHS SY ICB
- Acute Trusts
- Mental Health Trusts
- SYP & British Transport Police
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)
- Primary Care

Further details were given in the slides of the rates of suicide (standardised per 100,000) from 2001-03 to 2019-21 for Rotherham compared with England; disaggregated on the basis of male:female; and comparators against CIPFA nearest neighbours.

**What's working well- Rotherham**

- New Be the One film launched September 2022
- Continued promotion of Place Guidance document for staff and volunteers on responding to people at risk of suicide
- 309 frontline staff and volunteers have attended suicide prevention, self harm and mental health awareness training in 22/23
- Suicide Awareness session delivered for primary care in March 2023
- Suicide Awareness session in Safeguarding Awareness week, November 2022
- Distribution of 'Walk with Us' resource to all schools (124) , colleges, early years, cyp services, voluntary and community organisations (70) and all childcare providers
- Early Help delivery of self harm awareness sessions for parents and carers
- Early Intervention and prevention work- as evidenced in the Prevention Concordat application
- Joint working with domestic abuse colleagues
- Peer to peer support groups (Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide, Andy's Man Club and ASK)
- ICB Rotherham commissioning Qwell, the online mental health platform for adults

**What's working well- South Yorkshire**

- Strong partnership working- all 4 LAs, SYP, NHS and Voluntary and Community Sector
- Second memorial event for families bereaved by suicide in December 2022
- Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide groups (SOBS) in all 4 LA areas
- Real Time Surveillance including work with Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- Reducing access to means

- Joint working on themes and addressing the needs of vulnerable and at risk groups.
- Launch of 'Walk with Us' toolkit. Winner in the LGC Award Public/Public Partnership category.

**What are we worried about**

- Increasing pressure on individuals and families
- Support for people who had attempted suicide
- Yorkshire Ambulance Data for SY data shows that the anxiety was the highest presenting final working impression
- Rotherham's response to the NICE guidance in relation to self harm
- Capacity for comms and engagement activity
- Support for peer-to-peer support groups going forwards
- Changes to the SY Real Time Surveillance System meant that the onus is on staff from across the partnership to promote Amparo
- Launch of the Attempted Suicide Prevention service

**What needs to happen next and when**

- Partners to review the Traumatic Bereavement Pathway for children and young people- May 2023
- Further specific actions to address needs of vulnerable and at risk groups- specifically transitions
- Launch of the Attempted Suicide Prevention service- Autumn 2023
- There have been 412 referrals to the ZSA training through the Be the One website to date. Further promotion of Zero Suicide Alliance Training- ongoing
- Targeted work on themes and vulnerable groups identified through real time data- ongoing
- Promotion of mental health support to children, young people and adults in Rotherham- ongoing
- Targeted Comms campaigns as part of Be the One- summer 2023
- Review action plan in light of the anticipated national strategy- Summer/Autumn 2023

The Chair offered his congratulations on behalf of the Board for the recent LGC Award in the Public/Public Partnership category for its 'Walk with Us' toolkit.

**Resolved:** That the update be received.

**13. PREVENTION CONCORDAT ON BETTER MENTAL HEALTH**

The Chair invited Ruth Fletcher-Brown, Public Health Specialist and Kelsey Broomhead, Public Health Practitioner to present the briefing.

The briefing sought approval of the draft application form and a commitment to an annual prevention and promotion action plan, with the health and well-being Board receiving an annual update on progress.

The Concordat was launched by Public Health England in 2017 (now Office of Health Improvement and Disparities, OHID) and refreshed in December 2020. It is supported by a number of public bodies including the Association of Directors of Public Health, the Local Government Association and the Centre for Mental Health. The Prevention Concordat drew on the evidence base including of cost effectiveness for public mental health interventions.

The Prevention Concordat focused on the wider determinants of health. It was a whole population approach, supporting joint cross-sectoral action locally. It encouraged collaborative working to address local needs and identify local assets to prevent mental ill health.

The Prevention Concordat welcomed Health and Wellbeing Boards and Integrated Care Systems, as anchor institutions to become signatories. Becoming a signatory was also a condition of the Better Mental Health Find expression form.

The draft application form was completed with support from the Better Mental Health for All Group, which represents partners of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This group met to consider each of the domain areas and provide evidence of activity across the partnership. The domains were as followed:

- Understanding local needs and assets
- Working together
- Taking action on the prevention/promotion of mental health
- Taking action to reduce mental health inequalities
- Defining success/measuring outcomes
- Leadership and Direction

The application form once approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board would be assessed by a national panel who will give feedback. If successful, the Board will receive signatory certificate and social media promotion. Ongoing support would be provided by a specialist regional team and there would be a follow-up after 12 months.

An action plan had been developed to outline proposed work and timeline for completion.

**Resolved:** That the following recommendations be approved.

That:

1. The Health and Well-Being Board approves the draft application form.
2. The Chair and DPH attend Regional Panel meetings.
3. The Health and Well-Being Board commits to an annual prevention and promotion action plan.
4. The Health and Well-Being Board receives annual update.

**14. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair introduced the Health and Well-Being Board's Annual Report 2022/23. He began by thanking all the partners for their commitment to delivering Rotherham's health and well-being strategy and working together to improve outcomes for local people.

The four aims of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy were:

- All children get the best start in life and go on to achieve their potential
- All Rotherham people enjoy the best possible mental health and wellbeing and have a good quality of life
- All Rotherham people live well for longer
- All Rotherham people live in healthy, safe and resilient communities

While these aims remained the same since inception of the strategy in 2018, the strategic priorities underpinning each aim were refreshed in summer 2021. The strategy was updated to reflect these priorities in 2022 and the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the revised strategy in September 2022.

The report detailed key achievements against each of these aims.

It was noted that the Health and Wellbeing Board was a statutory sub-committee of the Council and an integral part of Rotherham's wider strategic partnership structures that sat under the Rotherham Together Partnership. Following the changes to Integrated Care Systems in July 2022, Rotherham became one of the four constitutive Places in the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System, with some Health and Wellbeing Board members providing representation at the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership. The Rotherham Place Board continued to report into the Health and Wellbeing Board and took strategic direction from the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The timeline outlining these changes were as follows.

- July 2022 -Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group became South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- September 2022 the Board approved refreshed health and well-being strategy and action plan. Board agreed nominations for the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership
- March 2023 -South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy was agreed and launched. The memorandum of understanding formalising the role of Board sponsors was signed off.

The Chair gave details of the Health Inequalities Event held in February 2023. Supported by the Local Government Association, the South Yorkshire event explored opportunities for collaboration through the newly established South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to discuss inequalities

across a range of health outcomes. Key partners, were brought together to:

- Explore how partners can work together at place level to deliver on tackling health inequalities
- Identify opportunities to work on a South Yorkshire footprint around this agenda
- Hear examples of current work happening across the patch and feed into ICP and ICB strategy on health inequalities

The workshops informed development of the NHS Joint Forward Plan and locally, learning from the event is taken forward through Rotherham's Prevention and Health Inequalities Group

Details were given of the Board's annual feedback survey; the following points were highlighted:

- Good response rate (8/15 members and 4/8 organisations)
- Average rating of 8.38/10 for overall working of the board over the past year (responses ranging from 6-10)
- Positive feedback on partnership working and commitment, range of agenda items
- Continuing with the progress and development of the Board:
  - Developing ambition in plans, developing new initiatives and approaches
  - Wider determinants work: breadth of items could be developed (importance of housing, more items from outside of core health and care partners)
- Importance of board sponsors having oversight of their strands
- Points raised will be addressed in board sponsor meetings and through board development meeting in November.

It was outlined that reducing health inequalities and prevention and early intervention would continue to be key to the Health and Wellbeing Board over the next year.

The Board would also oversee delivery through partnerships and partners, monitored through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy action plan. Other priorities included:

- Signing the OHID Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.
- Developing relationships within the new South Yorkshire Integrated Care System.
- Alignment of aims with the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy.
- Reducing health inequalities between our most and least deprived communities was continued.
- Addressing the wider determinants of health to embed health equity in all policies.

The Chair thanked Leonie Weiser, Policy Officer, for her work in compiling the report.

**Resolved:** That the Annual Report 2022/23 be approved.

## 15. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

Leonie Weiser, Policy Officer, presented the Board's terms of reference for its annual report.

The report detailed:

- The role of the Health and Well-Being Board
- Responsibilities
- Expectations of the Health and Well-Being Board Member
- Membership
- Governance
- Quorum
- Meeting arrangements
- Engaging with the public and providers

It was noted that subject to sign off at this committee, the next formal review was due in May 2024.

Further details were provided of the governance arrangements and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Rotherham Health and Well-Being Board and Board Sponsors for Health and well-Being Strategy Aims.

The MoU detailed the role of sponsors as follows:

- To have strategic oversight and ownership of their respective aim, this includes:
  - Monitoring progress against aims and removing blockages
  - Providing strategic steer and identifying opportunities to develop their aim, including action to reduce health inequalities and actions that support integration of delivery
- To be champions for their aim within the Board and Board activities
- To be champions for health and wellbeing priorities in their organisations

It was noted that since its last iteration, a paragraph had been added outlining the responsibilities of the Board in relation to the Better Care Fund (BCF). A Better Care Fund Executive group existed as a sub-group of the Health and Well Being Board and reports into this group.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the revised Terms of Reference be approved.
- 2) That a formal review takes place in May 2024.

**16. UPDATE ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

The Chair invited Leonie Weiser, Policy Officer, to present the update on the Health and Well-Being Board Strategy Action Plan (June 2023).

The plan outlined progress against agreed priorities, highlighting where actions were completed, on track, at risk of not meeting milestones or off track. It was noted that the majority of priorities were completed or on track and mitigations were in place for those at risk of not meeting their milestones.

Details were also provided of new priorities added to the plan. Further updates would be provided to future meetings.

**Resolved:** That the update be approved.

**17. ITEMS ESCALATED FROM THE PLACE BOARD**

Chris Edwards, Place Director NHS, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board gave an update. It was noted that the Place Board – Place Strategy would be presented to the next meeting of the Health and Well-Being Board.

**Resolved:** That the update be noted.

**(a) NON SURGICAL ONCOLOGY (BREAST) - VERBAL REPORT**

Chris Edwards, Place Director NHS, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board gave a verbal report on non-surgical breast oncology. A temporary service model was in place for breast oncology services. Sheffield Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust continued to work to provide an insourcing solution to provide additional capacity. In addition, existing staff were undertaking additional clinics. This meant all priority 1 and 2 patients were currently being seen with 2 weeks.

Longer term, the Out-Patient model was still developing model with extensive staff and public/patient engagement to explore options.

**18. BETTER CARE FUND - BCF PLAN 23-25**

The Chair introduced the briefing to give the Board an overview of the Better Care Fund Plan for 2023/24.

The BCF Planning Template and Narrative Plan including capacity and demand for intermediate care services was in line with the Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2023-25 and the Better Care Fund Planning Requirements 2023-25.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework outlined the Government's priorities for 2023-25, including improving discharge, reducing the pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care and social care, supporting intermediate care, unpaid carers and housing adaptations. The BCF planning template (Appendix 1) detailed that the planning requirements which are set out in the BCF Policy Framework 2023-25 were fully met.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) for 2023/24 was £50.681m, an increase of £1.425m from 2022/23. This increase was due to a combination of underspends in 2022/23 on the Improved BCF and Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) carried forward, plus additional investment and the removal of non-recurrent funds from the previous year. Spending Plans were allocated to the 6 themes plus Improved Better Care Fund and Discharge grant funding. The plans were managed within 2 separate pooled funds, both the South Yorkshire ICB (Rotherham Place) and RMBC managing one pool fund each.

Priorities for 2023-25 were as follows:

- Workstream 1: Sustaining People at Home, Prevention and Avoidance
- Workstream 2: Integrating a Sustainable Discharge to Assess Model (Priority 4)
- Workstream 3: Digital Whole System Flow

The report highlighted the major changes since the last BCF plan was issued. It also detailed the relevant timelines for the approval process, with the final planning submission to NHS England scheduled for 28 June 2023 and all Section 75 Agreements to be signed and in place by 31 October 2023.

**Resolved:** That the documentation for submission to NHS England (NHSE) on 28 June 2023 be approved.

**19. BETTER CARE FUND - 2022-23 YEAR END TEMPLATE**

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

**20. PLACE PLAN PRIORITIES CLOSE DOWN REPORT**

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

**21. BEST START AND BEYOND QUARTERLY REPORT**

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

**22. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Rotherham Place Board Partnership Business Meeting be noted.



**23. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD ICB BUSINESS**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Rotherham Place Board: ICB Business be noted.

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

**Resolved:** The next meeting of the Health and Well-Being Board will be held on Wednesday 27 September 2023 commencing at 9.00am at Rotherham Town Hall.

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**LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE****15th May, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester, Hughes and Monk.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Castledine-Dack.

**38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

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

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

**40. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to applications for the review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Messrs. A.H.S. and M.Y.

Mr. A.H.S. was in attendance with his trade union representative.

The trade union representative of Mr M.Y. had contacted the Licensing Manager advising that Mr. Y.H. did not feel able to attend the hearing in person. A written statement was emailed prior to his appeal for the Sub-Committee to take into consideration when hearing his case.

Resolved:- (1) That Mr. A.H.S. be issued with a written warning.

(2) That the review of hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Mr. M.Y. be revoked.

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**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE  
Wednesday 12 July 2023**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Hughes and McNeely.

**17. LICENSING ACT 2003 - LICENCE - VARIATION OF THE PREMISES LICENCE ISSUED TO MR STUART CARL FORD IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS STEPTOE'S SITUATED AT 192 HIGH STREET, KIMBERWORTH, ROTHERHAM, SOUTH YORKSHIRE, S61 2DT**

The Sub-Committee considered an application to vary the premises licence, in accordance with Section 34 of the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, in respect of Steptoe's situated at 192 High Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham.

The applicant was seeking to vary the terms, conditions and restrictions of the Premises Licence. The application sought to:-

- Extend the current licensed hours in relation to the sale of alcohol and the provision of recorded music, entertainment of a similar nature and the late night refreshment.
- Add the provision of live music and the performance of dance to the current licensable activities.

The premises currently had the benefit of a Premises Licence, copy attached at Appendix 1, which permitted the sale of alcohol (on and of the premises) and the provision of recorded music, entertainment of a like kind and late night refreshment (all indoors only) on: -

- Monday to Thursday between 11:00 hours and 21:30 hours
- Friday to Sunday between 11:00 hours and 22:30 hours
- Christmas Eve between 11:00 hours and 00:00 hours (12 midnight;
- New Year's Eve between 11:00 hours and 00:30 hours on the following day.

In accordance with the procedure, the Principal Licensing Officer, presented the report which set out the application in relation to the hours sought in respect of all licensable activities, that was those currently authorised, and the additions sought in the variation application:-

The provision of recorded music (indoors)

- Monday to Thursday between 09:00 hours and 23:30 hours
- Friday to Sunday between 09:00 hours and 00:30 hours on the following day

- Christmas Eve between 09:00 hours and 02:00 hours on the following day;
- Boxing Day between 09:00 hours and 01:00 hours on the following day;
- New Year's Eve between 09:00 hours and 02:00 hours on the following day.
- Bank Holiday Mondays between 09:00 hours and 00:30 hours on the following day.

The sale of alcohol (on and of the premises) and Live Music(indoors) and Performance of Dance (indoors)

- Monday to Thursday between 11:00 hours and 23:00 hours
- Friday to Sunday between 11:00 hours and 00:00 hours (midnight)
- Christmas Eve between 11:00 hours and 01:00 hours on the following day;
- Boxing Day between 11:00 hours and 00:30 hours on the following day;
- New Year's Eve between 11:00 hours and 01:30 hours on the following day.
- Bank Holiday Mondays between 11:00 hours and 00:0 hours (midnight)

The provision of Late night refreshment (indoors)

- Friday to Sunday between 23:00 hours and 00:00 hours (midnight)
- Christmas Eve between 23:00 hours and 01:00 hours on the following day;
- Boxing Day between 23:00 hours and 00:30 hours on the following day;
- New Year's Eve between 23:00 hours and 01:30 hours on the following day.
- Bank Holiday Mondays between 23:00 hours and 00:0 hours (midnight)

There were no representations made by the Responsible Authorities.

Four letters/emails making representations against the grant of the variation application were received from local residents. The detail of the representation was provided to Mr Ford, who in an attempt to conciliate, responded to the representation through the Licensing Office.

Conciliation led to the withdrawal of one of the representations.

The Sub-Committee heard three representations from Mr. D. Wordsworth, Mr. P. Hampson and Mrs. S. Hampson who were all in attendance.

The objections centred around:-

Noise from the air extraction/conditioning units.  
Noise from people outside or leaving at the end of the night.  
Increase of noise levels caused by live music and dance.  
Parking outside residential properties causing disturbance late at night.  
Litter and bottle debris.  
Expansion plans and potential for increased public nuisance activity.

Mr. Ford, applicant, addressed the concerns raised by the objectors and again urged local residents that if they had any concerns to approach him to resolve. Action was being taken to address the noise levels on the air extraction/conditioning units and the music/entertainment would remain as licensed unamplified.

The Sub-Committee took due note of the objections made and the action being taken by the applicant to address any concerns that the objectors may have had in relation to the application.

The Sub-Committee considered the application for the grant of the Premises Licence and the representation made specifically in the light of the following Licensing objectives (as defined in the 2003 Act):-

- The prevention of crime and disorder.
- Public safety.
- The prevention of public nuisance.
- The protection of children from harm.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the application for the variation of the Premises Licence, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, in respect of Steptoe's situated at 192 High Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham, be granted as follows:-

The provision of recorded music (indoors)

- Monday to Thursday between 09:00 hours and 23:30 hours
- Friday to Sunday between 09:00 hours and 00:30 hours on the following day
- Christmas Eve between 09:00 hours and 02:00 hours on the following day;
- Boxing Day between 09:00 hours and 01:00 hours on the following day;
- New Year's Eve between 09:00 hours and 02:00 hours on the following day.
- Bank Holiday Mondays between 09:00 hours and 00:30 hours on the following day.

The sale of alcohol (on and of the premises) and Live Music(indoors) and Performance of Dance (indoors)

- Monday to Thursday between 11:00 hours and 23:00 hours
- Friday to Sunday between 11:00 hours and 00:00 hours (midnight)
- Christmas Eve between 11:00 hours and 01:00 hours on the following day;
- Boxing Day between 11:00 hours and 00:30 hours on the following day;
- New Year's Eve between 11:00 hours and 01:30 hours on the following day.
- Bank Holiday Mondays between 11:00 hours and 00:0 hours (midnight)

The provision of Late night refreshment (indoors)

- Friday to Sunday between 23:00 hours and 00:00 hours (midnight)
- Christmas Eve between 23:00 hours and 01:00 hours on the following day;
- Boxing Day between 23:00 hours and 00:30 hours on the following day;
- New Year's Eve between 23:00 hours and 01:30 hours on the following day.
- Bank Holiday Mondays between 23:00 hours and 00:0 hours (midnight)

(2) That the applicant should ensure compliance with approvals and conditions received in accordance with both Licensing and Planning functions.



**LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**26th July, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Cooksey, Haleem, Hughes and McNeely.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

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

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

**3. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to an application for the grant of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. S.H.

Mr. S.H. was in attendance with his Trade Union representative.

**Resolved:-** That the application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. S.H. be refused.

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**LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**4th September, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester, Clark, Hughes and McNeely.

**4. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

The Chair authorised consideration of an urgent Application for a Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Licence in order to process the matters referred to.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

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

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

**7. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to applications for the grant of the hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. J.S. and R.H.A.

Messrs. J.S. and R.H.A. were in attendance at the meeting.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. J.S. be refused.

(2) That the application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. R.H.A. be refused.

**(THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS AUTHORISED AS AN URGENT ITEM BY THE CHAIR IN ORDER TO PROCESS THE MATTERS REFERRED TO)**

**8. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to an application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. I.A.S.

Mr. I.A.S. was in attendance at the meeting.

**Resolved:-** That the application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. I.A.S. be approved.

**9. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM ROTHERHAM MBC HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY REQUIREMENT**

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to an application from Mr. S.M. for an exemption from the requirements of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in respect of the licence plate and door signs being affixed to licensed vehicle XXXX ZWW This request was made on the basis that the vehicle would be used for executive hire and airport runs.

**Resolved:-** That the request from Mr. S.M. for an exemption from the Council's Licensing Policy in relation to the requirements to affix a licence plate and door signs to his licensed vehicle XXXX ZWW be granted.

**10. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM ROTHERHAM MBC HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY REQUIREMENT**

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to an application from Mr. D.M. for an exemption from the requirements of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in respect of the licence plate and door signs being affixed to licensed vehicle XXXX AZB This request was made on the basis that the vehicle would be used for executive hire and airport runs.

**Resolved:-** That the request from Mr. D.M. for an exemption from the Council's Licensing Policy in relation to the requirements to affix a licence plate and door signs to his licensed vehicle XXXX AZB be granted.

**11. APPLICATIONS FOR HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION PERMITS**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Licensing Manager concerning the following applications for the grant of promoters' permits to carry out house-to-house collections:-

Organisation	Area	Date
YFR Ltd. On behalf of RNIB	Whole of the Borough	1 <sup>st</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2023
Formunauts One On behalf of National Deaf Children's Society	Whole of the Borough	11 <sup>th</sup> September, 2023 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2024

**Resolved:-** That, in accordance with the provisions of the House to House Collections Act 1939, the above applications be granted.

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**PLANNING BOARD**  
**18th May, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Ball, Bird, Cowen, Elliott, Fisher, Havard and Keenan.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Bacon, Burnett, Tarmey and Taylor.

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

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

**194. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

**195. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ball declared a disclosable personal interest in RB2022/1806 (Increase in height of part of building from two to three storeys to create apartments with two additional apartments in the roof space at Phoenix Court, 67 Blyth Road, Maltby) on the grounds that he had objected to the application prior to becoming a Planning Board Member.

**196. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27TH APRIL, 2023**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

**197. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS (INFORMATION ATTACHED)**

There were no deferments or site visits recommended.

**198. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

**Resolved:-** (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the applications below:-

PLANNING BOARD - 18/05/23

- Installation and operation of a solar energy park and associated infrastructure at Common Farm Bookers Lane Dinnington for Banks Renewables Common Farm Solar Farm Ltd. (RB2022/1203)

Ms. R. Edmunds (Applicant)

Mr. C. Jepson (Objector)

Comments were also read out on behalf of Councillor Tarmey.

- Increase in height of part of building from 2 to 3 storeys with rooms in the roofspace to create 4 additional apartments at Phoenix Court 67 Blyth Road Maltby for Mr Blum (RB2022/1806)

Ms. J. Towe (Objector)

Mr. C. McMahon (Objector)

Statements were also read out from:-

Ms. D. Day (on behalf of the Applicant)

Mr. P. Moxon (Supporter)

Mr. and Mrs. K Boyd (Objectors)

- Erection of 29 dwellings, including access, landscaping and ancillary works at Land off Oak Road Wath-upon-Deerne for Hooper Homes (RB2023/0125)

Ms. J. Beckett (Applicant)

Mr. D. Skupian (Objector)

Mrs. J. Skupian (Objector)

Mr. B. Oldham (Objector)

Mrs. J. Oldham (Objector)

A statement was also read out on behalf of an Objector living on Poplar Drive.

(2) That with regards to application RB2022/1203:-

(a) The application be referred to the Secretary of State (Planning Casework Unit) under The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2021, being inappropriate development in the Green Belt and having a floorspace over 1000 sqm and would have a significant impact on the openness of the Green Belt.

(b) That subject to the National Planning Casework Unit not calling in the application for determination the Council resolves to grant permission for the proposed development subject to the conditions set out in the report.

(3) That the Planning Board declare that it was not favourably disposed towards application RB2022/1806 and that it be refused on the grounds that the Council considers that the proposed alterations by virtue of the increased roof height together with the proportions would be detrimental to the character of this historic building and appear out of keeping with the streetscene. As such, it is significantly harmful to the character and



appearance of the area, contrary to Local Plan Policies SP55 'Design Principles' and CS28 'Sustainable Design,' and the National Planning Policy Framework. The exact wording for this reason for refusal to be agreed in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Board.

(4) That application RB2022/1884 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(5) That, with regards to application RB2023/0125:-

(a) The Council enter into an Agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- Seven Affordable Housing Units on site (25% of total units).
- A commuted sum of £500 per dwelling (£14,500) towards sustainable transport promotion.
- A commuted sum of £56,091 towards education secondary education in Wath upon Dearne.
- Establishment of a Management Company to manage and maintain the areas of Greenspace on site.

(b) subject to the satisfactory signing of such an agreement, the Council resolves to grant planning permission for the proposed development subject to the reasons for grant and conditions listed in the submitted report.

## 199. UPDATES

The following update was provided:-

(a) Further to Minute No. 183 of the meeting of the Planning Board held on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 in relation to application RB2022/1639 (Application to vary Condition 2 (approved plans) imposed by RB2020/1860 at land south of Wood Lane, Treeton for Jones Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd.) discussion had taken place with Jones Homes about the Memorial Wheel and its orientation.

Having refused the application and reaching no agreement with Jones Homes the Council had now served an Enforcement Notice requiring Jones Homes to move the Memorial Wheel to the position designated in the approved plans.

The Planning Board would receive an update on progress in due course.

**Resolved:-** That the information be noted.

**PLANNING BOARD - 18/05/23**

**200. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

**PLANNING BOARD**  
**20th July, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Bird, Andrews, Bacon, Ball, Cowen, Fisher, Havard, Khan, Tarmey, Taylor and Tinsley.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Burnett, Keenan and Sheppard.

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

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

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

**2. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ball declared a personal interest in application RB2022/0017 (outline application for the erection of up to 217 dwellinghouses including details of access at land off Shrogswood Road, Whiston for Ernest V. Waddington Ltd.) on the grounds of looking at the site with the Whiston Residents Action Group (WRAG).

Councillor Fisher declared a personal interest in application RB2022/0017 (outline application for the erection of up to 217 dwellinghouses including details of access at land off Shrogswood Road, Whiston for Ernest V. Waddington Ltd.) on the grounds of joining Whiston Parish Council.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH MAY, 2023**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

**5. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS**

**Resolved:-** (1) That application RB2022/0017 (outline application for the erection of up to 217 dwellinghouses including details of access at land off Shrogswood Road, Whiston for Ernest V. Waddington Ltd..) be deferred to the next meeting to ensure all persons requesting the right to speak receive the appropriate notice period to enable them to attend.

(2) That given the deferment of application RB2022/0017 consideration also be given to a visit of inspection, as agreed by the Planning Board, to enable Members to view the location, proposed transport network and drainage proposals of the site.

## 6. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

**Resolved:-** (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the applications below:-

- Erection of 5 No detached residential dwellings at land to rear of 3–61 Katherine Road, Thurcroft for Bradstreet Developments Ltd. (RB2021/1911)

Statements read out on behalf of:-

Mr. D. Barrett (Applicant)  
Mr. P. Bradbury (Supporter)  
Mr. Ledger (Objector)

- Reserved matters application details of landscaping, scale, access, external appearance and layout for the erection of 96 dwellings with resident and visitor parking (reserved by outline RB2021/1736) at land off Mitchell Way Waverley for Sky House Co (Waverley) Ltd. (RB2022/1866)

Mr. W. Marshall (on behalf of the Applicant)  
Ms. R. Graham (Objector)

Statement read out on behalf of:-

Ms. H. Francis (Objector)

(2) That application RB2021/1911 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That application RB2022/0017 be deferred pending a visit of inspection, as agreed by the Planning Board, to enable Members to view the location, proposed transport network and drainage proposals of the site and to ensure all persons requesting the right to speak receive the appropriate notice period to enable them to attend the next meeting.

(4) That application RB2022/1498 be withdrawn from the agenda.

(5) That the reserved matters application RB2022/1866 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

**7. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT - HALF YEAR STATISTICS**

Consideration was given to the half year statistics in relation to Planning Enforcement.

Reference was made to the level of annual enforcement action, appeals and their outcome and the number of planning applications submitted as a result of enforcement action initiated.

The Planning Board welcomed the update and raised a few queries in relation to Section 215 notices and heard about the power for these to be served by both Planning and Environmental Health.

It was also noted that the Planning website page had a dedicated page in relation to Enforcement and what action could be taken.

**Resolved:-** That the report be received and the contents noted.

**8. UPDATES**

There were no updates to report.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY, 10TH AUGUST, 2023 AT 9.00 A.M.**

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

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**PLANNING BOARD  
10th August, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Bird, Andrews, Bacon, Burnett, Cowen, Fisher, Keenan, Khan, Sheppard, Tarmey and Tinsley.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Ball, Elliott and Taylor.

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

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

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

**11. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

**12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

**13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20TH JULY, 2023**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

**14. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS**

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

**15. SITE VISIT - OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF UP TO 217 DWELLINGHOUSES INCLUDING DETAILS OF ACCESS AT LAND OFF SHROGSWOOD ROAD, WHISTON FOR ERNEST V. WADDINGTON LTD. (RB2022/0017)**

**Resolved:-** (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in the agenda report in lieu of Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the application:-

Mr. J. Martin (Objector)  
Mr. P. Hunter (Objector)  
Mr. A. Claxton (Objector)  
Ms. E. Reynard (Objector)  
Mrs. J. Sharp (Objector)  
Mr. S. Sharp (Objector)  
Councillor Griffin (Objector)  
Mr. A. Stafford M.P. (Objector)

A statement was read out on behalf of Mr. C. Taylor (Objector) by Mr. J. Martin

(2) That, with regards to application RB2022/0017:-

(a) The Council enter into an Agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- 25% of the total number of dwellings are to be provided on site for affordable housing provision in accordance with the Council's adopted Policy CS7' Housing Mix and Affordability'.
- Education contribution in line with the Council's adopted formulae towards Listerdale Primary School.
- Commuted sum of £500 per dwelling towards sustainable transport measures.
- A maximum of £12,000 towards improvements to footpath link between points A and B on the attached plan should the claims application be successful.
- A commuted sum of £57,989.83 to carry out improvements to Bus Stops 35016 (Bawtry Road/Sheepcote Road); 30879 (East Bawtry Road/ Wickersley Road) and 30263 (East Bawtry Road/Wickersley Road).
- Formation of a Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP) for older children prior the occupation of the 75<sup>th</sup> dwelling.
- Formation of a Local Area of Play (LAP) and toddler play area prior to the occupation of the 150<sup>th</sup> dwelling.
- A commuted sum of £6,000 towards improvements of the Barfield Avenue allotment site in Whiston.
- Establishment of a Management Company to manage and maintain the areas of Greenspace, including the proposed LAP and LEAP.

(b) subject to the satisfactory signing of such an agreement, the Council resolves to grant planning permission for the proposed development subject to the reasons for grant and conditions listed in the submitted report.

## 16. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.



**PLANNING BOARD - 10/08/23**

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

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**STAFFING COMMITTEE**  
**10th July, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allen and T. Collingham.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ball.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The Chair advised that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

**3. WORKING LOCATION UPDATE**

The Assistant Director introduced the report noting that when Council employees first moved to Riverside House in late 2011, desk ratios averaged six desks to every ten employees due to the size of the workforce at the time.

During the COVID lockdowns approximately half of the Council workforce were forced to work from home due to the restrictions and did so using technology to interact with customers, colleagues and access information remotely to deliver Council services.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Council had seen over 2000 new starters join the Council, equivalent to 41% of the workforce. Of those, around 500 were office-based staff.

Prior to the lifting of lockdown restrictions, a new Hybrid Working Policy was approved in September 2021 but not implemented fully until March 2022 when Covid-restrictions were lifted. This focused on delivering the best possible services for residents, whilst also recognising the benefits of staff working more flexibly.

When the Hybrid Working Policy was approved, the Staffing Committee had requested a review after six months of operational use. The review was delayed to enable a more detailed assessment of desk requirements to be undertaken with a particular focus on Riverside House.

As the Council returned to more normal ways of working, clarity began to be sought by both managers and individual employees, in terms of expectations around their working arrangements. This included queries about the number of days that they would need to be based from work locations across the borough, to enable them to provide the best possible services to residents, whilst still making use of the technologies and new

**STAFFING COMMITTEE - 10/07/23**

ways of working that Covid restrictions brought about. Some managers made a choice to bring staff back into Riverside House.

The review undertaken, considered feedback from the Employee Opinion Survey of 2021, performance outcomes and further feedback emerging from both service events and team meetings, in addition to discussions that have taken place with elected members and the Trade Unions. It also considered the occupancy levels across the Council's workplaces, in particular Riverside House.

From the combined feedback, it is clear that there is the need to ensure an ongoing balance between ensuring that first and foremost, the Council is able to deliver high quality, effective services to residents, making better use of its operational assets, with having a degree of flexibility that many staff appreciate.

The title of the Policy had also been changed from 'Hybrid Working' to 'Working Location' in order to better reflect the range of options for staff when attending a work location within the Borough.

The Assistant Director Human Resources added that a number of Council services require face to face delivery, in order to deliver best outcomes for residents and customers. In order to do that some services returned to office-based working at the point that covid restrictions were lifted, on a rotational basis.

Information presented from a range of surveys concluded that from a health and wellbeing point of view, people who were working mostly from home could feel isolated. Feedback had been received from some employees regarding the lack of face-to-face contact during their inductions.

During the pandemic, the Council saw reduced levels of sickness absence in directorates where officers worked predominantly from home. The reduced absence levels continued throughout 2020 but began to increase again during the second year of the pandemic, with absence rates returning to pre-pandemic levels by the beginning of 2022.

It was noted that teams could collaborate, and problem solve virtually however having opportunities to meet face to face increased relationship building.

The contractual base of staff had not been altered. During the development process for the current Hybrid Working Policy and since launch, regular discussions had taken place with South Yorkshire Local Authorities to share their approach and insights on implementing a more flexible working location proposal. Working Location arrangements in other local authority settings had also been reviewed as part of the lessons learned activity. It was noted that other council in the neighbouring areas had instigated similar arrangements.

Three options had been presented for consideration the first was to discontinue the Hybrid Working Policy. This was not recommended. The second was to maintain the current approach however further clarity would be needed around its expectations. The third was to review and revise the Policy and this was the recommended option. It stipulated a minimum three days' attendance at a work location across the borough (such as attending meetings with partners on behalf of the Council or working in communities) for full time staff.

The Chair expressed the need to work with the Trade Unions regarding implementation of the Policy. It was proposed that a review be carried out after six months of implementation to ensure it was working well for both the Council and its employees.

The Assistant Director Human Resources explained that arrangements for those needing reasonable adjustments, such as display screen equipment and assessments, would need to be updated and refreshed as part of implementing the Policy.

The Assistant Chief Executive welcomed the opportunity for a six-month review on the updated Policy to be carried out. This was enabling the organisation to set out how it expected its workforce to be managed and wider engagement via Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) meetings would be held which would be supplemented with a set of Frequently Asked Questions.

The Leader noted that there had always been a degree of flexible working since moving into Riverside House, which had always been a balance for managers to achieve. Covid created a change to the way everyone worked and there were lessons to be learned from that. Concern was expressed for new starters, who were not coming into a workplace but joining and doing the job in isolation from others. It was important that staff were in a place, that they were connected to it and available to residents and customers. Services had dealt well with recovering from the pandemic in terms of balancing their own needs and that of service delivery.

There was an expectation that office-based staff would be site for most of the time, so for some services that meant someone was available Monday to Friday between 9am to 5pm. He did not want to lose the advantages of flexible working however it was right that more guidance was provided to staff and residents to enable the Council's customers to know that staff were on site doing the work expected of them.

It was queried if productivity was better when staff were working from home. The Assistant Chief Executive explained that productivity was hard to measure however in order to do that consideration should be given to the activities within the Council Plan. Most of those activities had been delivered which was a good indicator of productivity. Conversations had

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taken place within DLT's, who each had their own management information to measure performance. Each Strategic Director and DLT was accountable to ensure arrangements were put in place to ensure staff were focused on high quality service delivery.

Resolved:

1. That Staffing Committee noted the review of the Council's working Location arrangements.
2. That Staffing Committee approved the implementation of the revised Working Location Policy.
3. That a review of the Working Location Policy would be carried out and reported back to the Staffing Committee in six months' time.

**4. URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Committee's consideration.