



# Council

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**Wednesday 17 January 2024**  
**2.00 p.m.**

# 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:-

**9 January 2024**

# COUNCIL

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Wednesday 17 January 2024 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  
HARPER, Nigel

### 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 17 January 2024 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 7 - 77)**

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, and to approve the accuracy thereof.

**4. PETITIONS**

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

**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 79 - 116)**

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November and 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.

**10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE (Pages 117 - 136)**

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

**11. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS (Pages 137 - 143)**

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.

**12. RECOMMENDATION FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 145 - 150)**

To consider the report regarding the appointment of the Independent Person for Audit Committee.

**13. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST WARD COUNCILLORS (Pages 151 - 152)**

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

**14. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM ASTON AND TODWICK WARD COUNCILLORS (Pages 153 - 154)**

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

**15. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 155 - 165)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**16. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (Pages 167 - 186)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**17. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE AND LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 187 - 197)**

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.

**18. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 199 - 204)**

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

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

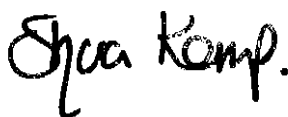
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council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

**20. 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).

**21. 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  
28 February 2024 at 2.00 p.m.**

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**29th November, 2023**

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

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

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

**44. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Harper to the Chamber for his first Council meeting as the newly Elected Member for Kilnhurst and Swinton East following the recent By Election. The Mayor stated that he had been extremely busy since the last Council meeting and a list of all of his engagements could be found at Appendix A to the Mayor's Letter.

**45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Resolved:-** That apologies for absence be received from Councillors Barker, Barley, Baum-Dixon, Castledine-Dack, Hall, Havard, Roche and Whomersley.

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

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 4th October, 2023, be approved for signature by the Mayor, subject to a clerical correction to include Councillor Foster in the list of apologies.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

**47. PETITIONS**

There were no petitions presented at the meeting.

**48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest was made:

Agenda Item	Councillor	Interest Type	Nature of Interest
Item 13 – Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Selective Licensing	Councillor Tinsley	Non-pecuniary	Selective Licence Holder
Item 13 – Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Selective Licensing	Councillor Sheppard	Non-pecuniary	Personal property is within Parkgate which is within a Selective Licensing designated area.

#### 49. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were four public questions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12:

1. Dr .Umamah Yusufi:

We welcome the condemnation of antisemitism in the motion by the Conservative Councillors, but where is the condemnation of rising Islamophobia given its ugly history in Rotherham? What action will the Council take to unify our fractured community, especially in the wake of inflammatory and divisive comments - inciting hate against overwhelmingly peaceful protestors - propagated by Conservative leadership in recent weeks?

Councillor Alam thanked Dr. U. Yusufi for the question and confirmed that the motion proposed today by Conservative Councillors was to be debated later on the agenda and certain political parties would want to ensure that all racial and religious discrimination was being called out. Just as it could not be right for Jewish residents to suffer as a result of the actions of a foreign government, so too it would not be right for Muslims to face Islamophobia either. Both those twin evils must be called out.

The comments made by the previous Home Secretary recently have certainly not been helpful. Despite being sacked, she did not apologise. Members of her own party, such as Baroness Warsi, have criticised her comments.

The Council will continue championing inclusion and supporting the Police in their work to tackle hate crimes, along with Community Safety Partnership to try to bring justice to those people who were victims, but also to increase understanding and adopt a restorative approach that helped to genuinely change attitudes and bring longer term solutions.

Councillor Alam also worked with faith leaders from all the different communities across Rotherham and was pleased to say that everyone was calling for calm and solidarity.

In her supplementary question, Dr. U. Yusufi raised concerns about how the protests in support of a ceasefire had been characterised by the media and Government. She asked Councillor Alam to clarify whether the Government will be asked to clarify or retract its comments regarding them being hate marches and inciteful of hate when they have been overwhelmingly peaceful and calling for peace in Palestine?

Councillor Alam confirmed that he had sat on the South Yorkshire Independent Police Protest Panel since 2016 and confirmed that the marches have been peaceful. It had only been certain members of the Conservative Government that had tried to demonise the Muslim community. Councillor Alam stated that the comments made by the previous Home Secretary did aggravate the right wing which caused issues. It was confirmed that under legislation, protests could not be banned unless there was a threat to life. Councillor Alam called on the Conservative Members present and the Government to take some responsibility. It was not illegal to protest or fly the Palestinian flag.

## 2. Dr. Mehnaz Yusufi:

I wholeheartedly support Rotherham's dedication to safeguarding children and celebrating the world's first Children's Capital of Culture. I am deeply anguished and haunted by the murder of innocent, beautiful and blameless Palestinian children. I urge our Council to write to the Conservative Government, expressing Rotherham's citizens' condemnation of their immoral support for Israel's illegal murder of Palestinian children and civilians.

Councillor Alam thanked Dr. M. Yusufi for the question and explained the events that have unfolded around the world have been, and remain, extremely concerning. Every life that was lost was one too many and this Council's thoughts were with those affected by the recent conflict.

Councillor Alam confirmed that he had written to the Government setting out his concerns about the loss of life taking place in Gaza but was glad to hear of the pause in the conflict and the release of some hostages. He was sure that all Members would join him with thoughts and prayers for a lasting and permanent peace in the region. Councillor Alam also confirmed that he had raised issues about UK aid to Palestine and how it was reaching vulnerable communities.

In the supplementary question, Dr. M. Yusufi asked what will happen after the ceasefire?

Councillor Alam stated that the position under International Law was that, even during a conflict, innocent people should not be targeted. 15,000 Palestinians had died including 6,000 children and 4,000 women. In Israel, around 1200 people had died. There must, therefore, be a permanent ceasefire to prevent any further loss of life. Councillor Alam was praying for a peaceful solution.

3. Sahar Alshami:

I applauded Rotherham Council's compassionate response to Ukrainians and flying their flag. Will the Council express its empathy and support for Rotherham's Palestinian community, families like mine, in the same way? We are the indigenous people of Palestine, we are being ethnically cleansed; a genocide against my people, murdering thousands of innocent Palestinian children. Please represent us, and our humanity.

Councillor Alam thanked Ms. Alshami for the question and stated that Member's hearts go out to Ms. Alshami and her family, and all those innocent people caught up in the terrible violence in the Middle East.

Rotherham Council and communities across the Borough had a proud history of supporting those who have fled war in their home countries, most recently in both Ukraine and Afghanistan.

The Council remained deeply concerned about the loss of lives in Gaza and indeed in Israel.

In terms of the flag, the Council followed Government guidance in terms of flying flags in times of conflict situations so Councillor Alam could not, unfortunately, make a specific commitment about that here today but was sure all Members have heard what had been said and the request and that will be part of considerations in the future.

In the supplementary question, Ms. Alshami stated that she wanted some visible sign from the Council that showed empathy for Palestinians living in Rotherham and asked what could be done to support them?

Councillor Alam confirmed that support had been offered through donations which included support for foundations that had medical schools in Gaza, Jerusalem and the West Bank. There were many charitable events that were happening to raise funds for aid.

4. Hafsa Yusufi:

Will this Council call upon the UK Government to end its unconditional support for the Israeli government, and to condemn the Israeli government for its blatant commission of crimes against humanity?

Councillor Alam thanked Ms. Yusufi for the question and stated that of course wherever any government commits crimes against humanity, he condemned those crimes unequivocally. As mentioned in a previous answer, he had written to the Government to call for Britain to do all that it could to bring about an ending to violence and to support a lasting and secure peace in the Middle East.

In 2014, Parliament voted in support of a two-state solution, and Councillor Alam stated that this must be implemented to have an independent, sovereign Palestine and Israel as its own state.

Councillor Alam also informed Ms. Yusufi that the UN Convention could set up a Commission to look at human rights and ensure any abuses stop. Councillor Alam had also previously written asking for the UN Peacekeeping Force to be deployed immediately to Palestine to stop innocent people dying.

In the supplementary question, Ms. Yusufi thanked Councillor Alam for his writings to the Government but asked the Council as a whole to write to the Government demanding a permanent ceasefire as Sheffield Council had previously done? Sheffield Council had also joined the Coalition Against the Israeli Apartheid. Would Rotherham Council do the same?

Councillor Alam informed Ms. Yusufi that the Leader of the Council had written to the Government regarding the conflict. He hoped that the leaders of the other political groups on the Council had listened to the request.

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

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

## **51. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT**

The Leader presented his statement and started by welcoming Councillor Harper to the Council. The Leader then raised the flooding incident that had taken place in Catcliffe, Treeton and other areas across the Borough in October 2023. 180 homes had been affected and funds of around £170,000 had been administered in support of those households. The Leader praised the exceptional response of the staff which had been huge in the immediate aftermath. The Leader stated that, even with the exceptional levels of rainfall, the flooding should not have been as extensive as it was if it should have happened at all. Over the coming months it would be important to understand the facts and influences on that to come to the right conclusions for the future.

To conclude, the Leader confirmed that Thurcroft Library had now been officially opened. This was the latest stage in the investment in libraries across the Borough.

Questions on the statement were then invited. Councillor Adam Carter started by offering his congratulations to Councillor Harper on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group. He also agreed with the Leader that the flooding in Catcliffe and Treeton should not have happened, at least to the extent that it did.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester welcomed Councillor Harper and also passed on his thanks to the officers involved with the communication of information in relation to the floods. He asked the Leader if there had been an increase in demand for temporary accommodation and if, therefore, there was a need for additional accommodation across the Borough? If there were additional pressures, how long were these expected to continue?

Councillor Griffin stated that houses in his Ward of Whiston had also been flooded and he asked the Leader if he agreed that such homeowners should be provided with complete and accurate information about the steps that were being taken to reduce that risk and if so, would the Leader agree that it was unhelpful for a Member of Parliament to communicate with residents in a way that was partial, incomplete and inaccurate?

Councillor Ball welcomed Councillor Harper. Councillor Ball also informed the Chamber that there had been three deaths in three weeks on roads in the Borough. He offered his thoughts to the families of those involved and praised the work of the emergency services. Councillor Ball questioned why there was no longer a Cabinet Member who was dedicated 100% to transport following a rise in concerns?

Councillor Mills asked a question in relation to the flooding and why some residents in Ravenfield were denied access to sandbags?

In response to the questions, the Leader agreed with Councillor A. Carter that they were of one mind when it came to the priorities in relation to the flooding.

In response to Councillor Bennett-Sylvester's question, the Leader confirmed that the communications team were represented in the room and his thanks was noted. A written response would be provided in relation to the numbers in temporary accommodation.

The Leader noted Councillor Griffin's concerns in relation to properties in Whiston that were flooded or nearly flooded. He agreed that, particularly when residents are in difficult, stressful situations, they rely on all elected representatives to be fair and accurate with the information provided. It was not helpful for any representative, least of all a Member of



Parliament, to be making statements that were not full. The Leader expressed his support for the decisions taken by the Council to put money into flood defence schemes, such as those at Whiston, and it was hoped that those schemes would be funded to completion over the next couple of years.

In response to Councillor Ball, the Leader confirmed that he had taken on the responsibility of transport himself and would keep Members up-to-date with his Cabinet appointments as and when required.

It was confirmed that a written response would be provided to Councillor Mills in relation to sandbag availability in Ravenfield.

## **52. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING**

Councillor Ball asked the following questions on the Cabinet Minutes:

1. In relation to Minute No. 46 of Cabinet held on 18th September, 2023, Councillor Ball asked for an update in relation to the selection of Labour candidates for the 2024 local elections. He asked if the Leader could confirm if there were sitting Councillors, some of whom were Chairs etc., not able to sit again as Labour Councillors and if so what new information had come forward to deselect these Councillors and what confidence did it give to the residents of Rotherham that this was happening?
2. In relation to Minute No. 65 of Cabinet held on 16th October, 2023, Councillor Ball stated that a group campaigning about cemeteries had been promised monthly meetings. He asked if this would be extended to all of the Borough as he understood that most local cemeteries were having issues and would welcome the chance to have monthly meetings to look at their problems?
3. In relation to Minute No. 72 of Cabinet held on 16th October, 2023, Councillor Ball stated that every one of the fast charges that he had visited in the last month in Rotherham had either been vandalised or not working. In the Climate Working Group he had said that these would not be viable for Rotherham and that a forecourt way of doing things would provide jobs and would be better to provide security to these points. What had been done about this to save the taxpayers of Rotherham money and would the Leader pause the Cabinet decision for the electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in Rotherham whilst this matter is looked in to? Councillor Ball also asked what had happened to the Climate Working Group; had it been disbanded?
4. In relation to Minute No. 76 of Cabinet held on 16th October, 2023, Councillor Ball stated that it was good to see houses being built that catered for all in terms of accessibility. He asked the Leader whether he agreed that this should be the standard for any new housing being built in the Borough and for it not to be dismissed like in the case of

the Planning Chair who informed him that it would cost too much and that developers would not do, casting out those who were disabled and needed these types of houses?

Councillor Tinsley asked:

1. Are there any up-to-date figures on the number of inspections that have taken place in relation to selective licensing and was the Council sending out letters to properties to highlight ways to report any issues they might have with houses in selective licensing areas?

In relation to the first question asked for Councillor Ball, the Leader stated that announcements on the selection of Labour candidates for the May 2024 local elections would be made in due course and he would not speculate on those processes.

In relation to the second question from Councillor Ball, the Leader stated that Councillor Ball had misunderstood and there were no monthly public meetings in relation to cemeteries with any group. There were a group of people who had expressed particular concerns in relation to Muslim burials and the Council had been working with that group over a period of time to try and resolve those issues. The Leader urged Councillor Ball to raise any concerns regarding cemeteries with the appropriate Cabinet Member or officers.

In relation to the third question from Councillor Ball, the Leader stated that Councillor Ball was entitled to his opinion about the best way of providing EV charges but confirmed that the decision taken by the Cabinet would not be halted. The decision had been made; it had been through the scrutiny process and had been available for call-in. The policies that had been agreed would be followed in a democratic and appropriate way.

In relation to the final question from Councillor Ball, the Leader stated that different homes were required by different people. The Leader was glad that the Council was putting money from its own resources into ensuring that there were more homes with appropriate access for people with mobility issues. However, that was clearly not necessary for everybody, and it would not be the thing to do for every single home. However, the Council continued to take those needs into account and provision had been made in new homes that were being brought forward.

In relation to the question from Councillor Tinsley, the Leader confirmed that he would provide a written response as he did not have the figures to hand.

**Resolved:-** That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 18th September and 16th October, 2023 be received.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

**53. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2023 - FINAL PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the report which had been presented to the Cabinet on 20th November, 2023. The report detailed the responses and final proposals following the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review 2023 that had been undertaken between 2nd October and 30th October, 2023. The Cabinet had agreed the timetable for the review in September 2023 as per Minute No. 55. 20 responses had been received commenting on 27 polling districts. A summary of the responses and the Returning Officer's comments were provided in Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report.

As a result of the representations made during the consultation, the final proposals contained 4 changes in addition to the initial proposals:-

- a) Brinsworth Ward: It is proposed to amend the polling district boundary between BWD and BWC to move Nos. 69 to 83 Whitehill Lane and 4 properties on Orchard Way from polling district BWD to BWC.
- b) Brinsworth Ward: It is proposed to move the polling district boundary between BWD and BWB to move Nos. 58 to 68 Brinsworth Lane from BWD to BWB.
- c) Brinsworth Ward: It is proposed to move the polling district boundary between BWD and BWE to move No. 56 Brinsworth Lane from BWD to BWE.
- d) Greasbrough Ward: It is proposed that Greasbrough Library is designated the polling place for GRA polling district, instead of Greasbrough Primary School.

Further details of the final proposals and the polling place scheme were set out in Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report.

**Resolved:-**

- 1. That the submissions made in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places for the Borough of Rotherham be noted.
- 2. That the adoption of the polling district boundaries outlined in Appendices 2 and 5 of the Report to Cabinet be approved.
- 3. That the final proposals for polling places as detailed in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report be approved.
- 4. That the Electoral Registration Officer be requested to make the necessary amendments to the polling districts to take effect from publication of the revised register on 1st December, 2023.

5. That the Electoral Registration Officer be requested to make the necessary amendments to the RVB and RVD polling district boundaries to take effect from publication of the revised register following the next UK Parliamentary General Election.
6. That the power to designate polling places in accordance with section 18B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 be agreed and continue to be delegated to the Chief Executive.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Allen

**54. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - TRANSFER OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FUNCTIONS TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYOR - MAY 2024**

Further to Minute No. 95 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20th November, 2023, consideration was given to the report which detailed how the Government was proposing to make an Order that would provide for the Mayor of South Yorkshire to exercise the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in relation to South Yorkshire with effect from May 2024.

The text of the draft Order had not been finalised or provided, but was likely to include the following:-

1. Provide for all functions presently exercised by the PCC to be functions exercisable by the Mayor for South Yorkshire with effect from the [ ] May 2024.
2. Transfer all property, rights, liabilities of the PCC to the MCA, with future decisions on such matters being vested in the Mayor.
3. Provide for the continuity of the operation by substituting the MCA for the PCC in any legislation/instruments/contracts etc.
4. Deal with financial year end issues.
5. Reduce the current Mayoral term in order to align the Mayoral and PCC election cycles from May 2024.

During the meeting it was confirmed that 4 out of the 5 other local authorities in South Yorkshire had already given their consent. This meant that the decision made by Rotherham Council would not change the outcome, but the Leader thought it important that the Council as a whole voted on the matter.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the draft Order to provide for the Mayor of South Yorkshire to exercise the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner receive consent.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

**55. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

Further to Minute No. 92 of the Cabinet meeting held on 20th November, 2023, consideration was given to the report which outlined the review process and presented an unamended but reviewed Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Policy. The Policy had been adopted in 2020 and was required by law to be reviewed every 3 years. The review process, which included a period of public consultation that commenced in July 2023, had concluded and the outcome of the review consultation had informed a finalised Statement of Licensing Policy.

The current Policy had been reviewed by Licensing Officers and it had been determined that it complied with all relevant requirements and therefore required no amendment. The final unamended version of the Policy was now brought before Council for adoption. The proposed Policy was attached to the report as Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report.

Councillor Ellis, in her role as Chair of the Licensing Board, confirmed that the Board fully supported the recommendation to adopt the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2023.

During the meeting, Councillor Ball asked if 100% of premises had disabled access. Councillor Lelliott confirmed that this was her understanding, but she would raise the question with officers and provide a written response.

**Resolved:**

1. That Council formally adopt the proposed Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 (attached as Appendix 1.)

Mover:- Councillor Lelliott

Seconder:- Councillor Ellis

**56. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - IMPACT OF SELECTIVE LICENSING**

Further to Minute No. 94 of the Cabinet meeting held on 20th November, 2023, consideration was given to the report which outlined the response of the Cabinet to the recommendations made by Scrutiny following their review on the impact of Selective Licensing.

On 18 September 2023 Cabinet received a report titled 'Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Impact of Selective Licensing.' The report gave a detailed account of the current scheme outlining its strengths and weaknesses. The report identified 4 key risk factors to the success of the scheme:

1. pandemic-related delays,
2. a shortage of experienced inspectors,
3. a rising cost of living
4. complexity of measuring impact on deprivation

The review had produced 8 recommendations which had all been accepted by Cabinet:

- a) That re-inspection be prioritised for landlords whose properties have required action previously.
- b) Consideration be given as to how the Council may support retention of experienced inspectors already in the Council's employment.
- c) That consideration be given to incentivising responsible landlords, and, where there is a proven track record, empowering landlords to self-assess, provided that the service can still obtain assurances that decent standards are maintained.
- d) That consideration be given to managing expectations around Selective Licensing as a measure focused on the health of residents, rather than aesthetics or regeneration.
- e) That consideration be given to how uptake of the cost-of-living support offer among families in Selective Licensing areas may be further promoted and monitored, with a view to identifying gaps and promoting financial inclusion.
- f) Given the complexity of measuring impact on deprivation and difficulty in improving relative levels of deprivation, that consideration be given to how internal measures may better reflect the real impact of the scheme.
- g) That a joined-up approach be sought with relevant Council strategies and services, with partner and voluntary sector organisations and with resident-led initiatives prior to any future Selective Licensing declaration.
- h) That engagement with landlords and with tenants be considered alongside any response to the above recommendations, and that the response to the above recommendations be subject to the learning derived from continued engagement with landlords and tenants.

An update in relation to proposed actions was provided at paragraph 2.1 of the Cabinet report. During the meeting, the Deputy Leader advised that 5 of the recommendations were in progress and the other 3 would be considered as part of any future schemes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Leader gave her thanks to the Members of Scrutiny who had carried out the review.

A number of Opposition Members indicated that they would be voting against the recommendation. They felt that the recommendations did not help resolve the issues identified with Selective Licensing areas and further work was required. The Chair of the Improving Places Select Commission stated that work would continue on the matter.

Councillor Tinsley asked for an update on the number of inspection that were taking place. The Deputy Leader confirmed that a written response would be provided.

**Resolved:**

1. That Council note Cabinet's response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny review – Selective Licensing at Appendix 1.

Mover:- Councillor Allen

Seconder:- Councillor Cusworth

**57. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - MODERN SLAVERY**

Further to Minute No. 73 of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th October, 2023, consideration was given to the report which outlined the response of Cabinet to the recommendations made by Scrutiny following their review on modern slavery. The spotlight review took place on 1st November, 2022. The methodology and invited witnesses were detailed in Section 2.2 of the report submitted to Cabinet in October 2023.

There were 9 recommendations which had all been accepted by Cabinet:

- a) That the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) consider rolling out a targeted learning and development offer/campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery, how to spot the signs and risks and how to raise concerns and make referrals:
  - To front line staff across agencies.
  - To Elected Members.
  - To the public and targeted business such as letting agencies (commercial and residential)
- b) That the SRP considers mapping the local modern slavery landscape to identify high risk industries and 'hot spots.'

- c) That consideration be given to establishing an RMBC internal governance group, including representation from services who may encounter modern slavery (e.g., Procurement, Licensing, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Housing, Neighbourhoods and Social Care.)
- d) That consideration is given to how young adults at risk of experiencing modern slavery are safeguarded during the transition from Children to Adult Services and are age assessed appropriately.
- e) That consideration is given to developing referral pathways to ensure that modern slavery victims (both adult and child) have access to appropriate support (housing, advocacy, mental health) on a timely basis.
- f) That consideration is given to re-launching the Strategic Partnership Information Sharing Group at the earliest opportunity to improve the way that agencies can share data and intelligence, including examining how IT systems can work better together.
- g) That consideration is given to widening the levels of investigation and auditing of contracts procured by the Council to focus on the 'layers' of sub-contractors, including binding specifications to audit or 'dip-sample' contracts along the supply chain.
- h) That consideration is given to how the Procurement Team can engage with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) supply chain advisor to improve processes, joint working, and awareness.
- i) That consideration be given to allow victim advocates to make recommendations to Housing Assessment Panels on behalf of victims of modern slavery.

A table containing the actions associated with these recommendations was set out at section 1.4 of the Cabinet report.

**Resolved:**

1. That Council note Cabinet's response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny review – Modern Slavery at Appendix 1.

Mover:- Councillor Alam

Seconder:- Councillor Cusworth



**58. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

Consideration was given to the report which set out the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel on Member Allowances. Section 15 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001 on Members' Allowances set out the requirement to have an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider any changes or amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme every 4 years. To comply with the Legislation to undertake the required review, the Council had to appoint a panel to conduct the review.

The panel comprised of:

- Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce.
- Shafiq Hussain, Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Rotherham.
- Rev. Phil Batchford, Vicar of Rotherham and St. Paul's Masbrough.

It met on 17th and 31st October and 16th November, 2023. Members of the Council were given the opportunity to consult with Members of the Panel as part of the review and various Councillors were heard from.

The Member's Allowance Scheme was last reviewed in April 2015 and agreed by Council in May 2015. The Panel recommended that the amounts agreed at this time remain in place for a period of 2 years. After this period the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances should be reviewed in line with the Retail Price Index. In July 2017 Council approved a 1.15% reduction in Members' Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in line with amendments to staff terms and conditions being introduced. Since that time no uplift for inflation had been added meaning that Members' Allowances had been static since 2017. In the same period the Bank of England calculator provided that inflation amounts to 27%.

A benchmarking exercise was carried out to compare the allowances of Councils across Yorkshire. Details of these were included in appendices 2 and 3 to the report.

Following the review, the Panel made the following recommendations:

- (i) The Basic Members' Allowance (and Allowances for those co-opted) for 2023-24 be increased by 5%.
- (ii) That the Special Responsibility Allowance be increased by 5% for 2023-24.
- (iii) That additional Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) should only be paid for one special responsibility position.

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- (iv) That annual increases in Basic Allowances should be in line with the average Local Government pay awards for staff below Chief Officer level.
- (v) That annual increases in Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid at half (50%) of the average Local Government pay award for staff below Chief Officer level.
- (vi) That travel allowances should be increased in line with staff travel allowances and should change as and when the locally agreed rates change.
- (vii) No Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
- (viii) Increases in allowances to be effective from 1st April, 2023.

During the debate, a number of Councillors indicated that they would not be supporting the recommendations. Councillors Ball and Bacon stated that it was unfair to increase Members Allowances and increase Council Tax. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester questioned the suitability of the Panel as to their experience of living on a low income. He also stated that Rotherham Council should have the lowest allowances as recompense following the publication of the Jay Report (2014) and the Casey Report (2015.) Councillor Reynolds thought the timing of the recommendations was inappropriate.

Councillor Adam Carter thanked the Panel for the work they had done on the review.

In supporting the recommendations, Councillors Hoddinott and Cusworth stated that every resident in the Borough should be able to stand for election and an increased allowance was required to help that happen. The allowance was still lower than it was in 2014 but the increases would allow Councillors to continue to put food on their tables without being excessive. Councillor Atkin stated that Members of Parliament voted on their own pay rises every year.

Councillor Wilson stated that if Members did not support the increase, they did not have to accept it if it was approved. They could contact the Head of Democratic Services to forgo all or part of their allowance.

Councillor Hoddinott asked that feedback be given to the Panel regarding the omission of carer's allowance from the review.

In responding, the Leader stated that the Council needed to be as accessible as possible to all in the Borough and as such, it was not sustainable to keep the freeze on Members Allowances. He disagreed with the view that Rotherham should have the worst allowances because

of its history as this would not lead to improvements. He also urged any Members that did not want to take the increase to contact officers.

**Resolved:**

That Council:

1. Approve the following recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel following a review of the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Members' Allowances Scheme:
  - a. (The Basic Members' Allowance (and Allowances for those co-opted) for 2023-24 be increased by 5%.
  - b. That the Special Responsibility Allowance be increased by 5% for 2023-24.
  - c. That additional Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) should only be paid for one special responsibility position.
  - d. That annual increases in Basic Allowance should be in line with the average Local Government pay awards for staff below Chief Officer level.
  - e. That annual increases in Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid at half (50%) of the average Local Government pay award for staff below Chief Officer level.
  - f. That travel allowances should be increased in line with staff travel allowances and should change as and when the locally agreed rates change.
  - g. No Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
  - h. Increases in allowances to be effective from 1st April, 2023.
2. Thank the members of the IRP for their detailed consideration of the Scheme and their service on the Panel.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Allen

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19(2), a recorded vote was requested and taken for this item as follows:

**For:** Councillors Alam, Allen, Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, Baker-Rodgers, Beck, Bird, Browne, Clark, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth, Ellis, Foster, Griffin, Haleem, Harper, Hoddinott, Hughes, Keenan, Lelliott, McNeely, Monk, Pitchley, Read, Sheppard, Taylor, Thompson, Wilson, Wyatt and Yaseen.

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**Against:** Councillors Bacon, Ball, Bennett-Sylvester, Burnett, A. Carter, C. Carter, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Elliott, Fisher, Hunter, Jones, Mills, Miro, Reynolds, Tarmey and Tinsley.

There were 32 votes for and 17 votes against. The recommendations were therefore approved.

**59. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR BRINSWORTH**

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

An update report had been provided as part of the agenda. However, each Ward Member was invited to speak.

Councillor Charlotte Carter noted:

- The work done with the local community such as Crafty Talk, a church lunch club and a local history group.
- The work done with local schools such as environment days, bulb planting, litter picks, supporting an allotment and pond restoration.
- That over 100 trees had been planted across Brinsworth.
- The launch of the “Adopt a Tree Scheme” in the Brinsworth. It was hoped this would be reproduced across the Borough.
- The reduction in anti-social behaviour through multi-agency working and securing Borough-wide funding streams.
- The new shelter that had been installed on Brinsworth playing fields which had been well utilised.
- The purchase of new play equipment for Howarth Park.
- The development of an interactive trail around Brinsworth to encourage families to walk and spend more time outdoors.
- The work with the Towns and Villages Fund to improve the parking outside of the shops.

Councillor Adam Carter noted:

- The engagement with school children and community groups.
- The tree planting.
- The value of the residents of Brinsworth, particularly the volunteers who helped bring the community together.
- The improvements in devolving responsibility away from the Town Hall to Ward Councillor and local residents.
- The tree-whip giveaway.

Both Members placed on record their thanks to the Neighbourhoods Working Team.

**Resolved:**

1. That the report be noted.

Mover:- Councillor C Carter

Seconder:- Councillor A Carter

**60.        THRIVING    NEIGHBOURHOODS    -    UPDATES    FROM    WARD  
             COUNCILLORS FOR KEPPEL**

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

An update report had been provided as part of the agenda. However, each Ward Member was invited to speak.

Councillor Browne noted, in particular, the improvement in safety and appearance of St Johns Green:

- The rundown quadrangle on Kimberworth Park estate comprised shops, flats, a medical centre, dental centre and church.
- As there was no Council run facility on the estate, it was very difficult for the residents to access resources and support.
- The centre itself was in great disrepair and was a magnet for anti-social behaviour and drug dealing.
- The plan was to develop a one-stop resource centre in the heart of the community at St John's Green. An empty commercial unit would be taken over for the benefit of the community.
- The centre would provide a meeting place for groups and enable residents to access more support and resources from the Council.
- The plan will involve multi-agency working with a large range of partners such as community groups, the Police, the Council, the NHS etc.
- The funding will come from the Towns and Village Fund, Lottery Funding, SYP grants and other options will be explored with the Council.

Councillor Foster noted:

- The use of community infrastructure money to improve playground facilities across the Ward. Additional external funding would also be used to create a new facility.
- The work with local schools to improve the local environment, improve biodiversity in schools and raise awareness of climate issues.
- The work with children on litter.

Councillor Clark noted:

- The community first approach by the Ward Members.
- The work to get Thorpe Street one way.
- That Keppel's Column would be open again in April 2024.

All Keppel Ward Members wished to place on record their thanks to the Neighbourhoods Working Team, in particular Nicola Hacking and Shaun Mirfield, along with all those that attend the monthly Community Action Team meetings.

**Resolved:**

1. That the report be noted.

Mover:- Councillor Browne

Seconder:- Councillor Foster

**61. NOTICE OF MOTION - NO CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY TO PROTECT ROTHERHAM RESIDENTS FROM FLOODING**

It was moved by Councillor A. Carter and seconded by Councillor Miro:

**This Council notes:**

1. With great regret, the devastating flooding that occurred in Catcliffe and Treeton on 21st October 2023. As a result of the flooding, hundreds of houses were evacuated and extensive damage to property resulted from the ingress of flood waters to domestic properties and local businesses.
2. That looting of residential properties occurred in Catcliffe during the floods in 2007.
3. That in the aftermath of the 2007 Catcliffe floods the Council held a public meeting with residents to discuss the evacuation, flood, and subsequent response and receive feedback from residents.

**This Council is concerned:**

4. That the Environment Agency did not issue an appropriate warning early enough to reduce the risk to life and enable more motor vehicles and personal possessions to be saved from the flood waters. Water levels were rising for some time before flood defences in Catcliffe were breached.
5. About the difficulty residents in Catcliffe have reported in obtaining home and motor vehicle insurance, and in some instances where residents have obtained a quotation, it has been unaffordable.

6. That South Yorkshire Police were actively enforcing the underused Wood Lane bus gate when alternative main routes in Catcliffe and Brinsworth were impassable, when looting of evacuated residential properties was a high risk.
7. That South Yorkshire Police have not changed their policy on enforcement of the Wood Lane bus gate when they attempted to prioritise enforcement of this during the 2019 flooding crisis that affected residents in the Borough.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

1. That it has no confidence in the ability of the Environment Agency to provide an adequate response to future flooding in Catcliffe and Treeton to keep residents, homes, and businesses safe.
2. That the Chief Executive and Council Group Leaders are requested to write to:
  - a. The Environment Agency requesting:
    - i. A detailed explanation and a commitment to hold an enquiry to determine why a suitable warning was not issued to residents earlier when it was clear that flood waters would imminently breach the flood defences in Catcliffe.
    - ii. Significant investment in and improvement of the flood defences of the River Rother at Catcliffe.
    - iii. A detailed explanation and a commitment given to residents why active flood management of the River Rother up and down-stream of Catcliffe and Treeton did not appear to take place in the October 2023 flood.
  - b. The Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police and Police and Crime Commissioner:
    - i. Expressing regret that the Force focussed on enforcing the bus gate on Wood Lane at a time when alternative main routes in Catcliffe and Brinsworth were impassable and looting of residential properties was a high risk.
    - ii. Requesting a commitment to residents that they will not enforce the Wood Lane bus gate when flooding is affecting main routes into and out of Catcliffe, Treeton, and Brinsworth; and ensure that commanding officers are made aware of this commitment.
  - c. The Government requesting funding to as a minimum implement the Council's Six Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes throughout the borough, and specific additional funding to invest in further improvements to better protect Catcliffe and Treeton.

3. That the Council's spokesperson on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel is requested to raise the issues outlined in 2.b.i. and 2.b.ii. directly with the Police and Crime Commissioner and South Yorkshire Police leadership at the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.
4. That the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considers a further review into flood defences in the Borough, with a particular focus on those areas where flood defences were breached in the October 2023 floods.
5. That the Council's Cabinet is asked to consider additional capital funding to improve flood defences in Catcliffe and to consider funding projects that will better make homes in Catcliffe and Treeton safer from flooding.
6. That the Council holds a public meeting in a suitable local venue within the next 3 months with residents of Catcliffe and Treeton to hear their feedback about the flooding, evacuation, and subsequent response along similar lines as in 2007; with senior Council Officers, Cabinet Members, Councillors, South Yorkshire Police, and the Environment Agency requested to be in attendance.

During the meeting, it was confirmed that a Section 19 audit was underway in relation to the flooding in Treeton and Catcliffe. A Section 19 investigation was a statutory requirement for Lead Local Flood Authorities required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It aimed to give an explanation of what happened during the flood event and would give recommendations on what lessons could be learned from the event. As such, the Leader stated that it would be more beneficial to residents to hold the meeting once that report had been published. This was agreed by the proposer of the motion.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

**62. NOTICE OF MOTION - DROPPINGWELL TIP (ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING)**

It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Elliott:

**That this Council notes that:**

1. Since 2016 there have been many complaints to the Environment Agency around the re-permitting of the Grange landfill site at Droppingwell. Despite the valiant efforts of the Droppingwell Action Group and the Council, the works carry on, without the proper level of scrutiny and regulation of the Environment Agency. This has led to direct complaints to the EA that we believe have not been properly investigated.



**The Council believes that:**

1. As part of the environmental monitoring of the site, the operator was required to install various monitoring systems. One of these systems was a network of ground water bore holes, that under the European Landfill Directives, is required to update the condition of the permit. The operator, without any prior knowledge or permission, proceeded to drill a bore hole (BH5) on Council property. Subsequently, on 2 occasions the borehole was damaged to restore the access track to a useable condition after unpermitted use by a contractor. At no point was anyone made aware of the existence of BH5 and at no point has any formal permission been sought to site the hole on Council land. The test results from BH5 were questioned after test samples were allocated to BH5, even when the hole was not in existence. The investigation by the EA claimed that "the hole had been vandalised." This claim was totally incorrect, at the point of investigation, only a very small number of people knew of the borehole's existence and certainly did not know of its location.
2. In correspondence with senior officers at the Council, the EA have claimed that the siting of BH5 is a matter for the operator to address with RMBC. They also carried onto say that the reinstatement of BH5 was "preferable but not required" as part of the pre-conditions for the sites re-opening. Every 6 months the EA must carry out a compliance report, this report matches the site's operation with the conditions of the license. Over the last 2 years while expressing to the Council that the reinstatement was not a "requirement", the CAR report to the operator has expressed the EA's concern that the borehole had not been reinstated and reminded the operator that "until the requirement to re-instate BH5 was undertaken, no waste could be accepted onto site".
3. We believe that the communications from the EA to RMBC have been very disingenuous, to try to downplay the requirement for BH5's reinstatement. We also believe that should the borehole now be reinstated, with its location now public and readily accessible, the possibility of it being in a serviceable condition for any length of time, is highly unlikely. The monitoring of the borehole would also require repeated access on a monthly basis to land that we have now gated off to stop illegal trespass; this would then risk a claim of access in law by the operator, who is already trying to claim a right of access over our land.

**Therefore this Council resolves that:**

1. Permission to re-instate the borehole on Council land be refused and that any access to the land be denied.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19(2), a recorded vote was requested and taken for this item as follows:

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**For:** Councillors Bacon, Ball, Bennett-Sylvester, Burnett, A. Carter, C. Carter, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Elliott, Fisher, Hunter, Jones, Mills, Miro, Reynolds, Tarmey, Tinsley and Wilson.

**Against:** Councillors Alam, Allen, Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, Baker-Rodgers, Beck, Bird, Browne, Clark, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth, Ellis, Foster, Griffin, Haleem, Harper, Hoddinott, Hughes, Keenan, Lelliott, McNeely, Monk, Pitchley, Read, Sheppard, Taylor, Thompson, Wyatt and Yaseen.

There were 18 votes for and 31 votes against. The motion therefore fell.

**63. NOTICE OF MOTION - ISRAEL AND PALESTINE**

This motion was withdrawn by Councillor Ball.

**64. NOTICE OF MOTION - SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY AND STREET MOTION**

It was moved by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Fisher:

**That this Council note that:**

1. Approximately 1200 school children are injured each month in traffic related collisions within a 500m radius of schools. (According to ROSPA) School Crossing Patrol Operatives play a vital role in ensuring children's safety on route to school. However, the last major change in road safety around schools in the Rotherham Borough was back in 2009, which resulted in the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders to enforce School Crossings and advisory 20mph speed limit signs that were fitted near schools more recently.
2. "School street" schemes, have proven successful in multiple UK authorities, closing roads during drop-off and pick-up times to enhance pupil safety, promote active travel, and improve air quality.
3. The Council currently work with the Road Safety Partnership to educate school children and adults around road dangers and behaviours.

**That we believe that:**

1. School Crossing Patrol operatives face instances where cars fail to stop. We believe that the Council is seemingly not recording these instances along with prosecuting vehicle owners.
2. Cars regularly park on School Keep Clear Lines (zig zag) and contraventions are hard to enforce.
3. Cars parking on pavements near schools, impede the view of

pedestrians making it hazardous for children and adults to cross safely.

4. School Street initiatives establish a vehicle free zone near school entrances or gates during school drop-off and pick-up times. By regulating vehicle access on specific school streets, these initiatives facilitate safe crossings in front of school entrances/gates. These schemes also help to promote walking or cycling to school for both parents and school children, contributing to a decrease in air pollution around schools.

**That therefore this Council resolves to:**

1. Enhance and improve the process and reporting of near miss incidents for Crossing Patrol Operatives. Provide body worn cameras to aid documenting and prosecuting non-compliance of stop signs.
2. Explore technologies that can aid in enforcing School Crossings (Zig Zag Lines) Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). Analyse and put into action appropriate parking and road markings around school entrances to guarantee an unobstructed, safe view for pedestrians crossing.
3. Commit to work with schools and Ward Councillors within our Authority that would benefit from a school street and compile a list of schools where school street trials could be launched as soon as practically possible, once the Council has the relevant powers to enforce them, fast tracking where experimental Traffic Orders could be used.
4. Continue to work with all schools in the Rotherham Borough to develop accredited Travel Plans, which will include enforceable No-Idling Zones and "school streets" schemes. Providing a Member session to inform Members of the support available to Schools.

An amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Cusworth and seconded by Councillor Wyatt that requested that the Improving Places Select Commission be asked to consider the recommendations as set out in the Notice of Motion. This amendment was accepted by the proposer of the Motion and as such, there was no vote on the amendment.

The substantive motion now read:-

**That this Council note that:**

1. Approximately 1200 school children are injured each month in traffic related collisions within a 500m radius of schools. (According to ROSPA) School Crossing Patrol Operatives play a vital role in ensuring children's safety on route to school. However, the last major change in road safety around schools in the Rotherham Borough was

back in 2009, which resulted in the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders to enforce School Crossings and advisory 20mph speed limit signs that were fitted near schools more recently.

2. "School street" schemes, have proven successful in multiple UK authorities, closing roads during drop-off and pick-up times to enhance pupil safety, promote active travel, and improve air quality.
3. The Council currently work with the Road Safety Partnership to educate School Children and Adults around road dangers and behaviours.

**That we believe that:**

1. School Crossing Patrol operatives face instances where cars fail to stop. We believe that the Council is seemingly not recording these instances along with prosecuting vehicle owners.
2. Cars regularly park on School Keep Clear Lines (zig zag) and contraventions are hard to enforce.
3. Cars parking on pavements near schools, impede the view of pedestrians making it hazardous for children and adults to cross safely.
4. School Street initiatives establish a vehicle free zone near school entrances or gates during school drop-off and pick-up times. By regulating vehicle access on specific school streets, these initiatives facilitate safe crossings in front of school entrances/gates. These schemes also help to promote walking or cycling to school for both parents and school children, contributing to a decrease in air pollution around Schools.

**That therefore this Council resolves to:**

*Ask the Improving Places Select Commission to consider making recommendations in relation to:*

1. Enhance and improve the process and reporting of near miss incidents for Crossing Patrol Operatives. Provide body worn cameras to aid documenting and prosecuting non-compliance of stop signs.
2. Explore technologies that can aid in enforcing School Crossings (Zig Zag Lines) Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). Analyse and put into action appropriate parking and road markings around school entrances to guarantee an unobstructed, safe view for pedestrians crossing.
3. Commit to work with schools and Ward Councillors within our Authority that would benefit from a school street and compile a list of

schools where school street trials could be launched as soon as practically possible, once the Council has the relevant powers to enforce them, fast tracking where experimental Traffic Orders could be used.

4. Continue to work with all schools in the Rotherham Borough to develop accredited Travel Plans, which will include enforceable No-Idling Zones and “school streets” schemes. Providing a Members’ session to inform Members of the support available to Schools.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**65. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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

Mover: Councillor Baker-Rogers    Second: Councillor Browne

**66. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

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

Mover: Councillor Cusworth    Second: Councillor Foster

**67. LICENSING BOARD, LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE AND LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

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

Mover: Councillor Ellis    Second: Councillor Hughes

**68. PLANNING BOARD**

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

Mover: Councillor Atkin    Second: Councillor Bird

**69. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

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

Mover: Councillor Browne    Second: Councillor Wilson

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

There were no questions to consider.

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

**Question 1 – Councillor Wilson:**

Could you please provide an estimate of how many jobs are expected to be created as part of the development of the whole Forge Island complex?

Councillor Lelliott responded:

The construction of Forge Island has involved 641 people working on site since work started in October 2022. On average, there are 140 people working on site on a day-to-day basis. When the destination is opened in Summer next year, based on the square meterage of the facilities, we estimate that a further 100 direct jobs will be created through the operation of the new complex.

Supplementary:

Following the recent decline of the Wilko's corporation (which had a large depot and head office in Bassetlaw and Worksop, close to Anston and Woodsetts), Councillor Wilson sought assurances that residents in her Ward and the wider Rother Valley area would be able to apply for those jobs?

Councillor Lelliott confirmed that the employment opportunities applied across the Borough.

**Question 2 – Councillor Wilson:**

What strategy are you intending to apply to parking at the Forge Island complex, for example should there be an expectation that visitors will be charged to park at the complex?

Councillor Lelliott responded:

The Strategy for parking at Forge Island offers free parking for hotel customers between the hours of 4.00 p.m. and 10.0 a.m. In addition, those customers using the cinema will be offered concessionary free parking for a period of up to 3.5 hours. Outside of these concessions car park users will be expected to pay, and while yet to be agreed, the tariffs are expected to be at least in line with the Council's current core town centre car park tariff.

Supplementary:

Councillor Wilson stated that she still had concerns regarding the timings and asked if she could pick the matter up with Councillor Lelliott outside of the meeting?

Councillor Lelliott agreed to this request.

**Question 3 – Councillor A. Carter:**

Can the Cabinet Member explain why the skips that were provided following the recent flooding in Catcliffe and Treeton were left full over the weekend of 28th/29th October, rather than replenished?

Councillor Allen firstly gave her sympathies to all those impacted by the recent flooding.

Councillor Allen responded:

I understand that the skips you refer to were not full at the beginning of that weekend but did fill up over the course of the weekend and were replenished as soon as the supplier was able to do so on the Monday.

Supplementary:

Councillor A. Carter stated that the skips were full by 10.00 a.m. on the Saturday and were not replenished quickly enough. He stated that this should have been foreseen. Councillor A. Carter also confirmed that some residents felt that, in comparison to 2007, staff were not as proactive in trying to help them move destroyed property into skips.

Councillor Allen stated that she took on board the first comments made. However, she did provide reassurance that Council officers were the first people on the scene on 20th October and they were the ones that alerted the emergency services and the Environment Agency to the risk of the rising levels.

The clean-up operation was significant and remained ongoing. There had been 40 Council staff members on site in the immediate aftermath who helped move items into skips. At the peak of the operation there were 36 skips on site which were being replenished as quickly as possible. The Council pulled together the rest centre and support services that went into the area. There were still staff on site, working on the recovery effort. Councillor Allen praised the fantastic work that they had done.

**Question 4 – Councillor A. Carter:**

With regards to the recent flooding in Catcliffe and Treeton, when and where did the Council first raise concerns to the Environment Agency about the risk of flooding?

Councillor Sheppard responded:

The Council continues to work with all responsible bodies regarding the risk of flooding across the Borough. The River Rother is managed by the Environment Agency as it is a main river. The risks are managed by them through flood defences, controls and notifications. The Council with other partners would ordinarily expect the Environment Agency to provide flood alerts and warnings to inform of the risk of flooding not vice versa.

In relation to this specific incident, communication with relevant partners

such as the Environment Agency, Police and the Fire Service, had been ongoing from the day prior to the significant rainfall, through the Local Resilience Forum. Council Sheppard and officers had been scheduled to attend a regional conference in York but did not attend so that they could assist in preparations.

Teams had been responding to incidents across the Borough throughout the afternoon and night of the 20th October and liaising with the Environment Agency to understand the latest forecasts on when river levels may peak and to what extent.

It was around 2.00 a.m. in the morning of the 21st when the Council began alerting all relevant partners to the likely need to evacuate a number of residents due to the imminent risk of flooding. A member of staff on site had raised the alarm at this point.

There is a formal review process currently underway that will be publicly reported when it is completed.

Supplementary:

Councillor A. Carter stated that it was very concerning that a Council Officer was having to tell the Environment Agency that there was water coming over the Environment Agency's flood defences at 2.00 a.m. He stated that this was disgraceful. He asked Councillor Sheppard what concerns were raised prior to 2.00 a.m. and what were the details of the conversation that happened between the Council and the Environment Agency at 2.00 a.m.?

Councillor Sheppard confirmed that the response was Borough-wide and the focus was on making sure all resources were deployed. During the event it was simply a case of reacting to the circumstances. The report would look into what data was available and at what time. Details of the call with the Environment Agency would be brought out during the investigation.

**Question 5 – Councillor Bacon:**

Will the Council leadership commit now that Green Belt land around Todwick, as well as its wildlife sites, will retain these protected statuses, and they will not be developed on, now or in the future?

Councillor Lelliott responded:

The land around Todwick is allocated as Green Belt in the adopted Local Plan. It has the same status as all other Green Belt land in the Borough, and both national and local planning policy protects such land from development. Large areas of land around Todwick are also designated Local Wildlife Sites, giving an additional layer of protection.

The Council has no plans to review the Green Belt boundary in this location.



I must warn the Chamber though that there is one thing that would prevent the Council from controlling development outside Todwick, and that would be to abandon the Local Plan that we agreed for our Borough. I note that the Conservatives have been campaigning on this – indeed the MP for Rother Valley said only last week that he opposed any development on any green field site at all. I must tell Members that if we followed the policy of the Conservative Group, without an adopted Local Plan and a 5 year land supply, we simply would not be able to defend Green Belt sites including those that Councillor Bacon refers to, from development proposals and that would be a real concern I am sure for the people of Todwick.

Supplementary:

Councillor Bacon asked Councillor Lelliott to confirm that the Green Belt land around Todwick, as well as the wildlife sites, would not be development now or when the Local Plan was reviewed?

Councillor Lelliott stated that Rotherham Council was one of the first in South Yorkshire to put a Local Plan in place and that adopted Plan protects the Green Belt. Without a Local Plan, developers could build wherever they wanted. If a developer puts in an application that is not in the Local Plan, the Council can refuse the application. Developers could appeal to the Secretary of State.

If the National Planning Policy Framework was reviewed and the requirement for a Local Plan removed, which had been suggested by the Conservative Government, it would remove any protection that Rotherham Council had put in place to protect the matters raised by Councillor Bacon.

**Question 6 – Councillor A. Carter:**

What measures has the Council undertaken in the past to ensure that all Council tenants are aware of the ability to get contents insurance through the Council?

Councillor Allen responded:

The Council includes contents insurance policy booklets within the sign-up pack for all new tenants. They also receive the specific details upon signing their tenancy agreement and obtaining keys.

Promotional fliers and application forms are provided at events, such as Financial Inclusion drop-in session and the Rotherham Show. Further recent promotion was delivered through the Rotherham Advertiser in the Council's 'Money Matters' articles.

As part of the tenancy health check process, residents are asked if they hold contents insurance. If not, the Council's scheme is promoted and encouraged.

Supplementary:

Councillor A. Carter stated that his question was in relation to those at risk of flooding or who had been flooded. Was there any information on whether any Council tenant who lives in a flooded area or has been impacted by flooding who have not had appropriate contents insurance? Could the Council commit to ensuring those residents who have been flooded recently or in the past receive reminders about the contents insurance?

Councillor Allen confirmed this would be actioned outside of the meeting.

**Question 7 – Councillor A. Carter:**

With regards to claims through the Council's contents insurance, can the Cabinet Member confirm that those properties affected by recent flooding have been receiving reimbursement for the full 'as new' price of their lost contents, rather than a value in keeping with 'used' or 'second hand' condition?

Councillor Allen responded:

In line with the policy documentation, all home contents are covered on a 'new for old' basis except for linen and clothing, which are replaced at current cost less an amount for wear and tear.

Supplementary:

Councillor A. Carter asked for clarification on whether the price "as new" related to when the items were initially bought or the price if they were to be bought today?

Councillor Allen confirmed that it was her understanding that "as new" meant the price as it was currently but she would confirm that with officers.

**Question 8 – Councillor Bennett-Sylvester:**

At the Improving Places Select Commission on 24<sup>th</sup> October we had for scrutiny the Homeless and Rough Sleeper Strategy. Am I correct that a positive lifestyle choice was not one of the key factors the Rough Sleepers Team have to deal with?

A response would be provided in writing by the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask this question.

**Question 9 – Councillor A. Carter:**

What provisions have the Council made to ensure that families with school children who are in temporary accommodation following the October 2023 floods are not financially impacted by longer commutes to school?

Councillor Cusworth responded:

As part of the response to the flood event, children from families who live

in the affected housing were identified and, where requested, the Council put in place home to school transport arrangements as an interim measure until such time the families could apply for continued transport support in the form of a Zoom Zero Fare Bus Pass.

This entitles the holder to travel for a subsidised cost of £1 per journey and would be granted where the eligibility criteria has been met, which includes consideration around walking distances to school and family income. Where an eligible child would not be able to travel alone on public transport, other options to fulfil the Councils statutory obligations would be considered.

Officers stand ready to assist if there are other residents in this position and in need of support.

Supplementary:

Councillor A. Carter stated that £1 per journey would result in a £10 a week tax per child because they had been forced to move due to flooding. He asked if that was correct because he did not think that should be the case? Was there any reimbursement scheme for those that did not use public transport and travelled by car instead?

Councillor Cusworth stated that a written response would be provided.

**Question 10 – Councillor Bennett-Sylvester:**

Currently there are several Committee vacancies where political groupings have not taken their seats. Is there anyway on the website that attendance figures can be given for political groups to include meetings missed due to not taking available seats?

A response would be provided in writing by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask this question.

**Question 11 – Councillor Bennett-Sylvester:**

Thank you for your answer at the last Improving Places Select Commission as to why rail services through Rotherham Central were disrupted. Do future measures ensure that the electrical equipment at Parkgate will be protected or do other measures need to be considered?

A response would be provided in writing by the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask this question.

**Question 12 – Councillor Hunter:**

In the last 12 months, how much revenue have RMBC made from car parking charges in the town?

Councillor Lelliott responded:

The Council have received around £550k income to date this year from

car parking in the Town Centre, so since April 2023.

Supplementary:

Councillor Hunter stated that these charges were seen by some to be quite high. Given more people needed to be coming into the town centre due to the investments in the Market and Forge Island Development, could the Council commit to looking at inclusive and more affordable parking solution?

Councillor Lelliott confirmed that nothing would be ruled out but the parking charges were already quite low compared to other areas with it costing £1.50 for up to 2 hours; £2.00 for up to 4 hours and £3.50 for up to 10 hours. There were some free parking offers and there would be some free parking associated with the Forge Island development. There was also a local and national trend that people did not mind paying extra for on-street parking to allow them to be closer to amenities. However, charges were constantly being reviewed.

**Question 13 – Councillor Tarmey:**

Residents of North Anston and Dinnington regularly sit in a 1.3km traffic jam on the B6463 every morning and evening to reach the A57 on the B6463 heading towards Todwick roundabout. Given that housing developments have been granted planning permission in Dinnington recently what improvements are planned to the road network to reduce congestion locally?

**Councillor Read responded:**

I am aware of the congestion and queuing traffic at this location. We are seeing this in many locations as traffic and commuting increase again following the Covid and immediate post-covid patterns. In addition the roadworks on the M1, coupled with Sat Nav systems, may be playing a part at this location; probably more so than the new developments.

The development in the area is not yet fully occupied with around 150 houses currently occupied. This is therefore unlikely to be having a major impact.

The Council has approximately £250,000 secured for sustainable measures secured by S106 agreements for the 3 developments. However this is likely to be spent on much more local journeys. As such, there were no immediate proposals.

Supplementary:

Councillor Tarmey stated the issue had been ongoing for several years so he doubted the roadworks on the M1 were an issue. He asked whether the lane markings on the roundabout could be having an impact?

Councillor Read confirmed that a written response would be provided.

**Question 14 – Councillor Bennett-Sylvester:**

Can you please explain the rationale for your taking on the duties of the former Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment rather than making a new appointment?

A response would be provided in writing by the Leader as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask this question.

**Question 15 – Councillor Bennett-Sylvester:**

Reportedly, due to persistent diesel thefts at the Streetpride Rawmarsh Depot, there has been significant disruption to services. Can you please report on the accuracy of this and measures taken to limit disruption?

A response would be provided in writing by the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask this question.

**Question 16 – Councillor Tarmey:**

Following the Kiveton Park fire we highlighted the need for better communication between Council Officers, Elected Members and residents in emergency situations. Does the Cabinet Member share my concern that lessons have not been learned by Council Officers in improving communication with Elected Members and residents when managing emergency situations as they arise in the case of recent flooding?

Councillor Sheppard responded:

After any significant incident the Council and partners seek to learn lessons and improve future responses.

I do think lessons have been learnt as some specific actions were taken to improve the response. In this instance, one of the key differences was the acute threat posed by the flood water, so the immediate focus of the Council at the initial point of impact was fulfilling its legal and moral obligation to warn and inform those in danger. Since then, the Council has proactively engaged Elected Members and provided a number of updates with our communications efforts being significant and rightly targeted at those impacted the most.

The volume of correspondence and engagement in the worst affected area in Catcliffe over the last few weeks has been unprecedented in my experience, with regular emails, door knocks and direct mail letters, in addition to staff on site.

I do, however, hear your concerns and I would want to reassure you and other Members that a debrief process is underway and you will all receive an invite to participate and make your views known to officers so they can continue to improve in future.

Supplementary:

Councillor Tarmey asked Councillor Sheppard to commit, in future

**COUNCIL MEETING - 29/11/23**

situations, to informing Ward Members and Parish Councils in those areas within one hour of the emergency occurring?

Councillor Sheppard stated that there may be more pressing emergencies to deal with in the hour immediately after an emergency occurring which would require other agencies to be contacted first. He did assure Councillor Tarmey that Ward Members would be notified as soon as reasonably practicable.

**Question 17 – Councillor Tarmey:**

The number of motor vehicle accidents in Anston (including one last week) near the junction of the B6463 (Todwick Road) and Common Road has increased in recent years. This may be linked to increased traffic on the B6463, can the Cabinet Member assure me that this will be investigated and any possible improvements implemented?

Councillor Read responded:

Every year our Road Safety Team analyse all the Personal Injury Collisions in the Borough, and the key aim is to identify locations with accident patterns and evaluate the potential for cost-effective interventions, so that we can use the funding that we have available to make our roads as safe as possible.

I understand the concerns raised about the Anston junction because, according to our data, there have been 6 accidents near this junction in the past 3 years, of which 2 were classified as serious and 4 were slight.

We are of course committed to keeping a record of these areas of concern. As funding opportunities arise or circumstances change, we will re-evaluate and consider measures to improve safety at the Anston junction and continue to monitor the patterns of accidents, not just here, but across Borough as a whole.

**Question 18 – Councillor Bennett-Sylvester:**

The A630 in Dalton is recognised as an area of traffic congestion. As well as the failed scheme to ease congestion off the Mushroom Roundabout what investigations or proposals have there been to ease congestion from Magna Lane, Oldgate Lane and Doncaster Road towards Rotherham?

A response would be provided in writing by the Leader as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask this question.

**Question 19 – Councillor Bennett-Sylvester:**

With reference to the written answer on p73 of today's agenda and being more specific, are bags of domestic rubbish left by litter bins included in the figures reported by the waste management service to the Improving Places Select Commission on 7<sup>th</sup> February for small fly tips?

A response would be provided in writing by the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not

present to ask this question.

**Question 20 – Councillor Miro:**

Does the Cabinet Member believe that the Council Tax support offered to residents affected by the recent flooding goes far enough?

Councillor Alam responded:

The Council recognises the challenging time that those households impacted by the 21st October flooding are facing and quickly established a package of support to help those residents. This includes cash support as well Council Tax relief, and I should say that we have considerably extended the Government's offer in terms of Council Tax support. As a result, Rotherham residents will receive nearly twice as much support as residents elsewhere in the country with no bills until at least the beginning of April 2024.

Moreover, beyond this, the Council has discretionary arrangements in place so that where residents are still not able to return home and are encountering hardship because they are liable for 2 sets of Council Tax bills, they can be considered for further support from April onwards.

**Question 21 – Councillor Miro:**

Following the recent flooding in Catcliffe and Treeton, main roads through Catcliffe were left closed for several days after the floodwater and debris had been cleared. Why were the reasons for this not immediately communicated to residents?

Councillor Sheppard responded:

In relation to this specific incident the Council and the Environment Agency installed temporary pumping equipment to draw down flood water. These pumps were positioned on Orgreave Road and the Council continued to monitor weather forecasts and the river levels. Throughout the event the Council communicated with the local community to confirm on-site activity, provide assistance linked to the road closures, including a temporary bus service and updates on road closures through social media and the Council Webpage. Messages were shared through Council staff based at the Memorial Hall and the Council conducted door knocking in the areas affected, as well as providing regular newsletters to residents and information via the media.

When the temporary pumps were removed from site and the road network cleansed and made safe, the road was opened for road users.

The signalised road junction on Poplar Way was affected by the flood water and temporary give way signage is currently being employed.

Supplementary:

Councillor Miro stated the traffic lights at the bottom of Highfield Lane were not working and had not been working since the flood. He asked the Cabinet Member when this would be fixed?

Councillor Sheppard would provide a written response.

**Question 22 – Councillor Bennett-Sylvester:**

It is welcome that the PSPO has been renewed for Rotherham Town Centre. As well as reported ASB data, were any metrics gained on public perception of the town centre as a safe place to visit as part of the renewal process?

A response would be provided in writing by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask this question.

**Question 23 – Councillor Bennett-Sylvester:**

We have spent a lot of money on new pavements in the town centre. How often are they getting swept, especially with regards to leaf debris at the moment?

A response would be provided in writing by the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask this question.

**Question 24 – Councillor Miro:**

Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that the Environment Agency's response to the recent flooding in Catcliffe and Treeton has been inadequate?

Councillor Sheppard responded:

I think we have covered this earlier in today's agenda and as mentioned, there is a Section 19 audit currently being compiled. To reiterate what was said, it is entirely understandable that people will feel let down by the Environment Agency. I think we should also reflect on the consequences of 60% budget cuts to that organisation and the loss of thousands of jobs as a result. That was not just on flood defence schemes being built out but also on maintenance of existing schemes. The Environment Agency target was to have 98% of their current infrastructure operational but they were struggling to reach 94/95% at the moment which was a big worry. They needed the funding and resources.

**Question 25 – Councillor Miro:**

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm what additional support has been made available to specifically support children and young people affected by the recent flooding in Catcliffe and Treeton?

Councillor Cusworth responded:

I am very proud of the support that has been put in for children and young people following the recent flooding.

Children and Young People's Services were part of an extensive data matching exercise which took place to ascertain households with children



to offer support.

Early Help family support and outreach and engagement were part of the co-ordinated response to the floods, with representatives at the rest centre in Catcliffe working throughout the weekend to support those impacted. Staff ensured families accessed support and provided essential items along with other Council Members.

Children's Social Care Out of Hours Service was available as usual throughout the weekend of the floods.

The Universal Youth Offer and Outreach and Engagement offer continues to support children and young people on a locality basis.

Children and Young People's Services are part of recovery meetings to ensure a consistent and appropriate response to all those impacted.

The Locality Manager for the area and associated staff are well connected with agencies and the community and provide support as need arises. They have a close working relationship with the schools in the area and ensure that we keep up-to-date with local need by liaising with schools.

**Question 26 – Councillor Miro:**

What measures has the Council taken to ensure that properties flooded in Catcliffe and Treeton will not have to pay higher energy bills this year because of having to dry out their properties?

Councillor Sheppard responded:

The Council recognises the challenging time that those households impacted by the 21st October flooding are facing and has quickly established a package of support to help those residents. This includes cash support as well Council Tax relief.

Residents are also supported by Government's grant and Council Tax relief scheme for flooded properties.

The Council has not specifically targeted funds towards a specific purpose or been restrictive in how the cash grants can be used so that households can utilise this support in a way that best suits their position.

However, since Monday, 23rd October, organisations such as Voluntary Action Rotherham, Citizens Advice and Rotherfed have been available at Catcliffe Memorial Hall to offer advice and support to residents who have been impacted by the floods. This has included advice and guidance around energy bills.

**Question 27 – Councillor Miro:**

What impact does the Council believe the new housing developments in Catcliffe and Waverley has had on the flooding risk to properties?

Councillor Sheppard responded:

Again, I would wish to express my deepest sympathies to all those affected by the recent flooding events which have such a long lasting impact on all those unfortunate enough to be caught up in them.

I can confirm though that surface water drainage and flood risk strategies were considered as part of the planning application process for the developments at Waverley and Catcliffe to ensure that all surface water is managed in such a way so that it does not increase the risk of flooding to the surrounding area. The level of water discharged from these sites into the River Rother is controlled and ensures that the amount of water that discharges into the river is the same as would naturally flow from the site if the development was not there.

During flood conditions the outfall is physically cut off and water is held in the lakes which have been designed to provide additional flood water storage which was evident from the drone footage that was captured during these tragic events. The view from our Drainage Team is that the lakes actually reduced the amount of flooding that was experienced rather than contribute to it.

**Question 28 – Councillor Miro:**

If flood-affected families choose to permanently relocate to another area in the Borough, how does the Council plan to ensure any school children will be given top priority for being admitted to a more local school?

Councillor Cusworth responded:

Any families choosing to relocate within Borough will be supported through the usual admissions process. Priority must be given in line with the determined and published admissions arrangements. Where it is not possible for an applicant to secure a place at a preferred school through usual admission process then RMBC's Fair Access Protocol will be employed to ensure that an offer of a place a school within a reasonable distance can be made to any child requiring one.

**72. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items to consider.

**Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council**

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11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question at Council – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for raising a question, at the Council meeting on 29 November 2023, regarding demand for temporary accommodation.

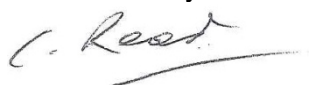
I can confirm that there has been a significant increase in demand for temporary accommodation in Rotherham over the last few years, reflected in the increase in the size of the Council-owned stock of temporary accommodation (now 113 homes), and continued use of hotels. This trend is in line with the national rise in homelessness and use of temporary accommodation. Overall, Rotherham still makes less use of temporary accommodation, compared to its size of population, than many authorities, but sadly we are not immune to the factors that drive national rates.

Recent flooding in Catcliffe and elsewhere has exacerbated this situation. 16 households displaced by flooding were accepted as homeless and a number of these required temporary accommodation. The Council also provided 'decant' properties for our own tenants who were displaced. To support this level of rehousing, ten additional Council properties have been set aside as temporary accommodation. These will be returned to the general needs housing stock as soon as they are no longer needed for flood-related rehousing.

The Council has begun to plan the future needs for temporary accommodation, based on the homelessness demand for the last 3 years. In line with the Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy, this includes exploring whether the portfolio of Council-owned temporary accommodation should be increased permanently.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read**  
**Leader of Rotherham Council**

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**Councillor Denise Lelliott – Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy**

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**Please Contact:**

Cllr Denise Lelliott

14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Simon Ball

Elected Member

Via email: [simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Ball

**Council Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your question at Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November regarding whether 100% of gambling premises had disabled access.

I can advise that although the provision of disabled access is not a specific requirement of the Gambling Act, the operators of gambling premises must make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled people are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to non-disabled people. This is a requirement of the Equality Act 2010 and Licensing Officers assess compliance with the operator's obligations under this legislation as part of their routine checks on premises where gambling takes place.

The Council's licensing database does not record compliance with the Equality Act 2010, and therefore it is not possible to confirm with certainty that 100% of gambling premises in Rotherham are accessible to disabled people. However, a review of routine checks carried out over the last 12 months has revealed that no issues were identified at any gambling premises that were visited by licensing officers. In addition, the Council has not received any complaints regarding access to gambling premises. We can therefore have significant confidence that obligations are being

complied with, but officers will continue to monitor compliance during routine checks on licensed premises.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DL', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Councillor Denise Lelliott**  
**Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy**

**Councillor Sarah Allen – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working**

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Our ref

SA/LH

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Councillor Sarah Allen

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12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Adam Carter

Elected Member

Via email: [adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Carter

**Supplementary question to Council Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for raising a supplementary question from the Council meeting on 29 November 2023, regarding the commitment to ensuring those residents who have been flooded recently or in the past receive reminders about content's insurance.

The Council has committed to ensuring those residents who have been flooded receive reminders about the Council's contents insurance service.

The Council have plans to communicate the updated contents insurance information directly to those impacted, in a highly sensitive manner.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sarah Allen

**Deputy Leader**

**Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working**

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**Councillor Sarah Allen – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working**

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Our ref

SA/LH

Please Contact

Councillor Sarah Allen

Direct Line

01709 255821

12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Adam Carter

Elected Member

Via email: [adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Carter

**Supplementary question to Council Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your raising a supplementary question from the Council meeting on 29 November 2023, regarding whether the price “as new” related to when the items were initially bought or the price if they were to be bought today.

The Council can confirm that in line with the policy documentation all home contents are covered on a ‘new’ basis, which is the price as at today.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sarah Allen

**Deputy Leader**

**Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working**

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**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Cabinet Member  
For Social Inclusion and Environment**

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DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question to Council – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your question to Council as follows:

***At the IPSC on October 24th we had for scrutiny the homeless and rough sleeper strategy. Am I correct that a positive lifestyle choice was not one of the key factors the rough sleepers team have to deal with?***

I can advise that the Council has no evidence to suggest that people choose to sleep rough as lifestyle choice.

The causes of rough sleeping are complicated and multi-faceted and include a shortage of affordable and supported accommodation options.

Nationally, homelessness is at record levels, while in Rotherham the number of new homelessness cases rose from 987 in 2021-2022 to 1,409 in 2022/2023. In a typical month around 130 homelessness cases are accepted.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard  
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment

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**Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

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Councillor Victoria Cusworth

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07824895314

13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Adam Carter  
Elected Member

Via email: [adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Carter

**Supplementary question at Council – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your supplementary question to Council as follows:

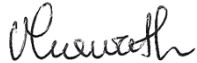
***Councillor A Carter stated that £1 per journey would result in a £10 a week tax per child because they had been forced to move due to flooding. He asked if that was correct because he did not think that should be the case? Was there any reimbursement scheme for those that did not use public transport and travelled by car instead?***

I can advise that the families who are living at alternative addresses are welcome to apply for transport support whilst they may be living extended distances from school, and the assessments will be conducted on an individual case by case basis in line with our Home to School Transport Policy and the statutory obligations placed upon us. Transport support comes in many forms, which includes bus passes, personal travel budgets and parental travel claims, which are discussed with families once eligibility has been confirmed.

If there are any specific children from your constituents displaced by flooding that require additional support with school transport, and on how to complete an application for transport provision, they can contact our team at [education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk) where we will be glad to assist.

I hope you find my response helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr Victoria Cusworth**

**Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services**

**Labour and Co-op | Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward**

**Peer Mentor and Member Peer | Local Government Association Labour Group**

**Councillor Sarah Allen – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working**

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Councillor Sarah Allen

Direct Line

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6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester

Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question to Council Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your question to Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November which was as follows:

***Currently there are several committee vacancies where political groupings have not taken their seats. Is there anyway on the website that attendance figures can be given for political groups to include meetings missed due to not taking available seats?***

Unfortunately, the answer is no. Attendance is recorded against individual Members and not Political Groups. If a Political Group does not want to take a seat on a committee, board or panel and wish to keep it vacant, that is a matter for them to decide.

The following vacancies were listed in the Mayor's Letter on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023:

Labour - 1

Conservative - 8

Liberal Democrats – 2

Independent Conservative - 1

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Councillor Sarah Allen

**Deputy Leader**

**Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working**



**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Cabinet Member  
For Social Inclusion and Environment**

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DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question to Council – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your question to Council as follows:

***Thank you for your answer at the last IPSC why rail services through Rotherham Central were disrupted. Do future measures ensure that the electrical equipment at Parkgate will be protected or do other measures need to be considered?***

I can advise that the Council is aware from our partnership working with Network Rail that they monitor weather forecasts and have processes and procedures for removing sensitive electrical equipment from their network which they did during Storm Babet.

The Council is working with Network Rail to deliver a number of our priority flood alleviation schemes including the Parkgate and Rawmarsh project. The design of any future flood alleviation scheme will reduce flood risk to the rail network.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard  
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment

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**Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council**

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CR/LH	(01709) 822700	22770	Councillor Chris Read

21<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Councillor Drew Tarmey  
Elected Member

Via email: [drew.tarmey@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:drew.tarmey@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Tarmey

**Supplementary question at Council – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your supplementary question to Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November regarding whether the lane marking on Todwick roundabout could be having an impact on congestion.

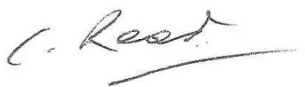
Of course roundabouts can be affected by how the road markings are set up. Changing or adding these markings could help traffic flow better. However, Transport officers advise that it's important to know that changing the markings might also slow down traffic on other roads connected to the roundabout. So, before making any changes, it's crucial to understand how much traffic each road leading to the roundabout gets. This is especially important here, where the A57 is a major road connecting directly to the M1 motorway.

The Council will also need to think about whether the proposed changes fit with the rules and how other nearby roundabouts are set up. This is important to make sure drivers follow the rules when using the roundabout. Making changes without careful thought could make things worse and lead to more accidents, making the road network less reliable.

To figure out how changes might affect the Red Lion Roundabout, we would need to investigate the current road markings and identify whether improvements are feasible. While there isn't a plan to do this right now, the service is exploring the possibility because of the concerns you have expressed about the current situation.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read**  
**Leader of Rotherham Council**

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**Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council**

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CR/LH	(01709) 822700	22770	Councillor Chris Read

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question at Council – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

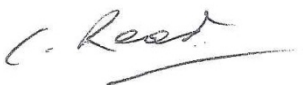
Thank you for your question to Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November as follows:

***Can you please explain the rational for your taking on the duties of the former Cabinet Member for Transport And The Environment rather than making a new appointment?***

The responsibilities of the former Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment have been split amongst other Cabinet members who had relevant experience. Flooding, for example, has gone to Cllr Sheppard, who has served for several years as the RMBC rep on the Regional Floods Committee. Cllr Alam has taken on a wider remit in relation to Community Protection, which was already partially within his portfolio. Cllr Cusworth will take the sole lead role on Home to School Transport (which is split operationally between R&E and CYPS). And as the former SYMCA Transport portfolio holder, I have been close to some – admittedly not all – elements of the Transport remit for the last two years.

As I have indicated to members previously, I intend to keep these arrangements under review as we move forward.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read**  
**Leader of Rotherham Council**

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**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Cabinet Member  
For Social Inclusion and Environment**

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DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question to Council – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your question to Council as follows:

***Reportedly due to persistent diesel thefts at the Streetpride Rawmarsh Depot there has been significant disruption to services. Can you please report on the accuracy of this and measures taken to limit disruption?***

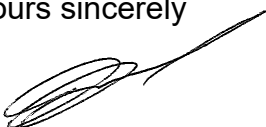
Sadly, the Council has suffered as a result of thefts at our operational depots. Of course, each instance of this is reported to the Police for investigation and in addition Council Officers have been working to explore what can be done to improve security at the sites. This has included engaging with the Police 'Designing out Crime Officer' for advice and guidance.

Some specific actions being taken include improvements to CCTV, improving fencing and protective measures, removal/pruning of vegetation to improve sight lines, reviewing where machinery is kept and, in some instances, removing vehicles all together.

The thefts often damage vehicles to remove diesel and this alongside some preventative measures do have an impact on the operation of the services, so the actions are being prioritised and we hope to reduce the impact and risk through continued improvements.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard  
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment

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**Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council**

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CR/LH	(01709) 822700	22770	Councillor Chris Read

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question at Council – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your question to Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November as follows:

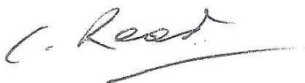
***The A630 in Dalton is recognised as an area of traffic congestion. As well as the failed scheme to ease congestion off the Mushroom Roundabout what investigations or proposals have there been to ease congestion from Magna Lane, Oldgate Lane and Doncaster Road towards Rotherham?***

Firstly, let me acknowledge the challenges we've faced with previous proposals for Mushroom Roundabout, which is the key intersection between Doncaster Road, Aldwarke Lane and Fitzwilliam Road. Unfortunately, the previous study identified a major gas main, and this proved to be cost-prohibitive.

I suspect most people are familiar with the reasons why the road cannot be widened on the other side.

However, we haven't yet given up on finding a solution and we are commissioning a study specifically for Mushroom Roundabout, recognising the need for a tailored approach to improving traffic congestion.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read**  
Leader of Rotherham Council

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**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Cabinet Member  
For Social Inclusion and Environment**

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DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question to Council – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your question to Council as follows:

***With reference to the written answer on p73 of todays agenda and being more specific, are bags of domestic rubbish left by litter bins included in the figures reported by the waste management service to the IPSC on February 7th for small fly tips?***

As noted in the written response, each case will be judged on its own merit. In the case of what is believed to be a fly tipping incident, this would first be reported for any investigative opportunities and then subsequently passed back for collection and would therefore be included in the figures provided to the IPSC.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard  
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment

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**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Cabinet Member  
For Social Inclusion and Environment**

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DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

18<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Firas Miro  
Elected Member

Via email: [firas.miro@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:firas.miro@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Miro

**Supplementary question to Council – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your supplementary question to Council where you asked when the traffic lights at the bottom of Highfield Lane would be fixed as they had not worked since the floods.

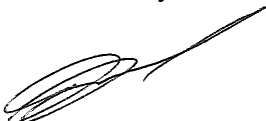
I can advise that unfortunately, the signalling equipment was severely damaged by floodwater during the recent flooding episode. Almost all of the component parts of the installations are now condemned, and we have been informed that a full-scale replacement is required.

However, I am pleased to advise that we have sourced the equipment and the replacement work will take place week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> December with the aim for it to be completed before the Christmas break.

This work will get the signals back up and running and reintroduce the pedestrian crossing facilities whilst also controlling the traffic through the junction itself.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard  
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment

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

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SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question at Council Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your question at Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November as follows:

***It's welcome that the PSPO has been renewed for Rotherham Town Centre. As well as reported ASB data were any metrics gained on public perception of the town centre as a safe place to visit as part of the renewal process?***

I can advise that the consultation undertaken for the renewal of the PSPO focused on the public opinion of the previous PSPO and proposals for future designations, so it does not provide a wider metric.

The Town Centre Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Streetscene group have however devised a separate survey, which has a wider focus but does include questions on perceptions of safety for visitors, residents and businesses which will be made available before the spring of 2024, and I will ensure officers share this with you.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE  
Boston Castle Ward  
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance

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For Social Inclusion and Environment**

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DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question to Council – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for your question to Council as follows:

***We've spent a lot of money on new pavements in the town centre. How often are they getting swept, especially with regards to leaf debris at the moment?***

I can advise that pavements in the town centre are swept on average once per week. Leaf debris needs to be dry for effective collection and these will be fully cleared over the next week or so now that the majority of leaves have fallen.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard  
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment

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## THE CABINET 20th November, 2023

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brookes, Cusworth and Lelliott.

### 79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

Agenda Item	Councillor	Interest Type	Nature of Interest
13 – Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Selective Licensing	Councillor Sheppard	Non-pecuniary	Personal property is within Parkgate which is within a Selective Licensing designated area.

### 80. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present at the meeting and no questions submitted in writing.

### 81. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

#### Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th October, 2023, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

### 82. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that appendices to Minute Nos. 89, and 90 contained exempt information, however, the meeting remained open to the public and press throughout.

### 83. SEPTEMBER 2023-24 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The report set out the financial position as at the end of September 2023 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first 6 months of 2023/24. As at September 2023, the Council estimated an overspend of £4.2m for the financial year 2023/24. This was largely 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 Directorate's services, especially in Regeneration and Environment.

The economic climate remained turbulent, with challenges in projecting where inflation would move and the pace at which it would move. Inflation was slowing although there were variances below the headline rate: food prices were starting to fall but petrol and diesel prices were increasing. The overall reduction would help support the Council's Budget for 2023/24 but the position would be closely monitored.

As the Local Government Financial Settlement was only for one year, it would lead to uncertainty for local government beyond 2023/24. There would be significant challenges regarding funding of Social Care. This was illustrated by the volume of local authorities having to issue S114 notices which indicated that a council's forecast income was insufficient to meet its forecasted expenditure for that year.

The Local Government Association (LGA) Pay Award had been agreed and the full financial impact was £4m greater than was assumed within the Budget for 2023/24. However, it was anticipated that this could be funded through temporary savings within Treasury Management.

In order to support improved levels of new foster carers and greater retention of existing foster carers, a series of amendments and new foster carer fees and allowances were proposed. The financial impact of these would be mitigated by the cost avoidance that they would generate by creating new foster carers or retaining them and therefore limiting the need for more expensive external placements. The table at paragraph 2.74 of the report outlined the new and amended proposals to fostering allowances and payments to support Rotherham in the recruitment and retention of in-house foster carers.

Following the flooding event within the Borough on the 21st October, 2023, and the significant impact on a number of households, the Council was providing immediate financial support to those residents most impacted. The Council's financial support to help residents impacted by Storm Babet would include a £350 grant direct to each flooded household and a promise that those households would not have to pay any Council Tax for the period from 21st October until at least the end of March 2024. Further information relating to the flooding event and the support being offered was set out in paragraph 2.76 to 2.81 of the report submitted.

A further report would be presented to Cabinet in January 2024 which could present a more certain picture of the Council's Directorate financial position and the impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

During the meeting, the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Service confirmed that a significant number of residents impacted by the floods had already received the grant. The Strategic Director of Children

and Young People's Services confirmed that the amendments and new foster carer fees and allowances were necessary to stay abreast of local competition and match other local authorities. Changes were already having a positive impact on the level of foster carers.

**Resolved:-**

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £4.2m.
2. Note that actions will continue to be taken to reduce the overspend position but that it is possible that the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2023/24 financial position.
3. Approve the proposed changes to In-House Fostering Fees and Allowances as set out in section 2.74.
4. Note the local flood recovery financial support and the wider Government funded schemes, as set out in section 2.76 of the report submitted.

**84. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 through to 2025/26 was approved at Council in March 2023. Since approval of the MTFS there had been continuing financial challenges as a result of global factors, with inflation remaining high and impacting costs, in particular impacting food prices and the costs of materials/goods and so impacting repairs, maintenance and transport costs. Although inflation had been reducing during the year it had not been at the pace projected in the Council's MTFS that mirrored Government's and the Bank of England assumptions. In addition, the Local Government Association (LGA) Pay Award for 2023/24 was agreed on 1st November, 2023. The impact of this pay offer was estimated to be £4m above the position built into the Council's Budget for 2023/24 and would be funded during 2023/24 through temporary savings from Treasury Management factored into Central Services. The ongoing impact would be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

This update of the MTFS included resource forecasts based on estimated increases to core funding streams that were inflated annually by CPI. These resource assumptions would be reviewed again when the Provisional Local Finance Settlement 2024/25 was released in December 2023, which would set out the specific amounts of Government funding to be provided to the Council or should Government make any clear announcements before then. Government could clarify their expectations for inflating core funding streams in their announcement on the 22nd November, 2023.

This update of the MTFS also included the Council's latest financial assumptions, taking into account estimated income from Business Rates and Council Tax, impact of inflation on service cost and demand pressures and the Council's timeline for the delivery of agreed savings across the MTFS. This update would support and inform the detailed budget setting process for 2024/25, alongside taking into account the outcomes of the Finance Settlement and Members' policy choices and decisions on Council Tax levels.

The current MTFS forecasts identified that the Council was able to provide a balanced budget for 2024/25 but faced a significant financial challenge in setting a balanced budget for 2025/26. Therefore, it was expected that additional use of reserves would be required for 2023/24 and likely for 2025/26. This position was subject to review when the Finance Settlement for 2024/25 was received. The key challenge for 2025/26 was that there was significant uncertainty as to how Government's Financial Settlement for 2025/26 would look, as Government was only releasing single year Financial Settlements and where there were multiple year grants, they only run up until 2025/26. In addition, there was due to be national Government elections prior to the 2025/26 financial year.

Paragraph 2.6 of the report set out the financial challenges that had been identified and would need to be considered as part of the Council's Budget and MTFS setting process for 2024/25. These were:

- Placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services and Adults Social Care.
- Home to School Transport pressures within Regeneration and Environment and Children and Young People's Services.
- Inflationary costs impacting the cost of food in Schools Catering and contractual and provider inflation impacting Children and Young People's Services.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), who advised that the recommendations be supported. They also requested that an all Member Seminar on Council Finances including Treasury Management and Investments be arranged. This request was supported by Cabinet.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy update be noted.
2. That Cabinet note the potential requirement to use reserves in order to balance the Council's outturn position for 2023/24.
3. That an all Member Seminar on Council Finances including Treasury Management and Investments be arranged.

**85. POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2023 - APPROVAL OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES SCHEME**

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the responses and final proposals following the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review 2023 that had been undertaken between 2nd October and 30th October, 2023. Cabinet had agreed the timetable for the review in September 2023 as per Minute No. 55. 20 responses had been received commenting on 27 polling districts. A summary of the responses and the Returning Officer's comments were provided in Appendix 3 of the report submitted.

As a result of the representations made during the consultation, the final proposals contained 4 changes in addition to the initial proposals:

- a. Brinsworth Ward: It is proposed to amend the polling district boundary between BWD and BWC to move Nos. 69 to 83 Whitehill Lane and 4 properties on Orchard Way from polling district BWD to BWC.
- b. Brinsworth Ward: It is proposed to move the polling district boundary between BWD and BWB to move Nos. 58 to 68 Brinsworth Lane from BWD to BWB.
- c. Brinsworth Ward: It is proposed to move the polling district boundary between BWD and BWE to move No. 56 Brinsworth Lane from BWD to BWE.
- d. Greasbrough Ward: It is proposed that Greasbrough Library is designated the polling place for GRA polling district, instead of Greasbrough Primary School.

Further details of the final proposals and the polling place scheme were set out in Appendix 2.

At the meeting, the Elections Manager confirmed that, due to the introduction of Voter ID requirements, the Electoral Commission had lowered the recommended maximum number of polling station electors that should be allocated to a polling station. The recommended maximum had reduced from 2,500 to 2,250. Currently 7 polling districts exceeded this new lower maximum station electorate figure; therefore, changes were proposed as part of the Returning Officer's proposals.

If agreed by Cabinet, the recommendations would be presented to full Council in November 2023 for approval.

**Resolved:-**

That Cabinet recommend to Council that: -

1. The submissions made in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places for the Borough of Rotherham be noted.
2. Approval of the adoption of the polling district boundaries as outlined in Appendix 2 and the maps found in Appendix 5.
3. Approval of the final proposals for polling places as detailed in Appendix 2 to this report.
4. The Electoral Registration Officer is requested to make the necessary amendments to the polling districts to take effect from publication of the revised register on 1st December, 2023.
5. The Electoral Registration Officer is requested to make the necessary amendments to the RVB and RVD polling district boundaries to take effect from publication of the revised register following the next UK Parliamentary General election.
6. Power to designate polling places in accordance with Section 18B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 is continued to be delegated to the Chief Executive.

## **86. BOROUGH-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER**

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the proposals to redesignate the Borough-Wide Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order. On 21st September, 2020, Cabinet had agreed to implement a new Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order to come into effect from 1st October, 2020. Such an Order could only be in place for 3 years, meaning the Council had to consider whether to make a further Order.

A public and stakeholder consultation took place between 26th June, 2023, and 6th August, 2023. This took the form of an online public consultation via the Council's website, and direct invitations to key statutory agencies, such as the Police and Community groups and RotherFed. Consultation on any proposed Order was a statutory requirement and, following a review of the level of feedback received, it was decided a further period of consultation should be delivered in order to increase responses. This also included additional face-to-face engagements and took place between 2nd-16th October, 2023.

Appendix 2 provided an overview of the Consultation responses. In total:

- 103 responses were received.
- 43% of respondents were in support, with 17% preferring not to say. This meant there was a majority of respondents in support of the proposed Order.
- When asked if the proposed conditions were aligned to respondents priorities, 83% agreed.
- Comments received suggested that dog fouling remained a key community concern.



- Some responses alluded to issues with resourcing and visibility of officers enforcing the Order.

Following the review, it was recommended that the new Order be on the same terms as the previous Order which was to make it an offence for an individual to fail to remove dog faeces if they were in charge of the dog.

It was acknowledged that levels of enforcement were lower than desired, and this needed to be further considered as it could directly impact the effectiveness of any Order and any potential scope to increase the number of offences covered by the Order. As a result of low levels of enforcement across PSPO's in general, officers would lead a review of the enforcement capacity and capability as it related to PSPO's in order to inform future orders. In light of this, it could be appropriate to deliver a shorter duration PSPO to allow for enforcement to be reviewed and any further conditions to be properly considered.

Appendix 1 to the report was the draft final Order for the Borough-wide PSPO. Prior to the meeting, it was confirmed that the incorrect map had been included in Appendix 1 and did not show the correct location for the designation. The correct map was circulated during the meeting and Members made their decision based on this map which showed the designation as covering the whole Borough.

**Resolved:-**

1. That Cabinet approves the designation of a new Public Spaces Protection Order in the Borough as detailed in Appendix 1 (as corrected during the meeting), for a period of one year.

**87. TOWN CENTRE/CLIFTON PARK PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER**

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the proposals to renew the Town Centre and Clifton Park Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO.) On 21st September, 2020, the Cabinet agreed to the implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order for the Town Centre and Clifton Park to come into effect from 1st October, 2020. The relevant Statute dictated that such Orders could only be in place for a maximum of 3 years at a time, and, therefore, the Council had to consider whether to make a further Order.

A public and stakeholder consultation took place between 26th June, 2023, and 6th August, 2023. This took the form of an online public consultation via the Council's website, and direct invitations to key statutory agencies, such as the Police and Community groups and RotherFed. Consultation on any proposed Order was a statutory requirement and following a review of the level of feedback received, it was decided a further period of consultation should be delivered in order to increase responses. This also included additional face-to-face

engagements and took place between the 2nd-16th October, 2023.

Appendix 2 provided an overview of the Consultation responses. In total:

- 151 responses were received.
- 58% of respondents were in support of the proposed Order (11% preferred not to say), with strong support for the suggested clauses – 83% confirming that they felt the clauses matched key priorities for all stakeholders.
- Comments were received suggesting that there were common issues in the Town Centre with anti-social behaviour, which match the requirements of the Order.

Following public and stakeholder consultation, the preferred option was to renew the Order formally, with an additional clause regarding vehicle nuisance, due to the significant evidence presented. In addition, and in acknowledgement of the enforcement challenges, it was proposed that the Order be made for one year only to allow for a review of the enforcement approach and any wider variations that may be required in future.

The renewed Order would cover the same area, with largely the same conditions as previously included in the Order. This included making it an offence for an individual to be found to be:

- Continuing to consume alcohol when required to stop doing so by any authorised officer.
- Behaving in such a way or using language that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to another person.
- Approaching people for marketing or fund-raising purposes without an appropriate Licence.
- Urinating or defecating in public, other than within designated public toilets.
- Spitting saliva or any other product from the mouth.
- Being in charge of a motor vehicle and using it in a way to cause a nuisance to others or anti-social behaviour.

The Order would also require individuals to keep a dog on a lead (other than in the designated dog exercise areas) in Clifton Park.

Appendix 1 to the report was the draft final Order for the Town Centre and Clifton Park Public Space Protection Order.

#### **Resolved:-**

That Cabinet approves the designation of a Public Space Protection Order in the Town Centre and Clifton Park, as detailed in Appendix 1, for a period of one year.

**88. CANKLOW DEVELOPMENT – ADULT CARE AND HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMMES**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval from Cabinet to further develop the Council-owned Warden Street/Castle Avenue site in Canklow. It was stated that it would provide much needed housing and social care provision on a site that had been dormant for many years. The proposals included 2 adult care apartments and one larger property providing accommodation with support, along with 13 new homes for Council rent. It was also proposed that the finalised capital investment required for the Castle View Day Centre be approved.

Cabinet approved the construction of a new day centre facility in Canklow to replace the existing Learning Disability Day Service on 17th October, 2022. The new service would offer modern accessible day opportunities with multi-functional fit for purpose facilities that promoted independence, wellbeing and social inclusion. The Cabinet previously agreed an investment of £2.1m capital funding for the development of Castle View. However, the report at that time stated that this was only indicative build costs. Updated formal detailed estimated costed plans had now been provided by the procured contractor which totalled £5,917,386 for the ground works and build costs. Including an additional £500,000 cost for fitting out and furnishing the building upon handover, the total capital investment by the Council's Adult Social Care Service would be £6,417,386. An additional breakdown of the costs was set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report.

It was proposed that the accommodation with support solutions for people with complex needs be split into one seven-bed property and 2 two-bed apartments. Investment in accommodation with support within the Borough would address known gaps within the care sector, enable people to remain closer to home and maintain relationships which were important to them, ultimately enabling people to age and live well. The indicative funding requirement equated to a total of £1,902,690 and would be funded from the Council's Adult Social Care Capital Fund. Full and accurate costings would be confirmed by March 2024 in accordance with the build programme plan.

The proposed new homes at Warden Street had been included in previous Housing Delivery Programme reports to Cabinet, meaning that use of the site for the purpose of new housing development had been approved. The report therefore sought approval from Cabinet to build a projected 13 new homes on Warden Street. Original forecasts for the site indicated potential for up to 25 new homes. However this had since been revised down because pre-application advice from the Planning Service identified that 25 homes could be considered over-development of the available area and the Housing service had been directly commissioned by the Adult Care Service to build 2 large, specialist supported dwellings which would reduce the land area available for these homes.

Given the absence of any local Council provision for older people or acute needs, the proposed scheme design comprised 12, two-bed apartments for older people along with a four-bed wheelchair user dwelling, designed to make best use of the available space.

Parts of the land at Castle Avenue/Warden Street were separately held in the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account respectively. To support the planned developments, appropriation of land between the General Fund and HRA would therefore be necessary. Appendix 1 identified the specific areas of land which were to be appropriated between the General Fund and HRA.

During the meeting, the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health confirmed that the current building used for the day service did not belong to the Council. By moving to a purpose-built, Council owned facility it would provide security for residents going forward.

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the finalised capital investment proposals for Castle View Day Centre.
2. Approve the development of the proposed supported accommodation model for Adult Social Care which includes 2 apartments, a larger property, and the required capital investment.
3. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, to progress and formalise the commissioned care model for the Adult Social Care Supported Living properties, to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.
4. Approve the development of 13 new homes for Council rent, on Warden Street, to be funded from resources approved as part of the Council's Housing Revenue Account.
5. Approve the appropriation of land between the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, as identified in Appendix 1, subject to Secretary of State consent.
6. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to make amendments to the scheme design, where this is necessary to comply with Planning or other statutory consultee requirements, or where site conditions otherwise prescribe a design alteration.

**89. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT DONCASTER GATE ROTHERHAM**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in the land at Doncaster Gate. The Council acquired the freehold of the entire site of the former Doncaster Gate Hospital and grounds in 2009 to facilitate the then Civic Core regeneration and to provide temporary accommodation for Council staff prior to the completion of Riverside House.

The majority of the land at Doncaster Gate had been leased or sub-leased to different parties since the Council had acquired it. The University College Rotherham (UCR) had been developed on part of the site and a further plot of land was sold to facilitate potential future expansion of the UCR.

The remaining land was surplus to operational requirements of the Council and there was no benefit to holding the interest. The disposal of the asset would produce a capital receipt and contribute towards the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The sale would also alleviate the Council from managing the service charge provision as this would be passed to the new owner to manage. The Council would engage appropriate specialist property agents to manage the disposal process to ensure best value, should Cabinet agree to the proposals.

Appendix 1 to the report was a plan that showed the freehold interest in the site edged in red. Appendix 2 was a restricted document that contained the financial information relating to the disposal.

**Resolved:**

1. That Cabinet approve the disposal of its freehold interest in the land as shown edged in red at Appendix 1.
2. That Cabinet agree that the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport negotiates the terms and conditions of the disposal and that the Assistant Director of Legal Services completes the necessary documentation.

**90. DISPOSAL OF 1 TREEFIELD CLOSE ROTHERHAM**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to dispose of No. 1 Treefield Close at market value which would be determined independently by the District Valuer. The Council had determined that the property was no longer required for operational purposes and as such, was surplus and proposed for disposal.

The property, identified edged red within the attached Appendix 1, had been used previously by Adult Social Care services for a Respite Centre. Following Cabinet Approval on 21st May, 2018, for the transformation of the Learning Disability Service over the period 2018-2020, Treefield

Respite Centre was decommissioned, and services were relocated from the existing building to alternative care and support provided within the local community. As a result of this, Treefield Respite Centre became surplus to the service requirements.

The valuation of the property when it is to be disposed of is to be determined by the District Valuer which was detailed in exempt Appendix 2.

**Resolved:-**

1. That Cabinet approves the disposal of No. 1 Treefield Close at Market Value.
2. That the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport negotiates the terms and conditions of the disposal on the basis set out within exempt Appendix 2.

**91. CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LICENSING ACT 2003)**

Consideration was given to the report which presented the findings of the review and consultation on the Cumulative Impact Assessment. The Council published a Cumulative Impact Assessment for the first time in 2020, alongside a full review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative Impact Statement, as part of the Licensing Act 2003. Although the Council's Licensing Policy was not required to be reviewed until 2025, the Cumulative Impact Assessment had to be reviewed every 3 years. The Council's current Cumulative Impact Assessment impacted part of Wickersley North, and Thurgroft and Wickersley South Wards.

In 2020, the Council implemented a Cumulative Impact Policy, as part of the Statement of Licensing Policy, which outlined the Council's approach to Cumulative Impact within the Borough. The Policy included a Cumulative Impact Assessment for an area of Wickersley, as the Council believed that the number of licensed premises within the area was such that any further premises would be inconsistent with the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The current Cumulative Impact Assessment had been reviewed and consulted upon. In total, there had been 53 responses to the consultation, 47 of which related to Wickersley. The key findings from the consultation were set out in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.12. As a result of the consultation, the Council was not proposing to introduce a Cumulative Impact Assessment in any other part of the Borough as there was limited evidence that it was required or would be appropriate. The Council also thought it inappropriate to amend the current Cumulative Impact Assessment and therefore it should remain in place until the next review.

The Cumulative Impact Assessment was attached to the report at

Appendix 1 with a summary of the consultation responses attached at Appendix 2.

**Resolved:-**

1. That Cabinet adopts the Cumulative Impact Assessment that is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

**92. GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the review process and presented an unamended but reviewed Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Policy. The Policy had been adopted in 2020 and was required by law to be reviewed every 3 years. The review process, which included a period of public consultation that commenced in July 2023, had concluded and the outcome of the review consultation had informed a finalised Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Gambling Act regulated arcades, betting, bingo, casinos, gambling software, gaming machines, lotteries and remote gambling. Licensing authorities were responsible for issuing gambling operators with premises licences; issuing gambling operators with permits (which allow low stakes gambling in venues which were not primarily for gambling); registering societies (enabling them to hold small lotteries); and compliance and enforcement of the Gambling Act 2005 locally.

Licensing authorities were required to review and publish a statement of the principles which they proposed to apply when exercising their licensing functions, every 3 years. The Council had undertaken a consultation process outlined in Section 4 of the report, with a particular focus on the appropriateness of the current requirements. In total, there were 34 responses to the consultation. Of these 34 responses, the overwhelming majority were in favour of maintaining the current Policy requirements. A full summary of the consultation responses was attached to the report as Appendix 2.

The current Policy had been reviewed by Licensing Officers and it had been determined that it complied with all relevant requirements and therefore required no amendment. The final unamended version of the Policy was now brought before Cabinet for consideration for recommendation to Council for adoption. The proposed Policy was attached to the report as Appendix 1.

**Resolved:-**

1. That Cabinet recommend to Council that the proposed Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 (Appendix 1) be adopted.

**93. SEX ESTABLISHMENT POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the findings of the review and subsequent consultation on the Sex Establishment Policy. The Policy had been introduced in 2019 and its effectiveness was assessed in 2020. It was found to deliver the aims and a commitment was made to undertake a further review within 3 years.

On 22nd May, 2019, the Council passed a resolution adopting the powers contained within Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended). The adoption of Schedule 3 powers allowed the Council to more effectively regulate establishments where adult activity would take place and introduced the ability to licence venues such as lap dancing clubs which previously had been ineffectively regulated under the Licensing Act 2003. The current Sex Establishment Licensing Policy applied to sexual entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas.

Council officers took into consideration the aims of the current Policy and the Council's priorities prior to producing the draft Policy for consultation and have confirmed that the current Policy requires no amendment, except where required due to changes in legislation due to the UK's exit from the EU. In addition, a full public consultation had been conducted, details of which were in section 4 of the report.

In summary, there were 63 responses to the consultation. Of the 63 responses, the overwhelming majority were in favour of maintaining the current Policy requirements. Consultation had also taken place with Members of the Council's Licensing Board, who were generally in agreement that the Policy delivered on the intended aims and that it would not be appropriate to make amendments to it. Key aspects of the Policy were set out in paragraphs 2.8 to 2.20 of the report.

The proposed Policy was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

**Resolved:-**

1. That Cabinet adopt the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy that is attached to the report as Appendix 1.

**94. CABINET'S RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - IMPACT OF SELECTIVE LICENSING**

Consideration was given to the report which set out the response of Cabinet to the recommendations of the scrutiny review into the impact of the Selective Licensing Scheme in Rotherham at its halfway point. The recommendations had been presented to Cabinet in September 2023. All 8 recommendations had been accepted:



- a) That reinspection be prioritised for landlords whose properties have required action previously.
- b) Consideration be given to how the Council may support retention of experienced inspectors already in the Council's employment.
- c) That consideration be given to incentivising responsible landlords, and, where there is a proven track record, empowering landlords to self-assess, provided that the service can still obtain assurances that decent standards are maintained.
- d) That consideration be given to managing expectations around selective licensing as a measure focused on the health of residents, rather than aesthetics or regeneration.
- e) That consideration be given to how uptake of the cost-of-living support offer among families in selective licensing areas may be further promoted and monitored, with a view to identifying gaps and promoting financial inclusion.
- f) Given the complexity of measuring impact on deprivation and difficulty in improving relative levels of deprivation, that consideration be given to how internal measures may better reflect the real impact of the scheme.
- g) That a joined-up approach be sought with relevant Council strategies and services, with partner and voluntary sector organisations and with resident-led initiatives prior to any future selective licensing declaration.
- h) That engagement with landlords and with tenants be considered alongside any response to the above recommendations, and that the response to the above recommendations be subject to the learning derived from continued engagement with landlords and tenants.

An update in relation to proposed actions was provided at paragraph 2.1 of the report. During the meeting, the Deputy Leader advised that 5 of the recommendations were in progress and the other 3 would be considered as part of any future schemes.

**Resolved:-**

- 1. That the Cabinet response to the Scrutiny Review recommendations in respect of Impact of Selective Licensing, as set out in Section 2 of the report, be approved.

**95. TRANSFER OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FUNCTIONS TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYOR - MAY 2024**

Consideration was given to the report which gave details of the proposals to transfer the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in South Yorkshire to the Mayor of South Yorkshire with effect from May 2024. The Government were proposing making the Order and Cabinet were therefore asked to recommend to Council approval of that Order. The text of the draft Order had not been provided by the time of the Cabinet meeting. A summary of what the Order would do had however been included in the report:

1. Provide for all functions presently exercised by the PCC to be functions exercisable by the Mayor for South Yorkshire with effect from the [ ] May 2024;
2. Transfer all property, rights, liabilities of the PCC to the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA), with future decisions on such matters being vested in the Mayor;
3. Provide for the continuity of the operation by substituting the MCA for the PCC in any legislation/instruments/contracts etc;
4. Deal with financial year end issues; and
5. Reduce the current Mayoral term in order to align the Mayoral and PCC election cycles from May 2024.

The Combined Authority was established in 2014. In 2018, the first elections for a Mayor were held with a second election being held in 2022 for a mayoral term of 4 years. The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 required, amongst other matters, for the consent of each district in the area of the MCA to the making of the Order. This would be required in writing prior to the Order being laid.

Cabinet could refuse consent to the making of the Order. However, the Legislation stated that, where there was an existing combined authority, the consent of the combined authority and the majority of the constituent authorities was all that was required to approve the Order. As such, the matter may proceed in any event should the required number of other organisations approve the Order.

The second and recommended option was that the Council approve the Order as set out in the report. This was in alignment with the requirements of the legislation and aligned with the position of the MCA.

If approved, an election would be held in May 2024.

**Resolved:-**

1. That Cabinet recommend to Council that consent be given to the draft Order that will provide for the Mayor of South Yorkshire to exercise the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**96. COVID RECOVERY FUND**

Consideration was given to the report which set out proposals for further use of the Council's Covid Recovery Fund reserve. Taking into account approved use for 2023/24 to support the Council's revenue investments, the reserve had a remaining balance of £0.8m. Proposed uses for the balance were to provide support with a local charity and to fund the provision of financial support to assist residents impacted by Storm Babet.

The first proposal was for an allocation of monies from the Covid Recovery Fund to support the local charity, Rotherham Abuse and Counselling Services (RothACS) following an unsuccessful bid for continued funding from the Ministry of Justice. The funding application sought to secure continued funding for the remainder of the 2023/24 financial year and the 2024/25 financial year, with a total value of £210k. Following the unsuccessful bid, RothACS had been able to secure funding for the current financial year of around £40k, leaving an in-year shortfall of £40k and circa £130k for the 2024/25 financial year. The RothACS service provided free specialist counselling to anyone over the age of 13 who had experienced trauma and abuse, including domestic abuse, sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation or child sexual abuse. The loss of funding to the Service would result in a direct impact for Service users, with a loss of 36 counselling sessions per week.

Following the flooding event within the Borough on 21st October, 2023, (Storm Babet) and its significant impact on a number of households, the Council was providing some immediate financial support to those residents most impacted. This was in the form of a £350 flood support payment for properties flooded or where the property was unliveable for a period of time as a result of this flood incident. In addition, the Council would also be making a £20k contribution to the South Yorkshire Community Foundation Appeal that had been set up to provide support to residents across the region that had been impacted by Storm Babet.

**Resolved:-**

That Cabinet agree that:

1. A funding allocation of £170k is provided from the Covid Recovery Fund, via a grant agreement, to support RothACS for the remainder of the 2023-2024 financial year and the full 2024-2025 financial year.

2. A funding allocation of up to £120k is provided from the Covid Recovery Fund to support the Council's £350 flood support payments along with a £20k contribution to the South Yorkshire Community Foundation (SYCF) Appeal.

## **97. CRISIS SUPPORT 2024 - 2027**

Consideration was given to the report which set out proposals for a more sustainable crisis support system with the aim of supporting people to move from being in crisis towards independence and resilience. Crisis Support Services in Rotherham were currently delivered through a partnership agreement between the Council, FareShare, Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) and LASER Credit Union. The ongoing level of demand together with available supplies of food had led to the need to develop a more sustainable system.

To develop the new model, including the elements funded by the Council, a co-design process had been followed, engaging with a range of providers and referring organisations. A key element of the revised wider model was ensuring it was aligned with holistic and wider support services, which would work to ensure that fewer people experienced crisis on a repeated basis. This would be supported through a new referral system to better co-ordinate information for front line staff, offering a broader range of food types that made up crisis food parcels, flexible to the requirements of different organisations and utilising a revised definition of crisis support to enable this.

If the recommendations were approved, bids would be invited from partner organisations to finalise the implementation details and to then deliver the model. This would be via Service Level Agreements covering the years 2024/25 to 2026/27.

Crisis support (Local Welfare Provision), provided by the Council, started in 2013 following abolition of the Government's Discretionary Social Fund. The current model for the provision of this support was agreed by Cabinet in October 2019 and commenced in April 2020. It funded arrangements for the delivery of crisis loans, provision of food and support for the Food in Crisis Partnership (FIC.) The annual funding of £100k provided for 3 separate service level agreements (SLA) to be entered into on an annual basis for:

- Crisis Loans (£60k) currently provided via LASER Credit Union.
- Infrastructure provision to enable a supply of ambient food to foodbanks (£30k), currently provided via FareShare Yorkshire. It was noted that this did not include the costs of purchasing the food itself, but rather the underpinning infrastructure.
- Support for co-ordination of the Food in Crisis (FIC) Partnership and collection and dissemination of data (£10k), currently provided via Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR).

During November and December 2022, the Council invited bids for the development of a new three-year SLA to operate from April 2023. However, no bids were received, with informal feedback indicating that this was linked with the crisis food element of the SLA. As a consequence, the existing SLA was extended by a year and was due to expire at the end of March 2024. As part of the extension it was agreed that a new model would be developed through a codesign process to provide a more sustainable solution for crisis food and holistic support, which would work to ensure that fewer people experienced crisis on a repeated basis. This would include the Council-funded elements of the model. Whilst this work was undertaken, food supply into the borough was maintained through additional Council funded investment by FareShare in ambient food provision.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and they supported all of the recommendations.

**Resolved:-**

That Cabinet agree:

1. The future provision of crisis support and grant allocations of:
  - a. £60k for Crisis Loans.
  - b. £34k for infrastructure and transport to enable the supply of crisis food to foodbanks (Community Food Members).
  - c. £10k for supporting co-ordination of the Food in Crisis Partnership, collection and dissemination of data and provision of a referrals process.
2. That bids be invited from organisations to work in partnership with the Council, to finalise the implementation details and deliver the provision outlined at recommendation 1.
3. To delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion to enter into a service level agreement with partner organisations to provide crisis support for the years 2024/25 to 2026/27.

**98. ADVICE SERVICES AND VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS 2024-2027**

Consideration was given to the report which made recommendations for the next 3 years of Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure and Advice Services Service Level Arrangements (SLA's) for the period of April 2024 to March 2027. The recommendations incorporated the results of a recent co-design process and progressed the commitments as set out in the Rotherham Compact, building on experience gained through the current SLA's. It also took into account local and national research and set out an aspirational strategic approach for the future of the Voluntary and Community Sector and Advice Services in Rotherham.

At their meeting on 21st September, 2020, Cabinet gave approval to award 2 three-year service level agreements (SLAs) running from April 2021 to March 2024. One SLA was for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure Services, which was awarded to Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) and the second SLA was for Advice Services, which was awarded to Citizens Advice Rotherham and District (CARD).

The current infrastructure services SLA provided the following support to voluntary and community groups:

- Writing a constitution
- Managing Meetings
- Registering as a charity
- Developing financial processes
- Applying for funding
- Managing staff and volunteers
- Having good governance arrangements

The current advice services SLA provided the following support to advice services:

- Welfare benefits
- Debt
- Immigration
- Generalist advice

If the proposals were approved, CARD would explore innovative ways to address the increase in demand in relation to advice on the cost of living crisis, including the potential for additional community advice venues across the Borough and online advice from home, as well as video outreach to support digitally excluded clients.

For the VCS infrastructure SLA, it was proposed that there would be an ongoing asset-based approach, recognising that the sector added value to public services and to local communities. There would be an increased focus on bringing further investment into the Borough, a renewed drive on sub-regional partnership working and additional work to address inequalities, in line with the Council's ambitions.

The recommendations provided the grant approvals to enable the Service Level Agreements to be progressed and for the Services to continue without interruption to clients in the Borough for the next 3 years.

**Resolved:-**

1. That approval be given to progress arrangements for VCS Infrastructure Services in Rotherham, including:

- a. the proposed model to be delivered through a standard SLA for three years commencing from 1st April, 2024, and continuing to 31st March, 2027, which is based on the findings of a co-design exercise;
  - b. the recommendation that the funding amount of £378,000 is awarded as a grant to Voluntary Action Rotherham in annual payments of £126,000 to deliver the three-year SLA.
- 2. That approval be given to progress arrangements for Advice Services in Rotherham, including:
  - a. The proposed model to be delivered through a standard SLA for t3 years commencing from 1st April, 2024, and continuing to 31st March, 2027, which is based on the findings of a co-design exercise;
  - b. The recommendation that the funding amount of £720,000 is awarded as a grant to Citizens Advice Rotherham and District in annual payments of £240,000 to deliver the three-year SLA.

**99. 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.

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

**Resolved:-**

The next meeting of the Cabinet would take place on Monday, 20th November, 2023, at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

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THE CABINET - 18/12/23

**THE CABINET  
18th December, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Allen, 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.

**101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

1. Ms. Britton raised a number of issues relation to Peregrine Way Community Centre:

- Confusion around the arrangement of tables and mopping.
- The removal of keys so community centre volunteers were not allowed to lock the building.
- No longer being able to keep chairs in the boiler cupboard and therefore not being able to store as many chairs which had a knock on impact on the number of people who could attend events.
- The changing of the lock code for the boiler cupboard so volunteers could no longer access it. This prevented a light from being turned off for a number of days.
- Disagreements on where cleaning equipment could be stored and whether it was appropriate for the volunteers to use funds to buy more storage space.

Ms. Britton stated that the volunteers felt they were being unfairly treated and had questioned whether to continue. She asked whether something could be done.

Councillor Allen agreed to speak to Ms. Britton following the conclusion of the meeting regarding the matters raised.

2. Mr. Azam stated that at the Cabinet meeting on 7th August, 2023, the 5 year plan and the strategic plan for Dignity were discussed which had been outstanding since March. He stated that the Leader had made a personal commitment in the communications sent out that it would be discussed at Scrutiny in December 2023. The strategic plan had been provided to RMBC from Dignity on 1st October, but it was not presented to Scrutiny. Mr. Azam asked why this was the case?

Councillor Read stated that this was his understanding, but he

referred the question to the Assistant Director of Legal who stated that the 5 year plan had been presented at Scrutiny in December 2023. He confirmed that he would go back and check the details of the commitments made by the Leader and make sure their understandings were aligned. A written response would be provided.

Mr. Azam stated that the commitment was for both the 5 year plan and the strategic plan. In his supplementary he asked that the schedule for the meetings with the Muslim Liaison Bereavement Group be circulated as soon as possible.

The Leader confirmed that this would happen as soon as possible.

3. Councillor Tinsley stated that on 23rd November, 2023, the Planning Board met to discuss proposals for 185 houses to be built on Highfield Park with part of the land being Green Belt and including ancient woodland. Councillor Tinsley stated that concerns around those were dismissed at the hearing. It was his belief that officials had not understood the ecology report for the development and the impact or how it sat within national policy. The policy stated that applications that would require the felling of ancient woodlands should only be granted if there were wholly exceptional reasons. Justification to say that actual presence of trees is limited was not an excuse and the officials still needed to engage with the policy. There were no exceptional circumstances to the building of an access road through Green Belt, yet this was railroad as not a problem.

Councillor Tinsley stated that there were many other issues with how the application had been dealt with:

- Insufficient time allowed for the site visit – around 15 minutes.
- Some Members had inappropriate footwear so could not participate in the site visit.
- An objection from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust was omitted until the day before the Planning hearing. Councillor Tinsley was unsure if Planning Board Members had had enough time to read the report.
- Two of the Members of the Board who voted in favour had not attended the site visit.
- Residents stated they had not received the Right To Speak notifications.
- Concerns around the lease and no consultation with Ward Members.
- Donations to the Rother Valley Labour Party from the CEO of Hargreaves which was discussed at the planning hearing.

Councillor Tinsley stated that another Council had deferred consideration of an application to allow an investigation to take place into donations. He explained that this was a declared donation and no investigation had yet taken place in relation to this application. He asked whether the Council would revoke the planning application

approval (as the decision notice had not yet been served) and send it back to the Planning Board for reconsideration following a full investigation?

The Leader explained that planning decisions were separate from the executive decisions of the Council. This meant the Cabinet meeting had no role in the decisions that were taken by the Planning Board. Those decisions were taken in accordance with national and local rules. The Leader confirmed that he was not involved in any planning decisions at all and as such, could not comment on things that had happened at the Planning Board. He did, however, state that Members not going on site visits was quite common and not in breach of any rules.

The Leader also responded to the comments regarding the donations to the Labour Party. He stated that the money was given to the Rother Valley Labour Party a number of years ago to support a Parliamentary candidate. It was all properly declared and there were no conflicts of interest. It was the responsibility of individual Members to declare interests. The money donated had not been given to any Councillors. The Leader stated that it would be very complicated to have every Councillor declare an interest for every decision involving a company that had made donations to a political party. He noted that officers were present at the meeting who would take away the concerns raised but as Leader, he could not ask for a review as he was not involved in those processes in anyway.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley stated that he understood that Cabinet could not interfere with the planning functions but asked that they still call for an investigation. He also questioned the relationship the Labour Party had had with Hargreaves for many years.

The Leader stated that all political parties received donations from private companies or individuals, and it was dangerous to speculate beyond that. The Leader was assured that everyone had done what they were supposed to have done and followed the rules appropriately. He encouraged Councillor Tinsley to stop throwing mud around and trying to get political gains from this matter.

The Monitoring Officer responded by stating that the Cabinet could not instruct an investigation into Standards issues. That was a matter for the Standards process. As the Monitoring Officer, he had already been made aware of some concerns and would proceed with the correct process.

4. Parish Councillor Andrew Laird (Maltby Town Council) also asked a question in relation to the development at Highfield Park. He stated that the documents provided to the Planning Board claimed that 185 dwellings would not make a big difference to the infrastructure (roads, dentists, doctors, hospitals etc) of Maltby. The report did not mention

that the 185 houses were being built alongside another 570 houses which in total was 775 houses. In reality that would mean 1,500 additional cars using Maltby's road system. This was all in addition to the new development at Hellaby which would have a huge impact on the roads. Parish Councillor Laird questioned why the report only looked at the impact of 185 dwellings and not the cumulative impact of all the developments? There were already pressures on doctors surgeries following the closure of one practice.

The Leader explained that Cabinet did not hear planning applications so he could not comment on individual developments. It would be inappropriate for him to comment. However, as a rule, each application was treated individually, not cumulatively. Issues around the availability of doctors had been raised in a number of forums. The Leader stated this was due to the health service not receiving the amount of funding that it required. However, the appropriate response was not to say no more houses should be built as people needed somewhere to live.

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment explained that planning was governed by the National Planning Policy Framework and the Rotherham Local Plan which included the sites document. This was predicated on growth and development and sites were allocated for development through that process. There were applications that came through that route, but applications could be made for land that was not allocated. All applications were assessed against those policies. There were two mechanisms that could fund infrastructure improvements either through Section 106 agreements or through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

In his supplementary, Parish Councillor Laird stated that there was another parcel of land adjacent to the Highfield Park site that was not part of the current development. He asked if this was going to be developed in the future?

Councillor Lelliott agreed to look into the matter with officers and provide a written response.

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

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th November, 2023, be approved as a true and correct of the proceedings subject to a clerical correction to the date and time of the next meeting at Minute No. 100.

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

The Chair advised that Appendix 2 to Minute No. 110, contained exempt information, however, the meeting remained open to the public and press

throughout.

#### **105. ADULT SOCIAL CARE MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW**

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the findings from the Council's Adult Social Care Mental Health model review which had taken place following approval from Cabinet in February 2023. The report also proposed a new model for the Council's Adult Social Care mental health provision across the Borough. The new model would be built on the principles of enablement and recovery and would be delivered through a collaborative approach with partners.

The proposals also included the co-design of a Mental Health Strategy for Rotherham with people with lived experience, their families, and carers, as well as partners and other key stakeholders. The Strategy would be designed in 2024, post-implementation of the new model, and launched in 2025, subject to Cabinet approval. This approach would ensure prioritisation of the immediate issue to address the risks linked to operational delivery and compliance with statutory duties. Paragraph 3.4 of the report submitted set out a number of ways that the proposals would provide a collaborative, preventative approach by ensuring residents got the right support, at the right time, in the right place. These included raising the Social Care profile; providing an effecting and equitable response for people with mental ill-health; strengthening the recovery model; ensuring all legislative and statutory duties were met; enabling the Council to better evidence Social Care interventions; supporting preparation for formal regulation of Adult Social Care by the Care Quality Commission in 2024; supporting Rotherham Place and solidifying the commitment to form the foundations to progress a collaborative "community hub" model in the future.

Subject to Cabinet approval, implementation planning of the pathway and service model would commence on 1st January, 2024. This would involve:

- Staff structures, role profiles and agreeing new terms and conditions required to operationalise the model, including delivery of a consultation with staff affected by the proposed changes (January – February 2024).
- Scoping recording requirements and implementing system changes (January – March 2024).
- Training needs analysis and training plan (February – March 2024).
- Operating procedures and guidance with defined pathway criteria and remits (March 2024).
- Aligning the Mental Health Review with RDaSH Crisis and the Community Mental Health Transformation (January – March 2024).

The new Mental Health model would be operational from 1st April, 2024.

Details of the consultation were set out in paragraph 4 of the report and the full findings were included in Appendix 1. 159 people had participated

in the consultation which ran from 7th August to 1st October 2023.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), who advised that the recommendations be supported. They also requested that an update be provided to OSMB (or nominated Select Commission) on the impact of the policy, 12 months after its implementation. This requested was accepted by Cabinet.

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet:

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

**106. EXPANSION OF WAVERLEY JUNIOR ACADEMY**

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval to progress the expansion of Waverley Junior Academy through the use of Section 106 developer funding to accommodate current and future demand for places. This would be subject to a successful planning application and Department for Education approval for significant change.

Waverley Junior Academy opened in September 2020 in response to need created for primary school places by a new housing development. It was originally developed as a 2-form entry school, providing 60 places per year group, with the potential for expansion if needed. The school was oversubscribed and this trend was set to continue in future years. Projections based on the pupil yield created during the development indicated that the expansion by creation of a third form of entry would be required to meet need across the local area in September 2025.

It had been possible to utilise capacity in other schools across the planning area to meet demand to date and it was anticipated that this would remain the case for entry in 2024. Beyond this time the capacity at schools within a reasonable distance would not be sufficient to meet projected demand. The expansion of Waverley Junior Academy was anticipated to meet growing demand for school places across the planning area as a result of new development on the Waverley development and was, therefore, not projected to impact the overall capacity in local schools.

Under the Section 106 Agreement with the developer, Harworth Group would pay on request to the Council the sum of £2.945m, subject to the Building Cost Information Service index, on occupation of between 1,500-1,700 dwellings. This threshold had now been met with 1,600 dwellings occupied and the amount payable based on the November 2023 forecast was £3,131m.

A project group of key stakeholders across Education, Planning and Asset Management would be established to oversee the planning, development, and implementation of the project. The estimated cost of the expansion, including a 10% contingency and 15% fees was £2,936m. The building work would be procured and delivered by the Council.

**Resolved:**

1. That Cabinet note release of the Section 106 funding, as per the agreement with Harworth, to create additional capacity of 210 places at Waverley Junior Academy now that trigger has been met.
2. That Cabinet approve the addition of the proposed expansion to the Capital Programme.

**107. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the proposed key changes to the Home to School Transport Policy and sought approval from Cabinet to commence a period of public consultation. The Council had a statutory responsibility to make suitable travel arrangements to and from school for eligible children of compulsory school age. Statutory guidance was published by the Department for Education (DfE) and set out what local authorities had to do to comply with the law.

The consultation exercise would pay particular attention to any proposed amendments along with those that would ensure compliance with the new statutory guidance. The Policy review also aimed to improve the existing content and accessibility, so that parents and carers could easily source all relevant information, on which to make informed decisions regarding their children's education.

The statutory guidelines had been updated and published on 29th June, 2023. Prior to this, the guidelines were last updated and published by DfE on 18th July, 2014, meaning that there was now a requirement to review the existing Home to School Policy ahead of the new academic year that would commence in September 2024.

Details of the key changes requiring improvement were at paragraph 2.4 of the report and the full draft Policy was attached as Appendix 1. The changes related to:

- Local Authority statutory duties for eligible children and young people
- Clearer definitions of key words which overarched full policy, such as “suitable school”, “home address” and “qualifying schools”
- The definition of what was defined as suitable/qualifying schools
- Statutory walking distances
- Travel Solutions (including Independent Travel Training)
- Behaviour expectations, public transport
- Behaviour expectations on assisted home to school transport (SEND)
- Eligibility and application process children/young people (SEND)
- Local authority discretionary powers
- Safeguarding
- Suitability of transport arrangements
- Parental payments
- Overarching principles

The consultation would commence in January 2024 if approval was given by Cabinet. It would run for a period of 28 days during term time. A final draft Policy would be developed and presented to Cabinet for consideration in March 2024.

**Resolved:**

1. That Cabinet approve the draft Policy for consultation.
2. That Cabinet approve the approach to the public consultation.

**108. FLY TIPPING AND LITTERING FIXED PENALTY CHARGE INCREASE**

Consideration was given to the report which explained that the financial level of fixed penalties that could be issued by Local Authorities to fly tippers and litterers had been increased through the Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023. The maximum amounts were now £1,000 for fly tipping, £600 for household duty of care waste offences and £500 for littering. The penalty upon conviction via a prosecution for fly tipping remained an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment. Cabinet was asked to agree to the proposed increases and recommend to Council that the increases be adopted by Council as part of the setting of fees and charges for the 2024/25 financial year.

Councils could issue Fixed Penalty Notices where people were found to have littered and could prosecute or issue Fixed Penalty Notices to individuals or companies that commit fly tipping offences. The level of these Fixed Penalty Notices were set through statutory instruments from Government. At the Council Meeting on 1st March, 2023, the Council set fees for the 2023/24 financial year. Included within these fees were the levels of Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping and littering offences.



Currently the Council had set the levels of these Fixed Penalties in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (England) Regulations 2017, with the maximum amount for littering at £150 and the maximum for fly tipping at £400.

The proposed charges for individual types of offences were:

- Litter – Maximum fine of £500 reduced to £150 if the fine is paid within 14 days
- Fly-Tipping – Maximum of £1,000 however different scales of fly tipping will be subject to differing fine levels:
  - Tier 1 (1-5 bags) - A proposed fine of £800 reduced to £400 if paid within 14 days
  - Tier 2 (over 5 bags/car boot) – A proposed fine of £800 reduced to £400 if paid within 14 days
  - Tier 3 (Large fly tip /tipper load) – A proposed fine of £1000 Household
- Duty of Care – Maximum of £600 reduced to £300 if paid within 14 days

Officers would retain discretion to take alternative actions or prosecutions where this was deemed appropriate. It was confirmed at the meeting that the Council was committed to robust enforcement action.

### **Resolved:**

That Cabinet:

1. Agree the proposed increased level of fixed penalties prescribed by sections 2 and 3 of The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023.
2. Agree to recommend the proposed increases in maximum levels of fixed penalties to Council for adoption as part of the setting of fees and charges for the 2024 to 2025 financial year.

## **109. AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS ASSISTANCE POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval of the new Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy and of the proposed increase in Disabled Facilities Grant fees from 10% to 15%. The current Aids and Adaptations Policy was adopted in April 2015. On 10th July, 2023, Cabinet agreed to review the Policy and to put in place some temporary delegations to facilitate continued delivery of the aids and adaptations service. The review had now concluded, and the report recommended the adoption of a new Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy (Appendix 1) including a new set of financial delegations. The proposed Policy set out

how the Council intended to exercise its powers under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order 2002 by consolidating the traditional assistance for aids and adaptations with a range of new discretionary grants.

The review took place between July and October 2023 and details were set out in section 4 of the report. In addition to considering the latest best practice, the review considered best utilisation of the Service, comparing access from residents living in different housing tenures and the most common types of adaptations needed and associated costs and budgets. Views and feedback from stakeholders, partners and Service users was gathered. Council officers heard directly from residents who had lived experience of aids and adaptations. In total more than 200 people were involved in the review.

The review was underpinned and supported by the Government's latest guidance for local authorities, published in 2022. The guidance set out expectations on local authorities and the rights of a disabled person making an application for grants. Officers also consulted with Foundations, the national body for Home Improvement Agencies, in the development of the guidance.

The table at Appendix 1 of the proposed Policy provided an outline of all the aids and assistance schemes. The Policy would help increase the number of people accessing aids and adaptations. This would enable more people to remain living independently in their own homes. The Policy also offered more cost-effective solutions as an alternative to high-cost adaptations through better use of stock and more flexible grant arrangements.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), who advised that the recommendations be supported. Although it was not a formal recommendation, they did ask that the Service consider creating a register to monitor which properties had aids and/or adaptations. The Cabinet Member agreed to this request. OSMB also requested that an update be provided to OSMB (or nominated Select Commission) on the impact of the Policy, 12 months after its implementation. This requested was accepted by Cabinet.

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the adoption of the new Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy (Appendix 1) and note the new scheme of delegation for authorising grants.
2. Approve the proposed increase in Disabled Facilities Grant fees from 10% to 15% in order to pay for additional administrative and technical services costs associated with the new Policy and note

that the Council is permitted to include necessary and reasonable fees associated with Disabled Facilities Grant applications within the overall cost of the eligible works.

3. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Care Housing and Public Health who can sub-delegate to the Assistant Director of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to prioritise or withdraw discretionary assistance in accordance with the Aids and Adaptations Assistance Policy and in line with the available budget.
4. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Care Housing and Public Health to make minor amendments to the Policy when the need is identified.
5. Agree that an update be provided to OSMB (or nominated Select Commission) on the impact of the Policy, 12 months after its implementation.

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

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on progress and proposals for the development of the Rotherham Markets complex to create the new Rotherham Markets and Library within Rotherham Town Centre. The report also outlined and sought approval to proceed to the next phase of development and delivery of the project.

The redevelopment and repurposing of the Rotherham Markets Complex was identified as a key project in the adopted 2017 Rotherham Town Centre Masterplan (TCM). Previous public and stakeholder consultation for the Town Centre Masterplan and the Cultural Strategy identified a need to improve the cultural and leisure offer within Rotherham Town Centre. This involved improving the proximity and connectivity between key amenities, upgrading the quality of the built environment and delivering inclusive access to the different facilities on offer. This would have spill over effects for the wider town.

Detailed designs were completed in June 2022 in advance of the submission of a planning application. Planning permission, RB2022/0881, was granted conditionally on 3rd November, 2022. On 7th August, 2023, Cabinet approved the enabling works for the Rotherham Markets and Library development and delegated authority to award contracts for these early phase enabling works. This contract award was made on 26th September, 2023, and Harry Boot Construction Ltd (HBC) commenced works on site in September 2023 with a works programme scheduled to run until March 2024.

To facilitate the proposed redevelopment and delivery of the Council's

regeneration aspirations, a suitable construction works contract was required to allow for the controlled and safe delivery of works on site. HBC had been appointed under a two-stage design and build approach to develop the final redevelopment plans, costings, and delivery approach. The main works contract would act as a standalone agreement with HBC and could be triggered once final costs were secured. It was anticipated that the final costs for the main works would be confirmed in Spring 2024. Once final costs were available, the Council had to act swiftly to proceed with the contract and secure costs to avoid unnecessary additional costs related to inflation and other market pressures. A clear indication of an upper limit of the development costs was detailed in exempt Appendix 2. The report therefore sought authority to approve the scheme within the upper budget limit outlined in Appendix 2.

If the final costs were deemed acceptable, the Council would seek to award relevant contracts by Officer Decision to action the approved redevelopment works and facilitate the current programme being achieved.

At the meeting it was confirmed that this was a major milestone for the development of the Markets and Library complex. The Leader stated action needed to be taken to safeguard the future of the markets in Rotherham and this project would help do that. The Cabinet Member agreed and stated that the Council owed it to the market traders to improve the complex.

**Resolved:**

1. That Cabinet approve development of the Rotherham Markets and Library complex to deliver the proposed Rotherham Markets & Library redevelopment within the values detailed in exempt Appendix 2.

**111. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which provided the findings of the consultation exercise in relation to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. It also proposes approval and adoption of the final Policy document along with a proposal to carry out a further review of vehicle signage and driver identification.

Cabinet had given approval to commence a period of consultation in relation to a number of proposed amendments to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in June 2023. There were 624 responses which were included in Appendix 2 to the report. Following the consultation, a number of changes had been included in the final Policy in relation to:

- Enhanced requirements for Private Hire Operators
- Removal of the limit on Hackney Carriage licences
- Amendment to the vehicle age and emissions policy
- Vehicle signage
- Review of the Conviction Policy
- Requirement for a DBS check as part of a vehicle licence application
- Clarification regarding application requirements

The proposed amendments to the Policy were highlighted in yellow in Appendix 1.

During the consultation it became apparent that compliance with the revised requirements could present operators with practical and technological challenges. It was, therefore, proposed that the requirements be introduced in accordance with the implementation scheme that was attached to the report as Appendix 3. During the meeting, it was proposed that Appendix 3 be amended to include the following:

- Confirmation that the amendment of the limit on Hackney Carriages will only come into effect once the Forge Island development is operational.

This was agreed.

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet:-

1. Adopt the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2023 attached as Appendix 1.
2. Agree to the implementation of the Policy requirements according to the implementation scheme detailed at Appendix 3, which was amended at the meeting to include the following:
  - Confirmation that the amendment of the limit on Hackney Carriages will only come into effect once the Forge Island development is operational.
3. Agree to a further review in relation to vehicle signage and driver identification, as described in section 2.5 of this report.

**112. HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the findings of the review into the House to House Collection Policy and recommended approval of the revised Policy. The Council's current House to House Collection Policy was introduced in 2019. The effectiveness of the Policy

was assessed in 2020 and found to be delivering the aims of the Policy, and a commitment was made to undertake a further review of the Policy within 3 years. Following a review by Officers of the existing Policy, a draft version was shared for consultation.

In total, the Council had received 73 responses to the consultation. Of these 73 responses, the overwhelming majority were in favour of maintaining the status quo with regard to the Policy requirements. In addition, consultation had also taken place with Members of the Council's Licensing Board, who were generally in agreement that the Policy delivered on the intended the aims.

Comments were received during the consultation regarding the current arrangement of setting a minimum percentage as the amount that would be received by the collection beneficiary. The Policy currently stipulated that at least 80% of the gross proceeds of the collection must be provided to the collection beneficiary. The point was made that the use of percentages was unfair and should therefore be avoided. The principal reason given in support of this position was that the items that were collected only had value once they had been processed by the collector – and that it was unreasonable to limit the amount that could be claimed for this activity to 20% of the total proceeds of the collection (as the costs of adding value to the collected items often exceed this).

This position was assessed during the Policy review, and it was determined that although the Policy referred to a minimum percentage of 80% of the gross proceeds of the collection, it could further support this charitable sector to amend the Policy to provide further scope to decision makers when considering applications, and in recognition of the ongoing pressures as a result of inflation and the cost of living. It was therefore proposed that the Policy be amended so that a minimum of 80% of the net proceeds must be provided to the collection beneficiary, allowing a deduction of up to 20% for the costs associated with the collection and processing of items. In addition, in order to ensure that decision makers were fully aware of the implications of the use of percentages, information from the Institute of Fundraising regarding the use of percentages was presented to decision makers when they were being asked to determine applications for a permit.

Key aspects of the proposed Policy were summarised in paragraph 2.15 to 2.30 of the report and included information on:

- The application process
- Obligations on those that are granted a Licence
- Circumstances that may lead to the refusal of an application
- Consideration of financial information
- Administration / Enforcement

The proposed House to House Collection Policy was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet adopts the House to House Collection Policy that is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

**113. COVID RECOVERY FUND**

Consideration was given to the report which proposed further use of the Council's Covid Recovery Fund reserve. Taking into account approved use for 2023/24 and 2024/25 to support the Council's previously agreed revenue investments, the reserve had a remaining balance of £0.6m. It was proposed that the remaining funding be used to help residents against the backdrop of a cost of living crisis due to inflation and significant increases in energy and fuel bills in particular. The proposal was to re-establish the cash Energy Crisis Support Scheme that the Council had previously used to provide support to households with the cost of energy bills which remained substantially higher than 2 years ago, despite energy bills starting to reduce.

The Household Support Fund April 2023 to March 2024 report to Cabinet in March 2023 approved additional funding for the Council's Energy Crisis Support Scheme (ECSS). In 2023/24 over 2,300 grants of £250 had been paid to households who were eligible for the scheme. The funding allocated to the ECSS through the HSF had been fully spent by the end of June 2023.

To provide support to households with increased energy bills as a result of the winter it was proposed to allocate the remainder of the Covid Recovery Fund to establish a new scheme which would open to applications in January 2024.

**Resolved:****That Cabinet agree to:**

1. Approve the proposed use of the remainder of the Covid Recovery Fund as follows:
  - a. £550k cash grant scheme to provide support for households with the rising cost of energy bills; and
  - b. £50k to facilitate the administration of the energy grant proposal.

**114. 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.

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

**Resolved:-**

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday, 22nd January, 2024 ,commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.



**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 17 January 2024

**Report Title**

Overview and Scrutiny Update

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author**

Emma Hill

Head of Democratic Services

**Wards Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this report provides an update to Council of the activities and outcomes of Overview and Scrutiny activity at the Council. Appendix 2 and 3 of the report provides an update on the scrutiny work programme and the progress of implementing the agreed recommendations from scrutiny reviews, from May 2022 to the present day.

**Recommendations**

1. That the report be noted.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 - Update on the 2023-24 scrutiny work programme and implementation of scrutiny review recommendations (May 2022 – present day)

Appendix 2 - Scrutiny work programmes – December 2023

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny review recommendations - update

**Background Papers**

Agendas and Minutes of OSMB meetings, May 2022 – December 2023

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

OSMB – 13 December 2023

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Overview and Scrutiny Update

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules require a regular update to Council on the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Annual report was presented to Council in July 2023 and provided an overview of the operation of the overview and scrutiny select commissions.

### 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This report is intended as a summary of highlights and outcomes and is an indicative rather than definitive account of recent scrutiny work, which aims to hold the Council and key partners to account for decision-making, policy development, and performance. The report summarises information that is already in the public domain regarding progress, changes, or improvements resulting from recommendations and feedback provided by councillors on scrutiny committees. These include Health Select Commission, Improving Lives Select Commission, Improving Places Select Commission, and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- 2.2 Although this report emphasises outcomes, it should be noted that scrutiny is chiefly a discursive process rather than a product. For further insight into the process of overview and scrutiny, the archive of public meetings webcasts, reports submitted for scrutiny, and minutes of discussions leading to recommendations are available on the Council's website.
- 2.3 The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to support the long/short listing of each of the commission's respective priorities:

#### **Establish as a starting point:**

- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

#### **Agree principles for longlisting:**

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

#### **Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.**

- T: Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
- O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
- P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
- I: Interest – what is the interest to the public?
- C: Contribution to the Council plan

**3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 The report is submitted for information.

**4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 The report is submitted for information.

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

5.1 The report is submitted for information.

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

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

**7. Legal Advice and Implications**

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

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**12. Implications for Partners**

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

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

**Accountable Officer(s)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer  
Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	09/01/24
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	05/01/24
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	05/01/24
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive	03/01/24

*Report Author: Emma Hill*

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

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Public Report  
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 13 December 2023

**Report Title**

Update on the 2023-24 scrutiny work programme and implementation of scrutiny review recommendations (May 2022 – present day).

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor  
01709 822765 or [caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) with an update on the scrutiny work programme and the progress of implementing the agreed recommendations from scrutiny reviews, from May 2022 to the present day.

**Recommendations**

That OSMB

1. Note the report.
2. Review the work programmes (as detailed in Appendix 1) and determine if any further action or reprioritisation is required.
3. Note the progress made in implementing the recommendations from scrutiny reviews (as detailed in Appendix 2) and determine if any further action is required.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Scrutiny work programmes – December 2023  
Appendix 2 Scrutiny review recommendations - update

**Background Papers**

None

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

Not applicable

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No



**Update on the 2023-24 scrutiny work programme and implementation of scrutiny review recommendations (May 2022 – present day).**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 This is an update on the 2023-24 work programme and progress of implementing the recommendations arising from scrutiny reviews (from May 2022 to present day).
- 1.2 At the mid-point of the municipal year, Members are asked to review the work programme activity to determine if further action or reprioritisation is required.

**2. Key Issues**

**Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 2.1 The 2023/24 work programmes for each of the Select Commissions and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board were agreed at the June/July cycle of meetings. The work programmes are attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The work programmes were informed by discussions with Chairs/Vice-Chairs, Cabinet Members, Link Officers and existing commitments inherited from the 2022/23 programme. It also included for the first time, reference to issues raised at the scrutiny strategy day held on April 26, 2023.
- 2.3 At its meeting of 5 July 2023, OSMB endorsed suggested criteria to prioritise scrutiny work programming and reviews. In summary, this included:
  - That key issues/concerns underpinning scrutiny enquiries should be explicit.
  - That the outcomes that are wanted from the scrutiny activity should be identified and agreed upon.
  - That the principles for longlisting and shortlisting its work should be applied when considering items for scrutiny (e.g will the activity add value or influence; is it a Council or community priority or interest?)
- 2.4 Individual work programmes, along with the endorsed prioritisation criteria, are submitted to each Commission or Board meeting for comment and amendment. The work programmes remain dynamic and responsive to items which may arise (for example referral of petitions or actions arising from Council Motions).
- 2.5 19 scrutiny meetings have been held since the start of the municipal year in May 2023. Each of the scrutiny meetings have been delivered successfully, with over 50 separate items considered across the Commissions and Board, with additional fact-finding meetings, reviews and workshops also taking place. Recommendations arising from these varied activities have been communicated to Cabinet Members, Senior Leaders and partners as appropriate.
- 2.6 Reviews and project work are detailed in each of the Commissions and Board work programmes. It should be noted that due to diary commitments,

resource capacity and other priorities being identified, it has not been possible to complete work on all projects/reviews within the projected timescales.

- 2.7 Members are asked to review programmed activity at this mid-point and prioritise work over the remaining municipal year as required. It should be noted that the all-out elections are to be held in May 2024, and to avoid 'legacy' reviews/issues being referred to new committees, scrutiny work should ideally conclude in advance of the pre-election period being called.

### **Scrutiny Review Tracker**

- 2.8 It was previously agreed by Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs that Annual Reports to Council would be organised by Council Plan themes, in part to reflect a joined-up approach to scrutiny work programming.

- 2.9 In order to monitor the progress of the implementation of accepted review recommendations, a review tracker has been developed to capture the following information:

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

The tracker is attached as Appendix 2.

- 2.10 The tracker has updates on the status of reviews and specific recommendations completed. It is suggested that for completed reviews, an annual update is requested on the impacts of the recommendations as implemented, in order that the long-term impact of the reviews can be captured. The tracker is reported on a quarterly basis to the Strategic Leadership Team, in order that progress is maintained on the implementation of agreed actions and any barriers can be overcome at an early stage.

- 2.11 It should be noted that of the reviews reported to Council, the majority of recommendations are substantially complete or ongoing. All scrutiny recommendations considered by Cabinet have been accepted.

- **Post Abuse Support** - Status Complete (6 recommendations complete and 2 ongoing).
- **External Funding** – Status Complete (4 recommendations complete).
- **Community Hub** – Status Complete (3 recommendations complete).
- **Young Carers** – Status In Progress (1 recommendation complete; 1 ongoing and 1 in progress).
- **Climate Change** – Status Complete – (5 recommendations complete).
- **Market engagement and recovery** – Status ongoing (8 recommendations ongoing).

- **Cultural Strategy** – Status Complete (3 recommendations complete; 1 ongoing).
- **COVID-19 Care Home Safety** – Status Complete (4 recommendations complete).
- **Access to primary care** – awaiting response.
- **Modern Slavery** – Status in progress.
- **Impact of Selective Licensing** - Status in progress.

The implementation of the recommendations of scrutiny reviews not yet reported to Council, will be monitored and reported in due course.

- 2.12 Members are asked to review progress made in implementing the recommendations from scrutiny reviews (as detailed in Appendix 2) and determine if any further action is required.

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

#### **3.1 Option 1 (recommended)**

1. Review the work programmes (as detailed in Appendix 1) and determine if any further action or reprioritisation is required.
2. Note the progress made in implementing the recommendations from scrutiny reviews (as detailed in Appendix 2) and determine if any further action is required.

#### **3.2 Option 2 (not recommended)**

Continue with the work programmes as detailed, with the risk that work will not be completed before the close of the municipal year.

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

- 4.1 The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has been consulted on this report. If approved, further engagement with Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs will be undertaken to prioritise the programme.
- 4.2 The work programmes are submitted to each scrutiny meeting for comment and amendment. It is suggested that following engagement with Chairs and Vice-Chairs, the work programmes are circulated to Members.

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

- 5.1 The work programmes can be amended and revisions communicated to committee membership, Link Officers and Partners.

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

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

**7. Legal Advice and Implications**

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

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**12. Implications for Partners**

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

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 If the work programmes are not reviewed at this stage, there is a risk that the programmes will not be delivered. Through consultation with Members, Links Officers and Partners, potential mitigations can be identified and actioned.

**Accountable Officer(s)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Adviser  
Caroline Webb, Senior Governance  
Advisor

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

## Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2023-24

The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to long/short list each of the commission's respective priorities:

### Establish as a starting point:

- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

### Agree principles for longlisting:

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

### Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

- T: Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
- O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
- P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
- I: Interest – what is the interest to the public?
- C: Contribution to the corporate plan

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
14 June 2023	School Accessibility Strategy Finance Update Multiply Programme
5 July 2023	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report (2022/2023) Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report Outturn report
2 August 2023	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Years two and three Rotherham Markets & Library Redevelopment
13 September 2023	LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report and Action Plan Digital Inclusion Strategy and Action plan July 2023-24 Financial Monitoring Report
11 October 2023	Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report. 2021 Census Presentation (informal)
15 November 2023	Medium Term Financial Strategy Update Crisis Support 2024 - 2027

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
	Complaints Annual Report
13 December 2023	Pre-decision items TBC Social Value (six-month update)
16 January 2024	Housing Revenue Account Rents and Service Charges HRA Business Plan Budget and Council Tax Report 2023/24 Mid- Year Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress report
21 February 2024	Pre-decision tbc
13 March 2024	Climate Change Action Plan and Annual Report Social Value Annual Report LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report and Action Plan (Update) Pre-decision tbc
10 April 2024	Pre-decision tbc

### Items for Scheduling

Review Activity	
Quarter 3 - 2023	<b>Spotlight Review</b> <b>Byelaws/Life saving equipment</b>
	<b>Spotlight Review</b> <b>Consultation and Engagement (agreed at meeting of 14 December 2022)</b>
<b>DATE TBC</b> <b>(early 2024)</b>	Children Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – meeting with Youth Cabinet
<b>Visits/meetings to be arranged</b>	<b>Cost of living pressures</b> <b>Focus on</b> energy efficiency; financial inclusion; crisis food support (specifically social supermarkets); school uniform (working with the Youth Cabinet); and communications, awareness and targeting
	Employment Support Team

Scrutiny Review & Recommendations	Ctte		Key Dates	Evidence		Directorate	Ext. Body	Theme
<a href="#">Post CSE Support</a>	ILSC	OSMB	2022-01-19	<a href="#">Report Submitted to ILSC Appendix 1</a>	Complete	ACHPH	N/A	People are safe, healthy and live well
		Cabinet	2022-02-14			CYPS		
		Cab. Response	2022-05-16					
		Council	2022-07-20					
		Follow-up	2023-01-31					
a) That post-CSE services are transferred to the Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health directorate to enable the greater integration and coordination of support pathways that are available to adult victims of trauma as children.				see above	Complete			
b) That further work is undertaken with relevant partners and survivors to improve the ways in which survivors’ voices are captured to inform future reviews of post abuse services (for example drawing on the research from Sheffield Hallam University, the development of voice and influence groups or other survivor’s forums).				see above	Complete			
c) Consideration is given how survivors’ voices to inform these processes.				see above	Complete			
d) That the Improving Lives Select Commission continue to monitor the provision of post-abuse support to survivors of CSE.				see above	Complete			
e) In relation to recommendations c) and d), that consideration is given how survivors’ voices to inform these processes.				see above	Complete			
f) To emphasise the shared responsibility of all elected members, that an annual training event/workshop is delivered. This is to ensure that all elected members are kept up to date with the activity within the Borough to protect young people from being at risk of harm from CSE/CCE and support adult survivors to move forwards in their lives				see above	Complete			
g) That the relevant Strategic Directors explore options for sharing best practice with other local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.				see above	Ongoing			
h) Drawing on the good practice from Durham County Council, that consideration is given to the language used in the provision of post-CSE support to ensure that it is positive and inclusive of the needs of those accessing services.				see above	Ongoing			
<a href="#">External funding</a>	IPSC	OSMB	2022-01-19		Complete	RE	N/A	Expanding economic opportunity
		Cabinet	2022-03-28					
		Cab. Response	2022-06-20					
		Council	2022-07-20					
		Follow-up	2022-06-07	Outcomes from review of markets shared with RiDo Service.				
That the ambition of the service in submitting bids be commended.					Complete			
That the feedback from the government regarding the Dinnington and Wath bids for Levelling Up Funds be circulated when available.					Complete			
That the Governance Advisor liaise with the Regeneration Strategy team to coordinate upcoming scrutiny work on markets with a view to feeding into future bids involving markets					Complete			
That efforts to ensure Rotherham receives its fair portion of gainshare or “single pot” funds from the Mayoral Combined Authority be noted.					Complete			
<a href="#">Community Hub</a>	HSC	OSMB	2022-01-19		Complete	ACPHH	N/A	Every neighbourhood thriving
		Cabinet	2022-03-28					People are safe, healthy and live well
		Cab. Response	2022-06-20					
		Council	2022-07-20					

Scrutiny Review & Recommendations	Ctte		Key Dates	Evidence		Directorate	Ext. Body	Theme
		Follow-up	<a href="#">2022-11-23</a>	Minutes from HWbB update on evolved befriending service model now delivered by Rotherfed.				
That the excellent work of Rotherham Community Hub be commended, especially in respect of the befriending service which helped relieve loneliness and isolation throughout the pandemic					Complete			
That Members be encouraged to add the Community Hub to their Ward priorities and e-bulletins to better support vulnerable residents and families.					Complete			
Whereas the current Community Hub model is due to end in March 2022, should there be a further evolution of the Community Hub model, that an update be brought in 12 months’ time.					Complete			
<a href="#">Young Carers</a>	HSC	OSMB	<a href="#">2022-01-19</a>	Reports have been presented as requested.	In progress	CYPS	N/A	Every child able to fulfil their potential
	ILSC	Cabinet	<a href="#">2022-03-28</a>	<a href="#">Response to Council question provided</a>				
		Cab. Response	<a href="#">2022-06-20</a>	Barnardos Q3/				
		Council	<a href="#">2022-07-20</a>					
		Follow-up	<a href="#">2022-07-28</a>					
That action plans and performance matrix be supplied as part of the next update in 6 months’ time.				The performance matrix is now included within the bi-annual reporting for the service. See attached the latest report (quarter 3 and 4). Reporting of outcomes and waiting times is still reliant on manual collation of information, and is therefore not prioritised (as this would take resource away from supporting young carers). Development of the automated scorecard remains in progress.	In progress			
That a plan be developed to address the current data gap in respect of young carers who mature into adult carers, with a view to providing the best preparation possible and making this transition as seamless as possible for young carers who may continue to have caring responsibilities into adulthood				Improving the identification of young carers locally is supporting us to make transition as seamless as possible for young carers transitioning to adult carers. It is now (from January 2023) mandatory for schools to record young carers (who identify themselves as young carers) as a protected characteristic. This will enable data to be extracted and shared. Currently this data is not sufficiently reliable. Awareness raising and information sharing across the childcare and education provision are key factors in ensuring children are identified and recorded correctly on the school system. In Rotherham Young Carers continue to be identified when referred to the Young Carers Service which is commissioned to Barnardo’s via RMBC CYPS. In addition, secondary school pupils in years 7 and 11 are asked via the Lifestyle Survey to provide information around any caring responsibilities they may have. To support seamless transition in Rotherham regular formal meetings take place for all local services to connect and update on issues and developments. The Barnardo’s Team manager attends ‘The Borough That Cares’ Strategic Group, a monthly strategic forum chaired by RMBC. Individual meetings have also been held with the Co-ordinator, to ensure our service and the voice of the young carers’ representatives (Young Carers Council) contribute to the Rotherham Carers Strategy.  This activity is reported in the bi-annual report.	Ongoing			



Scrutiny Review & Recommendations	Ctte		Key Dates	Evidence		Directorate	Ext. Body	Theme
That consideration be given to how best to provide additional support to young carers seeking to access employment skills, education and training				Effective liaison is in place between statutory and voluntary services. There is an acknowledged shared goal of seeking to ensure that young carers do not miss potentially life-changing opportunities for education, employment, and training due to the demands of their caring role. Individual assessments and tailored support are offered to young people to encourage and support them to identify and achieve their personal goals.	Complete			
				All young carers who are NEET, regardless to whether they are accessing the young carers service, are offered practical help and support in order to access training, education or employment. Outreach & Engagement workers have a good awareness of young carer needs and work with families to ensure that young people can achieve their aspirations. When a young person is open also to Barnardo’s the Outreach Worker will liaise to ensure a collaborative approach				
				Joint working with Social Workers and Early Help Workers with specific intervention from the RMBC Early Help NEET Lead when necessary continues to ensure the children and young people receive the best possible co-ordinated support to enable them to achieve their full potential.				
				Barnardo’s staff continue to work collaboratively with Higher Education Progression Partnership (Hepp) which works across the Sheffield City Region to encourage more children, young people, and adults to consider higher education opportunities.				
				This is included in the bi-annual reporting under collaborative working and transition.				
CCTOC – Climate Change	OSMB	OSMB	2022-07-06		Complete	RE	N/A	A cleaner, greener local environment
		Cabinet				CYPS		Every child able to fulfil their potential
		Cab. Response	2022-10-17					
		Council						
		Follow-up						
That Youth Cabinet are invited to visit the Waste Treatment Centre at Manvers				took place August 2022	Complete			
That the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment meets with members of the Youth Cabinet to discuss plastic waste / pollution and action to minimise single use plastics				Meeting took place at Riverside House Library on the 16th November 2022 between 5.30pm and 7.00pm organised by Matt Ellis	Complete			
That the Assistant Director for Education works with the Youth Cabinet to look at the feasibility of developing an environmental awards scheme for schools.				Meeting took place - August 2022 23/05/2023 - Nathan Heath is working with the Youth Cabinet and secondary heads to cascade information and start the pilot. (Wickersley School)	Complete			
				Aspiration to have wider involvement with schools across the 23/24 academic year				
That Council officers work with the Youth Cabinet to strengthen its engagement strategy with young people, specifically young people of BAME communities or other hard to reach groups.				Climate Change Manager attended RYC session on 10 <sup>th</sup> May to share updated action plan which considers RYC recommendations. Explanations for non-inclusions also provided. See also below action for further engagement work. <b>Officers have also worked with RYC to produce an accessible version of the action plan which is to be shared online alongside the current version. This document is currently with the Communications Team for review and approval.</b> (Action Plan provided to Governance Team)	Complete			
That Council officers work with the Youth Cabinet on widening carbon literacy training/awareness				<b>Delivery of carbon literacy training to 6 members of the Youth Cabinet by the Climate Change Team was undertaken in August 2023. The participants are now awaiting their official certification from the carbon literacy project.</b> Feedback on course content and approach and actions to develop this training to be delivered afterwards. The Climate Change Team will then work with RYC to create a young people friendly alternative course.	Complete			
Markets: Engagement and Recovery	IPSC	OSMB	2022-10-12		Ongoing	RE	N/A	Expanding economic opportunity
		Cabinet	2022-12-19					
		Cab. Response	2023-02-13					
		Council	2023-04-12					
		Follow-up	2024-02-06					

Scrutiny Review & Recommendations	Ctte		Key Dates	Evidence		Directorate	Ext. Body	Theme
a)That face-to-face consultations and clear communication be prioritised in all interactions with vendors and traders.				A large amount of face to face and group consultation has taken place, and continues to take place, with tenants, regarding the redevelopment of the Markets, how it will affect them and what actions are taking place to mitigate this. <b>Communication and consultation is continuing with the tenants and traders two face to face group workshops have been delivered and traders were invited to book individual face to face discussions. This approach will continue throughout the redevelopment. Enabling works have commenced on site with the Outdoor Covered Market (OCM) moving to the street and the on-site parking and storage closing in November. Regular communication is maintained through both written and face to face channels .</b>	Ongoing			
b) That the service avail the case studies and resources available in the libraries of NABMA and NMTF to inform the strategic refresh of Rotherham markets.				Visits have been made to a number of other markets which have been given as examples of goods practice in delivering redevelopments. These include Barnsley, Sheffield, Doncaster and Leicester.  The external team we used also had vast experience on recent market developments across the UK. <b>Both NABMA and NMTF are available to provide support and advice during the redevelopment, as required.</b>	Ongoing			
c) That the service re-evaluate the support offer for new vendors, in consultation with the NABMA and NMTF, with a view to encouraging more new vendors to continue trading beyond the six-month introductory period.				Take up of the introductory offer was good, although a high proportion did not continue trading after the initial 6 months, probably due in a large part to the challenging trading conditions in the retail sector. The offer is currently paused and will be reviewed and restarted once the redevelopment is complete.  Linking in support from the RiDO Growth Team will be a major part of future support. <b>The introductory offer of 6 months at half rent was very successful at attracting new trade, though there was an issue with them continuing to trade once the rebate ended.</b>  <b>This offer is currently paused and will be reviewed once the redevelopment is complete. But with reduced rents for all businesses during the redevelopment period, a number of new businesses have opened in the last year.</b>	Ongoing			
d) In view of relevant expert advice in respect of sustaining a market during redevelopment works, that retaining traders through the redevelopment phase be considered top priority.				Retaining of traders during the redevelopment is a top priority. A reduction in rents for the period of the redevelopment has been agreed. All traders have been kept informed of proposed timescales for work and how this will impact on their business.  <b>8 new or expanded businesses have been attracted in the last 12 months.</b>  <b>Once the main development works start how these works are affecting the businesses will be monitored through a programme of regular contact with traders to identify any additional support needs and how that can be delivered.</b>	Ongoing			
e) That any redesign of markets spaces duly consider usability and aesthetics, consulting market research to optimise spaces for inclusiveness and accessibility, and to make the offer especially attractive to students and young people.				During the development of the OCM space, RNN were consulted, and their feedback fed into the options development. The options paper focussed on activating the space and making it accessible for local communities by creating a comfortable space that could be used flexibly for a variety of events and activities linked to the markets/library programme.	Ongoing			
f) That consideration be given to how the redesign and operation of the markets may best cater to the needs and interests of younger generations by strengthening links with Rotherham College, North Notts College and Dearne Valley College (RNN Group) student populations and extending opportunities to				RNN have been involved and consulted on the redevelopment. How any of their courses can be linked to the actual redevelopment works. And post completion how students and young people can use the markets, food court and events space as customers, traders and performers.	Ongoing			
g) Recognising that the Town Centre markets complex represents a unique and distinct microeconomy with its own accompanying needs and characteristics, that consideration be given to the ongoing management resource required to sustain the markets economy successfully over the long term.				Current staffing of the Markets is fit for purpose. However, a review of this area will be undertaken as part of the redevelopment project. <b>A review of the Market staffing will be undertaken once the closure of the OCM has taken place and the exact requirements to ensure that the service can operate efficiently during the redevelopment period can be identified. This will be reviewed again before the post development operation commences.</b>  <b>The Market “Rules and Regulations” will also be reviewed and updated to ensure they are relevant to the new market offer post redevelopment</b>	Ongoing			

Scrutiny Review & Recommendations	Ctte		Key Dates	Evidence		Directorate	Ext. Body	Theme
<a href="#">Scrutiny Review – Cultural Strategy</a>	IPSC	OSMB	<a href="#">2022-10-12</a>	Plan is to move to cashless as soon as possible, but made difficult by poor Wi-Fi connectivity, which will be rectified during the redevelopment.	Ongoing			
	ILSC	Cabinet	<a href="#">2022-12-19</a>	Ways to improve are still on-going and a new chip and pin device has just been tested by Markets staff. This proved more efficient than previous kit and is being adopted on a long-term basis. A new chip and pin device that is more fit for purpose has been purchased, meaning that when the OCM moves on to the street cash payments will no longer be accepted.	Complete	RE	N/A	Every child able to fulfil their potential
		Cab. Response	<a href="#">2022-02-13</a>					Every neighbourhood thriving
		Council	<a href="#">2023-04-12</a>					
		Follow-up						
h) That consideration be given to design and development choices that would help the markets to incorporate cashless, up-to-date approaches to commerce that their potential customers expect.				Plan is to move to cashless as soon as possible, but made difficult by poor Wi-Fi connectivity, which will be rectified during the redevelopment.	Ongoing			
a) That the range of available activities tailored for young residents of the Borough be prioritised for expansion.				Children’s Capital of Culture is working with partners (both across the Local Authority and a wide range of external organisations) to deliver a large and growing range of activities for children and young people in the borough. These activities are tailored to our young residents through sustained and in-depth consultation programmes taking place across the borough, and through employing young people aged 16-to-25 to deliver the activities themselves and shape CCoC’s strategic direction. In 2023, these activities have included free sport, dance, visual art, creative writing, music, sound design, and performing arts performances and workshops, achieving over 20,000 participations as of 26th May 2023. (No further update)	Complete			
b) That consideration be given to how best to expand access, especially for young people, to recreational swimming in the Borough, whilst protecting against hazards.				Conversations have taken place between Public Health and CST colleagues regarding open water swimming and health benefits. Places Leisure have been linked into the conversations with regards to water safety, lifeguards and messaging/ awareness through swimming lessons and Drowning Prevention Week (which took place 24- 30th April). (No further update)	Complete			
c) That the service liaise with CYPS to develop a system to help young carers more easily access opportunities for leisure and culture-related respite.				No further updates at this time	In progress			
d) With a view to expanding access, that consideration be given to hosting cultural events at alternating and varied locations and venues throughout the Borough where appropriate.				Children’s Capital of Culture will deliver high quality cultural activities across all 25 wards in 2025, and is already commencing this cross-borough delivery. CCoC activity delivery has or is already confirmed to take place in a range of locations in 2023, including Maltby, Swinton, Harthill, Aston, Ferham, Anston, Eastwood, Clifton, Ravenfield, Brinsworth, Wath, Wentworth, Waverley, and the town centre. Flux Rotherham are also delivering a number of community activities across the town. Information can be found at What's On - Flux Rotherham (No further update)	Complete			
<a href="#">COVID-19 Care Home Safety</a>	HSC	OSMB	2022-12-14		Complete	ACHPH		People are safe, healthy and live well
		Cabinet	2023-01-23					
		Cab. Response	<a href="#">2023-03-20</a>					
		Council	<a href="#">2023-04-12</a>					
		Follow-up	2023-09-19	DPH Annual Report on Impact of Pandemic in Rotherham				
a) That the learning from the pandemic and ongoing needs in respect of care home safety be noted.				Noted at Cabinet	Complete			
b) That the service consider how the Council may help support recruitment and retention within the care sector.				The Council has provided significant investment into the independent care and support sector. Fee rates have been set following the fair cost of care exercise and market sustainability plan to support providers to be able to attract and retain care staff within Rotherham.	Complete			
c) That consideration be given to how best to retain, where possible, the benefits of supportive models su				Health Protection practice in Rotherham, particularly with relation to outbreaks and ongoing Covid-19 management continues to maintain some of the practices developed through the pandemic, with close working with UKHSA, SY ICB and Rotherham schools continuing. Some areas of practice have not been maintained as resource levels have returned to pre-pandemic levels, with a significant local gap	Complete			
d) That outcomes of forthcoming reviews by the Health and Wellbeing Board on learning from the Pandem				Further reporting on the impacts of the Pandemic is due at Health and Wellbeing Board on 28 <sup>th</sup> June. Health Select Commission and OSMB have access to all HWB Papers with the option for call in or inclusion on the scrutiny work programme as required.	Complete			
<a href="#">Access to Primary Care</a>	HSC	OSMB	2023-04-19		In progress	ACHPH	ICB	People are safe, healthy and live well

Scrutiny Review & Recommendations	Ctte		Key Dates	Evidence		Directorate	Ext. Body	Theme
		Cabinet	2023-07-10					
		Cab. Response		deferred awaiting response from partners				
		Council						
		Follow-up						
1.Cabinet notes the following recommendations and considers its response.								
2.Cabinet approves the submission of the recommendations to NHS South Yorkshire / Rotherham Place Board for consideration and response.								
a)That the principle be agreed that responsibility for patient access to primary care is shared between the primary care practices and their patients.								
b)That consideration be given to how all Place Partners demonstrate responsibility to communicate honest wait times, where this information is available, for all health and care services system-wide.								
c)That any trend connecting a practice or GP with excessive delays or Urgent and Emergency Care Centre attendances be analysed, and appropriate action taken.								
d)That consideration be given to how to increase general understanding of how to recognise symptoms as needing medical attention, where to seek help, and within what timeframe.								
e)That Place partners, including the Primary Care Networks (PCNs), consider how to expand general understanding of the wider options when seeking medical advice, with a view to expediting consultation								
f)That NHS South Yorkshire/Rotherham Place Board give due consideration to enhanced safety-netting to mitigate risks associated with an increasingly patient-led model of care initiation and follow up.								
g)That NHS South Yorkshire/Rotherham Place Board consider how messaging and communications will figure in managing patient expectations around waits in the evolving model of care.								
h)That consideration be given to how Councillors may play an expanded role in signposting and managing expectations among Rotherham residents, as the sector works toward a new model of care								
i)Whereas recruitment remains a limiting factor for expansion of social prescribing, that recruitment to social prescribing roles be prioritised, and consideration given to how to make participation in social prescribing in Rotherham more attractive to professionals.								
Modern Slavery	OSMB	OSMB	2023-04-19		In progress	RE	SRP	People are safe, healthy and live well
		Cabinet	2023-06-19					Every child able to fulfil their potential
		Cab. Response	2023-10-16					
		Council Sub.	2023-11-29					
		Follow-up						
Impact of Selective Licensing	IPSC	OSMB	2023-07-05		In progress	RE		Every neighbourhood thriving
		Cabinet	2023-09-18					People are safe, healthy and live well
		Cab. Response	2023-11-20					A cleaner, greener local environment
		Council Sub.	2023-11-09					
		Follow-up						

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 17 January 2024

**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)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services  
01709 823566 or [emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk)

**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 changed following the Kilnhurst and Swinton East By-Election which was held on 2 November 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) 38 seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 10 seats, the Independent Conservative Group 5 seats. The seats allocated to the non-aligned councillors is 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.

### **Recommendations**

That Council are asked:

1. To note the political balance of the Council as a result of the by-election.
2. That the nominations to the various Committees be noted.

### **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.

### 3. Allocation of Seats

3.1 The allocation of Committee seats as of October 2023 was as follows:

Regulatory Committees/Boards	Seats Available	L	C	LD	IC	NA
Audit Committee	5	3	1	0	0	1
Licensing Board	21	12	5	1	1	2
Licensing Committee	15	9	4	1	0	1
Planning Board	15	9	4	1	0	1
Staffing Committee	5	3	1	1	0	0
Standards and Ethics Committee	8	5	2	0	0	1
Overview and Scrutiny	Seats Available	L	C	LD	IC	NA
Overview & Scrutiny Management Board	12	7	3	1	0	1
Health Select Commission	18	10	5	1	1	1
Improving Lives Select Commission	18	10	5	1	1	1
Improving Places Select Commission	18	10	5	1	1	1
Other Bodies	Seats Available	L	C	LD	IC	NA
Corporate Parenting Group	5	3	1	1	0	0
Introductory Tenancy Review Panel	4	2	1	0	1	0
Joint Consultative Committee	5	3	1	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>



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

**Liberal Democrats**

- Improving Lives Select Commission gifted to Non-Aligned

**Independent Conservative**

- Introductory Tenancy Review Panel 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:

Panel	Description of Role and Function
<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 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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

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

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 17 January 2024

**Report Title**

Recommendation from Audit Committee – Appointment of an Independent Member of the Audit Committee

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services  
Emma.Hill@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

On 19 July 2023, Council resolved to amend the Audit Committee Terms of Reference to include provision for a second independent member. Prior to this, the Committee was comprised of five Councillors and one independent person.

Following the amendment to the Terms of Reference, a recruitment exercise had been undertaken. This report is submitted for Council to appoint Alison Hutchinson until January 2028 (4 year term).

The current independent member, John Barber has resigned from his position with effect from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024. During the recruitment exercise a second candidate was also considered to be suitable for the role. This report recommends that Michael Olugbenga-Babalola is appointed to the role.

**Recommendations**

1. That Council appoint Alison Hutchinson as an Independent Member of the Audit Committee until January 2028 (4 year term).
2. That Council appoint Michael Olugbenga-Babalola as an Independent Member of the Audit Committee until January 2028 (4 year term).

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1    Audit Committee – Appointment of an Independent Member – 9  
January 2024

**Background Papers**

[Report - Annual Review and Adoption of the Consultation - Council - 19 July 2023](#)  
[Audit Committee Terms of Reference](#)

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

Audit Committee – 09 January 2024

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Audit Committee – 09 January 2024

**Report Title**

Audit Committee – Appointment of an Independent Member

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

[Emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

On 19 July 2023, Council resolved to amend the Audit Committee Terms of Reference to include provision for a second independent member. Prior to this, the Committee was comprised of five Councillors and one independent person.

Following the amendment to the Terms of Reference, a recruitment exercise had been undertaken. This report is submitted for the Audit Committee to recommend that the Council appoints Alison Hutchinson until January 2028 (4 year term).

The term of the current independent member, John Barber will expire in 2024. During the recruitment exercise a second candidate was also considered to be suitable for the role. This report recommends that Michael Olugbenga-Babalola is appointed to the role when the current independent member's term expires.

**Recommendations**

1. That Council be asked to note the appointment of Alison Hutchinson as an Independent Member of the Audit Committee until January 2028 (4 year term).
2. That Council be asked to note the appointment of Michael Olugbenga-Babalola as an Independent Member of the Audit Committee for a term of 4 years upon cessation of the term of the current independent member, John Barber.

**List of Appendices Included**

None

**Background Papers**

[Report - Annual Review and Adoption of the Consultation - Council - 19 July 2023](#)  
[Audit Committee Terms of Reference](#)

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

Council – 17 January 2024

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No



## **Appointment of Independent Members of the Audit Committee**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In 2015, the Council amended the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee to include provision for the appointment of an Independent Member.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 14 March 2023, the Audit Committee approved proposals to recommend to Council amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Committee. This was considered following updates to the CIPFA Guidance for audit committees and these recommendations were adapted for this Council.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Following the change to the Terms of Reference, a recruitment process was undertaken. Two candidates were considered suitable for the role. One role is currently occupied by John Barber, whose term will cease in 2024.
- 2.2 Alison Hutchinson and Michael Olugbenga-Babalola are considered to have the appropriate skills and experience required of independent members of the Audit Committee.

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

- 3.1 Option 1  
Appoint Alison Hutchinson to the vacant position– this is the recommended option as a thorough recruitment process was undertaken and Alison was a successful candidate. Appoint Michael Olugbenga-Babalola as the second independent member, to take up the role once John Barber's term of office ceases.
- 3.2 Option 2  
Refuse to appoint – this is not recommended as the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee require two Independent Persons on the membership. Refusal to appoint either candidate would mean that the Council would have to restart the recruitment process.

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

- 4.1 There has been no consultation on this proposal.

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

- 5.1 If Audit Committee resolve to recommend the appointment to Council, the report will be presented for Council approval on 17 January 2024.
- 5.2 If approved by Council in January 2024, the decision would be implemented with immediate effect.

- 5.3 The Head of Democratic Services is responsible for actioning the appointment.

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

- 6.1 The allowance for the Independent Members of the Audit Committee is £745 per annum and is already included in the budget for Member Allowances. Any costs associated with the recruitment of an Independent Member have been met within existing budgets. There are no further financial or procurement implications associated with this proposal.

**7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this proposal beyond ensuring that the Council complies with the provisions of the Constitution, which is discussed earlier in this report.

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no Human Resources implications associated with this proposal.

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

- 9.1 There are no implications of children and young people or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

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

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

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

- 11.1 There are no implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change.

**12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 There are no implications for partners associated with this report.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 The appointment of a second suitably skilled and experienced independent member will strengthen the review of risk management by the Audit Committee and consequently improve the Council's governance arrangements.

**Accountable Officer(s)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services  
Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit

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

# AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST WARD

Covering Aughton, Orgreave, Swallownest and Ulley



Councillor  
Robert Taylor



Councillor  
Lyndsay Pitchley

## Report to Full Council

January 2024

### Ward priorities

- Develop & support initiatives that will improve health & well-being and tackle poverty.
- Develop and support initiatives around crime and community safety.
- Develop and support initiatives that will improve the environment and the neighbourhood.

### How these ward priorities were agreed

We know that local people are best placed to tell us about where they live and what matters to them. To assess our Ward Plan priorities we have used a range of information, including the ward profile, taken into consideration the views of our partners, voluntary and community organisations.

Most importantly we have engaged with our residents, consulting with them at every opportunity by arranging a variety of engagement events which have included: visits to schools, community groups, pop-up coffee mornings, meet your councillor roadshows and community safety events.

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

Our approach has been and remains centred on our community, listening and working with them to make a difference. We recognise that there is a wealth of social and community assets and we continue to put the community at the heart of everything we do, to make people healthier, happier and proud of where they live by working with residents on things that are important to them.

### Working in partnership.

We strongly believe that working in partnership with our partners is the best way to help our neighbourhood thrive. We have 3 Parish Councils within our Ward and we work closely with them, the Police and other partners on issues and concerns to achieve the best outcome for our residents.

### Progress so far:

Over the last 2 years our Capital ward funding and Community Leadership funding has been used to support over 30 projects in the Aughton and Swallownest area, working with residents and partners to deliver our ward priorities. Here are some examples of the work that has been carried out so far:

### Priority 1 - Develop & support initiatives that will improve health & well-being and tackle poverty.

- We have worked in partnership with all the Junior & Infant schools within our ward, improved engagement and encouraged alternative learning methods by supporting real-life style elections during Democracy week, taking part in Inspirational days and provided funding so that schools could improve their outdoor reading spaces and provide friendship benches.



- Worked in partnerships with Aston Leisure Centre to provide free mini and me fitness sessions which is a combination of exercise for parents and soft play area for children.
- Worked in partnership with Aston Parish Council and Pritchard and Sons to provide a memorial tree and plaque at Burgoyne Park where people can leave messages and remember their loved ones.
- Neighbourhood centres are a great community asset and to support these we have provided funding to community groups and worked in partnership with Rotherfed and Age UK who have provided activities in the centres which help to reduce social isolation, improve mental health and well-being.
- We have carried out a young person's survey and worked with partners to identify where there are gaps in provision of activities and are proud to support the delivery of boxing sessions for young people that are being held weekly at Aston Parish Hall.
- We have supported intergenerational events by providing funding to Swallowing Bowling Club who provide free teaching and training for school children.
- We are working with partners to deliver a community lifestyle event where residents will be able to receive information on all aspects of health, money advice, energy know-how and other initiatives to help with the cost-of-living crisis.
- We held a spring celebration event to say thank you to all the volunteers and community groups in the Ward who work tirelessly to provide activities and support their fellow residents.

## **Priority 2 - Develop and support initiatives around crime and community safety.**

- We have listened to our residents and are working with the Transportation and Highways department to identify ways to improve road safety near Aston Fence Junior & Infant school.
- We have pushed for improved road safety at Chesterfield Way and we are pleased that the installation of a pedestrian crossing has been approved.
- Raised the awareness of dangerous driving and peer pressure by working in partnership with Hope Charity who delivered their collision course to partners who work with families and young people.
- We have listened to resident's concerns and Capital funding will be used to put in place traffic calming measures on Smallage Lane.
- We hold regular pop-up community safety events with the Police & partners where residents can raise their concerns, receive advice on how to keep safe and receive free safety items and prevention of drink spiking items which have been purchased with our Ward budget.
- Provided safer access to shops and improved parking around the Rosegarth Shopping parade, in partnership with the Towns and Villages team.
- Ward funding has been used to provide tube surveys at Ulley and we are supporting Ulley Parish Council with the provision of "Please drive safely, welcome to our village" signs.

## **Priority 3 - Develop and support initiatives that will improve the environment and the neighbourhood.**

- We have consulted with residents and worked with partners to agree the location of the new litter bins on Chesterfield Road.
- We often join our volunteer community litter pickers who give up their time to keep their streets clean and tidy.
- Worked in partnership with Housing to provide community skips.
- We continue to arrange a wide range of engagement events including estate walkabouts which gives us the opportunity to talk to residents about what is important to them, what they like and don't like about where they live.





# ASTON AND TODWICK WARD

Covering Aston, East Swallownest and Todwick

## Agenda Item 14



Councillor  
Joshua Bacon



Councillor  
Aaron Barker

## Report to Full Council

January 2024

### Ward priorities

- To support residents and community organisations around the cost of living.
- To support and develop initiatives to improve the local environment.
- To explore opportunities to engage and support local businesses.
- To develop and support initiatives around road safety.

### How these Ward Priorities were agreed

- Local people are best placed to tell us about where they live and what matters to them. We have attended various local community groups and activities, which gives us the opportunity to speak directly to people who live and work in Aston and Todwick.
- We have analysed ward statistics and information on the demography and geography of the area.
- We have looked at consultations carried out with partner agencies and voluntary and community organisations, enabling us to gather further information and intelligence to feed into the ward priorities and identify any gaps.
- Most importantly we have listened to residents. Consulting with local people is vital to setting priorities that meet the needs of our ward. We have linked this grassroots information with the existing knowledge made available to us and developed a set of ward priorities that are meaningful to people within our ward.



### How these Ward Priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

To deliver our priorities it is vital for us to work together within our communities and support a 'place-based' and 'strength based' approach as set out in the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy. We are committed to using this approach to get the best possible outcomes for our communities and getting the most value for money from our ward budgets.

### Working in partnership

Our approach has always been to recognise the importance of working in partnership on issues and projects to get the best possible outcome. We have used our ward capital budget to deliver various projects across the ward, particularly on aspects around road safety, but also to develop and support initiatives around crime, community safety, and on environmental issues that will enhance our green spaces within the community. Without working together and pooling resources these projects would not have been possible.

### Progress so far

The Aston and Todwick ward capital budget and Community Leadership Fund has supported over 30 projects since the start of our term. We have worked with several community groups and partner agencies, including schools, Taras, Churches, Neighbourhood Watch, Parish Councils, Police, Housing, VRU and Green Spaces to deliver these projects. Here is a brief outline of just some of these and how they contribute towards our ward priorities.

**Ward Priority 1: To support residents and community organisations around the cost of living**

- **Offering budget advice through HSBC in schools to children and parents** - This is something we hope to achieve early new year.
- **Linking in with food and clothing campaigns such as organisations that reduce waste and school clothing banks** - We have continued to support residents and tenants in the Aston and Todwick area by sharing information on how to access help and support during the cost-of-living crisis through our ward e-bulletin, schools, Aston Medical Centre and our network and partnership groups. We continue to share and signpost the school uniform bank through our partners and e-bulletins and are working with the co-op to help support food poverty through our network and partnership event.
- **'Energy Know How' road shows in the community and in schools** - We are hosting a 'Loving Life Road Show' at Aston Service Centre in Feb 24 half term with various partners to help support this aim. At this event various partners will engage with the community about finance, employment opportunities, training, 'Energy Know-How', health, and Lifestyle Housing.
- **To Develop and support initiatives around crime, community safety, particularly in hotspot areas** - We have worked with Aston Tara, Early Help, Rotherham Utd, the local church, and the Violence Reduction Unit in finding ways to support young people around initiatives that prevent crime and antisocial behaviour and through various activities after school and in school holidays. Currently Dinnington Boxing Club are engaging with children and young people in the Aston area through funding gained by VRU.
- **Support setting up of Neighbourhood Watch schemes with SYP**: We have offered support in setting up new Neighbourhood Watch schemes in hotspot crime areas through our pop-up safety roadshows with SYP. We have encouraged friendship circles and a calling tree at these events to support the elderly and vulnerable, as both Aston and Todwick are populated by a high percentage of elderly tenants and residents.
- **Pop up crime safety events around the ward**: We have continued to deliver pop-up crime safety events working with our partner in SYP, Housing and Rotherfed.

**Ward Priority 2: To support and develop initiatives to improve the local environment**

- **Improvement of Green Spaces** - We are currently supporting Housing through the Ward Housing Hub and working with Greenspaces and landscape architects to improve the green space at the back of the boiler house on Florence Ave. This project will span over three years and its intention is to improve the area with fruit trees, wildlife, and planting, giving the community a better place to connect with the green space through play, as well as an opportunity to meet outside socially. The first community engagement phase is currently under way, including opportunities to work with young people, children, and the wider community. Aston TARA continues to support the improvements to the area. We will be working with them to deliver planned outdoor activities within the local community. This will be taking place in February 24.
- **Community Clean up days** - We continue to work with Aston TARA and SYP, especially when littering becomes an issue. We are working with Housing, SYP, Early Help outreach and CPU in addressing problematic areas, such as the greenspace on Florence Ave and by the convenience store on Hepworth Drive.
- **Support for Litter picking groups** – We offer continued support when necessary.

**Ward Priority 3: To explore opportunities to engage and support local businesses**

- **Towns and Villages Project** - This is ongoing, and we are hoping that this project will be starting shortly. We have consulted with the community and local businesses in the area to find out what they would like to improve. This hasn't been without its challenges, but our aim is to complete in the new year. This will include erecting a new digital bus shelter on the Pastures at the same time. Another new digital bus sign will also be placed on Worksop Road at Aston, which will improve access to bus services within the ward.

**Ward Priority 4: To develop and support initiatives around road safety**

- **Hotspots** - We have used some of our capital budget to install speed activation signs. This will be on Mansfield Road between the A57 and Lodge Lane junction to increase awareness of speed in these areas. The signage will be erected shortly.
- **A57 Todwick Roundabout** - We have been working in partnership with Highways to decide on potential improvements around the A57 Todwick Roundabout, including how to tackle the congestion at this roundabout during peak times. We have requested that these options to be put forward should funding be available.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**28th November, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Baker-Rogers (in the Chair); Councillors Browne, Elliott and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mills and John Barber, Independent Member.

**31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

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

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

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

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute No. 43 (Regeneration and Environment Directorate Risk Register) as defined in the Paragraph 3 indicated of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**34. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2023**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

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

**35. AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23**

Further to Minute Nos. 98 and 21 of 7<sup>th</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, respectively, Rob Mahon, Assistant Director, and Gareth Mills, on behalf of Grant Thornton, presented the Audited Final Statement of Accounts and the ISA 260 report.

The Committee noted that under the Accounts and Audit (amendment) Regulations 2022, local authorities were required to publish their unaudited accounts no later than 31st May 2023, for the financial year 2022/23, accompanied by a Narrative Report and draft Annual Governance Statement.

At present as part of the draft ISA 260 the following changes have been recommended by Grant Thornton and accepted by the Council, with adjustments made to the Council's accounts.

For the first time since International Financial Reporting Standards have been adopted by the public sector the Council had to consider a net asset position on the IAS19 valuation report. This was an assessment of the Council's current and future liabilities generated by its participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Since the publication of the Draft Statement of Accounts further clarification had been provided via CIPFA Bulletin 15. This was in response to auditors' request (nationally) to provide guidance on the application of IFRIC 14 for Local Authority Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) plans in accordance with the Code.

The bulletin supported the requirement for the calculation of the asset ceiling and that authorities should consult their actuaries for this purpose. Prior to the official clarification the Council had worked with Grant Thornton to agree the recommended disclosure in the Final Statement of Accounts.

The actuary reported a revised net surplus/asset position and this had been recognised in the final Statement of Accounts. It should be noted that this did not impact on the Council's usable reserves and would not alter the Council's employer contributions to the pension fund.

The detailed changes to the Statement of Accounts as a result of the change were set out in the ISA 260. In addition, there were a number of minor corrections and presentational changes that have been agreed.

The Committee asked several questions on the key findings and on the Council's current and future liabilities generated by its participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme and the significant impact this was having on South Yorkshire. Prior to the official clarification the Council worked with Grant Thornton to agree the recommended disclosure in the Final Statement of Accounts and was appropriately reflected.

Gareth Mills, on behalf of Grant Thornton, presented the ISA 260 report setting out the overall conclusions from their 2022/23 audit, key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audit and preparation of the Council's financial statements and in doing so drew attention to Rotherham being in the minority of Councils managing to achieve the draft accounts deadline.

The key points were set out in detail as part of Appendix 4. The work was nearing completion and no audit adjustments were identified impacting on the Council's outturn position and useable reserves. However, there was one material adjustment to primary financial statements in relation to the valuation of the Council's share of the defined benefit pension scheme.



Management agreed to update the financial statements to amend for these adjustments and changes.

There were no matters that would require modification of the proposed audit opinion as work neared completion, subject to several outstanding matters relating to completion of the remaining elements of work, responses to equal pay claims and subsequent work, completion of internal quality review processes, reviewing the final signed version of the financial statements, obtaining/reviewing the signed letter of representation and updating the post balance sheet events review.

It was noted the Value For Money work was not yet complete and so the Annual Auditor Report could not yet be issued. It was hoped this could be discussed and agreed with management by the end of January, 2024 and presented back to the Audit Committee in March, 2024.

The Committee in receiving the information noted this was the first time that the defined benefit pension scheme had been recognised and this could be reflected differently in future years given the complexities of the new standards and the impact on useable reserves.

The Committee also sought assurances about the equal pay liabilities and if they needed to be reflected in the financial statements and were advised that due to a substantial amount of work already completed in tackling equal pay, no liability needed to be recognised.

The Committee also noted the detail within the Financial Statements relating to the other communication requirements and matters communicated to those charged with governance.

Management were satisfied that despite the many challenges Rotherham was in a much better position than some other Local Authorities.

The Committee thanked all those involved in the preparation of the Audited Final Statement of Accounts 2022/23.

**Resolved:-** That, having taken due regard of the external audit findings detailed within the ISA 260 report, the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts attached as Appendix 1 be approved for publication as final along with the 2022/23 Narrative Report attached as Appendix 2.

### **36. FINAL ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23**

Further to Minute No. 99 of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was reviewed for the 2022/23 financial year. The draft AGS was published alongside the Council's draft financial statements.

This was further reviewed on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 ready to be published alongside the Council's financial statements. The review was now complete following receipt of comments from the External Auditors, and changes have been made to the Annual Governance Statement as a result. Most of these changes related to the updating of the position around the Council's financial strategy as well as the implementation of actions arising from the inspection of Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

That review was now complete with a few points raised resulting in minor amendments to the Annual Governance Statement. The report submitted provided an update on the changes made to:-

- Updating paragraphs 3.18 to 3.31 to ensure that references to the Council's Financial Strategy refer to the most up to date position.
- Updating paragraphs 4.7 to 4.12 to reflect further progress in the implementation of the recommendations arising from Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Inspection.
- The addition of references to the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion and the role of the Chief Executive and Senior Officers in monitoring standards as key elements of the Council's governance framework in the table at paragraph 2.7.

The full Annual Governance Statement was attached as Appendix A of the report submitted.

The Committee asked for an update on the external review of the Tree Management Protocol and guidance and the Action Plan that had been produced to capture all the recommendations from the reports. Reassurance was provided in that work was ongoing to address some of the issues and the Action Plan would be closely monitored to ensure the actions recommended were completed. An update would be provided at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

Further information was also sought on the funding arrangements following the COVID-19 pandemic and an update sought.

The Committee were advised the Council acted quickly to support local businesses. They continued to monitor the incidence and impact of Covid throughout the year and it was believed the Council came out of the situation balance neutral.

In response to a further question about the Health and Safety Executive and their investigation it was undertaking into allegations concerning hand/arm vibration, the Council was still waiting on full disclosure and associated summons to attend a hearing.

**Resolved:-** That the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement be approved.

**37. MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS MONITORING REPORT - 2023/24**

Consideration was given to the report presented by Rob Mahon, Assistant Director, which detailed how the regulatory framework of treasury management required the Council to produce a mid-year treasury review, in addition to the forward looking annual treasury strategy and backward looking annual treasury outturn report. It was also now a requirement that the prudential indicators as at the end of June 2023/24 were reported.

This mid-year review for 2023/24 incorporated the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of the capital expenditure plans and the Council's prudential indicators (PIs).

It was also a requirement that any proposed changes to the 2023/24 prudential indicators were approved by Council.

The monitoring as set out in the Appendix to the report was structured to highlight the key changes to the Council's capital activity (the PIs) and the actual and proposed treasury management activity (borrowing and investment).

Reference was made to the key messages for investments, borrowing and governance.

Whilst the Council's approach to Treasury Management in recent years, utilising short term borrowing in particular, had generated significant savings for the Council, essential to achieving balanced budgets, the future outlook was more challenging.

The Committee asked if there was any impact of the conflict in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and were advised that the increase in borrowing rates could not have been projected by the Council and this more challenging position had been considered as part of the Council's updated Medium Term Financial Strategy.

With increased interest rates for borrowing, as a result of the increases in the Bank of England Base Rate, when the Council did need to borrow, it would be at much higher levels than had been assumed when setting the Council's Budget for 2023/24.

It should be noted that it was expected that borrowing rates have now peaked and would reduce over the next couple of years, linked to the projections that inflation would return back to the Bank of England's target 2% level.

**Resolved:-** That the report be received and the contents noted.

**38. INFORMATION GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

Consideration was given to the annual report presented by Paul Vessey, Head of Information Management on the Council's compliance with Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation.

Appendix 1 of the report provided Freedom of Information and Right of Access Requests performance for the last four financial years.

Right of Access requests performance was below the target of 100% completion within the statutory time limits. This was due to the large number that were complex in nature involving large volumes of historical data, children's services and were often linked to CSE.

Despite performance remaining below the statutory target there had been an increase in the number of requests that have been responded to within the statutory time period.

The performance for Freedom of Information requests was below the target of 100% completion within the statutory time limits. The overall number of Freedom of Information Requests received had remained static and there had been an increase in the number of requests responded to within the statutory time period.

Analysis of the data did not raise any significant concerns during the year's performance and no valid Freedom of Information requests have been refused, except for one individual who had a Single Refusal Notice in force for vexatious requests on a specific subject. Requests could be refused if expenditure to provide the detail would exceed £450.

The Committee in noting the detail asked what would happen if the requests were not within the prescribed timeframe and it was pointed out that Freedom of information Requests were being closely monitored and were performing at around 93%. It was the Right to Access Requests that could vary substantially in complexity and workload making analysing, allocating resources and forecasting problematic. Performance would continue to be closely monitored with the focus on improvement.

It was also noted that in the event that a Right of Access Request was complex, an extension could be sought. Refusals were rare.

The differences between the two requests were provided pointing out that the key issue was to ensure that compliance with data protection and freedom of information legislation was maintained.

In terms of Appendix 2 this provided a breakdown of the number and classification of Information Security Incident for 2022/23.

The Council actively encouraged services to report any suspected data incidents and all reported cases are investigated. Monitoring information security incidents enabled the Council to proactively improve the Council's risk profile by learning lessons from an incident and reducing the likelihood of it happening again.

Two data breaches were reported to the Information Commissioner's Office in the 2022/23 financial year. One was inappropriate sharing of information and one was a cyber incident at a third-party contractor. Following full report to the Information Commissioner, no further action was required in either incident.

In noting the breaches the Committee asked what preventative action had been put in place. It was pointed out that the company involved with the cyber incident was no longer involved with the Council and steps had been taken to block certain domains. Whilst every effort was made to prevent any human error the probability of future risk was low.

The Committee asked if year on year comparisons in relation to information security incidents could be provided, which was agreed.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the Data Protection/FOI Annual Report 2022/23 be received and the contents noted.

(2) That it was a requirement that the Council continued its maintenance of its Information Governance policies and processes in compliance with legislation.

### 39. CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Consideration was given to the report presented by Simon Dennis, Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager, which detailed how in April 2016 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives published revised guidance on delivering good governance in Local Government. The Council's Code of Corporate Governance was refreshed at the time to comply with this guidance and attached as appendices were the tracked changed and clean documents.

It was good practice to review and revise the Council's Code on an annual basis and in Rotherham monitored quarterly.

The Committee were advised when questions were raised that an evaluation of the refreshed version of the Code had taken place and on comparison to other Local Authorities the Code in Rotherham had captured the necessary detail.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the refreshed version of the Code of Corporate Governance be considered.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE - 28/11/23**

(2) That any amendments or further development work deemed necessary be indicated.

**40. RISK MANAGEMENT GUIDE REFRESH 2023**

Further to Minute No. 54 of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, Simon Dennis, Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager, detailed how the changes to the Risk Management Policy were approved by the Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. There were no changes proposed to the Policy this year.

Several amendments have been made to the Risk Management Guide to improve its clarity and readability and to correct a small number of typographical errors. None of the amendments changed the Council's overall risk management processes. The detail of these changes were set out as part of the report.

Over the coming year, work would continue to ensure the Council's approach to risk management was well embedded across all projects and all staff, by providing training, clear guidance, supporting the Risk Champions and reporting according to agreed timelines.

The Committee welcomed the independent review by the Council's external risk management advisor and how work was continuing to implement the principles contained in the Risk Management Guide and to further embed risk management processes across the Council's operations.

It was also noted that the Strategic Risk Register was reviewed quarterly at the Strategic Leadership Team and the Directorate Risk Registers were reviewed monthly at Directorate Leadership Team meetings, with risk owners monitoring risks on an ongoing basis. The Risk Management Group, which included the Risk Champions, continued to meet bi-monthly to co-ordinate and drive risk management development throughout the Council.

The Council also benefited from a number of free days/offers from the external risk consultants which were shared with other departments when deemed necessary. Other departments would be notified of any offers available in due course and details shared.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.

(2) That the refreshed Risk Management Guide be approved.

**41. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER REVIEW AND UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which provided details of the Internal Audit Charter which was effectively the Terms of Reference of the Internal Audit Department.

It was aligned to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and Local Government Application Note (LGAN), which were mandatory for all Local Government Audit Departments. It also took account of the contents of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit.

The Charter must be reviewed periodically and presented to the Audit Committee for approval. The review was now complete and there were no requirements for change with minimal changes to the Charter.

**Resolved:-** That the Internal Audit Charter be approved.

**42. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST SEPTEMBER TO 31ST OCTOBER 2023**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which provided a summary of Internal Audit work completed during 1st September to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023, and the key issues that had arisen therefrom.

The current position of the plan provided sufficient coverage for the Head of Internal Audit to provide their annual opinion at the end of the year and would be kept under review throughout the year. The plan attached as part of the report showed the position at the end of October 2023. In the year to date the service had delivered 601 days of productive work, showing it was on target for the year as a whole.

Internal Audit provides an opinion on the control environment for all systems or services which were subject to audit review. The report detailed the audit opinions and a brief summary of all audit work concluded in the last quarter. Nine audits have been finalised since the last Audit Committee, including one with Partial Assurance.

In addition to the planned audit assurance work, Internal Audit also carried out unplanned responsive work and investigations into any allegations of fraud, corruption or other irregularity. There have been no investigation reports issued since the last meeting of the Audit Committee.

Internal Audit's performance against a number of indicators was also summarised. One audit exceeded the time budget and available productive time was affected by staff training.

Reference was made to the Internal Audit Performance Indicators and whether the targets should be stretched slightly. The Audit Committee were advised that they will be reviewed in the forthcoming year, by benchmarking against other authorities and taking into consideration more detailed findings of the customer satisfaction surveys.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE - 28/11/23**

The Committee was advised the Audit Plan was flexible, was on track with performance and would be reviewed to ensure it focused on current risks. This would be revised and presented to the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

In terms of the "Partial Assurance" opinion on Building Security the Committee were advised that this was a follow up audit of a previous review of Building Security and a number of robust actions had already been implemented, significant improvements made and some of the risks removed entirely.

The Committee welcomed the actions already taken, but suggested a presentation be included as part of the next meeting of the Audit Committee on progress.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken since the last Audit Committee, 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023, and the key issues that have arisen from it be noted.

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

(3) That a presentation on progress be included on the next agenda of the Audit Committee.

**43. REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE RISK REGISTER**

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment, supported by Simon Moss (Planning, Regeneration and Transport) and Sam Barstow (Community Safety and Street Scene), presented a report providing details of the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Regeneration and Environment's Directorate.

The Committee were advised there were two of the Directorate risks also on the Strategic Risk Register.

The report detailed the key risks on the current Regeneration and Environment Risk Register which were directorate wide and across the workforce. There were recruitment challenges in certain areas which was reflective of the wider economy.

The Committee made reference to and expressed their concern about the four risks (red rating) and an explanation as to how the risk was being managed and measured was provided.



It was, therefore, suggested that the risk management activity in the Regeneration and Environment Directorate be included on the agenda of the 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 meeting of the Audit Committee for a progress update.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Regeneration and Environment Directorate be noted.

(2) That the risk management activity in the Regeneration and Environment Directorate be included on the agenda of the 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 meeting for a progress update.

**44. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN**

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee covering the next year. The plan showed how the agenda items related to the objectives of the Committee. It was presented for review and amendment as necessary.

The only amendments were for the addition of the Value for Money Opinion for a verbal update at the January meeting and then to be on track for presentation at the March meeting.

**Resolved:** That the Audit Committee forward work plan, as now submitted, be approved, subject to the inclusion indicated above.

**45. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY**

There were no items for referral.

**46. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business to be considered.

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

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Audit Committee take place on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, commencing at 2.00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

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**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**  
**22nd November, 2023**

**Present:-**

Councillor Roche (In the Chair)  
 Ben Anderson  
 Nicola Curley  
 Chris Edwards  
 Shafiq Hussain  
 Sharon Kemp  
 Toby Lewis  
 Jason Page

Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health  
 Director of Public Health  
 Strategic Director of CYPS  
 Executive Place Director  
 Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Rotherham  
 Chief Executive, RMBC  
 Chief Executive, RDaSH  
 Medical Director, Rotherham Place

**Report Presenters:-**

Claire Smith  
 Steph Watt  
 Jason Page  
 Susan Claydon  
 Alex Hawley  
 Lorna Quinn  
 Gilly Brenner  
 Kelsey Broomhead

Deputy Place Director for Rotherham ICB  
 Head of Adult Commissioning at the NHS  
 GP Clinical Commissioning Group  
 Head of Locality and Family support  
 Public Health Consultant  
 Public Health Intelligence Manager  
 Public Health Consultant  
 Public Health Practitioner Apprentice

**Also Present:-**

Leonie Wieser  
 Natasha Aucott

Policy Officer, RMBC  
 Governance Advisor, RMBC

Apologies for absence were received from Laura Kosciwicz and Paul Woodcock.

**44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

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

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

**46. COMMUNICATIONS**

It was noted that following the meeting, there would be a one hour development session for Board Members in the John Smith Room.

**47. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th September, 2023, be approved as a true record.

**48. CHANGE OF DATE OF MARCH 2024 MEETING**

It was noted that the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 27th March 2024, would be moved to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024, due to purdah starting on 13th March, 2024. The meeting would take place at Wentworth Woodhouse.

**Resolved:-** That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Agree that the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 27th March 2024, be moved to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**49. ROTHERHAM PLACE WINTER PLAN**

Steph Watt, Deputy Place Director for Rotherham Integrated Care Board (ICB), presented an update on the Rotherham Place Winter Plan with the aid of the following PowerPoint presentation:

Introduction-

- The plan was developed in collaboration with all Place partners and built on learning from previous years.
- Approval and assurance through the Urgent Emergency Care (UEC) Board was completed in September and it was taken through the UEC Alliance, Place Leadership Board and to Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Additional resources were prioritised, allocated and assured through the Better Care Fund which supported integrated working across health and social care.

Summary of Key Learning-

- Key Themes:
  - Key pressure points were Primary Care, Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UECC) and Discharge, including access to community services impacting on system flow.
  - Winter came early, pre-Christmas 2022, including acute respiratory infections and/or Covid.
  - The impact of industrial action and cost of living would continue to be a factor.
- What worked well:
  - A whole system approach.
  - Strong partnership working.
  - Targeted schemes.
  - Additional senior management support at key pressure points.
  - Acute escalation framework and a command centre.
- Challenges:
  - Short term funding schemes and/or recruitment challenges.
  - Unprecedented pressures were seen in November and December 2022, this included paediatric acute respiratory.
  - Pressure on general and acute beds.
  - Barriers to timely discharge and decision making.
  - Communication challenges in a fast-changing context.

- Strategy:
  - National funding was for the period of 2023-2025, this enabled longer term planning.
  - Winter schemes would start before Christmas this year.
  - Target key themes would include:
    - Access to primary care.
    - Alternative pathways to UECC.
    - New ways of working and/or investment in the community.
    - Right size of general and acute bed base.
    - A review escalation framework and access to information which would provide a whole system overview.

#### The year in Primary Care-

- The Primary Care Hub would be delivered by the GP Federation between the period of December to February, this would support acute respiratory infections and seasonal variations (national forecasts suggested a flu peak between January and February 2024).
- Additional clinical capacity.
- Additional reception capacity and hosted (cloud) telephony would be in place in all practices, with a call back functionality which would ensure callers would not lose their place in the queue.
- Community teams linked to all practices.
- All CQC registered care homes had an aligned GP practice, with specific responsibilities to provide continuity of care and avoid admission to hospital.
- Flu and Covid Vaccinations would be delivered as a system using practice footprint, this would include residents and staff in care homes.

#### This year, alternative pathways to the Emergency Department-

- Virtual Ward (hospital at home):
  - This would be for people who would otherwise be in an acute bed.
  - Frailty and acute respiratory pathways.
  - Utilising remote technology where appropriate to identify changes in condition.
  - Avoiding unnecessary admissions and facilitating early discharge.
- Urgent community response (UCR):
  - A two-hour response standard, 70% of the time.
  - Nine clinical conditions.
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) PUSH Model:
  - Where 999 was called but did not require an emergency response.
  - Calls 'pushed' to Rothercare for falls with no injury and UCR for minor injuries and illnesses.
- Same Day Emergency Care:
  - Medicine, surgery and gynae.
  - Direct access for YAS, avoiding UECC and/or admission.

This year, in the acute hospital-

- Urgent and Emergency Care Centre:
  - Appointment of seven new consultants in the last year.
  - Improved nursing position.
  - Expanded dedicated social worker resource to support avoidance of unnecessary admissions.
  - Twilight shift for porters.
  - Improvement programme with YAS.
- Increase general and acute beds:
  - Twenty-four additional beds and fifteen surge.
  - Surge plans for paediatrics, including beds and staffing.
  - Plans to protect electives and orthopaedics from bedding and/or outliers.
- Cancer:
  - New senior role to oversee cancer and elective care.
  - Additional MRI scanner that had improved MRI waiting times.
  - Breast pain pathway to filter non two- week wait, patients to the right clinic and improved capacity.

This year, discharge-

- Medical and pharmacy resource in 'community ready' (discharge) lounge.
- Additional patient transport shifts.
- Additional nursing, therapy, reablement and social worker resource to support discharge/patients at home.
- Home from hospital home care service commissioned to provide additional hours.
- Fund to support additional community beds, focussing on complexity.
- fifteen residential surge beds at Lord Hardy Court.
- Out of area trusted assessment pilot.
- Care home trusted assessment pilot.
- Integrated working with the voluntary and community sector.
  - Re-prioritisation of the Age UK hospital after care service.
  - Urgent and emergency social prescribing pilot.
  - Personal health budget pilot with the You Asked We Responded Community Group.

This year, in Mental Health-

- There had been an increase in the mental health workforce within Primary Care with the introduction of the Mental Health Additional Roles Re-imbursement Scheme (ARRS), psychology post and community connectors.
- Joint working between Well@work and Rotherhive, to support employers and employees.
- The rollout of more mental health awareness training.
- The expansion of the Rotherham Safe Space, to four nights a week.
- The launch of a new service to support people who had attempted suicide.
- Support would be available from the following:

- RDaSH /Samaritan Wellbeing Check Pathway.
- Peer support groups, such as Andy's Man Club, S62, Parent Carers Forum, Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide, Women Acceptance, Support, Kindness mental health support group (ASK).
- A range of community mental health initiatives funded by the Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) Crisis and mental health grant schemes.
- Mental health digital resources including Rotherhive and Kooth and Qwell.

This year, for children and young people-

- Self-help support and wider public health information would be promoted.
- CYPS Crisis and Intensive Community Support Team would engage to provide risk assessment, care and/or treatment to avoid re-presentation at UECC.
- The Me in Mind Teams would work intensely with schools to support resilience and provide early intervention where children and young people are showing the early sign of emotional distress.

This year, for improved cross system communication and decision making-

- Community transfer of the care hub:
  - Multi-disciplinary team for referral, triage and assessment of step up and step-down patients.
  - For admission avoidance and discharge, the service would ensure the right level of care according to need.
  - 24-hour response service and/or core offer, seven days a week.
  - This would include nursing, therapy, social workers, reablement co-ordinators, wellbeing and call handlers, pharmacy technician and the voluntary and community sector.
- New escalation framework:
  - New Place escalation wheel that would provide a holistic view of the whole system flow for the first time.
  - Aligned to national operational pressures escalation levels (OPEL), action cards for each level.
  - This would feed into team, organisation, Place, South Yorkshire, regional and national framework.
  - South Yorkshire ICB and Place communications plan.
  - New operational and performance reports.
- South Yorkshire ICB and Place winter communication campaign.
- Support with the Cost of Living, with promotion of support schemes.

Next steps-

- Place workshop to scenario test plans.
- Would continue to plan for industrial action.
- Would complete outstanding recruitment.
- Would launch schemes.

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised/clarified:

- It was noted that last year Covid levels were exceptional; this year Rotherham was in a better position to cope with potential surges, this was due to increasing resources and working in different ways. The NHS in Rotherham was part of a wider South Yorkshire system, therefore, wider assurance was required that other areas of the NHS in South Yorkshire were in a good position.
- NHS partners in Rotherham had fifty additional doctors compared to levels in 2019.
- The NHS hospital site in Doncaster required a re-build.
- There were new guidelines in place relating to emergency treatment for young people, an example was provided that the trust had worked to ensure that all children with significant health concerns could access the hospital. Assurance was provided that the relevant guidelines were in place and would be published and circulated in due course.

**Resolved:-** That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Noted the update on the Winter Plan.

## 50. **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE - SUPPORT FOR RIGHT CARE RIGHT TIME RIGHT PLACE**

Steph Watt, Head of Adult Commissioning at the NHS, presented an update on working with the voluntary and community Sector, Support for Right Care Right Time Right Place with the aid of the following PowerPoint presentation:

Context-

- Based on Rotherham's commitment to supporting people to remain independent at home for as long as possible and home first ethos.
- Built on the strong tradition of partnership working and Voluntary Action Rotherham's early pioneering of social prescribing.
- Highlighted three services which supported admission avoidance and discharge, to ensure people would receive the right level of care according to their needs.

Rotherham Urgent and Emergency Care, Social Prescribing Service-

- The role:
  - To work with health and social care professionals to support patients experiencing social, emotional and/or practical barriers to better health and wellbeing.
  - For admission avoidance and discharge.
  - Would provide holistic, wrap-around support for patients.
  - Would utilise wider voluntary and community sector services.
  - Would help to ensure a safe home environment and build independence, confidence and resilience.



- The Service:
  - Ran Monday to Friday for age eighteen plus.
  - Received referrals and assessed discharged for patients.
  - Developed a support plan.
  - Onward referrals.
  - Ongoing, short-term support.
  - Follow-up and closure of case.

UEC Social Prescribing in practise, Paul's case study:

- About Paul:
  - Admitted with Critical Pneumonia.
  - Unable to walk or mobilise.
  - Poor mental and physical health following 9 months in hospital and a huge life change and lost his job and home.
- Paul's experience:
  - Spent nine months in hospital and step-down beds.
  - Referred to befriending and enabling, advocacy and benefits support.
  - Since discharge, Paul had progressed from a bed space to independent living within supported housing.
  - Paul was feeling positive, and the aim was to walk independently and return to work in the future.
- The impact for Paul:
  - Improved wellbeing (outcomes measures).
  - Improved mental health and physical health.
  - Improved social connections.
  - Maximised finances.
  - Greater independence and resilience.
- The impact for the system:
  - Bridged a gap from acute back into the community.
  - Linked in with ED high intensity user group.
  - Improved co-ordination of care between health, social care and voluntary sectors
  - Reduced likelihood of readmissions.

YAWR Services Personal Health Budget (PHB)-

- The Need:
  - Removed barriers to allow early and safe discharge, in order to reduce delayed discharges.
  - Assessment and award of PHB (up to £500, with escalation process for exceptions) used to buy a service or goods for discharge home from the acute or community bed base.
- YAWR Services Offer:
  - The service visits patients on the ward prior to discharge to discuss and assess their needs to facilitate discharge from hospital.
  - Pre-discharge was included an initial assessment to discuss support needs and action plan.
  - Post discharge was included a visit the patient to address additional needs including benefits support.

- Barriers to Discharge:
  - Housing, equipment and adaptations, property, and referral pathways.

Personal Health Budgets (PHB) in practise-

- Marcia's Story:
  - Patient was aged 59 years and admitted to Rotherham Hospital in June 2022, following a stroke, loss of sight and her property was no longer suitable.
  - Support with priority housing application, liaison with eye clinic and Rotherham Sight and Sound, a referral for wheelchair access and a review of a care package for double handling.
  - PHB used to pay for a removal company, purchased microwave and fridge freezer.
  - Successful discharge into the community, improved independence, confidence and quality of life.

Impact of the Personal Health Budget Pilot-

- For Patients and Families:
  - Increased independence and quality of life for individuals.
  - PHB had been utilised for household items, cleaning services enabling individuals to return to a safe and secure environment.
  - Reduced carer stress.
  - Improved financial outcomes for individuals through benefits claimed.
  - Informed choice through a holistic needs assessment.

AGE UK Hospital Aftercare Services-

- Our Offer:
  - Monday to Friday, for sixty plus.
  - Transport home from an acute or community bed, within three hours.
  - Settling in service with safe and well check.
  - Onward referrals and signposting.
  - Small aids and adaptations.
  - Short term non-personal enablement support for up to 30 days.
  - Service was also for avoidance of unnecessary admissions.
- The added value:
  - Over 5200 referrals, including safety netting.
  - Over 300 onward referrals and/or signposts to other agencies.
  - Approximately £150,000 in unclaimed monies released through benefit referrals.
  - Over one hundred people received further enabling support.
  - Four Trusted Assessor trained staff.
- Aftercare Service in Practise Case Study:
  - Carol was referred by a frailty nurse due to concerns for patient's safety once home.
  - There was no answer when staff visited following day so permission was obtained from the next of kin to enter the house.

- Patient was found lying on hall-way floor after falling four hours earlier and could not get up.
- Made patient comfortable and provided reassurance whilst the emergency services were called.
- The ambulance arrived within forty-five to sixty minutes and Carol was checked over.
- In consultation with her GP, an agreement was made to send the district nursing team for an assessment.
- The decision reassured the ambulance crew that suitable care was in place and avoided an ambulance conveyance, attendance at A&E and potential admission.
- The emergency crew and staff member spent four hours with the patient.
- The worker made the patient a drink of tea and prepared the following day's breakfast and lunch before leaving.

#### The Next Steps-

- Embed in multi-disciplinary Transfer of Care Hub, right care, time and place.
- Evaluate pilots.
- Consolidate social prescribing, including investment in wider voluntary community sector.

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised and/or clarified:

- There would be a discussion with the national team regarding evaluation of the pilots, to examine whether the scale of required impact could be analysed in comparison to the scale of impact achieved.

**Resolved:** - That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Noted the update provided.

## 51. AIM 1 UPDATE BY BOARD SPONSORS

Board Sponsors Jason Page, Medical Director for Rotherham Place (ICB) and Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children's and Young People's Services presented an update on the progress of Aim 1, all children get the best start in life and go on to achieve their potential, with the aid of the following PowerPoint presentation:

Alignment of the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) priorities with Rotherham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy-

- Context for children's health was very similar in both strategies:
  - Focused of both strategies on health inequalities and the impact of physical, commercial and socio-economic determinants on children's health.
  - Housing, social networks, education and poverty
  - Impact of the pandemic on children's mental health.

- Focus of health areas were very similar:
  - 1001 days, parental health, mental health and oral health.
  - Children's development, development of healthy habits (physical activity and healthy eating).
- The main difference was the focus on the South Yorkshire strategy on school readiness, which was not a major focus of the Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This was also the focus of the ICP Strategy's Bold Ambition, the area where more could be achieved by working together across South Yorkshire:
  - Focused on development in early years so that every child in South Yorkshire would be school ready.
  - Raising the level of school readiness in South Yorkshire and closing the gap in those achieving a good level of development, between those on free school meals and all children by 25% by 2028 to 2030.

Rotherham's strategic priorities for children's health and wellbeing-

- Aim 1, All children get the best start in life and go on to achieve their potential:
  - Develop the approach to give every child the best start in life.
  - Support children and young people to develop well.

Context and cross-cutting activities-

- School age population had increased between 2011 and 2021, the number of children aged 0-4 had decreased from 15,738 in 2011 to 14,645 in 2021 (a 7% reduction).
- The percentage of children living in poverty in Rotherham was higher than regional and England averages, with an estimated 17,700 children and young people aged 0-15 living in families whose income was less than 60% of the median income (2021).
- Cross-cutting activities since last year:
  - Development and implementation of 'Best Start and Beyond' framework.
  - Mobilisation and launch of the 0-19 Service, with a universal offer to support all children and young people and their families, with an enhanced offer for those that needed it, ensuring that there was equality across the service.

Strategic Priority 1, develop our approach to give every child the best start in life-

- The first 1001 days (from conception to age 2) was widely recognised as a crucial period. Too many children in Rotherham were not currently getting the best start in life due to differing life chances.
- Key actions to deliver on this priority:
  - Develop and publish the Start for Life Offer (first 1001 days), through implementation of Best Start and Beyond Framework.

Working towards formal ratification of 'Breastfeeding Borough' Declaration-

- The Rotherham Breast Feeding Friendly Borough (BFFB) Declaration was given further endorsement by the Health and Wellbeing Board in June.
- In August, the Declaration was signed by representatives of the Council, the Trust and Public Health at a launch event, which was combined with the launch of the Trust's 'Rotherham Backs Breastfeeding' campaign. The number of trained midwives in division of tongue tie ('frenotomy') had been increased, and the feasibility of providing a clinic in Rotherham to deliver the procedure was being explored.

Strategic Priority 2, support children and young people to develop well (1)-

- Key factors impacting on children's health included socio-economic factors, housing, social networks, and education.
- Childhood was an important time in the development of behaviours that would have a lifelong influence on health and wellbeing, including healthy eating.

Key areas of focus include-

- Develop and agree a prevention-led approach to children and young people's healthy weight with partners, building on evidence from the compassionate approach:
  - Rotherham's approach would promote health gains for all people, without stigma or judgement, and considers the wider context of their lives.
- Continue to support children and young people's Mental Health and wellbeing, along with schools, health and voluntary sector:
  - CAMHs LAC pathway would be in place.
  - Mental health support in early years was co-ordinated by the Child Development Centre. Family hubs based in Children's Centres presented an opportunity to further develop the mental health support for children and families.
  - With Me In Mind (Rotherham's Mental Health Support Team delivery) started in 2019, three teams covered thirty-nine identified settings and approximately 24,000 pupils.

Strategic Priority 2: Support children and young people to develop well (2)-

- Key areas of progress:
  - Develop proposals for multi-agency Family Hubs model of service delivery in Children's Centres
  - Continue to jointly deliver the SEND Written Statement of Action, jointly led by LA and ICB and with local area partners.
  - Continue to focus on improving early years take-up in targeted areas of Rotherham (Central) to have wider holistic benefit on key development measures.

Areas to address and next steps-

- Work with the LMS to ensure continuity of carer would be the default model by March 2024:
  - The national target for Continuity of Care had been removed, so local activity had refocused on a local transformation programme. The service had embedded phase one and two of the Maternity Workforce Transformation model.
  - The next steps whilst maintaining safe staffing in all areas would be the delivery of the 3 Year Delivery plan for Maternity and neonatal service, which aimed to make care safer, more personalised, and more equitable through the delivery of four high level themes.

Areas to address and next steps-

- Proposed new actions for Aim 1 Action Plan:
  - Further implementation of Breastfeeding Friendly Borough Declaration and 'Rotherham Backs Breastfeeding Campaign'.
  - Evaluation of pilot new universal health visit at three to four months.
  - Further developing the 'Giving your child the best start in life' resource (Start for Life Offer), and producing a printed resource for new parents.

An emergent action plan-

- Ongoing work, which could lead to actions to be added to the plan during the year ahead:
  - Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
  - Gestational weight gain in pregnancy.
  - 'Smokefree Generation'.
  - Mini-needs assessment for young people and drugs and alcohol.
  - Cost of living support for families.

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised and/or clarified:

- The Breastfeeding launch in summer was very successful and well attended. RDASH were looking for additional volunteers.
- There would be a presentation on foetal alcohol syndrome at January's Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.
- The Government had issued £300,000 in funding for the next two years to assist with the reduction of smoking in Rotherham.
- The national funding issued for mental health in schools would end in 2025. It was noted that this was a risk to be kept under review in 2024.
- Persistent non-attendance in schools was a challenge and concern nationally, this challenge was being addressed through a strong programme.
- The school attendance matters pathway had been commended by the Department of Education as excellent practise.

- A Local School Attendance Strategy would be drafted in January 2024, working together with partners and colleagues across the education and school sector.
- A big proportion of non-attendance in schools was due to children going on holidays during term time; there was work underway to promote changes in behaviour from parents regarding this issue.
- There is ongoing work to address health inequalities, poverty and deprivation across the Borough. The Local Authority was very conscious of issues regarding damp and mould and work was continuing in this area.
- There was an NHS England Health Equalities Day held recently where poverty and the cost-of-living crisis was discussed.

Resolved: - That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Noted the update on the work undertaken.

## **52. FAMILY HUBS PROGRESS UPDATE**

Susan Claydon, Head of Locality and Family support and Alex Hawley, Public Health Consultant provided a Progress Update on the Family Hubs programme, and the following overview was provided:

- The Family Hubs programme was co-launched with the Chair and Cabinet Member.
- Rotherham was one of the seventy-five local authorities that had received the funding. The funding had been used to add value, to the already imbedded family working that was in place.
- The key objective of the programme was to improve access to all service delivery. This was being achieved through a range of funding strands, a digital offer, perinatal mental health, publishing the start for life offer and establishing a parent carers panel. There was also an enhanced offer for parenting programmes and evidence-based programmes.
- There had been a new universal health visit implemented between the period of three to four months, beforehand this had only been completed for families with complexities. Families with more complex needs would continue to be supported through Early Help assessments and plans.
- From January, parents registered with the job centre would be able attend appointments on site, rather than travelling to the job centre building, this would ensure that services were more accessible.
- The Satellite hubs was a key element and there would be digital development work completed to link the satellite hubs to the main hubs.
- Digital Rotherham Inclusion officers were working on site and helping families who have families to accessing the available digital offer. All pregnant women and families had access to the Digital Parenthood programme. There was interactive video guidance which was a short video focused on helping the parent and child relationship.

- The Liquid Logic Portal had been purchased to improve the process for partners when completing early help assessments.
- Voluntary Action Rotherham were heavily involved in the delivery of work and were already recruiting volunteer mentors.
- There had been many recruitments such as three additional nursery nurses, a specialist breastfeeding lead and two home learning officers.
- It had been agreed that sites would seek UNICEF baby friendly accreditation.
- In relation to the governance structure, the service was seeking better ways to work and as a result had given the responsibility of overseeing the funded workstreams with family hubs, to the steering group.
- In relation to school readiness, it was noted that the first 1001 days were the most influential. The best start and beyond framework would assist school readiness. School readiness would be an on-going priority to seek system assurances.

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised and/or clarified:

- A balance was required between the online offer and the in-person experience that the Service provided. The services should be universal to enable people to access more tailored services when required and to ensure that the physical experience would match the online experience.

**Resolved:** - That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Noted the progress made in Rotherham's Family Hubs programme.

### **53. UPDATE ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

Leonie Wieser, Policy Officer, presented an update on the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and action plan.

### **54. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY AIMS ALIGNMENT WITH ICP STRATEGY**

It was advised that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

**Resolved:** - That this item be deferred until the next meeting.

### **55. ROTHERHAM SCHOOL LIFESTYLE SURVEY**

Lorna Quinn, Public Health Intelligence Manager presented the results of the Rotherham School Lifestyle Survey, with the aid of the following PowerPoint presentation:



## Background and Deliverables-

- Rotherham context.
- Optional questions and order.
- Deliverables.
- Borough wide report (non-identifiable, public facing).
- School specific reports.
- Dashboard for targeted work.

## Participation and Demographic-

- 15 of 16 schools participated.
- 4,919 students in total: 2,754 Year 7 students and 2,165 Year 10 - 66.6% participation (65% last year).
- 72% White British, 8% Pakistani, 3% 'Other White Background'.
- 193 children stated they live in a Children's Residential Home or with Foster Carers (3.9%).

## Food and Drink Consumption-

- 588 students (13%) rated their diet as poor (1 or 2 out of 5) and the majority felt that their diet was OK.
- 1,195 students (26.4%) did not have breakfast.
- This was increasing but remained similar to last year.
- 2,694 students (59.5%) drank at least one high-sugar fizzy drink per day. This remained similar to previous levels.
- 1,797 students (39.7%) drank at least one high energy drink per week (red bull, monster etc), this was a slight increase.

## Physical Health-

- 77.5% of respondents rated their physical health as excellent or good, 18.6% as fair, and 3.9% as poor.
  - 21% reported a long-term illness, medical condition or disability. This had shown no overall trend since 2017.
  - Asthma and Autism were the two most prevalent self-reported conditions: 4.4% and 3.2% respectively.
  - Young people had a good understanding of where to access support including for sexual health advice; support from school nurses, and family and friends were recognised most frequently.
- 64 respondents smoked on a regular basis and 161 respondents vaped on a regular basis.
  - There was no trend in smoking data: 0.6% and 3.3% of respondents smoked on a regular basis (Y7 and Y10).
  - There had been a positive increase in those who did not think it was ok to smoke.
  - 78% of Y7 and 47% of Y10 had never tried an alcoholic drink, this was similar to previous years.
  - 87% of respondents had never tried drugs or substances and of those that had consumed in the previous month, data remained similar to previous years.

Mental Health Impacts-

- Mental health ratings decreased in 2022 and increased this year. However, proportions rating mental health as poor remained higher than in 2019.
- When asked about the change in their mental health over the last 2 years, 33.4% of respondents reported an improvement in mental health, 35.9% reported their mental health staying the same, and 30.7% reported it being worse or much worse since the pandemic.
- 1.3% of total respondents self-reported diagnosed mental health issues.
- 26.2% of students felt they were not the right size for their age and height and 45.8% felt there was a lot of pressure to have the perfect body image from social media.
- 72.7% of students had been bullied in the last 6 months.
- 16.6% of students had experienced hate crime.
- 21.9% of respondents, 854 people, had used, or created a gambling account and 446 respondents stated they had a problem with spending money on gambling or games.

The Voice of the Child-

- 35.6% felt their view and voice was listened to and taken seriously, 25.0%, felt their views were not listened to and taken seriously, and 39.4%, were unsure.
- 24.7% felt their views were acted upon, 31.3%, felt it was not acted upon, and 44%, were unsure.

Next Steps-

- Partner consultation to determine the following:
- How to use the School Survey.
- What would enable partners to use the survey better.
- Whether partners had any perceived gaps or improvements for the next iteration of the survey.
- A review of questions, including a review of response rates.
- Public Health and CYPS would collaborate for the 2024 survey.

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised/clarified:

- The Rotherham School Lifestyle Survey was completed annually and was locally defined so there could be additions to the survey if required.
- Bullying was a challenge within the Borough and there were clear expectations for schools to have effective programmes and policies in place. There was an Education Safeguarding Officer that worked with schools to ensure their programmes and policies were effective.
- During Safeguarding Awareness Week 2023, sessions were held on online bullying and the impact of social media.
- There was an Education Delivery Group that had a focus on bullying, the group reported to the Safeguarding Partnership.

- Work would be completed with the Childrens and Young People's Partnership Board to ensure that there was a comprehensive understanding of what it was like to live in a digital world.

Resolved:- That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Note the update provided.

## **56. BRIEFING ON PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE SUICIDE PREVENTION AND SELF-HARM ACTION PLAN**

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, provided a report on the proposed extension of the Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Action Plan and the following was noted:

- The Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Action Plan action plan would be in place until the end of this year.
- There had been a national strategy developed this year and there would be new national planning guidance for suicide prevention, which would be issued at the end of 2024. The current action plan was in line with all new areas relating to the national strategy.
- It was proposed that the current action plan should be maintained throughout the next year, delaying the full refresh until after the national guidance would be received.

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised and/or clarified:

- Suicide rates within the Borough were high, but the rates of male suicide were now in line with national averages.

**Resolved:-** That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Approved the recommendation to update existing actions within in the plan whilst awaiting the issue of the national planning guidance and ONS dataset for suicide rates.
- 2) Agreed to receive the updated plan in March 2024.
- 3) Would continue to receive regular updates on progress.
- 4) Agreed for a full refresh of the action plan, supported by the release of the latest ONS dataset and OHID local planning guidance, towards the end of 2024.

## **57. ROTHERHAM FOOD NETWORK**

Gilly Brenner, Public Health Consultant and Kelsey Broomhead, Public Health Practitioner Apprentice, presented an update on the Rotherham Food Network with the aid of the following PowerPoint presentation:

The Aim of the Rotherham Food Network-

- Over the past 18 months, the network had brought together key stakeholders with an interest in food to work together and share best practice in Rotherham.

- The network had used the Sustainable Food Places framework as a structure to focus on six key issues.

#### Food Governance and Strategy-

- Created the Rotherham Food Network.
- Included seventeen stakeholder organisations and sixty-eight members.
- Agreed the Terms of Reference.
- Gained Sustainable Food Places membership (May 2023).
- Developed the first action plan (2023 – 2025).
- Food impact and progress monitoring dashboard was being drafted.
- The joint strategic needs assessment included a section on food and diet.

#### Good Food Movement-

- Adopted a compassionate approach, understanding the context regarding eating and living.
- Would engage with the Healthy Holiday provision.
- Synergy bid, would sharing best practice between food partnerships (Sheffield, Rotherham, and Bristol collaboration).
- Would plan to celebration event to raise awareness of our food movement in Spring 2024.
- Expanded Rotherhive to include a food section.

#### Healthy Food for All-

- Food in Crisis Partnership, focused on a multi-agency approach.
- Made staff aware of food poverty issues, e.g., Cost of living crisis.
- Healthy Start voucher, increased the uptake in those eligible (Jan 23 **68%**, October 23 **78%**)
- Breastfeeding Friendly Borough.
- Participated in campaigns such as Veg Power, through the school catering provision.

#### Sustainable Food Economy-

- Takeaway planning within Rotherham, limited takeaways that could be built or licensed within an 800m radius of a school.
- Rotherham Food Network would attend 'The Voice' town centre business meetings to promote and engage on food and the network.
- Healthy Start Voucher scheme would increase the accessibility to use the vouchers by getting more businesses on board.

#### Catering and Procurement-

- Rotherham Council School Catering retain Bronze Food for Life, Riverside Catering was featured as the Soil Association's caterer of the month in their August newsletter.
- Catering staff had taken part in additional training such as eating disorders and compassionate approach.

## Food for the Planet-

- The Council had declared a climate emergency.
- Love Food, Hate Waste Campaign.
- Joint food waste strategy between Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster.
- WRAP project with Rotherham Minster food bank used labels to reduce food waste.
- Healthy Foundation Award application included elements of growing and recycling within the award scheme.

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised and/or clarified:

- The action plan did not cover all the current activities, it reflected the actions with momentum at that point in time.
- There had been work completed to improve the take up on school meals and encouraging children to eat healthier at school.
- There was an example provided of a recent case, where new planning regulations were implemented in a situation where a café had decided to change to a takeaway.

**Resolved:-** That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Noted the update.

**58. ITEMS ESCALATED FROM PLACE BOARD**

There were no items to report.

**59. BETTER CARE FUND**

The Better Care Fund papers that were included in the agenda pack were discussed. It was noted that two were for information (The Better Care Fund Quarter 2 Template 2023/2024 and the Better Care Fund Metrics Report Quarter 2 2023/2024) and one was for consideration of board members (The Finance and Risk Monitoring Report 2023/2024).

Better Care Fund (BCF) Quarter 2 Template 2023/2024:

**Resolved:-** That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Noted the documentation for submission to NHS England (NHSE) on 31st October 2023.

Finance and Risk Monitoring Report 2023/2024:

**Resolved:-** That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Noted the areas of risks, underspends, and explanations.
- 2) Accepted the report as the Quarter 2 position.

- 3) Agreed to carry over any underspend to 2024/2025 in respect of capital expenditure against the Disabled Facilities Grant.

Better Care Fund (BCF) Metrics Report Quarter Two 2023-2024

**Resolved:** - That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Noted the contents of the report and performance for 2023/2024.

**60. MINUTES OF THE ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD ICB BUSINESS**

The minutes of the meeting of the Rotherham Place Board ICB Business held on 19th July and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023, were submitted for information, and noted.

It was advised that Rotherham was now part of the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership (SY ICP), with four of the SY ICP members being from the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was therefore suggested that the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership (SY ICP) minutes should be included in any future Health and Wellbeing Board papers.

**Resolved:-** That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Agreed that the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership (SY ICP) minutes would be included in any future Health and Wellbeing Board papers.

**61. MINUTES OF THE ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD**

The minutes of the Rotherham Place Board held on 19th July and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023, were submitted for information and noted.

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

**Resolved:** - That the next meeting be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, commencing at 9.00 a.m. to be held in Rotherham Town Hall.

**LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**4th December, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Clark, Hughes and Jones.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Aveyard.

**22.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

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

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

**24.       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 an application for the renewal of a Private Hire Operator Licence and the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Messrs. K.H. and Z.M. respectively.

Mr. K.H. was in attendance at the hearing together with his legal representative.

Mr. Z.M. was also in attendance at the hearing.

Resolved:- (1) That the renewal of the Private Hire Operator Licence in respect of Mr. K.H. be refused.

(2) That the application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. Z.M. be approved.

**25.       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
Cancer Research and Genetics UK	Whole of the Borough	31 <sup>st</sup> November, 2023-30 <sup>th</sup> December, 2024
Child and Teenage Cancer and Leukaemia Foundation	Whole of the Borough	1 <sup>st</sup> October-31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2024
Guide Dogs for the Blind	Whole of the Borough	21 <sup>st</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2023
Heart Research UK	Whole of the Borough	1 <sup>st</sup> January-31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2024
Prostate Cancer Support	Whole of the Borough	1 <sup>st</sup> January-31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2024
Rotherham Sitwell Rotary Club Benevolent Fund	Mexborough, Waverley, Canklow, Whiston, Brinsworth, Stag, Brecks, Wickersley, Bramley Grange and Moorgate	30 <sup>th</sup> November-24 <sup>th</sup> December, 2023
Yorkshire Children's Trust	Whole of the Borough	1 <sup>st</sup> January-31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2024

Resolved:- (1) That, in accordance with the provisions of the House to House Collections Act 1939, the applications submitted by Clothese2collect t/a Recycle Proline Ltd. (on behalf of Cancer Research and Genetics UK), Child and Teenage Cancer and Leukaemia Foundation, Appco UK (on behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind), Rotherham Sitwell Rotary Club and Collection4Clothes (on behalf of World Cancer Care) be granted.

(2) That the applications submitted by Unicare Ltd.(on behalf of Heart Research UK, Prostate Cancer Support and Yorkshire Children's Trust) be refused.



**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE  
18th December, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Jones and Hughes.

**CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT THE PREMISES TO BE KNOWN AS MARDIN MINI MARKET & OFF LICENCE SITUATED AT 67 WELLGATE, ROTHERHAM S60 2LT.**

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003) for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of the premises to be known as Mardin Mini Market and Off Licence situated at 67 Wellgate, Rotherham S60 2LT.

The applicant, Mr. Miran Ahmad Mohammad, was seeking authorisation to allow the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises on every day of the week between 08:00 hours and 23:00 hours.

Mr. Mohammad had named himself as the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) in the application.

Consultation on the application had been carried out in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council procedure. At the end of the prescribed 28 days period, representations in support of the review application were lodged by 4 “other persons” who were all opposed to the granting of the application. However, to be relevant, representations must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives; 2 of the representations were discussed as they failed to comply. Both parties who submitted irrelevant representations were provided with appropriate advice and support so as to allow them to make relevant representation if they so wished.

During the consultation period South Yorkshire Police had made representations seeking the addition of a further 2 management control conditions in addition to those offered in the application as follows:-

- No singular alcoholic drinks of beer, lager and cider in cans or bottles (smaller than 500 ml) shall be sold and a minimum purchase of 4 shall be required
- No beers, lager or cider of 6.5% ABV and above shall be sold

The applicant had agreed to amend the application to include the above conditions in their operating schedule. The representations were then withdrawn by the Police.

The Sub-Committee heard that written representations had been submitted by 2 “other persons”. They had been invited to the hearing but had confirmed they would not be in attendance. One of the written representations was submitted on behalf of 18 people. The representations centred on concerns regarding:-

- The public nuisance and disorder already in existence on Wellgate; it was believed that approval of the licence would exacerbate the situation
- It would lead to additional public drinking, noise nuisance, vandalism and danger to people and property
- The proximity of 2 existing off-licence premises as well as other premises on Wellgate/in the town centre
- An additional late opening premise would potentially add further disturbance, noise, litter and anti-social behaviour so near to a residential street
- Ongoing problems on Wellgate which was currently designated as an anti-social behaviour hotspot
- Litter problem on Wellgate Mount and Wellgate with drinks and alcohol cans
- The multi-storey car park had a history of misuse street drinkers due to its close proximity to licensed premises and screening from more open public spaces. 67 Wellgate was directly across from the car park

Mr. Semper (Licensing Guys), Mr. Lucan (Licensing Guys) and Mr. Mohammad, applicant, addressed the concerns raised highlighting:-

- In August 2023 Mr. Mohammad had been granted a Premises Licence for another property on Wellgate for which there had been no objections at all. He had since sold the premises to buy No. 67 which was a larger property
- There was no history of disorder, noise complaints or any other cause for concern evidenced involving the premises or the applicant
- The availability of alcohol did not change crime and disorder; it was the affordability to the person(s) concerned
- The shop would not be selling single cans nor would they sell beers/lagers/ciders over 6.5%
- Mr. Mohammad could not be held accountable for other premises' actions
- There would be no other employees in the shop
- It was not the intention to operate a delivery service

The Sub-Committee considered and noted the representations made but did not feel that there was sufficient evidence that the licensing objectives would not be promoted by the application. Due note was also taken of the action being taken by the applicant to address any concerns that the objectors may have had in relation to the application.

Resolved:- That the application for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of the premises to be known as Mardin Mini Market and Off Licence, 67 Wellgate, Rotherham S60 2LT be approved subject to the following conditions:-

1. That a Challenge 25 scheme shall operate at the premises, whereby any person who appears to be under 25 years of age and was unknown to the staff member serving as being aged 18 or over, shall not be sold alcohol unless they provided identification to prove they were over 18 years of age.
2. That the only acceptable forms of identification allowed under the Challenge 25 scheme are a:
  - a) passport;
  - b) photo ID driving licence;
  - c) Ministry of Defence identity card; or
  - d) proof of age scheme card with the PASS approved hologram.
3. Challenge 25 signage must be displayed in a clear and prominent public place at the premises.
4. That a refusal register must be kept at the premises and contain details of the date and that the sale of alcohol was refused and the name of the staff member who refused the sale This register can be written or electronic.
5. That the refusal register must be made available for inspection upon request by a Responsible Authority.
6. That any website through which the sale of alcohol was ordered and dispatched for delivery from the premises shall include a statement which informs customers that:
 

the premises operates a Challenge 25 scheme and any person accepting a delivery of alcohol must be able to prove they are over 18 with a satisfactory form of ID. Satisfactory forms of identification are a: a) passport; b) photo ID driving license; c) Ministry of Defence identity card; or d) proof of age scheme card with the PASS approved hologram.
7. Customers must be at least 18 years old to purchase alcohol, and it was a criminal offence for anyone:
  - a) under 18 to buy, or attempt to by alcohol; and
  - b) over 18 to buy, or attempt to buy, alcohol for persons under the age of 18.

8. That all orders of alcohol are to be recorded and this record shall include the order number and recipient's delivery address. This record can be written or electronic.
9. That the record of orders of alcohol shall be made available for inspection upon request by a Responsible Authority.
10. That alcohol shall only be delivered to a residential or business address and not to a public place, e.g. car park, street corner, or park.
11. That delivery staff shall carry out a Challenge 25 check on all orders containing alcohol, where the person accepting the delivery looks to be under 25 years of age. Where the recipient is unable to provide satisfactory ID the alcohol part of an order must not be delivered to the premises.
12. That all deliveries containing alcohol must be made to an individual aged 18 years or over and shall not be left unattended for later collection.
13. That an incident log must be kept at the premises It must be completed within 24 hours of an incident occurring and must contain the following:
  - a) Name of the member of staff member reporting the incident;
  - b) All crimes reported to the premises;
  - c) All ejections of patrons;
  - d) Any complaints received concerning crime and disorder;
  - e) Any incidents or disorder;
  - f) All seizures of drug or offensive weapons;
  - g) Any visits from Responsible Authorities.
14. That the incident log must be made available for inspection upon request by a Responsible Authority.
15. That a digital CCTV system with recording equipment shall be installed and maintained at the premises and operated with cameras in positions to cover the till, all sales areas where alcohol was on display and entry/exit points. The system shall be fully operational and recording at all times the premises was open for licensable activities. All recordings used in conjunction with CCTV shall:
  - a) be of evidential quality in all lighting conditions;
  - b) indicate the correct time and date;
  - c) be retained for a period of 31 consecutive days.
16. That all images downloaded from the CCTV system must be provided in a format that can be viewed on readily available equipment without the need for specialist software.

17. That duty managers shall be trained to use the CCTV system, and CCTV image must be available for inspection and downloading immediately upon request by a Responsible Authority.
18. That no singular alcoholic drinks, of beer, lager & cider in cans or bottles (smaller than 500ml) shall be sold; and a minimum purchase of 4 shall be required.
19. That no beers, lager, or cider of 6.5% ABV and above shall be sold.
20. That clear signage shall be prominently displayed at all exits requesting customers leave the area quickly and quietly.
21. That no under 18s will be allowed on the premises after 22.00 hours.
22. That children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
23. That all staff responsible for the sale, supply and delivery of alcohol shall receive training in relation to the Challenge 25 scheme in operation at the premises before being allowed to sell, supply, or deliver alcohol. This training shall be recorded.
24. That all staff shall receive training, commensurate with their role and responsibilities, relevant to the promotion of the licensing objectives. Training shall include the accurate and timely reporting and recording of incidents, the safeguarding of children and appropriate behaviour relating to the protection of children or vulnerable persons from harm. This training shall be recorded.
25. That all staff training shall be provided at the commencement of duties and refreshed at least annually and must be recorded. Staff training records shall be kept on the premises and made available for inspection upon request by a Responsible Authority.
26. That a litter receptacle be provided outside the shop premises for the use by customers and emptied on a regular basis.

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**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE  
18th December, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Hughes and Monk.

**CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.51 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) FOR THE REVIEW OF THE PREMISES LICENCE ISSUED TO MR SANGAR MOHAMMAD IN RESPECT OF ARO MINI MARKET, 12 FITZWILLIAM ROAD, ROTHERHAM S65 1PT**

Consideration was given to an application made (in accordance with Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003) for the review of the Premises Licence currently in force in respect of Aro Mini Market, 12 Fitzwilliam Road, Rotherham S65 1PT.

The application for review was made by the Council's Trading Standards Service on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, in their role as a Responsible Authority seeking revocation of the Premises Licence on the grounds that the Licence holder, Mr. Sangar Mohammad, was failing to promote 3 of the licensing objectives namely:-

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The protection of children from harm

Consultation on the application had been carried out on the application in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council's procedure. At the end of the prescribed period of 28 days, representations had been lodged on behalf of the Responsible Authorities i.e. South Yorkshire Police and the Licensing Authority.

Mr. A. Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager, Mr. D. Lodge, Principal Trading Standards Officer and Mrs. D. Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, were in attendance together with Mr. D. Lodge, Principal Trading Standards Officer.

Various methods of communication had been used to contact Mr. S. Mohammad, Premises Licence Holder (also the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS)). The importance of attending the hearing had been stressed.

The Licensing Act was very clear in the notice that a Local Authority was required to give parties in relation to a Licensing hearing including the Licence Holder. The Licensing Manager confirmed that all the statutory requirements had been complied with. All email communications/correspondence with the Premises Licence Holder had

made it clear how important the hearing was and that he was at risk of the hearing taking place in his absence.

Regulation 20 of the Licensing Act Hearings Regulations 2005 dealt with cases where certain parties had not attended. It did state that the Sub-Committee could adjourn if it was felt to be in the public interest to do so or continue with the hearing. The Premises Licence Holder had not contacted the Council to advise whether he was attending or not. Other than the emails that formed part of the report pack, Mr. S. Mohammad had had no other contact with the Council at all.

The Sub-Committee unanimously agreed to continue with the hearing.

It was noted that an application had been received to transfer the licence. The individual had been contacted by the Licensing Service to make them aware of the review taking place; they had not been aware and had since withdrawn the application to transfer.

The Sub-Committee heard the representations of the Trading Standards Service, applicant for the review:-

- An undercover test purchase on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, had resulted in the sale of illicit cigarettes
- Trading Standards Officers had visited the premises on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2023, where a significant supply of illegal tobacco and e-cigarette products were found at the premises. 202 packets/3,569 sticks of illegal cigarettes, 43 packets/1,560 grams of tobacco and 2 Elux 3,500 vapes were seized
- At the time of the visit the shop had been left under the control of a person who had no legal right to work in the United Kingdom
- A responsible retailer advice pack was left at the premises on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2023
- Trading Standards received an email on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2023, with information that the store was selling illicit tobacco. The email was from Mr. Sangar Mohammad, the owner of the shop, stating that the people who he had left in charge of the shop were using it for their own personal interest
- A joint visit was made on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, by Trading Standards and South Yorkshire Police where a male member of staff was observed serving a customer. When his identity card was examined, it was established that he also had no legal right to work in the United Kingdom
- The premises were searched and seized 229 illicit vapes, 87 packets/1,700 sticks of illegal cigarettes and 16 packets/800g of rolling tobacco in a black holdall and a shopping bag placed behind the counter

It was further reported that subsequently a further test purchase was carried out on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, by officers from South Yorkshire Police when a sale of alcohol was made to a test purchaser



aged 15 years. The member of staff did not ask for their age or identification and was issued with a £90 Fixed Penalty Notice and reported to South Yorkshire Police Licensing Department.

A license inspection was made the following day by 2 Licensing Enforcement Officers. Mr. Shehram Ahmad Behrami (Premises Licence Holder) and Mr. Rahim Soltani were present. The inspection found:-

- The licence summary was on display
- The CCTV system was working and had footage from 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Mr. Behrami was not aware if any registration had taken place with the Information Commissioner's Office. He was able to navigate through the system and retrieve footage if required
- A CCTV in operation sign was on display
- There was no incident register on the premises so not available to check what details were maintained or to be made available to the Police or Licensing Enforcement
- There were no training records on the premises. Mr. Soltani stated he had been trained approximately 3-4 months earlier despite having said on 10<sup>th</sup> October that he had not received any training
- No refresher training was evidenced and no training records available for inspection
- Mr. Behrami confirmed that no open vessels contained alcohol were allowed to leave the premises
- There was no evidence of any training records relating to dealing with any potential danger, nothing in place regarding fire procedures and no accident book present. The staff had no knowledge of an accident book
- There was no sign asking customers to leave quietly
- Mr. Behrami was not sure what was meant by the Challenge Policy
- Both members of staff were not aware of proxy sales and there was no signage displayed at the premises

The Sub-Committee considered the application for the review of the Premises Licence and the representations made specifically in light of the following Licensing objectives (as defined in the 2003 Act):-

- The prevention of crime and disorder.
- Public safety.
- The protection of children from harm.

Resolved:- That, after due consideration of the application for review and to the representations received, the Premises Licence for the premises known as Aro Mini Market, 12 Fitzwilliam Road, Rotherham S65 1PT, be revoked with immediate effect.

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**PLANNING BOARD**  
**23rd November, 2023**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Bird, Andrews, Ball, Burnett, Cowen, Elliott, Keenan, Sheppard and Tarmey.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Bacon, Fisher and Taylor.

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

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

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

**35. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

**36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

**37. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH OCTOBER, 2023**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

**38. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS**

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

**39. SITE VISIT - OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION, WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED EXCEPT MEANS OF ACCESS, COMPRISING UP TO 185 DWELLINGS, VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS, PARKING, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, LANDSCAPING, BALANCING PONDS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS, LAND NORTH OF TICKHILL ROAD, MALTBY (RB2022/1638)**

Consideration was given to the report relating to the above application for planning permission. Prior to the meeting, Members of the Planning Board made a visit of inspection to the above site, the subject of this application.

**PLANNING BOARD - 23/11/23**

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the application:-

Mr. J. Gibbs (Applicant)  
Councillor A. Tinsley (Objector)  
Ms. J. Weaver (Objector)  
Mrs. L. Stables (Objector)

A statement was read out on behalf of Alexander Stafford M.P. (Objector)

**Resolved:-** (1) That with regards to application RB2023/1638:-

(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 Secondary / SEND resource within the local area.
- A commuted sum of £500 per dwelling towards sustainable travel encouragement.
- A commuted sum of £181,557 towards improvements to sports facilities for the local community, or in accordance with the outcomes of a Playing Pitch Strategy.
- A commuted sum of £40,000 towards the provision of a cycle link between the application site and Glencairn Close.
- 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 and subject to revisions to Conditions 3, 18 and 31 to include the latest plan numbers.

**40. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

**Resolved:-** (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notice 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 Mr. P. Herbert (Applicant) attended the meeting and spoke about the application below:-

- Application to vary conditions 2, 4, 7, 11, 14, 15, 17 & 18 imposed by RB2019/0061 at Land at 91-95 Worksop Road Aston for Jaguar Estates Limited (RB2023/0472)

(2) That application RB2023/0472 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

**41. UPDATES**

There were no updates to report.

**42. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

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**PLANNING BOARD  
14th December ,2023**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor Taylor); Councillors Bird, Andrews, Bacon, Ball, Burnett, Cowen, Elliott, Fisher, Sheppard and Tarmey.

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

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

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

**44. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

**45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

**46. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD NOVEMBER, 2023**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2023, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

**47. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS**

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

**48. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the application below:-

- Widening of existing access and access track, formation of additional access tracks within the site, (including partial relocation of existing access track and provision of passing bays), erection of building to house borehole equipment and erection of water tank at Lindrick Nursery, Worksop Road, Lindrick for Carrier Landscapes Ltd. (RB2023/1132)

Mr. D. Carrier (Applicant)  
Ms. B. Etchell-Anderson (Objector)  
Mr. D. Nos (Objector)  
Councillor T. Wilson (Objector)  
Parish Councillor D. Graham (Objector)  
Parish Councillor C. Jepson (Objector)

**Resolved:-** That application RB2023/1132 be deferred by the Planning Board to allow further discussion to take place on various matters and for the application to be resubmitted to the next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

**49. UPDATES**

There were no updates to report.

**50. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.