



CABINET

Monday 14 October 2024

10.00 a.m.

**Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall,
Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**

Cabinet Members:-

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader of the Council,
Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working Portfolio
Housing Portfolio
Children and Young People Portfolio
Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy Portfolio
Finance & Safe and Clean Communities Portfolio

Councillor Chris Read
Councillor Dave Sheppard

Councillor Sarah Allen
Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers
Councillor Robert Taylor
Councillor Saghir Alam

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 

CABINET

- Venue:** The Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
S60 2TH
- Date and Time:** Monday 14 October 2024 at 10.00 a.m.
- Agenda Contact** Governance Unit – governance@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. 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.

3. Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions from members of the public who wish to ask a general question in respect of matters within the Council's area of responsibility or influence.

Subject to the Chair's discretion, members of the public may ask one question and one supplementary question, which should relate to the original question and answer received.

Councillors may also ask questions under this agenda item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 9 - 34)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 September 2024.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Agenda Item 8 and 9 have exempt appendices. Therefore, if necessary when considering those items, the Chair will move the following resolution:-

That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

6. Future Rothercare Model (Pages 35 - 82)

Report from the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve option 1 to implement a new technology enabled care delivery model under a collaborative approach between Rothercare and an independent sector technology partner.
2. Approve a competitive procurement process and award of contract on the basis of a 5-year initial term. The contract will include potential extensions for up to 3 years (to be taken in any combination). The new arrangements will commence April 2025.
3. Agree the new charging policy and rates for Rothercare from 2025/26 for existing customers and the policy of applying a new rate to new customers from 2025/26 onwards.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7. Scrutiny Review - Preparation for Adulthood for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (Pages 83 - 91)

Report from the Assistant Chief Executive.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet receives the report and considers the following recommendations:

i. **School Effectiveness:**

- a) That the support pathways available for preparation for adulthood for children and young people with SEND in mainstream education, in both the early years and post sixteen settings is reviewed to identify any areas that may require further focus and developments.
- b) That education pathways relating to preparation for adulthood for children with SEND are reviewed, ensuring clear communication of the pathways to parents and carers.

ii. **Inclusion and Communities:**

- a) That information relating to the support available to parents and carers within communities is developed, enabling a seamless service that supports and empowers parent carers.
- b) That the feedback from the Autism Strategy Consultation is reflected in the support offer available, to ensure children and young people feel safe within their communities, at school and online.
- c) That there is a further focus on enhancing equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in relation to this area of activity, with a particular focus on improving engagement levels with children and young people with SEND in communities, such as the Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Roma-Slovak Communities.

iii. **Communication:**

- a) That established networks and partnerships, such as the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum, are further embedded, to increase awareness raising and increase the number of SEND families that are engaged and reached in the Borough.
- b) That the process relating to Education, Health and Care Plans is reviewed to ensure the young person's voice is present throughout the process.

2. Cabinet agree to respond to the recommendations by December 2024 in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

FINANCE & SAFE AND CLEAN COMMUNITIES

8. New Applications for Business Rates Hardship Relief (Pages 93 - 110)

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet refuse the applications for Hardship Relief.

TRANSPORT, JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

9. Dinnington Compulsory Purchase Order (Pages 111 - 263)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Authorise the Council in the making of a CPO for the land shown coloured pink and edged red ("the Order Land") on the plan contained at Appendix 1 under section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 because it thinks that:
 - a. The acquisition will facilitate the carrying out of the development, redevelopment, or improvement (including regeneration) on or in relation to the Order Land; and
 - b. The development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to the achievement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the Council's area.
2. Authorise the Council in acquiring new rights under section 13 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in respect of the land shown shaded in blue on the plan contained at Appendix 1 to facilitate the development, redevelopment, or improvement on or in relation to the Site.
3. Authorise in principle and subject to the confirmation of the CPO the appropriation of the land within the scheme to a planning purpose (to the extent that it is not so held already) to allow the redevelopment of the Order Land, pursuant to section 122 Local Government Act 1972;
4. Authorise the Council's Property Officer (Delegated to Assistant Director, Properties & Facilities), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy and the Assistant Director of Legal Services, to:

- a. Approve terms for the acquisition of legal interests (including new rights) to the extent not already acquired by agreement including for the purposes of resolving any objections to the CPO;
- b. Take all necessary steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the CPO, including, making further amendments by way of finalising the draft Statement of Reason (exempt Appendix 4) the publication and service of all relevant notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any future local public inquiry;
- c. Consider the outcome of the Equalities Impact Assessment and ensure appropriate steps are taken to meet the Council's Public sector Equalities Duty.
- d. Take all necessary steps to resolve any compulsory purchase compensation claims, including, if necessary, by way of making (or responding to) a reference to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber);
- e. Subject to 3 above authorise, the Council's Property Officer and Facilities (following the confirmation of the CPO) to appropriate the land referred to a planning purpose.

10. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (To Follow)

To receive a report detailing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in respect of the above items that were subject to pre-decision scrutiny on 9 October 2024.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 18 November commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.



SHARON KEMP OBE,
Chief Executive.

THE CABINET
Monday 16 September 2024

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allen, Baker-Rogers, Cusworth, Sheppard and Taylor.

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

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

Member	Agenda Item	Interest Type	Nature of Interest
Councillor Sheppard	New Applications For Business Rates Relief – Rotherham And District Citizens Advice Bureau, 2 Upper Millgate, Rotherham, S60 1pf	Nonpecuniary	Council representative at Rotherham and District Citizen's Advice Bureau
Councillor Sheppard	Selective Licensing Scheme 1 (Policy)	Personal	Personal property is within Parkgate which is within a Selective Licensing designated area.

39. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Mr S. Hussain stated that he felt like he was in the film *Groundhog Day* as he kept asking the same question over and over again. There had been a response from the Council that an update would be provided on 17 October but that would be too late for some families who would be looking to bury their loved ones in the Muslim section of the cemetery. Earthen grave space was at 1 as of 16 September 2024. Mr Hussain asked what happened if there were two deaths; where did the second one go?

The Assistant Director of Legal, Elections and Registration Services confirmed that an update had been provided on Friday 13 September which explained that the next public meeting would be held on 17 October 2024, at which further updates would be provided. The Council were actively in discussions with Dignity and were considering all possible contractual remedies that were available. The discussions were ongoing and were changing up to and including in the previous

week. The Council would continue to keep people updated as and when details were confirmed.

In his supplementary question, Mr S. Hussain stated that he believed that the Council had a revised plan. He wanted to emphasise the fact that there was only one earthen grave left. If there was the need for a second burial, the community would be looking for answers and what would they be told? It would not help to say that the Council had mechanical ways of dealing with Dignity.

The Leader stated that he understood the point that had been made. He advised Mr Hussain to tell the community that the Council were doing everything they could to ensure that more graves were made available as quickly as possible. That was the best that could be provided at the current time.

Mr Hussain asked if the current plan could be shared?

The Leader explained that once there was a plan that the Council were satisfied met the needs required, it would be shared. However, it was not helpful to anyone to share draft plans.

2. Mr Azam stated that since the last meeting, he had had a Labour Councillor go up to the gates at the cemetery for pictures. He felt it had become a beauty sport for some bizarre reason where they took a picture and then sent the same rhetoric out to the community, adding more anxiety and angst. Mr Azam did not know what the benefit of that was. Mr Azam also expressed concern for the employees that were involved. He asked if they had been considered at all as they were finding out from the local paper what was going on. They did not know if they would still have a job and they did not know what was actually happen. Mr Azam had been informed that one person had gone off on sick leave due to the anxiety and stress caused by the situation. He asked what the Council's response was to that?

The Leader explained that the staff employed were employed by Dignity, not the Council. It was Dignity's responsibility to ensure that they were appropriately managed. The Council felt for the employees of Dignity as they were being caught in the middle. The Council were trying to get improvements in the service as explained in the previous answer. If the contract were to change, there would be a legal process to go through in relation to the employees but for now, it was for Dignity to look after its staff.

In his supplementary question, Mr Azam stated that there had been many plans produced by Dignity. There had been one where a tarmac path had been planned but this had turned into a gravel path. There were sections of land which were waterlogged but had now been marked for baby graves. Mr Azam questioned where the drainage was and why this was being done? Mr Azam stated that plans were being

shared but he questioned if people understood what exactly was in those plans? His second point was in relation to how the media were framing this situation as a Muslim issue. Mr Azam stated that this was not the case. It was in fact a Council and Dignity issue around investment, return on investments and how business was done. It was far wider than just a Muslim issue which was why contractual negotiations were ongoing. Mr Azam asked the Council to formally put on record that this was not as a consequence of the Muslim community asking for what should be rightly offered to them as a service; it reached much further than that.

The Leader stated that he was happy to make that clarification. This was a matter of ensuring that the right services were provided to the people of Rotherham, no matter their background or heritage or religion. In that sense it was not a Muslim issue. It was about ensuring services were provided appropriately.

3. Mr Iqbal stated that, notwithstanding repeated requests made specifically to the Council's solicitor on multiple occasions, including in the Chamber, petitioners had not received the minutes of the second sub-OSMB group meeting from Tuesday 30 April 2024. Mr Iqbal asked when they would receive them?

The Assistant Director Legal, Elections and Registration Services explained that there were no minutes of the meeting as it was an informal meeting.

In his supplementary question, Mr Iqbal asked if there could be a recorded vote on the Palestine Petition item that was later on the agenda?

The Leader advised that all Cabinet Members would be voting the same way on that agenda item.

4. Mr Y. Hussain stated that petitioners had been waiting for 11 months for Rotherham Council to raise the Palestine flag. He asked when this would be done.

The Leader explained that this would be considered later on the agenda when a report on the Palestine petition was presented.

5. Dr Awadallah stated that she was a British Palestinian and she referenced the petition that over 4000 Rotherham residents had signed in February 2024. The Council had previously stated that they had followed government guidance regarding flying the Israeli flag however, Dr Awadallah stated that this was not mandatory as shown by York and Leeds Councils. As such, Dr Awadallah asked if the Council would raise the Palestinian flag, like they did for the Ukrainians?

The Leader repeated his answer given to the previous question, explaining that this would be considered later on the agenda when a report on the Palestine petition was presented.

In her supplementary question, Dr Awadallah referenced the IHRA definition of antisemitism which Rotherham Council adopted in September 2019. She explained that there had been conflates between Judaism and Zionism, assuming that all Jews were Zionists. Dr Awadallah explained that the fight against antisemitism should not be turned into a stratagem to delegitimise the fight against the oppression of the Palestinian people. Dr Awadallah gave an example of a doctor at Glasgow University who was accused of antisemitism. He had called for the replacement of the IHRA definition with the Jerusalem Declaration on antisemitism. Dr Awadallah asked the Council to reconsider the adoption of the IHRA definition.

The Leader noted the request and explained that the IHRA definition was the one that most public bodies used in the UK. The Council would of course continue to consider other definitions if there were further arguments that developed. However, there were no plans to change that currently. The Leader reiterated what he had said in previous meetings of Cabinet and Council which was that, as somebody who was pro-Palestinian, he felt that there was a danger that discussions around the IHRA and definitions became a distraction and became damaging in the wider narrative. The argument supporting the Palestinian people should not be seen to be an argument about discrimination against Jewish people. In the end, people needed to be able to live side by side.

Dr Awadallah stated that not every agency had adopted the IHRA definition, and it was voluntary to do so. In 2016, the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs published a report entitled "Antisemitism in the UK" which stated that the adoption of the IHRA was subject to two caveats. By adopting the IHRA, the two main exclusions were ignored. These were that it was not antisemitic to criticise the government of Israel without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent and secondly, it was not antisemitic to hold the Israeli government to the same standards as other liberal democracies or to take a particular interest in the Israeli governments policies without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent. Dr Awadallah explained that there were ways to adopt different definition that would serve the same purpose.

The Leader noted the point and stated that there had been plenty of criticism levelled against the current Israeli government from members of the Council with the adoption of the IHRA.

6. Mr Ashraf thanked the Leader for the emails sent on 8th and 9th August. Mr Ashraf reiterated that the petition collected the largest number of signatures ever in Rotherham Council's history. Point 8 of

the petition, signed by over 4,000 residents, was for the Council to recognise that criticism of the Israeli government did not equate to criticism of Judaism as noted by the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Mr Ashraf asked the Chair to distinguish that Rotherham residents that saw war crimes, occupation, apartheid, ethnic cleansing and multiple genocides committed by Israel as a State was something able to be criticized and residents had no interest in criticizing Jewish people or the Jewish faith.

The Leader stated that he was happy to make that clarification. The Council had been robust in the way it had expressed its fear and upset about the violence being perpetrated against ordinary Palestinians by the current Israeli government. The Leader wanted to be clear however that Jewish residents in Rotherham needed to be able to live safely and freely and practice their religion the same as any other religion. It was noted that many Jewish people felt under attack and prejudiced against and felt that they had been forced to take responsibility for the actions of a government that was not their government. The terrible attacks in October 2023 against Israeli Jews were also noted.

In his supplementary question, Mr Ashraf stated that, in his opinion, the Council's solicitors personal opinion sometimes conflated with his legal opinion, and no one seemed to be able to challenge that by asking for the legal basis or for outside independent advice. Mr Ashraf gave the example of local council's being able to successfully challenge the official interpretation of section 17 of the Local Government Act 1988 in the courts. The Leicester City Council, Waltham Forest Council and Islington Council court judgements also flagrantly contradicted the legal opinion of the Council's solicitor according to Mr Ashraf. Mr Ashraf also explained that the Procurement Act 2023 had the sub-heading "disapplication of duty in section 17 of the Local Government Act 1988. Mr Ashraf asked how, if someone like him could drive the proverbial horse and cart through the blind defence of section 17 of the Local Government Act 1988 without even trying, why couldn't those who were legally educated, trained and employed do so as well? Mr Ashraf stated that there were multiple legal avenues to meet the petitioners demands in full. It was clearly not impossible but was a matter of political will and competent legal advice. Mr Ashraf asked the Leader to seek independent legal advice following the aforementioned court judgments and legal discovery in order to fulfil the petition in full.

The Leader stated that that was the third time Mr Ashraf had asked a variation of that question. The advice set out by the Monitoring Officer was always professional advice because he always acted as the Council's Monitoring Officer. The Council was legally obliged to follow that advice. Mr Ashraf had previously been asked to make his submission in writing if there were things that he thought the Council should look into and the Leader again reiterated that request. As

Leader of the Council, he had to act within the legal guidance provided by the Monitoring Officer and not provided by members of the public.

40. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 29 July 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

41. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Appendix 1 to Minute 48 (Commercial Waste Update) and Appendix 2 to Minute 53 were exempt under Paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1974. However, the meeting remained open to the public and press throughout.

42. RE-COMMISSIONING OF POST CSE (CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION) SERVICES

Consideration was given to the report which set out the recommendations for the future of the Post Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Support Services at the end of the current contracts in December 2025. Post CSE Support Services were non-statutory services that were set up to support victims and survivors of CSE to help overcome the impact of the trauma experienced.

The Council first commissioned support services for young people and adults who had experienced CSE in 2016. Following an open tender process which was in line with Public Contract Regulations 2015, contracts were awarded to three local, voluntary sector organisations. The successful providers were Rotherham Rise, GROW and Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service (Rothacs). All developed specialist support for survivors within Rotherham.

The Post CSE support services were recommissioned via a competitive procurement process in 2020 by Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), following a Cabinet report on 15 June 2020. The services were tendered as three separate lots, with all three incumbent providers being successful and awarded a contract. The contracts commenced on the 1 January 2021 for a three-year term, with a two-year extension option which was utilised.

The three Council commissioned providers work in partnership with the Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) Trauma and Resilience Service (TRS). There were bi-monthly partnership hubs and clinically led consultations. This helped to build bespoke, holistic packages of care for victims and survivors. The TRS also supported across organisations with trauma stabilisation and advice,

providing education and awareness of trauma, increasing the availability of professional services where survivors could safely share their stories.

The Post CSE support services were compassionate and accommodating to victim and survivor trauma recovery. The needs analysis showed that victims and survivors could access support from multiple providers, e.g., receive trauma stabilisation from GROW, and then at a later date could receive counselling from Rothacs. The flexible approach of the pathway offered choice for victims and survivors of CSE.

The contract values had remained relatively static over the term of the contracts. It was therefore proposed that an additional 10% was applied to reflect the continued demand on services and the financial challenges which continued to be experienced around cost of living and operating costs. This would represent an overall contract value of £171,600 per annum, an increase of £15,600 on the current contracts. This funding had been identified by the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health directorate. The contracts would be let as three separate lots, as per the current contractual arrangements, following the competitive procurement process.

During the meeting Cabinet Members and officers were keen to stress the importance of listening to the survivors and victims. The Leader stated that the Council had a moral responsibility to keep providing these services and to tailor the services as much as possible.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the recommissioning of Post CSE Support Services, through a competitive procurement process, for a three-year term from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028.
2. Agree to delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to award the contracts following the competitive procurement process.

43. ADULT SOCIAL CARE LOCAL ACCOUNT 2023-2024

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care 2023/24. The Local Account, attached to the report at Appendix 1, summarised the achievements for the last 12 months and set out the priorities for the coming year. These priorities were aligned to the Council Year Ahead Delivery Plan (YADP) and the Adult Social Care Strategy (2024 – 2027). The Local Account also celebrated the hard work and dedication of the workforce and provided case studies to reflect the real impact of adult social care for residents.

The Local Account was co-designed with the newly formed Co-production Board; Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening (RASCAL) Board.

This included the development of an easy read version (Appendix 2).

Paragraph 2.1 of the report highlighted some of the key achievements within Adult Social Care for the preceding 12 months. This included the launch of the new Adult Social Care Strategy for Rotherham; finalising the design of the new day opportunities centre (Castle View) and reducing the wait times for care act assessments and community occupational therapy assessments.

Paragraph 2.2. of the report outlined some of the priorities for the year ahead, including redesigning the adult social care web pages; launching the new Learning Disabilities Strategy and ensuring the voice of the person is central to safeguarding adults.

With formal regulation of Council Adult Social Care departments by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) underway, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) had recommended that Local Accounts of adult social care performance were formally published every 12 months by Local Authorities. By publishing the Local Account, Rotherham Council would adhere to this recommendation and remain aligned with other Council's both within South Yorkshire and nationally. It also enabled a transparent, open and accountable view of Adult Social Care performance.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the publication of the 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care for 2023 – 2024.

44. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) HUB UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the development of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) activity Hub in the Eric Manns building in Rotherham Town Centre, in partnership with The Rotherham Parent Carer Forum (RPCF.)

This was a positive opportunity to provide a SEND Activity Hub in the Town Centre that would allow the Council to improve its offer of recreational activities for children and young people with SEND.

Young people up to the age of 25 would benefit from improved support in their transition to adulthood. This would include, but not be limited to, supporting digital inclusion, claiming disability related benefits, wellbeing, social skills and signposting and advice on housing. Rotherham Council Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) would continue to be able to use the building as a touch down facility in the Town Centre and would be able to use rooms to carry out direct work with children and young people as needed, developing the offer and partnership alongside the Rotherham Parent Carer Forum.

On 28 February 2024, Council approved the proposed £165,000 capital investment for the development of a SEND Hub at the Eric Manns building as part of budget setting. The current occupants of the building were relocating across the borough and the building was due to be vacant by 19 October 2024. Paragraph 1.3 of the report set out how the capital investment would be spent.

No revenue expenditure or income was associated with the capital investment proposal. The ongoing running costs of the building would be met by RPCF e.g. utilities bills and equipment repair and maintenance. The building would remain the property of RMBC. In order to ensure the building retained its value as a RMBC asset, repair and maintenance of the building would be met by RMBC.

It was recommended that the grant of the lease to RPCF be at less than best consideration (peppercorn rent) based on the delivery of local social economic and environmental wellbeing powers as introduced by the Local Government. This would support both the Council and the RPCF to deliver their objectives by providing a safe disability friendly space in the Town Centre.

The Council would work with the RPCF to develop a Management Agreement that would set out the outputs and requirements expected from all parties. The Agreement would be monitored to ensure delivery and compliance throughout the term of the Partnership and Lease agreement.

Cabinet Members expressed their support for the recommendations. Following a question regarding the SEND Hub potentially linking up with Grimm & Co who occupied the premises next door to the Eric Manns building, it was confirmed that whilst there were no formal arrangements in place, there was already joined up working between the two organisations, especially around Social, Emotion and Mental Health Needs. It was anticipated that this relationship would strengthen with the opening of the SEND Hub.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the report and update regarding the development of the SEND Hub.
2. That Cabinet authorise a lease, on a peppercorn rent, therefore on a less than best consideration as defined within the Local Government Act 2000 and the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003 with Rotherham Parent Carer Forum.
3. That Cabinet authorise the Assistant Director of Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Assistant Director of

Commissioning & Performance and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services to develop a Management Agreement with the Rotherham Parent Carer Forum, in relation to the service provision, management of the asset and associated output and outcomes.

45. ROTHERHAM CARE LEAVERS LOCAL OFFER

Consideration was given to the report which presented the updated Rotherham Care Leavers Local Offer to Cabinet. The local authority were required to consult on and produce a Local Offer for its Care Leavers, under Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Local Offer provided information about services and support available to Care Leavers from the local authority, including information about both their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that a local authority chose to provide.

It was requested that an increase in the financial offer to Rotherham Care Leavers be approved for 2024, due to the increase in the cost of living and to ensure that The Rotherham Offer was appropriate and in line with comparable neighbouring authorities. This would ensure that Rotherham Care Leavers were offered robust support and services, which would support them to achieve successful independence.

The table at paragraph 2.6 of the report set out the previous financial offer and the proposed changes. The cost per year of amending the offer would be £27,000. This included an increase in clothing allowance, the addition funds for cultural and religious items, and the addition of funds for prom and graduation.

The Local Offer would sit alongside the Leaving Care Strategy and would be presented back to Cabinet when the Strategy was reviewed.

Cabinet Members were very proud of the Offer. It helped the Council achieve the seven corporate parenting principles which all local authorities had to have regard to when discharging their functions in relation to children in care and Care Leavers. These principles were set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the Rotherham Care Leavers Local Offer and increase in financial support for Care Leavers, effective from October 2024.
2. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Children and Young Peoples Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Services and the Section 151 officer to approve annual uplifts to the financial offer, associated with

inflation.

46. JULY 2024-25 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of July 2024 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first four months of 2024/25. Financial performance was a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and was essential to the achievement of the objectives within the Council's policy agenda. To that end, this was the second financial monitoring report of a series of reports for the current financial year which would continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As at July 2024, the Council estimated an overspend of £6.1m for the financial year 2024/25. This was largely due to demand led pressures on children's residential placements, adults social care packages, home to school transport and the expected impact of the Local Government Pay Award. In addition, the Council was still impacted by the inflationary pressures in the economy. Even though inflation had fallen to 2.2%, the Council's base costs had significantly increased across the recent high inflation period. Increased costs across this period were also being felt by the social care market in particular, leading to market prices increasing at above inflation levels and placing further pressures on the Council's Budget.

Whilst the Directorate overspend, which stood at £17.0m was concerning, elements of the overspend were forecast and two key Budget contingencies were created as part of setting the Council's Budget and MTFs for 2024/25. The Council set a Social Care Contingency of £3.4m and a Corporate Budget Provision of £3.5m to support anticipated pressures across Social Care and Home to School Transport, whilst detailed review work of these services was undertaken, and operational improvements were delivered to reduce cost pressures and create cost avoidance.

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy continued to perform well with the Council's approach to borrowing adapted to minimise the level of borrowing and borrow short term to ultimately minimise interest costs. This position had improved due to re-profiling of capital programme delivery, pushing back the need to borrow. It was estimated that this should see the Council generate savings of at least £4m for 2024/25, though again market conditions were out of the Council's control.

As a result of those corporate provisions and savings, an underspend of £10.9m was forecast within Central Services bringing the Council's net overspend down to £6.1m. Though the £17m Directorate overspend was significantly mitigated, the residual pressure would need to be addressed in year by the Council to prevent further use of reserves. As such Directorates had been required to develop in year budget recovery plans

to identify actions and opportunities to reduce the current overspend position. This work was underway but not yet at a stage where it could be factored into the current position.

There remained funding uncertainty for the local government sector beyond 2024/25. The Local Government financial settlement was only a one-year allocation and the future impact following the change in central Government at the national elections was not yet known.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), who advised that the recommendations be supported. Councillor Steele explained that concerns had been raised at the meeting regarding the home to school transport costs, the child placement overspend, and the temporary accommodation overspend. However, explanations had been provided by the Cabinet Member and Strategic Director and as such, no additional recommendations were required.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £6.1m.
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 2024/25 financial position.
3. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme, including proposed capital programme variations to expenditure profiles and funding.

47. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES RELIEF - ROTHERHAM AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU, 2 UPPER MILLGATE, ROTHERHAM, S60 1PF

Consideration was given to the report which set out the application for the award of Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Rotherham and District Citizens Advice Bureau. This was in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy (approved by Cabinet on 12 December 2016).

Rotherham and District Citizens Advice Bureau was a registered charity which provided free information and advice to the community in Rotherham, ensuring that the Borough's citizens did not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities. The charity actively worked to raise issues of social injustice to enable improvements for all. RMBC had recently commissioned the organisation to provide their services for a three-year period from 2024/25 to 2026/27. They were contracted to provide advice on a range of issues pertinent to the

community of Rotherham, including debt, benefits, immigration, energy, consumer rights, and housing. They were a highly respected organisation, providing an accessible borough wide service, and had good working relations with the Council and partners.

The organisation moved to new premises on 17 June 2024 to enable them to reintroduce the delivery of face-to-face advice. The temporary premises they had were not large enough to facilitate this and staff were having to work from home. The new premises were now open two days per week for appointments and this would be increased to five days per week together with two drop-in days. This would enable the organisation to see more vulnerable people whom they were not seeing through outreach and remote services.

Rotherham and District Citizens Advice benefited from an award of discretionary relief at their former premises, and at their temporary premises, which was awarded continuously from 2017 to the date of their relocation to the new premises. The proposed relief would maintain this position.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Rotherham and District Citizens Advice Bureau in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report for the 2024/25 financial year.

48. COMMERCIAL WASTE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Business Waste Service. This included an update on legislative changes, which would require the Council to consider the implementation of food waste collection options for Business Customers, alongside a range of options as to how the Council could achieve this. The report also detailed the current and future scheme of delegation for setting the prices for the service.

For the Business Waste Service in Rotherham to compete with the private sector, the service had to provide their customers with advice on waste minimisation and offer a collection of paper, card, plastics, metals, glass and food waste (for companies with more than 10 employees) by 31 March 2025. The introduction of recycling to a service required engagement and communication to ensure that the material is of good quality to maximise the income generated.

It was recommended that a contractor be procured to deliver this service. The current Council business waste service had conducted analysis with all its current customers and only 18% of the customers would have to contract a food business waste service, since the legislation was specific to businesses that had 10 or more employees. If the Council had to collect

its own food waste from just 18% of its customers, a disproportionate amount of investment in both revenue and capital would be required. This was set out in option 4 as detailed in the report. This would include a specialist vehicle, which would only be utilised for food waste collections and, with the limited demand that was expected, would have significant periods of time where it was not in use. Similarly, a driver and loader would also be required in addition to the existing workforce which again would not be fully utilised solely via the collection of food waste for businesses, along with purchasing new receptacles to collect the food waste. A new procurement exercise would also have to be performed for food waste disposal which would add cost and logistical issues as there were no recycling centres for food waste treatment in the borough.

With this taken into consideration, the pricing model would have had to be changed across the other business waste streams to balance out the cost of a food waste collection service, due to so few anticipated customers, and factoring in the required revenue and capital investments. If the costs were distributed for food waste collection and disposal across the other business waste streams, there was a significant concern that the Council could lose customers due to price increases and would no longer be competitive within the marketplace.

Given the time frame for implementation, and the uncertainty of tonnages that would be collected, it was recommended to procure a provider for a short-term contract of 3 years, plus a potential 2-year extension, to allow gathering of data to better inform the scoping of the business food waste collection service. This would then allow the service to produce a report for Cabinet to consider next steps and potentially alternative delivery models.

A key area of decision-making in the Business Waste Service was the setting of fees and charges, making variations to fees and charges, allowing discount offers to be introduced and negotiating individual contracts (within a certain percentage of set fees). This allowed the service to remain competitive within its long-term goal of financial stability. The proposed fees and charges were set out in Exempt Appendix 1. The report sought delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Community Safety and Street Scene in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet member and with the S151 Finance Officer to set fees, charges and vary prices. Any variation to the prices offered to customers had to be in line with the price ranges formally agreed and deviation from the norm would require approval by the Head of Environmental Services.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the procurement of a contractor for the provision of containers, collection, and disposal of food waste, with consideration given to working in partnership with neighbouring

authorities.

2. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Community Safety and Street Scene in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet member and with the S151 Finance Officer to set fees, charges and vary prices.

49. BOROUGHWIDE AND TOWN CENTRE/CLIFTON PARK PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS

Consideration was given to the report which proposed that a consultation be undertaken with regard to the Town Centre and Clifton Park Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and the Boroughwide Dog Fouling PSPO. The current PSPO's were renewed in January 2024 for a period of 12 months. This period of designation was intentionally shorter than the three-year maximum term that was prescribed in the applicable statute in order to allow the service to review enforcement capacity associated with any new PSPO's.

The proposed consultation would seek to establish stakeholder views in relation to the PSPO's and to gauge support for future designations. Views would be sought concurrently about the conditions that might be included within such Orders. It was proposed that the formal consultation would commence on 18 September 2024 and run until 30 October 2024.

Consultees would include amongst others, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, Ward Members, key stakeholders, voluntary, community organisations, businesses and the public.

The options available to the Council at the end of the consultation would be to extend the Orders, vary their requirements or to discharge them. Whilst each of these outcomes were possible, the consultation responses would ultimately steer future direction.

Appendix 4 to the report set out the data from South Yorkshire Police on Anti-Social Behaviour in the Town Centre between 2022-2024. Appendix 5 set out data from Environmental Health relating to dog fouling and dog starting complaints from 2018-2024.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), who advised that the recommendations be supported. Councillor Steele advised that Members were happy that they and Parish Councils would be consulted. Concerns were raised around dog fouling, but OSMB did not suggest any additional recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the proposals to carry out a consultation in relation to the future Town Centre and Clifton Park Public Spaces Protection Order.

2. That Cabinet approve the proposals to carry out a consultation in relation to the future Borough wide Public Spaces Protection Order specifically dealing with dog fouling and control.

50. SELECTIVE LICENSING SCHEME 1 (POLICY)

Consideration was given to the report which asked Cabinet to consider opening a public consultation on further selective licensing schemes. There had been two periods of Selective Licensing in Rotherham between 2015-2020 and 2020-2025. The report detailed some of the outcomes of the current Scheme along with the criteria and conditions under which Selective Licensing designations could be made, together with the proposed process to deliver a robust area-based consultation.

Rotherham's two Selective Licensing schemes, 2015 to 2020 and 2020 to 2025 were declared on the criteria of 'low demand' and 'deprivation' respectively. Areas of Eastwood, Ferham, Maltby and Dinnington had been subject to both schemes and had been under licence for 10 years. Before considering if further declarations were desirable or justified, it was necessary to consider the outcomes of both local schemes, the national research and updated government guidance as well as the recommendations made following a scrutiny review by the Improving Places Select Commission.

The Selective Licensing regime itself, provided very limited additional powers above what was available in existing legislation. However, it did provide some useful tools upon which the Council could better regulate the private rented sector. In particular, mandatory licensing of properties forced owners to identify themselves with their rented properties being subject to a suite of additional conditions which supplemented the powers available in the Housing Act 2004. Moreover, each licensed property was subject to inspections to check compliance with minimum legal standards, with powers available to revoke the licence where there was poor management, or the licence holder was found not to be a 'fit and proper person'. There were however a number of limitations to these powers, which had to be appreciated before a declaration was progressed, including revocation, empty properties, Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminality, tenant references and the 'fit and proper person' test. Further information on the limitations and advantages was provided at Appendix 1.

The previous Selective Licensing schemes had focussed strongly on the inspection of properties and enforcement. The aim had been to improve the legal standards of repair and management in the private rented sector in order to protect the health of tenants. In this regard both schemes had been a great success. The first scheme identified and rectified levels of disrepair, finding Category 1 or high Category 2 hazards present on 90% of initial inspections. The current scheme had found levels of actionable disrepair or poor management in over 68% of initial inspections of

properties. Working with local landlords and through significant levels of enforcement, these deficiencies had been resolved. These improvements had undoubtedly improved the health and lives of tenants.

It was proposed that any new declarations should be informed by the consultation feedback from residents, partners and stakeholders, in addition to the data and evidence relating to the place's challenges and opportunities, which would form part of the wider place-based working approach. The criteria for the proposed Selective Licensing declaration would highlight relevant aspects of the identified problems which could be addressed through any wider partnership approach, which should also satisfy the requirement set by the Improving Places Scrutiny Commission as referred to in paragraph 1.8.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the content of the report and the outcomes to date of the existing schemes.
2. That Cabinet agrees to progress Option 3 and commence consultation within the existing areas with a view to developing further designations which would commence after the current scheme has ended, and the development of the place based plans and consultation is complete.

51. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD (OSMB) - PETITION "ROTHERHAM'S COMMITMENT TO A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE AND TO PROMOTE PEACE IN PALESTINE AND IN THE REGION"

Consideration was given to the report which set out the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) in relation to the "Rotherham's Commitment To A Permanent Ceasefire And To Promote Peace In Palestine And The Wider Region" petition (attached at Appendix 1) that had been submitted to Council on 28 February 2024. The report also set out Cabinet's response to those recommendations.

It was usual for Cabinet to receive such reports for consideration before providing a response at a later date. However, following a specific request from OSMB and in light of additional, unavoidable delays owing to the pre-election periods, Cabinet had agreed to expedite the response.

The petition contained 4031 valid signatures calling on the Council to commit to a permanent ceasefire and promote peace in Palestine and in the region. The petition was debated by full Council in February 2024 and they resolved to refer the petition to OSMB.

The petitioners sought the following resolution:

We the undersigned petition the Council to:

1. Publicly condemn the Israeli Government's human rights violations.
2. Demand the UK Government call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.
3. Withdraw any associations with the Israeli Government.
4. Prioritise human rights and equality in Rotherham's international relations, especially for the Palestinian people.
5. Engage in dialogue with residents to develop a strategy for ethical local policies, specifically not to support countries with illegal occupations or companies benefitting from such activities.
6. Consider flag displays that better align with Rotherham communities' values, promote inclusivity and display the Palestinian flag.
7. Honour its commitment to being an Anti-Racist Town.
8. Recognise that criticism of the Israeli Government does not equate to criticism of Judaism as noted by the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism.

A sub-group was set-up to discuss the points raised with representatives of the petitioners. It met with representatives on 4 April 2024, with a follow-up meeting organised on 30 April 2024 to feedback its recommendations.

The following attended the sub-group meeting: Councillor Maggi Clark (Chair); Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers; Councillor Wendy Cooksey; and Councillor Taiba Yasseen. There were four petitioners present. The officers that attended were Phil Horsfield (Borough Solicitor); Emma Hill (Head of Democratic Services) and Caroline Webb (Senior Governance Advisor.)

Prior to her term of office concluding, (former) Councillor Clark wrote to the Leader of the Council with the sub-group's recommendations. The letter was attached as Appendix 2. Councillor Steele, as the current Chair of OSMB presented the report and recommendations from OSMB which were as follows:

- 1) That Cabinet consider the following recommendations from OSMB, against the petition items below:

- 1. Publicly condemn the Israeli Government's human rights violations.**
- 2. Demand the UK Government call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.**

Recommendation 1):

- i. That the Council is invited to issue a press release explaining the resolution agreed in the debate held on 28

February 2024: "That this Council publicly condemns the Israeli Government's human rights violations and demands that the UK Government call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza".

3. Withdraw any associations with the Israeli Government.

Recommendation 2):

- i. In the interests of transparency, the Council publishes details of whether the Council has formal associations with the Israeli government.
- ii. Requests that the Council reviews its contractual relations to establish if it has links with any of the companies named in the UN Human Rights Council's list as part of the Council's visible supply chain.
- iii. Notes the restrictions placed on local authorities in respect of the factors which they may take into account when procuring goods or services under Section 17 of the 1988 Local Government Act.

4. Prioritise human rights and equality in Rotherham's international relations, especially for the Palestinian people.

Recommendation 3):

- i. The Council cannot implement this recommendation as it is stated in the petition as international relations fall to central rather than local government.
- ii. Notes that the Council no longer has active twinning arrangements, and it is not recommended that these recommence.
- iii. The Council notes that the strength of Rotherham's local communities in supporting communities in need around the world. This includes promoting values such as human rights and equality which the Council supports.

5. Engage in dialogue with residents to develop a strategy for ethical local policies, specifically not to support countries with illegal occupations or companies benefitting from such activities.

Recommendation 4):

- i. That the Cabinet reiterates its commitment to its Ethical Procurement Policy and notes that the Council will always procure services in line with this Policy.
- ii. That the Council publishes an overview of its investments on its website.
- iii. That the Council requests that SY Pension Authority publishes its investments on its website.
- iv. Notes that the discretion of the Council to make ethical procurement decisions in respect of not supporting countries

with illegal occupations or companies benefitting from such activities was removed under s.17 of the Local Government Act, 1988.

- v. To enable councils to reflect on the concerns of communities that they are elected to represent, that the Leader writes to the relevant Minister to a) request the repeal of those sections of the Local Government Act 1988 which prohibit councils from taking 'non-commercial considerations' into account when awarding contracts and b) in opposition to the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill currently before Parliament.

6. Consider flag displays that better align with Rotherham communities' values, promote inclusivity and display the Palestinian flag.

Recommendation 5):

- i. That the Council is requested to give approval to the display of the Palestinian flag as a gesture of solidarity to those in Gaza and the wider region who are affected by the conflict and support peace. This should coincide with the United Nation's International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November 2024).
- ii. That the community considers organising a visible gesture of solidarity to those in Gaza and the wider region who are affected by the conflict and support peace. For example, this could include inter-faith, sporting or cultural events.
- iii. That elected members are reminded that under the existing Flag Protocol, a motion to support a cause or campaign, which by implication will include the flying of a flag, can be submitted to Council for decision.

7. Honour its commitment to being an Anti-Racist Town.

Recommendation 6):

- i. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board scrutinises how future Council Equalities Action Plans align with any relevant resolution outlined in the Anti-Racist Town motion, making recommendations for improvement as necessary.

8. Recognise that criticism of the Israeli Government does not equate to criticism of Judaism as noted by the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism.

Recommendation 7):

- i. That no further action is taken in respect of adopting an alternative definition of anti-Semitism.

- ii. That the Council notes that it is able to consider motions that provide equivalent definitions which seek to ensure clarity in respect of the other faiths should it resolve to do so.
- 2) That the Leader writes to local MPs informing them of the agreed recommendations and any proposed actions resulting from these.
- 3) That the decision of Cabinet is reported back to OSMB within two months of its submission.
- 4) That the Cabinet Spokesperson continues to hold dialogue with Petitioners to continue to seek peace in Palestine and the Region.
- 5) That Cabinet consider expediting the governance processes and provide updates to OSMB on progress against the recommendations.

The Leader noted the unusual step of receiving and responding to the recommendations in the one meeting. This reflected the strength of feeling in relation to the petition. A number of actions had been agreed. This included flying the Palestinian flag in November 2024. The Leader confirmed that he would write to the lead petitioner setting out a full response to the petition requests. Councillor Alam placed on record his thanks to OSMB for their work and reiterated the demand for a permanent ceasefire.

Resolved:

- 1) That having considered the recommendations from OSMB in relation to the petition, Cabinet approve the following response, as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report:

a) Publicly condemn the Israeli Government's human rights violations

Cabinet notes that the resolution of the Council on 28th February in response to the Petition included "...publicly condemning the human rights violations being conducted". This includes human rights violations by the Israeli Government. As a consequence Cabinet is clear that the Council condemns human rights violations.

b) Demand the UK Government call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Cabinet also notes that on the 28th February the Council called on the UK Government for a permanent ceasefire to be adopted. This remains the position of the Council and

Cabinet is again clear that the position of the UK Government should be (as it presently is) that there should be a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

- c) *That the Council issue a press release explaining the resolution agreed in the debate held on 28 February 2024.*

A press release will be published explaining both the resolution agreed by Council on the 28th February and additionally the outcome of the considerations of OSMB following this meeting.

- d) *In the interests of transparency, that the Council publishes details of whether the Council has formal associations with the Israeli government.*

Officers will consider this and write to the lead petitioner with the outcome of this work.

- e) *That the Council reviews its contractual relationships to establish if it has links with any of the companies named in the UN Human Rights Council's list as part of the Council's visible supply chain.*

Officers will consider this and write to the lead petitioner with the outcome of that work.

- f) Notes the restrictions placed on local authorities in respect of the factors which they may take into account when procuring goods or services under Section 17 of the 1988 Local Government Act.

Cabinet notes that the provisions of the Section above and this this curtails the factors that the Council is lawfully entitled to consider when making decisions on the procurement of goods and services.

- g) *With respect to the request within the petition to prioritise human rights and equality in Rotherham's international relations, especially for the Palestinian people, the OSMB response noted that the Council cannot implement this recommendation as it is stated in the petition, as international relations fall to central rather than local government.*

Cabinet notes the OSMB response to this request.

- h) Notes that the Council no longer has active twinning arrangements, and it is not recommended that these

recommence.

Cabinet notes the recommendation.

- i) Notes the strength of Rotherham's local communities in supporting communities in need around the world. This includes promoting values such as human rights and equality which the Council supports.*

Cabinet notes the recommendation.

- j) Reiterates its commitment to its Ethical Procurement Policy and notes that the Council will always procure services in line with this Policy.*

Cabinet is pleased that the commitment to Ethical Procurement through its Policy is noted and that it guides our Services in procuring Services.

- k) Publishes an overview of its investments on its website.*

Cabinet supports this recommendations and Officers will be asked to provide this information on the Council's website.

- l) Requests that South Yorkshire Pension Authority publishes its investments on its website.*

Cabinet will ask South Yorkshire Pension Authority to publish details of its investments on its websites.

- m) Notes that the discretion of the Council to make ethical procurement decisions in respect of not supporting countries with illegal occupations or companies benefitting from such activities was removed under s.17 of the Local Government Act, 1988.*

Cabinet notes the recommendation.

- n) To enable councils to reflect on the concerns of communities that they are elected to represent, that the Leader writes to the relevant Minister to a) request the repeal of those sections of the Local Government Act 1988 which prohibit councils from taking 'non-commercial considerations' into account when awarding contracts and b) in opposition to the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill currently before Parliament.*

Cabinet agrees to this recommendation and the Leader will write to the relevant Minister to make this point.

- o) Approve to the display of the Palestinian flag as a gesture of solidarity to those in Gaza and the wider region who are affected by the conflict and support peace on the United Nation's International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November 2024).*

Cabinet agrees to this recommendation and approves the flying of the Palestinian Flag on 29th November.

- p) Notes the efforts of the community in organising visible gestures of solidarity to those in Gaza and the wider region who are affected by the conflict and support peace.*

Cabinet notes the recommendation.

- q) That elected members are reminded that under the existing Flag Protocol, a motion to support a cause or campaign, which can include the flying of a flag, can be submitted to Council for decision.*

Cabinet notes this recommendation and will ask that this information is included in the next bulletin that is produced for all Councillors.

- 2) That the Leader writes to local MPs informing them of the agreed recommendations and any proposed actions resulting from these.
- 3) That the decision of Cabinet is reported back to OSMB within two months of its submission.
- 4) That the Cabinet Spokesperson continues to hold dialogue with Petitioners to continue to seek peace in Palestine and the Region.
- 5) That Cabinet write to OSMB following the meeting with an update on the actions listed above.
- 6) That the Leader write to the lead petitioner, explaining the outcome of the petition process.

52. CABINETS RESPONSE TO THE IMPROVING PLACES SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - NATURE RECOVERY

Consideration was given to the report which set out the proposed response from Cabinet to the findings and recommendations of the Improving Places Select Commission review on Nature Recovery in

Rotherham.

At its meeting of 25 May 2022, the Council resolved to declare a Nature Crisis in Rotherham, noting that almost half of UK wildlife was in long-term decline. This 'Nature Crisis Motion' committed the Council to a range of activities, including a review by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) of opportunities to support nature's recovery in Rotherham. At its meeting on 14 September 2022, OSMB agreed that the review should be undertaken by the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC), in its 2023 work programme.

The IPSC review of Nature Recovery in Rotherham began in March 2023, involving Council officers and external stakeholders over several months. A summary of the review's findings and recommendations was presented to Cabinet, at its meeting of 10 June 2024.

The recommendations review was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet response to the Scrutiny review recommendations in respect of Nature Recovery, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

53. LAND OFF FARFIELD LANE, WATH UPON DEARNE

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the disposal of land off Far Field Lane, Wath Upon Dearne to Barratt David Wilson Homes and acquisition of land from the Fitzwilliam Wentworth Estates (FWE) to replace statutory allotments.

The Council and the Fitzwilliam Wentworth Estate (FWE) both owned land off Far Field Lane, Wath Upon Dearne, which was allocated for residential development, referenced H97 in the Local Plan. FWE were the majority landholder of this allocation. The Disposal and Acquisition plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Council ownership (marked red on Appendix 1) was a smaller section of the total developable area and was currently restricting access to any development of the site. Non-binding discussions had taken place between FWE, the Council and Barratt David Wilson Homes to consolidate the land and for FWE and the Council to directly sell to Barratt David Wilson Homes.

The Council's land was currently categorised as a statutory allotment site which had been vacant for more than 30 years. There was no demand for the provision of allotments on this site and as such the site was surplus to the Council's requirements. The Allotment Alliance and Allotment Society had both been consulted, and whilst they did not have any objection to this proposal (and did not wish to retain this unused site), they wished to

see the future of another allotment site known as Sandymount allotments, have a statutory status, securing further future provision in the area.

Resolved:

That Cabinet authorise the Assistant Director of Property and Facilities Services to negotiate and agree the terms and conditions of the proposed disposal and acquisition shown on the plan at Appendix 1 in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs, and the Local Economy.

54. 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.

55. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cabinet would be held on Monday 14 October 2024 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 October 2024

Report Title

Future Rothercare Model

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Kirsty-Louise Littlewood, Assistant Director, Adult Care and Integration

Kirsty-Louise.Littlewood@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The recommendations in this report are a direct follow on from the Cabinet Report presented on 22 January 2024, Digitalisation of the Rothercare Service and details a strategic approach to delivering the Rothercare service.

The Council's Adult Social Care vision is to:

'Enable every resident with care and support needs to live their best lives, with the people they value, close to home and with access to the right support at the right time.'

The Council's intention is to use Assistive technology to enable the people of Rotherham to remain independent within their own home for as long as possible.

To achieve the vision there needs to be a significant increase in the use of assistive technology to enable people to remain independent within their own home for longer. Assistive technology can reduce dependence on formal care by helping to avoid early admission to care homes, reduce the amount of home care required and help to galvanise strength-based approaches to care. As such, this type of technology contributes to efficient use of resources across health and social care services and improves the quality of life for many users.

Assistive technology has a strong evidence base demonstrating its ability to increase wellbeing, reduce more costly health and care interventions and maintain people's independence for longer.

The Council's assistive technology offer is delivered via its in-house Rothercare service. This is an 'end to end' service which manages referrals and triage, installation of equipment, the monitoring and responding to alerts. The service also procures all technical aspects including the hardware and software (alarm receiving centre, digital box/pendant, licences and peripheral technology).

The service is intrinsic to a strength-based approach in supporting people towards independent living. A recent review of the service has identified opportunities to address the operational challenges of the analogue switch off and the remodel of the assistive technology offer.

This report details an options appraisal and seeks approval to implement a new model where the assistive technology elements of the service will be undertaken by an independent sector technology partner and Rothercare will continue to deliver the core service elements, engaging with the public and service users under a realigned delivery model.

Rothercare is a chargeable service currently funded through a mix of weekly charges to customers and a subsidy from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and therefore the pricing policy has been considered alongside the operating model.

Subject to approval, a formal procurement process will commence in Autumn 2024. A mobilisation period will ensue following the tender award which will be aligned to the revised Rothercare operating model from April 2025.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve option 1 to implement a new technology enabled care delivery model under a collaborative approach between Rothercare and an independent sector technology partner.
2. Approve a competitive procurement process and award of contract on the basis of a 5-year initial term. The contract will include potential extensions for up to 3 years (to be taken in any combination). The new arrangements will commence April 2025.
3. Agree the new charging policy and rates for Rothercare from 2025/26 for existing customers and the policy of applying a new rate to new customers from 2025/26 onwards.

List of Appendices Included

Background Papers

Appendix 1a. Initial Equality Screening Assessment, Part A - Future Rothercare Model.

Appendix 1b. Equality Analysis, Part B - Future Rothercare Model.

Appendix 2. Carbon Impact Assessment - Future Rothercare Model.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Future Rothercare Model

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's Adult Social Care ambition is to deploy and utilise Assistive technology to enable the people of Rotherham to remain independent within their own home for as long as possible. This aligns with the vision for Adult Social Care to:

'Enable every resident with care and support needs to live their best lives, with the people they value, close to home and with access to the right support at the right time.'

- 1.2 To achieve this vision, there needs to be a step change in the amount and type of assistive technology deployed in Rotherham to enable people to remain independent within their own home for as long as possible.

1.3 Principles of assistive technology:

Assistive technology has a strong evidence base demonstrating its ability to increase wellbeing, reduce more costly health and care interventions and maintain people's independence for longer.

- 1.4 Assistive technology can reduce dependence on formal care by supporting the avoidance of premature admission to care homes, reduce the amount of home care required and helps to galvanise strength-based approaches to care. It also makes a significant contribution to supporting unpaid carers and sustaining them in their role by enabling a person in need of care and support to feel more confident being by themselves. This can offer reassurance to an unpaid carer which may help them to take a break from caring.

1.5 Case for change:

Increasing the amount and type of assistive technology deployed in Rotherham will help realise an anticipatory model of care by utilising non-intrusive devices to prevent the deterioration in people's needs living at home or within supported environments. As such, this type of technology contributes to efficient use of resources across health and social care services.

- 1.6 Assistive technology has a strong evidence base demonstrating its ability to increase wellbeing, reduce more costly health and care interventions and maintain people's independence for longer. The Local Government Association has gathered a strong evidence base to demonstrate the ability of assistive technology to increase wellbeing, reduce more costly health and care interventions and maintain people's independence for longer.

- 1.7 Benchmarking against other local authorities has indicated that greater investment in assistive technology delivers significant efficiencies, especially in terms of cost avoidance.

1.8 What is Assistive technology:

Assistive technology refers to environmental and personal sensors which monitor a person's safety and well-being and standalone technology to assist people with their activities of daily living (mobility, nutrition, communication). Environmental sensors (smoke, carbon monoxide, temperature, etc.) and personal sensors (fall detectors, location trackers, etc.) and other self-determined alerts, interface with 24/7 monitoring services. Alerts to the alarm receiving centre (ARC) trigger a response or, if appropriate, a person's natural form of support or the emergency services.

1.9 Service review and consultation:

Rothercare is considered critical to preventing, reducing or delaying the need for formal care and support in line with the Care Act 2014. As such, the service has undergone a review during 2023 to ensure it remains effective in meeting the duty and the ambitions set out in the Council's Adult Social Care Strategy for 2024-2027.

1.10 The service:

The Council's assistive technology offer is delivered in-house via a dedicated service branded as Rothercare. This is an 'end to end' service and includes management of referrals, installation of equipment, monitoring and responding to alerts. The service also procures all technical aspects including the hardware/software (alarm receiving centre, digital box/pendant, licences and peripheral technology). Whilst the service is fundamental to a strength-based approach in supporting people towards independent living, the service has been reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose and able to respond to future need and technological advances such as the move from analogue to digital as a result of the UK's telecom infrastructure upgrade.

1.11 The service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and referrals to the service are processed through the Council's Adult Social Care contact centre.

1.12 At present circa 5,600 households have the Rothercare community alarm installed and around 1,200 customers join the service each year. Customers accessing the service do not require a Care Act Assessment to determine eligible needs for support.

1.13 Around 55% of Rothercare customers (households) choose to receive interactive welfare checks and a wearable pendant alarm only and, 45% choose an enhanced offer (Table 1). The enhanced offer includes additional personal and environmental monitoring sensors. There are approximately 8,777 sensors which interact with the Rothercare alarm receiving centre (around 3 per household).

Table 1 details the breakdown of the customer profile by service level.

Item	Detail	Households	Total
Rothercare	Digital box/Pendant and response service only	3,105	5,646
Rothercare/ monitoring sensors	Digital box/Pendant and environmental/personal sensors and response service	2,541	
Peripherals	Sensors which are linked to the ARC Active (@ 02/07/2024)	3,131	8,777

- 1.14 The alarm receiving centre (ARC) received around 32,000 prompts in January 2024 from the pendant alarm (active - activated by the individual) or monitoring sensors (passive – do not require to be activated by the individual) (Table 2). Not all prompts require a mobile response (i.e., low battery alert), and if required the response is met utilising Rothercare mobile staff or from the customers natural forms of support, or in some cases, an emergency service response as appropriate.

Table 2 details the types of sensors which communicate with the alarm receiving centre (ARC).

Description	Number of alerts
Voice	7,022
Bed chair sensor	1,114
Self-determination – alarm trigger	6,111
Fall	3,321
Fire (smoke)	1,056
Flood	590
Intruder	1,192
Second resident personal	627
Others	11,113
Total	32,146

- 1.15 In addition to the peripherals that interface with the alarm receiving centre (ARC) approximately 1,651 standalone technology items are purchased/stored/issued to assist people with their activities of daily living (mobility, nutrition, communication, sensory needs).

- 1.16 Findings:
The outcomes of the Rothercare review have been divided into the core components of the service. The findings of the review are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3: Review Findings.

Service Elements	Findings/ Recommendations
Referral/Triage	Systems to support the recording, triage, and risk management process will be further enhanced.
Identification of Assistive technology Solutions and Installation	A technology partner could provide further expertise to ensure the service keeps pace with technological advances in such a fast-paced environment and ensures the service is able to continue to meet need.
Monitoring/Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC)	A significant amount of data is produced by the ARC. This will continue to be used to drive service improvement, understanding customers, improving the business and performance.
Response to alerts	The operational response to alerts is appropriate to need. This will continue to be reviewed and enhanced as the service evolves and takes advantage of the technological advances in the marketplace.
Outcome Monitoring	There is further scope to understand the impact and outcome from the technology installed and issued. This could mean a stronger contribution to the revision of a support plan (for Care Act Assessed customers), or to contribute to a review.
Procurement	Procurement activity is undertaken by the service and there is scope to improve this approach further to ensure Best Value principles are applied for technology requirements, including tasks such as: storing equipment, servicing, cleaning/re-issuing, recovering and appropriate disposal of equipment.

The review of the service has identified opportunities to address the operational challenges and to remodel the assistive technology offer.

1.17 Feedback:

An online survey and face to face consultation 'Have your Say on Rothercare' launched in August 2023 indicated that 88% of the 121 respondents identified the positive impact of the service on their ability to live independently, followed by feeling safe and giving peace of mind for family and friends. This indicates the service is highly valued by customers.

1.18 Implications of the UK Telecoms infrastructure upgrade:

Until recently the alerts to the alarm receiving centre relied on analogue technology. However, in 2017 the Department of Business and Industry announced that the UK's telecoms industry intended to retire analogue phone lines to be replaced with digital infrastructure. The UK's telecom infrastructure analogue to digital upgrade programme is now underway on a national scale. As a result of the Analogue to Digital (A2D) programme the Council was compelled to replace the Rothercare's analogue units with digital units. These are installed

in customers' homes and have an integrated Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) which are a component of digital boxes.

1.19 In order to deliver the Analogue to Digital (A2D) programme, the Council has allocated £1.4m of a £1.7m investment budget to replace analogue to digital units (boxes) and are progressing toward a total of 2,858 new digital boxes and pendants which utilise an integrated SIM. There is a warranty on this type of equipment for a period of 2 years. Whilst the installation programme of new digital boxes will continue until September 2025, these items will be subject to reallocation, refurbishment and reissue to meet ethical and ecological objectives.

1.20 Cost implications weekly service charge:

SIMs are a requirement to connect and operate the digital service. The costs of the SIM licences are £1/per household per week. The ongoing licence costs must be met by the income generated by the service.

2 Key Issues

2.1 The service is fundamental to a strength-based approach in supporting people towards independent living. The service review identified that the service is unable to expand the assistive technology offer further without a significant investment in additional staff capacity and process re-design.

2.2 Demand for adult social care services in Rotherham has increased significantly since 2021 with overall customer numbers increasing by 11%, with older adult services, such as home care and residential care, increasing the most. The use of assistive technology is identified as a way of managing demand on higher cost interventions and providing valuable support to customers.

2.3 It is imperative that the ongoing service costs are met through the income generated by the service to ensure that this critical service is sustained. There is therefore a requirement to revise the charging policy and the associated Rothercare weekly service charge.

3 Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1 – (recommended) - A collaborative approach between an independent sector technology partner and Rothercare

In this option, Rothercare will continue to deliver the referral, triage, monitoring and response service whilst the assistive technology elements (identification of assistive technology solutions, installation, recycling, disposal and maintenance and procurement of assistive technology equipment) are delivered by a technology partner from the independent sector.

Advantages:

- Expands assistive technology to target prevention, early intervention and builds on strength-based approaches to promote independent living in line with Care Act 2014 principles (prevent, reduce, delay).
- Increases opportunities to manage demand on formal and higher cost support options and offer dynamic solutions to address increasingly complex needs.

- Support the existing Rothercare capacity to focus on their core purpose (referral/monitor and response to alerts).
- Utilises expertise of a technology partner to appropriately assess customers and supply technology in targeted way.
- Procures technology from a diverse market with relevant knowledgeable purchasing power increasing budgetary control.
- Offers personalised identification of assistive technology solutions to improve customer experience.
- Promotes positive practice and knowledge transfer across the directorate of innovative technologies and how they can benefit people.
- Increases the opportunity for performance management (KPI/contract management and realign the in-house operations) to continue to demonstrate value for money.
- Offers a route to advance progression to integrated care and health provision i.e., telehealth.
- A compliant recycling programme would be implemented by the technology partner for the disposal of waste from electrical and electronic equipment.
- Retains the capacity for emergency response should this be required.
- Formal procurement arrangements will be implemented in line with the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and relevant procurement legislation.
- Allows for growth in the volume of assistive technology solutions in line with population increase (older people) and complexity of need.

Disadvantages:

- Option 1 requires a level of investment to support the expansion of assistive technology.

Conclusion:

As the balance of advantages are significant when compared to the other 3 options, option 1 is recommended to be taken forward.

3.2 Option 2: - Rothercare continues to deliver all elements of the service in-house (not recommended).

Option 2 would mean all elements of Rothercare remain to be delivered in-house and the service would retain control over all activities under revised operational arrangements.

Advantages:

- Rothercare is an established brand with mature relationships across the customer base, workforce and specialist areas such as Occupational Therapist and Social Workers.

Disadvantages:

- Financial resources to continue to improve the service in line with the findings of the recent review would be required. The level of investment is estimated to be significant.
- Whether further investment would lead to improvement at the pace required cannot be confirmed.

- The skills and knowledge required to deliver an improved assistive technology offer are currently beyond the capability of the Rothercare service and it would take time to cultivate the skills and knowledge required.
- The advantages outlined with option 1 would not be achieved without significant investment and a protracted time period.
- The required horizon scanning and insight of the technology market to ensure appropriate procurement of technology in such a fast-paced environment would be extremely challenging without technology partner expertise.

Conclusion:

The Council is facing significant financial pressures and there is an urgent need to manage the demand for care and support, so it is important that adult social care can prevent, reduce and delay the need for formal care and support.

Given the findings of the Rothercare review, the recommendation is that Option 2 is not progressed.

3.3 **Option 3: Arm's Length Management Organisation (not recommended)**

This option would mean an organisation i.e., Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) or a Community Interest Company (CIC) is established to deliver all the elements of the Rothercare function, and the service operates outside the constraints of a local authorities' rules and regulations whilst still being required to comply with legislative requirements.

Advantages:

- All risks relating to the Rothercare service are ported to the private entity.
- The technology partner would be performance managed, and a suite of performance reports would provide effectiveness and value for money to be demonstrated.

Disadvantages:

- Typically, a subsidy would be required in the first few years to ensure that the service can be sustained.
- Rothercare would require time to adopt this model which would have an impact on operational practice.
- Considerable funding would be required to setup an ALMO/CIC. Estimated procurement and implementation time would be approximately 24 - 36 months.
- Additional in-house resource would be required to act in the client role and effectively manage and monitor the contract to ensure satisfactory performance and compliance.
- A contingency plan would be required in the event that the organisation could no longer trade.

In 2013, another Council entered into a Service Level Agreement to develop this approach, with some functions transferring to a Community Interest Company (CIC) in 2016. It was envisaged at the outset that it would transfer to a completely independent company. However, after 10 years this still has not been achieved. The view of the Council is that due to various market challenges the Council will retain ownership of the company.

Conclusion:

Option 3 would present the Council with significant challenge to financial and officer resources and delay the achievement of the advantages outlined in option 1 and is therefore not a recommended option.

3.4 Option 4 – A commissioned technology partner delivers all elements (not recommended).

This option would mean that an external technology partner is commissioned under contract arrangements to deliver all elements of the Rothercare service. In this option customers who could potentially benefit from technology will be referred to the service for identification of assistive technology solutions, separately to care planning.

Advantages:

- Continuity of the service would be preserved.
- The technology partner would be a subject matter expert and would be best placed to appropriately assess customers and supply technology in targeted way.
- Expands the assistive technology offer and builds on strength- based approaches to promote independent living in line with Care Act 2014 principles (prevent, reduce, delay).
- Increases opportunities to manage demand on formal and higher cost support options and offer dynamic solutions to address increasingly complex needs.
- Procures technology from a diverse market with relevant knowledgeable purchasing power increasing budgetary control.
- Offers personalised identification of assistive technology solutions to improve customer experience.
- Increases the opportunity for performance management (KPI/contract management and realign the in-house operations) to continue to demonstrate value for money.
- Offers an in-road to advance progression to integrated care and health provision i.e., telehealth.
- A recycling programme would be implemented by the technology partner and the disposal of waste from electrical and electronic equipment would comply with relevant legislation.

Disadvantages:

- Reports of change of need and associated risks to vulnerable adults accessing the response service are currently escalated swiftly via internal pathways and processes. The preferred option 1 retains this element in house. If this service element was transferred to the technology partner this may introduce unnecessarily complex communication channels as an external technology partner using remote and less integrated communication and recording systems.
- Opportunities would be missed to promote positive practice and knowledge transfer across the directorate of innovative technologies and how they can benefit people.
- Resources currently available in the Rothercare staff resource which support the Council to respond to borough emergencies would no longer be available.

Conclusion:

Option 4 would present significant risks to individuals and would hinder the Council when required to respond to environmental and ecological emergency planning scenarios. Therefore option 4 is not recommended.

3.5 Associated Costs estimated for option 1 (recommended)

The service cost associated with the recommended option 1 have been estimated. The total cost is estimated at £1.6m and comprises of Rothercare 'in-house' operational cost and the costs associated with the procured Technology Partner to achieve the collaborative approach model.

3.6 Revenue:

Rothercare:

The Rothercare element of cost is budgeted at £1,012,085 and this budget will continue to support the staffing cost and non-staffing cost associated with operating the service including managing referrals, monitoring of the alarm receiving centre responding to alerts.

3.7 Technology Partner:

The Technology Partner procured will carry out the identification assistive technology solutions and review individuals and procure, deliver, collect/dispose and recycle the technology equipment.

The annual contract value associated with the service proposed to be procured from the Technology Partner is estimated to be £587,915. The contract value for a 5 year initial term is therefore estimated at £2.9m. The contract includes potential extensions for up to 3 years (to be taken in any combination) should this be exercised; this would bring the total contract value to £4.7m. These values will be subject to inflationary increases on an annual basis.

3.8 The revenue cost associated with the proposed option 1 have been estimated and illustrated in table 4 below.

Table 4. Revenue Cost Option 1

Collaborative approach Model	Detail	Annual Cost 2025/26
Rothercare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral/Triage • Monitoring of the ARC • Response 	£1,012,085
Technology Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of assistive technology solutions and review • Collection/Disposal/Recycling of technology • Procurement of technology 	£587,915
	Total	£1.6m

3.9 Capital Costs:

In 2022/23 the Council spent a total of £712,856 on peripherals and standalone technology. The capital budget is sourced from the Disabled Facilities Grant and therefore does not need to be recovered through the weekly charge. There are approximately 5,646 digital boxes and pendants in circulation at any one time and a number of units held in storage. In addition, there are circa 1,651 standalone technology items and 18,000 items including 8,777 peripherals (environmental/personal sensors) purchased/stored or issued. The collection, disposal and recycling programme implemented by the technology partner will support control over expenditure associated with this budget.

3.10 Rothercare Service Charge:

The weekly charge for the Rothercare service (2024-25) is £3.50 per week. The service costs and associated charge to customers have not been revised for an extensive period. The weekly service charge needed to achieve full cost recovery (2025/26) has been calculated at £6.88 per week.

Whilst the service charge has remained stable the associated service costs have risen. Additional service requirements are as a result of increasing presence of technology, connected digital devices, remote monitoring capability and individual data driving practice.

In addition, as a result of the UK's telecom infrastructure upgrade, the current charge is insufficient to cover the costs of the sim cards (a component of digital boxes) which are a requirement to connect and operate the service (see 1.20).

3.11 Weekly Charge:

It is proposed that the weekly charge will increase from the current £3.50 to £4.50 (2025/26) for a 12-month period. This will cover the costs associated with the fact that the UK's telecom infrastructure analogue to digital upgrade programme is now underway on a national scale. As a result of the Analogue to Digital (A2D) programme the Council was compelled to replace the Rothercare's analogue units with digital units. These are installed in customers' homes and have an integrated Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) which are a component of digital boxes.

SIMs are a requirement to connect and operate the digital service. The costs of the SIM licences are £1/per household per week. The ongoing licence costs must be met by the income generated by the service. This increase will not achieve full cost recovery and therefore it will be necessary to continue to subsidise the service through the HRA. This will keep the financial impact to individuals to a minimum. Over a few years full cost recovery can be achieved gradually through a period of transition. The impact of the rising service costs will be mitigated by continuing to subsidise the service through a transitional phase towards zero subsidy. This will enable; customers who are receiving a subsidised service to continue to do so until they leave the service and, where people pay the Rothercare charge as part of a tenancy agreement but do not wish to do so, they will be offered an opportunity to have their needs for assistive technology to be identified prior to opting out of the charge.

3.12 Benchmarking

A benchmarking exercise has been undertaken in order to compare the weekly charges set by other Councils. Findings indicate a wide range of weekly charges applied by other local authorities. Rothercare charges are significantly lower than those applied elsewhere hence the proposed increases seem reasonable. Table 5 illustrates approximate weekly charges for a similar service offer identified in the proposed Option 1.

Table 5. Weekly Charges:

Council	Charge 2024/25
Doncaster	£6.20
Barnsley	£5.88
Sheffield	£6.99
Leeds	£10.55
Kirklees	£10.26
Calderdale	£5.85
Rochdale	£5.65
Hampshire	£5.00
Coventry	£9.63
Sandwell	£5.20
Walsall	£6.25

3.13 Charging proposals:

There are fixed costs associated with the service and the current model is subsidised as well as being dependent on paying customers continuing to access the service. To understand the associated risk impact relating to service sustainability and reliance on the subsidy, an assessment of the impact of the weekly charge has been undertaken.

- 3.14 The attrition rate from the service has been estimated at circa 21% of subsidised customers who leave the service annually. The service growth is around 3% (net of new customers and attrition). The new service will be promoted, and the growth of the service will accelerate beyond 3% increasing the numbers of paying customers. The subsidised customers will reduce over time along with a reduction on the requirement for subsidy.
- 3.15 A transitional increase in the weekly charge (in addition to inflation increase) will be applied in subsequent years which will be an important step to sustain this critical service and balance income and expenditure without a need for further subsidy.
- 3.16 Full cost recovery will be achieved gradually over a number of years. As the cost model relies on attrition rates and service growth, the pace at which reduction of reliance on the subsidy cannot be accurately determined. Potential charges and required subsidy have been modelled for the first two years and are illustrated below in Table 6. This is a conservative estimate taking into account a 3% service growth only and these figures are based on the current information available and best estimates.

Table 6: Estimated weekly service charge and subsidy required to mitigate shortfall:

Year	Estimated Charge – customer per week	Subsidy – customer per week
2025/26	£4.50	£2.38
2026/27	£5.00	£1.60

- 3.17 If approved, the implementation of the new collaborative approach model between an independent sector technology partner and Rothercare will undergo an assessment of benefits realisation which will inform the level of cost efficiencies derived. This will inform the revision of the service costs going forward which are likely to be favourable

4 Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Engagement events have taken place to develop the new model. Attendees have included professionals and technology experts from the independent sector.

Method of Engagement	Date	Target Audience
Workshop – Rethink Partners	March 2023	Broad range of key stakeholders - Health and Social Care Professionals, Practitioners and Therapists, commissioners and frontline staff.
Engagement with the Operational Business Unit	Continuous throughout period	Head of Service Provider Services and relevant in-house management.
Workshop – Town Hall	29 May 2024	Health and Social Care Professionals, Practitioners and Therapists, and industry experts.
Workshop – Riverside House	1 July 2024	Health and Social Care Professionals, Practitioners and Therapists.

- 4.2 The LGA Care and Health Improvement Team have collaborated with Rethink Partners to support Councils to realise their ambitions for care technology and adopting digital tools and solutions in social care. Rethink partners engaged with Rotherham Council in March 2023, through a series of events. The outcome of their work led to recommendations being made to develop a blend of in-house and commissioned service model that plays to the strengths of Rothercare but with the benefits of a strategic partnership (technology partner - collaborative service model). They advised that to bring in expertise would de-risk 'technology redundancy' and a joint project was required involving a strategic technology partner to deliver a specialist technology offer and that Rothercare continue to

deliver and provide a monitoring and responder service for a new technology service offer.

- 4.3 Outcomes from the other events undertaken during 2024 have been reviewed and there is general support for the technology partner - collaborative service model. Queries raised on process and handoffs have been captured and will be addressed as part of the procurement exercise. The detailed service revision of Rothercare and design process of the model will address any potential concerns.
- 4.4 Further engagement events with Rotherham residents took place at Rotherham Show in September and their views will support the refinement of the service specification.
- 4.6 Benchmarking

Other local authorities have adopted different approaches to deliver their assistive technology offer (see Table 6).

Table 6: Local Authority Service Model

LA	Model			comment
	In house	Fully outsourced	Technology Partner/in house Collaborative model	
North Yorkshire		✓		Fully outsourced service since 2018.
Sheffield			✓	Elements of service undertaken externally and planning to outsource purchasing of equipment and identification of assistive technology solutions.
Derbyshire			✓	Technology partner commissioned to do monitoring and installations.
Doncaster	✓			
Bristol	✓			
Barnsley	✓			
Wiltshire			✓	Commission 24/7 monitoring and installation externally.
Hampshire		✓		Fully outsourced since 2014.
West Midlands Combined Authority			✓	Active tender taking place.

5 Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Pre-market engagement has commenced and if approved, the procurement/tender process will commence following Cabinet decision. A mobilisation period will ensue to ensure that the tender award is aligned to the revised Rothercare service operational arrangements.

6 Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Finance

Rothercare is currently funded through a mix of a weekly charges to customers and a subsidy from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Capital costs are funded through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). It is anticipated that the full revenue cost will eventually be recouped through a staged increase in the weekly charge to existing and new customers, eliminating the need for HRA income.

- 6.2 The proposed charge has been calculated by estimating the number of users who will continue to require a service. If this estimate is wrong, then there is a risk that there will be insufficient income to cover the cost of providing the service. If this occurs then the operating model can be reviewed so that it operates within budget. The service budget will be monitored closely over the years of transition to minimise any risks associated with this

6.3 Procurement:

All procurement activity aligned to the recommendations detailed in this report, must be undertaken in full compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 (whichever is the applicable legislation at the time) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7 Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 As stated above the procurement of the assistive technology supplier will need to be carried out in compliance with the relevant procurement legislation which is in force at the time, and the appropriate contractual arrangements will need to be put in place with the chosen supplier.
- 7.2 The Care Act 2014 ("CA 2014") creates a general duty for the Council to promote the individual wellbeing of adults with care and support needs and carers. s1 of the CA 2014, requires the Council to have regard to the importance of preventing or delaying the development of needs for care and support.
- 7.3 Under s2 CA 2014, the Council must provide or arrange for the provision of services, facilities or resources, or take other steps, which it considers will contribute towards preventing or delaying the development by adults in its area of needs for care and support; reduce the needs for care and support of adults in the borough and reduce the needs for support of carers in the borough.
- 7.4 The Care and Support Statutory Guidance ("the Statutory Guidance") sets out that the care and support system must work to actively promote well-being and

independence and does not wait to respond when people are in crisis by early interventions which prevents need or delays deterioration wherever possible.

- 7.5 Under s18 of the CA 2014 the Council has a duty to meet needs for care and support having determined that a person has needs which meet the eligibility criteria and a duty under s20 of the CA 2014 to meet a carer's needs for support. The eligibility criteria is set out within the Care and Support (Eligibility Criteria) Regulations 2015.
- 7.6 Personalisation is central to ensuring people receive the right support that helps them live independently and connected to their communities. The Statutory Guidance recognises that concept of meeting need is different and personal to individuals and that modern care and support can be provided in many ways, including the use of technology. Paragraph 10.12 of the Statutory Guidance states: 'Where the local authority provides or arranges for care and support, the type of support may itself take many forms. These may include more traditional 'service' options, such as care homes or homecare, but may also include other types of support such as assistive technology in the home or equipment/adaptations, and approaches to meeting needs should be inclusive of less intensive or service-focused options'.
- 7.7 The Council has a market shaping duty under s5 CA 2014 to promote an efficient and effective market for care and support services for people in the borough including a variety of service providers and services and a variety of high-quality services.
- 7.8 On the Council's behalf, Rothercare is designed to promote the welfare of its customers by providing an alarm service to help tenants live safely in their own home. The alarm can be used inside the home during the day or night to send for help in circumstances including where a tenant has an accident or incident inside their home, suffers a medical emergency, and/or suffers from harassment or anti-social behaviour.
- 7.9 In connection with its provision of housing accommodation, s.11A(1) Housing Act 1985 allows for Local Authorities to provide '*services for promoting the welfare of the persons for whom the accommodation is so provided, as accord with the needs of those persons*'.
- 7.10 The Operation of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) ring-fence Guidance ("the Guidance") provides for the provision of HRA expenditure on Core and Core Plus services. The Guidance states '*A service that cannot be defined as core or core-plus should be accounted for in the council's General Fund.*'
- 7.11 The Guidance defines Core services as including those related to low level anti-social behaviour. Core Plus services are defined as HRA housing related support services only, including alarm services.
- 7.12 Under s.11A (2), 'The authority may make reasonable charges for welfare services...', provided in connection with its provision of housing accommodation.

Customers currently pay a reasonable weekly charge to use Rothercare Services. Planned transitional increases in the weekly charge in consequent years will be

an important step to sustain the Rothercare service and balance income and expenditure without a need for further HRA subsidy.

- 7.13 The Guidance imposes no income-based funding restrictions on HRA expenditure for Core and/or Core Plus services.

8 Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Should any Human Resources matters arise from this report, including where TUPE Legislation applies, the Council will follow due processes.

9 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Expanding the assistive technology offer represents a positive step in supporting vulnerable customers. The recommendations in this report if approved will offer new opportunities to prevent, reduce and delay the need for more formal types of care provision.

10 Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Equality analysis of the potential beneficiaries of the new service who are living in Rotherham with protected characteristics (see attached Equality Analysis - Appendix 1a, 1b) has been undertaken. Where people with protected characteristics are under-represented, the new service will be designed to overcome any issues identified.
- 10.2 The recommendations in this report will promote assisting those most vulnerable in society to have their needs met in the least restrictive way.
- 10.3 The proposals in this report support the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:
- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged as a result of disability: and
 - Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in the wider society.
- 10.4 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 establishes the public sector equality duty ("PSED") – which requires that the Council, as a public body, in carrying out its functions must have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
 - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 10.5 The relevant protected characteristics referred to in the Equality Act are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. Public authorities also need to have due regard to the

need to eliminate unlawful discrimination against someone because of their marriage or civil partnership status.

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

11 Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The technology partner will be replicating activity that is currently undertaken by Rothercare. In terms of emissions from non-domestic buildings and transport, much of the impact of emissions (in comparison to the current service model) depends on whether the chosen technology partner is already operating in the Rotherham area. Emissions can be mitigated in this area by asking the technology partner to produce a carbon reduction plan, engaging with the technology partner regarding electric vehicles and optimising non-emergency routes.

11.2 In terms of waste, it is envisaged that the successful technology partner will operate more efficiently from a carbon perspective throughout the contract. In the event that a national organisation being the successful technology partner there remains a real opportunity for carbon reduction as the Council can exploit their supply chain and existing resources. It is expected that a new technology partner could support waste minimisation. Equipment is expected to be reissued where possible and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycled, this will be monitored.

11.3 The exact requirements and responses from the successful technology partner will be gleaned via their formal response and the relevant procurement framework requirements on carbon declarations. Carbon impact plans will be requested to understand the organisations carbon impact and mitigating actions to address these.

11.4 Outcomes aimed to be achieved by the new technology partner:

- A technology partner that has infrastructure in or near to Rotherham to reduce domestic building emissions.
- Reduce emissions from transport by being more strategic in visits.
- The use of more environmentally friendly vehicles to achieve the councils Net Zero 2030 target.
- Reduction of waste via a WEEE compliant process.

12 Implications for Partners

12.1 The recommendations in this report if approved:

- Will represent a positive step in respect of hospital and care home admission avoidance and accelerating safe hospital discharge.
- Have synergies with telehealth and will promote technology advancement in integrated health and social care.

13 Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risk: The competitive tender process has a poor response from the market.

Mitigation: Further market development, engagement, co-production, research on specifications and costs.

13.2 Risk: The new technology partner fails to expand the assistive technology offer and strength-based approaches are further hindered.

Mitigation: Detailed mobilisation and ongoing development plan.

Mitigation: Services will be clearly specified with the Council's expectations in respect of competency, capability and high standards. Robust arrangements will be in place to monitor service delivery and outcomes with associated performance targets and KPIs and enforcement action taken when technology partner deviates from the standards.

14 Accountable Officers

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	30/09/24
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	26/09/24
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	26/09/24

Report Author: Kirsty-Louise Littlewood, Assistant Director Adult Care
Kirsty-louise.Littlewood@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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Appendix 1a.

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Future Rothercare Model	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Provider Services
Lead person: Deborah Ramskill	Contact: Deborah.ramskill@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>Adult Social Care has an ambition to fully utilise the benefits and opportunities provided by assistive technology to enable individuals to live healthy, fulfilled, and independent lives within their homes.</p> <p>The Council intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase awareness of assistive technology and its benefits. · Explore new ways to support people to prevent, reduce and delay the need for formal care Expand the provision of assistive technology across formal and informal

care sectors.

- Develop a Strategy for Technology Enabled Care, to give a clear vision for provision of assistive technology in Rotherham.

Assistive Technology has a strong evidence base demonstrating its ability to increase wellbeing, reduce more costly health and care interventions and maintain people’s independence for longer. Benchmarking against other local authorities has indicated that greater investment in assistive technology delivers significant efficiencies, especially in terms of cost avoidance (Local Government Association - LGA. 2018)

The Rothercare service has been reviewed and a proposed model will be presented to Cabinet on 16 September 2024.

This assessment is screening the potential impact - subject to Cabinet approving the new Rothercare business model, on people receiving the services and the staff delivering it. If approved a new provider will deliver parts of the service, whilst key elements of Rothercare will continue to be delivered in house, such as triage, monitoring and mobile response.

The proposed new model will have a clear focus on expanding the current Assistive Technology offer, allowing people to remain independent in their own home for longer. There is recognition the impact of digital inclusion needs to be considered and how it can be addressed.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

Could the proposal affect the Council’s workforce or employment practices?		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason.		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

A recent review of the Rothercare service has identified opportunities to address operational challenges and remodel the assistive technology offer to optimise success and cost avoidance.

This report follows a Cabinet Report presented on 22 January 2024, Digitalisation of the Rothercare Service. This report indicated a new strategic approach to delivering the Rothercare service would be presented to Cabinet in the Summer 2024.

At that time a 90-day public consultation took place between 5 August 2023 and 13 November 2023. The outcome of the consultation supported the Council’s strategic approach in relation to the digitalisation of the Rothercare service in response to the national digital agenda.

The consultation was accessible borough-wide in a range of formats, including online, public drop-in sessions and home visits for those who are most isolated. The consultation breadth covered all age ranges from 18 and above and was open to people with the full range of protected characteristics.

A range of engagement events have taken place to develop the new assistive technology model. These included health and social care practitioners, health professional, therapists and industry experts. These stakeholders represented a wide range of people accessing services, with protected characteristics.

A wider range of assistive technology will further support people to remain independent within their own property for longer. To achieve this vision their needs to be a significant increase in the technology deployed. Expanding the assistive technology offer is an

important step in supporting people with protect characteristics including people with disabilities including, mental ill health, learning disability, autism and prevent reduce and delay the need for more formal types of care to keep people independently in their communities as far as possible.

Changes to how the Rothercare and the assistive technology model is delivered will impact positively on people.

• **Key findings**

These proposals will affect people boroughwide in relation to support to live independently in their own homes, reassurance, and safety. Therefore, it is critical that the service is accessible affordable and operates using the most efficient systems and digital connectivity.

• **Actions**

The output of the previous formal, public consultation was acknowledged by Cabinet on 22 January 2024, see [Cabinet Report](#).

Full screening (Part B) will ensure the proposed model considers equality, diversity and inclusion.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis	05 May 2024
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	08 August 2024
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title)	Deborah Ramskill - Interim Head of Provider Services

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	9 September 2024
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	6 September 2024

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	08 July 2024
Report title and date	Rothercare review and proposed business model
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Report date: 14 October 2024 Publication date: 30 September 2024
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16 August 2024

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Appendix 1b.

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Rothercare Future Model	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 04 July 2024	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Provider Services, Adult Care and Integration
Lead Manager: Deborah Ramskill – Interim Head of Provider Services	Contact: Deborah Ramskill Deborah.Ramskill@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

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

Name	Organisation	Role (e.g. service user, managers, service specialist)
Deborah Ramskill	RMBC	Head of Provider Services
Jacqueline Clark	RMBC	Head of Prevention Early Intervention – Strategic Commissioning
Tony Sanderson	RMBC	Project Manager
Claire Green	RMBC	Programme Manager

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

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

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

Rotherham's Adult Care, Housing and Public Health directorate sees the future delivery of care being around personalised outcomes and proactive and preventative services, enabled by digital intervention and technology. This aligns with the Rotherham's Adult Social Care vision to:

'Enable every resident with care and support needs to live their best lives, with the people they value, close to home and with access to the right support at the right time.'

To achieve this vision there needs to be a significant increase in the amount and types of assistive technology that is deployed to enable people to remain independent within their own home for longer and reduce pressure across the health and social care system.

Assistive technology refers to environmental and personal sensors which monitor a person's safety and well-being and voice activated technology. The types of technology in scope include standalone technology to assist people with their activities of daily living (mobility, nutrition, communication) and environmental sensors (smoke, carbon monoxide, extreme temperature, door), personal sensors (fall detectors, location trackers, medication prompts) which interface with 24/7 monitoring services to mobilise a response or, if appropriate, the emergency services.

Adult Social Care has an ambition to fully utilise the benefits and opportunities provided by assistive technology to enable individuals to live healthy, fulfilled, and independent lives within their homes.

The Council intends to:

- Increase awareness of assistive technology and its benefits.
- Explore new ways to support people to prevent, reduce and delay the need for formal care Expand the provision of assistive technology across formal and informal care sectors.

Assistive Technology has a strong evidence base demonstrating its ability to increase wellbeing, reduce more costly health and care interventions and maintain people's independence for longer. Benchmarking against other local authorities has indicated that greater investment in assistive technology delivers significant efficiencies, especially in terms of cost avoidance (LGA. 2018).

Assistive Technology links seamlessly with wider council policies and strategies:

[The Rotherham Council Plan 2022-25^{\[1\]}](#)

One of the four guiding principles in The Rotherham Council Plan 2022-25, is a focus on prevention and to intervene early to prevent problems from worsening. Under our theme '*people are safe, healthy and live well,*' our aim is for everyone to live independently, safely and healthily in their community for as long as possible – and to work with our partners to achieve this.

[The Rotherham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025^{\[2\]}](#)

The strategy includes 4 aims including:

'All Rotherham people enjoy the best possible mental health and wellbeing and have a good quality of life' and *'all Rotherham people live well for longer.'*

One of the underlying principles is to 'prevent physical and mental ill health as a primary aim; but where there is already an issue, services intervene early to maximise impact.'

[Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-2027^{\[3\]}](#)

Types of support can include access to preventative services including assistive technology, aids and adaptations, provision of information and advice, targeted support for unpaid carers, short-term intensive support through our enablement services or more long-term support such as home care, access to day opportunities or care provided in care and nursing homes

[Digitalisation of the Rothercare Service^{\[4\]}](#)

The increase in assistive technology provision over the years has increased the number of connections and calls to Rothercare. This has resulted in increased service activity with greater levels of complexity and involvement leading to a delivery pressure across the current Rothercare service.

^[1] [Council Plan 2022-25 – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

^[2] [Rotherham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025](#)

^[3] [Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-2027](#)

^[4] [Digitalisation of the Rothercare Service](#)

Rothercare Community Alarm Service

The Rothercare service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and referrals to the service are processed through the Council's Adult Social Care Customer Contact Team. At present circa 5,600 households have the Rothercare community alarm installed and around 1,200 customers join the service each year with a service growth of around 3% per annum.

Customers accessing the service do not require assessed eligible need under the Care Act 2014.

Approach

A service review has been carried out and we are looking at a revised model. The Council's assistive technology offer is delivered by an in-house dedicated service branded as Rothercare. This is currently an 'end to end' service which manages referrals, installation of equipment, monitoring and responding to alerts. The service also procures all technical aspects including the hardware/software (alarm receiving centre, box/pendant, licences, and peripheral technology).

Whilst the service is intrinsic to a strength-based approach in supporting people towards independent living, the service is only partially successful. A recent review of the service has identified opportunities to address operational challenges and remodel the assistive technology offer to optimise success and cost avoidance.

The service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and referrals to the service are processed through the Council's Adult Social Care Customer Contact Team. At present circa 5,600 households have the Rothercare community alarm installed and around 1,200 customers join the service each year with an attrition rate of approximately 900 customers per annum. Customers accessing the service do not require assessed eligible need under the Care Act 2014.

Subject to Cabinet approval, Rothercare will continue to deliver the referral/triage/monitoring and response service whilst the assistive technology elements (assessment, installation, recycling, disposal and maintenance and procurement of assistive technology equipment) are delivered by a technology partner.

This analysis builds on a previous assessment which focussed on a formal 90-days public consultation in 2023 which gathered feedback on Rothercare, including the digitalisation of the service which is driven by a national requirement to replace the Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) with a fully digital infrastructure and network in all Alarm Receiving Centres.

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

Rothercare Community Alarm Service

There data recorded by the service in relation to protected characteristics is as follows:

Of 7,631 adults recorded on the Jontek system as of 09 July 2024, the following information is available:

- 1,460 (19%) of customers are aged between 18-64 years and 6171 (81%) customers are aged 65 and over.
- 4,625 (61%) of customers are female and 2916 (38%) are male.

The Rothercare service is available to all adult residents of Rotherham, regardless of tenure type, age, or level of disability/frailty. However, the majority of customers receive the service qualify under VAT exemption eligibility as they are declared disabled.

Demand for adult social care services in Rotherham has increased significantly since 2021 with overall customer numbers increasing by 11%, with older adult services, such as home care and residential care, increasing the most. The use of assistive technology is identified as a way of managing demand on higher cost interventions and providing valuable support to customers. Assistive Technology can reduce dependence on formal care by supporting the avoidance of premature admission to care homes, reducing the amount of home care required and galvanises a strength based approach to care. This will realise an anticipatory model of care by utilising non-intrusive devices to prevent the deterioration in people's needs living at home or within supported environments. As such, this type of technology contributes to efficient use of resources across health and social care services.

An assessment of the support needs of the Rotherham population has been undertaken.

The majority of the customers receiving the Rothercare service are over the age of 65. Published data indicates the population aged 65 and over in Rotherham is estimated at 55,400 in 2023, this is predicted to increase by 3.2% to 57,100 by 2025 and by 11.5% to 61,800 by 2030. (Projecting Older People Population Information -POPPI June 2023).

Support needs

In 2023 it was estimated that the number of people aged 65 and over who need help with at least one self-care activity, was 15,788. This number is expected to increase by 3.4% to 16,354 by 2025 and by 13.5% to 17,867 by the year 2030 (POPPI May 2023).

People receiving service:

There are approximately 2,126 older people receiving service (June 2023). Based on Office of National Statistics - ONS projections this number is predicted to rise by 9.8% to 2,210 people by the year 2027.

The primary need for people aged 65 and over in residential/nursing care homes are:

- 66.1% Physical support,
- 22.0% Support with memory and cognition,
- 9.5% Mental health support,
- 2.3% Learning disability support,
- 1.0% Sensory support and
- 1.1% Social support.

The age of older people being admitted into care homes is also slowly increasing from an average of 83 years in 2015/16 to 85 years in 2018/19. In 2022/23 the average age for admission into a care home has decreased slightly to 84 years.

In March 2023, there are 2,260 older people (aged 65 years and over) registered with GP practices in Rotherham who have received a dementia diagnosis (Source: NHS Digital)

The Council currently supports 411 older people who have a primary need of memory/cognition and who may be diagnosed with dementia (Source: Insight). According to ONS data this number is expected to increase by 23% over the next 10 years to 480 older people. Of the 411 older people currently receiving service the majority (315 or 77%) are living in a care home indicating more needs to be done to support people to remain in the community.

Learning Disability & Autism

The population of people living with a primary need of a learning disability in Rotherham was estimated to be 5222 in 2023. This number is predicted to increase by approximately 100 people every 5 years, with an overall increase of 5% by 2032.

The population of people predicted to have Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Rotherham in 2023, is 1553 people aged 18-64 and 514 people aged 65 and over. By 2030 the overall number will increase, this is expected to be driven by an increase in the number of older autistic people receiving a diagnosis as the number of younger autistic people remains static.

There are approximately 753 people with a primary need of a learning disability receiving a service (June 2023). Based on ONS predictions, this number will remain relatively static over the next 10 years.

Mental ill-health

The Council currently supports 357 people who have a primary need of mental health. 214 of which are aged 64 and under. This indicates an approximate 9% increase since January 2022. A review of the care and support provision for people experiencing mental ill health in Rotherham was undertaken in 2020 and this indicated that the market in Rotherham was undeveloped and reliant there was a reliance on the residential care model.

Physical Disability

Rotherham has a high rate per 100,000 population of 18-64 Physical Disability customers at 274.5, for the Yorkshire and Humber Region as a whole this figure is 217.7. Neighbouring authorities of Barnsley (145.0) and Doncaster (226.3) Sheffield (204.5) have significantly lower rates (ref: Short And Long Term - SALT Return 15/16). Rotherham's current figure is 270.02. Currently there are 431 people (age 18-64) with a primary need of physical disability accessing services.

Unpaid Carers

In Rotherham, there is a predicted 31,500 unpaid carers, meaning at least 12% of people living in Rotherham fulfil an unpaid caring role. As Rotherham's ageing population increases, it is predicted that more people will identify as an unpaid carer. Additionally, findings from Carers UK July 2021 suggest there has been a large increase in new carers since the start of the pandemic.

Consultation

In relation to Rotherham residents, the 90-day public consultation was accessible borough-wide in a range of formats, including online, public drop-in sessions and home visits for those who are most isolated. The consultation breadth covered all age ranges aged 18+ and included representation from people within the full range of protected characteristics. The consultation included the availability of an online questionnaire, with paper version available.

This was also promoted through Libraries and Neighbourhood Hubs, with assistance to complete online forms. A series of drop-in sessions were attended across the borough by customers of Rothercare, family carers and members of the public. Individual letters were sent to all current Rothercare customers and home visits were offered to support some customers. The consultation was widely promoted via social media channels, poster and banner campaigns and public events such as The Rotherham Show 121 people participated in total during the 90 days.

Support of our strategic approach and service delivery in relation to digitalisation was determined from the consultation. Feedback from people regarding the service and how it should be developed for the future, in response to the national digital agenda was received and has informed a proposed model.

The need for additional consultation has been identified and events such as the Rotherham Show have been planned to promote Rothercare reach out to the wider community for their views and opinions. Additional consultation has also been identified within the action plan.

How will you ensure this work helps to reduce health inequalities and / or digital exclusion?

Through assistive technology, inequality can be significantly reduced by enabling persons with a disability to participate in all areas of life. With assistive technology, there will be more accessible access to communities and transport systems for all people, especially those with disabilities.

Research tells us that amongst the groups most affected by digital exclusion are disabled people and people with limiting health conditions, older people, people who face severe and multiple disadvantages (e.g., mental ill health).

17% of over 65-year-olds said they lacked a suitable device to download a Covid-19 contact tracing app (Health Foundation 2020). 66% of all adults had never used the internet or apps to manage their health before the Covid-19 pandemic (Lloyds 2020). People facing digital exclusion experienced more loneliness and isolation during lockdown (British Red Cross 2021).

People without digital skills are the group already most likely to experience health inequalities. The pandemic has accelerated the use of digital technology, but also exacerbated digital exclusion and the digital divide.

RMBC have invested in areas to support digital inclusion such as Rotherham Digital, whose focus is Digital Inclusion. Our client groups include individuals who will fall into groups

traditionally most affected by digital exclusion, and who do not have the access, skills and confidence to benefit fully from digital technology in everyday life.

Of 2,297 individuals receiving a service from Rotherham Sight and Sound: 993 are hearing impaired, 1,345 visually impaired, 11 dual sensory loss.

Targeted intervention will be undertaken with groups who are:

- Older people.
- Unpaid carers.
- Digitally excluded.
- Living with disabilities.
- Experiencing barriers to digital inclusion due to disability/language/deprivation/education.
- Belonging to communities of interest.

Work to explore digital inclusion with partners such as Rotherham Digital and Ability Net will break down barriers and improve the quality of life of people who are unable to exploit technology or the internet.

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

Data relating to some protected characteristics is not available for customers of staff, including Gender Reassignment, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups.

Where gaps have been identified these gaps have been captured within the action plan. At a service level work will be undertaken to understand how data can be collated in core systems to further evidence the requirements of its client base.

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

Impact according to protected characteristics will continue to be monitored through data available on the Council's systems for customers and staff, including:

- Information collected as part of the referral process and service reviews.
- Data regarding customers is captured on the Rothercare Jontek Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) system.
- Monthly performance data and highlight reports are completed.
- Customer surveys are carried out to gather customer feedback on service quality.
- If approved for a new service delivery model, the new provider would provide additional demographic insights that currently remain unexplored.

Engagement undertaken with customers (date and group(s))

A 90-day public consultation took place between 5 August 2023 and 13 November 2023.

A summary of the responses:

<p>consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>What would people like from the Rothercare service in the future? Many respondents who are residing in designated Council properties would prefer to have individual choice of whether they require a service from Rothercare rather than the current mandatory charge being applicable to their property irrespective of whether they use the service.</p> <p>Most respondents who are required to have a landline solely to enable the use of Rothercare are unhappy with this and would welcome a digital/Wi-Fi offer.</p> <p>Would people like RMBC to continue providing the Rothercare? 88%, people responded that they would like the Council to continue providing the service. Almost 25% of respondents said that they would not know what to do in an emergency if Rothercare was not available.</p> <p>What is the most important principle of the service? Of those that responded, support to enable people to live independently in their own homes was considered the most important, followed by customer choice around having the service and the level and type of support received.</p> <p>What are the main benefits of the Rothercare service? 40% of respondents considered that the main benefit is the reassurance that someone will be there to help in the event of an emergency. Other recognised benefits included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone being able to help if people are ill or have a fall or injury. • Peace of mind for carers, family, and friends. • People feeling safe in their own homes. • Respondents commented that they would like a new service to provide virtual support via a video link, provide specific carer support and offer daily welfare-calls. <p>Value for money 84% of respondents said that the Rothercare service provides value for money.</p> <p>How much would people be willing to pay for the service? Most respondents were generally satisfied with the current cost of the service with the majority not opposed to a reasonable increase in cost.</p> <p>Respondents who pay the Rothercare mandatory charge and don't want the service were very unhappy that they must pay for services they do not require.</p>
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	<p>Charging for Rothercare in the future Respondents were clear that the service should be choice based and only people who require a service should have to pay for it.</p> <p>Overall consultation opinion The golden thread throughout responses was that Rothercare provides an excellent service which is respected and valued, giving peace of mind and reassurance to support people to live independently in their own homes across the borough. People also commented that the service provides excellent value for money.</p> <p>See the Cabinet Report from 22 January 2024 for further details.</p> <p>Weekly Service Charge: The weekly charge for the Rothercare service (2024-25) is £3.50 per week (excluding VAT). The service costs and associated charge to customers have not been revised for an extensive period. Additional services costs are as a result of the UK’s telecom infrastructure upgrade. The current charge is insufficient to cover the costs of the sim cards (a component of digital boxes) which are a requirement to connect and operate the service.</p> <p>It is proposed that the weekly charge will increase from the current weekly charge of £3.50 to £4.50 excluding VAT (2025/26) for a 12 month period. The proposed increase of the weekly charge to £4.50/week will not address the rising service cost entirely and it is proposed to subsidise the service to keep the financial impact to individuals to a minimum to avoid the exclusion of customers who require the service.</p> <p>A transitional increase in the weekly charge (in addition to inflation increase) will be applied in consequent years which will be an important step to sustain this critical service and balance income and expenditure without a need for further subsidy.</p>									
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>Two workshops have been facilitated to engage the wider adult care and integration workforce during the review, as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="517 1585 1489 1957"> <thead> <tr> <th>Event Details</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Target Audience</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Workshop – Town Hall</td> <td>29 May 2024</td> <td>Heads of Service, Provider Services, industry experts, Commissioners, Occupational Therapists.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workshop – Riverside House</td> <td>1 July 2024</td> <td>Principal Social Worker and Head of Professional Practice, Commissioners, Occupational Therapists, Performance, Finance.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Event Details	Date	Target Audience	Workshop – Town Hall	29 May 2024	Heads of Service, Provider Services, industry experts, Commissioners, Occupational Therapists.	Workshop – Riverside House	1 July 2024	Principal Social Worker and Head of Professional Practice, Commissioners, Occupational Therapists, Performance, Finance.
Event Details	Date	Target Audience								
Workshop – Town Hall	29 May 2024	Heads of Service, Provider Services, industry experts, Commissioners, Occupational Therapists.								
Workshop – Riverside House	1 July 2024	Principal Social Worker and Head of Professional Practice, Commissioners, Occupational Therapists, Performance, Finance.								

	<p>In addition, engagement has taken place with senior managers within the service. Outcomes from the co-production events have been reviewed and no explicit objections to the hybrid model were presented. Queries raised on process and handoffs have been captured and will be addressed as part of the procurement exercise. Further co production events will be undertaken to refine the contract specification, if approved.</p> <p>Further customer engagement events have been planned, including the Rotherham Show on the 7th and 8th September 2024 to understand people's views. People engaged will not all be current Rothercare customers so we will be able to understand any future needs for the service.</p> <p>Feedback from these events will further inform service decisions and allow valuable insights into service delivery.</p>
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4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The new model has been designed to ensure Rothercare has the capacity to fulfil its core function to provide a responsive community alarm service to vulnerable people in Rotherham.

Allowing an external partner to deliver assistive technology will ensure more people receive the most effective and personalised solutions for them and keep them independent in their own home and community for longer. Assistive Technology (AT) and the delivery of AT will equally meet the needs of the different communities and groups.

Specialist assessment and access to advancing technology will meet the needs of people. Combined, the model will maximise people's independence by preventing, reducing, or delaying the need for statutory care and support.

In 2026 Rothercare will undertake a procurement exercise to procure an Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC). Within the specification for the ARC, wider consideration will be given to how data can be captured, and analysis can be undertaken to ensure that communities are not underrepresented.

The new model will include the identification of the types of technology required and will include an assessment of protected characteristics of individual customers. This will

support an equality analysis of the service to be undertaken to identify where unintentional discrimination has occurred.

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

The service is available to all Rotherham residents, including groups such as partially sighted, hard of hearing, learning disabilities and ethnic minorities.

SMS messaging can be utilised to ensure that customers who are hard of hearing can be communicated with in the event of an alarm activation.

Digital inclusion will be considered, and support mechanism developed in line with the external provider, Ability Net, Rothercare and Rotherham Digital.

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

Changes to how the service is delivered will impact positively, the new model will:

- Improve the Council's personalisation offer by ensuring people receive the right support that helps them live independently and stay connected to their communities.
- Strengthen the Council's prevention offer by proactively delivering personalised care and support through digital intervention and technology.
- Supports the Council to broaden its digital offer, to maximise people's independence.
- Introduces expertise, resource, and capacity to provide people with bespoke, digital solutions to meet needs.
- Improve access to supply and ensures fast deployment of equipment.
- Improve the quality of life of unpaid carers by providing peace of mind.
- Allows people to utilise technology, and so start breaking down the digital divide.

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

It is anticipated that the proposal will have a positive impact on the boroughwide community and the relationship with the Council as it demonstrates commitment to the future of this service which is respected and valued.

The model is modern and in line with the national digital agenda; it has been designed on feedback gathered from the community, including people that use the service and it is hoped that informed changes to delivery will be recognised by the community.

All the current outdated analogue equipment is being upgraded with digital equipment to all current Rothercare customers. New technologies will be made available by the external provider, which will broaden the client groups, which in turn will benefit from assistive technology.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Rothercare Future Model
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.
Lead Manager: Deborah Ramskill, Interim Head of Provider Services, ACHPH
Summary of findings:
The equality analysis has been completed to ensure that people who use the services of Rothercare, their families and carers can fully access the service and it is inclusive to all irrespective of protected characteristics. This provides the benefits of independent living, personal assurance and safety and supports health and wellbeing.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Ensure that further consultation and engagement outcomes are reported in a clear, representative, and balanced form.	A, D, C	December 2024
Establish a system to record protected characteristics of people using the Rothercare service.	A, D, C	December 2024
Ensure that the information captured above is used to develop the service and ensure it is inclusive.	A, D, C	January 2025
Work is undertaken by Rothercare to mitigate any gaps in recording peoples characteristics	A,D,C,O	January 2025

Implement a transitional increase in the weekly charge and utilise subsidy to assuage negative financial impact and monitor the impact of the increase in to prevent exclusion of people who may require the service.	A,D,S,RE,C,O	March 2027
Work is undertaken by Rothercare to undertake engagement events with hard to reach community groups	A,D,S,RE,SO,C,O	February 2025

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
DLT	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health DLT	09 July 2024
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	9 September 2024
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	6 September 2024

7. Publishing

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

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

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

Date Equality Analysis completed	16/08/2024
Report title and date	Future Rothercare Model
Date report sent for publication	16 September 2024

Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16 August 2024

Appendix 2

Will the decision/proposal impact.	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Unknown	As the potential partner has not yet been selected, this is unknown. A new potential partner may already have premises from which to deliver the services in Rotherham (in which case emissions impacts would be limited); or they may need to set up a new premises, in which case their emissions may be higher than the current model.			
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	As the potential partner has not yet been selected, this is unknown. Much of the emissions impact would depend on whether a new partner is already working in the area.		<p>Due to the nature of Rothercare emergency installations and emergency response, route planning will not be efficient.</p> <p>Providers can be asked for their carbon action plan and intention to move to electric vehicles.</p> <p>Providers should consider optimisation of vehicle</p>	<p>Request carbon action plan as part of the contract.</p> <p>Council officer travel is included with the Council's Net Zero 2030 greenhouse gas emissions accounting.</p>

				routes for non-emergency visits.	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown	<p>By procuring a specialist partner to manage procurement and assessment, it is expected that provision of AT may be minimise emissions from waste via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the risk of stocking obsolete equipment; • Providing a personalised approach whereby unnecessary equipment is minimised; • Supporting the cleaning and reissuing of equipment where possible. 		<p>Equipment is cleaned and reissued where possible. All electronic waste will be disposed of in a WEEE compliant manner; providers will be asked to recycle products wherever possible.</p>	<p>Request carbon action plan as part of the contract</p> <p>Evidence of WEEE compliant disposal will be requested.</p>
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	N/A				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	N/A				

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	N/A				
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Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

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

The provider will be replicating activity that is currently undertaken by Rothercare.

In terms of emissions from non-domestic buildings and transport, much of the impact of emissions (in comparison to the current service model) depends on whether the chosen partner is already operating in the Rotherham area. Emissions can be mitigated in this area by asking the partner to produce a carbon reduction plan; engaging with the partner regarding electric vehicles and optimising non-emergency routes.

In terms of waste, it is envisaged that the successful provider will operate more efficiently from a carbon perspective throughout the contract. In the event that a national organisation being the successful provider their remains a real opportunity for carbon reduction as RMBC can exploit their supply chain and existing resources. It is expected that a new partner could support waste minimisation. Equipment is expected to be reissued where possible and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment WEEE waste recycled, this will be monitored. Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) is regulated to reduce the amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) incinerated or sent to landfill sites. Reduction is achieved through various measures which encourage the recovery, reuse and recycling of products and components. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (as amended) is the underpinning UK legislation.

The exact requirements and responses from the successful provider will be gleaned via their formal response and the relevant procurement framework requirements on carbon declarations. Carbon impact plans will be requested to understand the organisations carbon impact and mitigating actions to address these. The successful provider will be encouraged to operate in a carbon friendly manner.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Tony Sanderson – Interim Project Manager – Strategic Commissioning – Adult Care and Integration – Adult Care Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	

If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA269 Katie Rockett, Climate Change Officer

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 October 2024

Report Title

Scrutiny Review - Preparation for Adulthood for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

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)

Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor

natasha.aucott@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to outline the outcomes from the Improving Lives Select Commission's spotlight review on preparation for adulthood, in relation to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet receives the report and considers the following recommendations:
 - i. **School Effectiveness:**
 - a) That the support pathways available for preparation for adulthood for children and young people with SEND in mainstream education, in both the early years and post sixteen settings is reviewed to identify any areas that may require further focus and developments.
 - b) That education pathways relating to preparation for adulthood for children with SEND are reviewed, ensuring clear communication of the pathways to parents and carers.

ii. **Inclusion and Communities:**

- a) That information relating to the support available to parents and carers within communities is developed, enabling a seamless service that supports and empowers parent carers.
- b) That the feedback from the Autism Strategy Consultation is reflected in the support offer available, to ensure children and young people feel safe within their communities, at school and online.
- c) That there is a further focus on enhancing equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in relation to this area of activity, with a particular focus on improving engagement levels with children and young people with SEND in communities, such as the Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Roma-Slovak Communities.

iii. **Communication:**

- a) That established networks and partnerships, such as the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum, are further embedded, to increase awareness raising and increase the number of SEND families that are engaged and reached in the Borough.
- b) That the process relating to Education, Health and Care Plans is reviewed to ensure the young person's voice is present throughout the process.

2. Cabinet agree to respond to the recommendations by December 2024 in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

List of Appendices Included

N/A

Background Papers

- Minutes of Meeting, Health Select Commission, 28 July 2023.
- Preparing for Adulthood Minimum Standards, January 2024.
- Quality Assurance Preparation for Adulthood Summary Report, March 2023.
- Preparation for Adulthood Work Programme, January 2024.
- Preparation for Adulthood Framework Guidance for Practitioners 2023.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Lives Select Commission – 30 July 2024

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 10 September 2024

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Scrutiny Review - Preparation for Adulthood for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

1. Background

- 1.1 Preparation for Adulthood has been an on-going area of interest for the Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) over recent years, following the SEND inspection in 2021. In discussions with the Improving Lives Select Commission, the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum highlighted that a greater focus was required to identify what was in place, to support successful preparation to adulthood for children and young people in Rotherham with SEND and consider whether there were any gaps in the available provision.
- 1.2 The Improving Lives Select Commission agreed to hold a spotlight review on preparation for adulthood which took place on 15th February 2024. The methodology is listed in section 3 of the report.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Preparation for adulthood (also known as transition) is the process by which young people who need support or care, move from services provided exclusively for children, to services provided for those over the age of 18, aiming to ensure a seamless transition. The Local Government Association describes successful preparation for adulthood as "A successful transition from children's and young people's services to adult care services and support, needs the young person, their families, and professionals to work together with the young person at the centre of discussions. Legislation gives local authorities a legal responsibility to co-operate, and to ensure that all the correct people work together to get the transition right for a young person".¹
- 2.2 The support provided to children and young people assists with preparing for adult life and often includes the following aspects:
 - Education, Employment and Training
 - Friends, Relationships, and the Community
 - Health
 - Independent Living.
- 2.3 Why is Preparation for adulthood an identified area of focus?
- 2.4 Between the 5th and 9th July 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a joint inspection of Rotherham, to judge the effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, as prescribed in the Children and Families Act 2014. The inspection identified four areas of significant concern and prescribed that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) should be produced, to outline how the areas of significant concern would be addressed. The third area of concern identified by the joint inspection, related to the quality of provision for children and young people's preparation for and transition to, adulthood.

¹ LGA Preparation for Adulthood Guide, [Preparation for adulthood](#) | Local Government Association.

- 2.5 The WSoA that was developed as a result of the inspection, identified the actions that the partnership would take to address this particular area of concern, how success would be measured and what difference it would make to Rotherham's children and young people with SEND, and their parents and carers.
- 2.6 Emerging from the concern identified and outlined in the WSoA, the Rotherham SEND Strategy was a partnership response that set out four main outcomes to ensure that good practice in working with children, young people, parents and carers would be achieved. Mirroring the WSoA, one of the four outcomes of the SEND Strategy related to preparation for adulthood and aimed to ensure all young people in Rotherham with SEND would be well prepared and supported, to exercise choice and control that would enable them to enjoy fulfilling lives.
- 2.7 The Department of Health also published statutory guidance to support the updated National Autism Strategy, the *Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives Strategy*, which was developed in December 2014. The revised guidance covered nine areas, with one of these areas being specific to preparation for adulthood and focused on planning in relation to the provision of services for people with autism, as they move from being children to adults.
- 2.8 The Rotherham Autism Strategy 2024-2027 also outlined Rotherham's Four Cornerstones, which structure the Strategy and associated priorities. The Strategy identified key areas, with one of the main areas focusing on preparing for adulthood. The Autism Strategy connects to both the Rotherham SEND Strategy and Learning Disability Strategy.

2.9 Methodology

Planning sessions were held in advance of the spotlight review meeting to determine the scope of the review. Briefing materials and resources were circulated in advance of the review session, to inform key lines of enquires (KLOEs). The review itself took place over a single afternoon, with many partners present to provide a range of perspectives and information.

- 2.10 An informal meeting was held with members of the Commission and the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum (RPCF) in advance of the review. During the meeting the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum presented their Annual Report and provided detailed information to members on the organisations vision, mission, values and strategic priorities. As part of the presentation to members, the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum provided information on the 323 workstreams that they were involved in. This included the Preparation for Adulthood Strategic Board, the Education Health and Care Plan Sub-Group and the Written Statement of Action Preparation for Adulthood Sub-Group.
- 2.11 The purpose of the review was to assess what measures were in place at that point in time, to support successful preparation to adulthood for young people in Rotherham with SEND and where required, to identify any potential gaps in provision or areas requiring further focus.

An information pack was circulated to each of the review group members, which contained the following reports and/or briefing documents:

- Preparation for Adulthood Framework Guidance for Practitioners 2023.
- Draft Preparation for Adulthood Quality Assurance Summary Report 2022-2023.
- Preparation for Adulthood Work Programme Draft 2024-2025.

2.12 The review links to the following Council Plan themes:

- Every child able to fulfil their potential
- People are safe, healthy and live well
- Expanding economic opportunity
- Every neighbourhood thriving.

2.13 The review group consisted of the following members:

- Councillor Lyndsay Pitchley (Chair)
- Councillor Wendy Cooksey (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Tony Griffin
- Councillor Maggi Clark
- Councillor Taiba Yasseen

2.14 Witnesses were drawn from the Council and its partners. The Chair would like to put on record her thanks for the contribution of each participant and their evident commitment to tackling this issue.

- Councillor David Roche, Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.
- Assistant Director, Adult Care and Integration
- SEND Service Manager
- Commissioning Manager
- Head of Service, Adult Care
- Strategic Manager, the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum
- Operational Manager, the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum
- Psychologist, specific to inclusion.

2.15 The key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) and issues raised during the review focused on four main areas. They were identified as a result of the background information and the presentations provided to review members, from local authority officers and the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum and were as follows:

2.16 **Partnership working**

Overall, in relation to partnership working, it was apparent that there was a good strengths-based approach embedded throughout the service and partnership organisations, with robust partnership working in place which could be further enhanced. It was identified that there was a strong foundation with effective networks and many meaningful activities being completed. An

example of this was the clear focus on the voice of children and young people with SEND, which was present throughout the development of both the Learning Disability Strategy and the Autism Strategy. Both strategies provided clear evidence of partnership organisations working together to gather a range of views, in creative ways.

2.17 School effectiveness and education pathways

In relation to school effectiveness and education pathways, it was identified that there were good education pathways in place, as demonstrated by the quality standards in relation to education. However, it was evident that further focus was required to ensure pathways were communicated more clearly to parents, carers and young people, this was as a result of feedback from the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum. It was also acknowledged by the service, that there was less emphasis on preparation for adulthood and independent living in mainstream schools, both in the early years and post sixteen settings. The Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum also provided feedback which identified this as an area requiring further focus. As a result, the review group felt that further work was required, to identify the specific gaps present in current provision available for academically enabled children and young people, with SEND in mainstream education, to determine how this offer could be strengthened.

2.18 Inclusion and communities

In relation to inclusion and communities, the main area identified that required further focus was ensuring that children and young people with SEND could feel safe within their communities. It was evidenced during the review, that the co-production activities undertaken as part of the Autism Strategy development, highlighted feedback from children and young people with autism, which expressed that they did not feel safe in general within their communities, at school or online. It was also identified that whilst there was evidently clear embedded support in place for parents and carers, further work was required to ensure parents and carers could feel further empowered and supported in their journeys. It was also identified that further work was required in relation to Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), specifically in relation to children and young people with SEND in communities such as the BAME and Roma-Slovak communities, as members felt that this was a gap currently. The service acknowledged during the review that there was further work to be completed, which would focus on providing EDI training to employees and ensuring targeted work was completed within communities, to improve engagement levels within communities, such as the BAME and Roma-Slovak communities.

2.19 Communication

In relation to communication relating to preparation for adulthood, it was advised that 2,000 SEND families were currently engaging with and being reached by the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum, out of 11,000 SEND families identified at the point of the review, living within the borough. It was acknowledged that further work was required to ensure clearer pathways were

available and to ensure an increase in information and guidance available for parents and carers, to increase outreach and engagement to more SEND families residing within the Borough. It was also acknowledged by the service that further work needed to be completed to ensure the young person's voice was present throughout all Education Health Care Plans (EHCP), as feedback on the process by children and young people with lived experience, highlighted that the individuals voice was often missing from the EHCP process.

2.20 Questions were raised during the review session which led to the following discussion points:

- Members felt that the presentations provided during the review session demonstrated that there were good engagement levels within the service and relevant partner organisations.
- It was acknowledged that there was more work to do in relation to EDI. This would include a focus on educating employees in the Council and partner organisations and completing targeted work with minority communities.
- In relation to the Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) community, it was advised that the proportion of BAME children, young people, parents and carers accessing the support and services available with the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum, was higher than the Rotherham borough's average and the national average. The Rotherham Parent Carers Forum advised that they would be completing further work relating to equality, diversity and inclusion, with the aim of identifying any specific barriers communities may face to accessing services and any subsequent identifiable improvements.
- There would be a specific focus on creating more parent-to-parent engagement by sharing of family experiences. This would be achieved by creating and sharing videos which would include real life experiences of communities working with the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum.
- There were on average 11,000 children and young people on the SEND register in Rotherham and 3000 of those had an EHCP. It was clarified that children and young people did not require an EHCP to access provisions and services, in relation to preparation for adulthood, although it was acknowledged that there were some services that were led by EHCPs.
- In relation to the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum's consultation feedback for the Autism Strategy and children and young people feeling unsafe in general in their communities, it was clarified that the feedback provided regarding feeling unsafe was not always due to where they lived, it also included examples such as feeling unsafe at school, online and in peer settings.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to receive the report and consider its response to the recommendations herein.

3.2 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedures Rules, Cabinet will provide their response to the recommendations by December 2024.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 See paragraph 2.16 of the report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Implementation of any recommendation made to a partner organisation is at the discretion of the relevant partner organisation.

5.2 Implementation of recommendations addressed to a directorate of the Council is a matter reserved to the relevant directorate. Timescales for Council directorates responding to scrutiny recommendations are outlined in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution of the Council.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Any financial or procurement implications arising from this report will be considered as part of the Cabinet response to its recommendations.

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 HR implications directly arising from this report that relate to the requirement for further workforce training to be completed with a focus on Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion, to ensure targeted work could be completed within communities and to improve engagement levels with communities, such as the BAME and Roma- Slovak communities.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The review group has ensured that the implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults were considered throughout the review and are listed in the main body of the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Members of the Improving Lives Select Commission review group have due regard to equalities and human rights in developing recommendations.

10.2 In relation to equalities, the review group identified the requirement for further workforce training to be completed with a focus on Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion, to ensure targeted work could be completed within communities and to improve engagement levels with communities. The review group recommended that there should be a further focus on enhancing equalities,

diversity and inclusion in relation to the area of preparation for adulthood, which a particular focus on improving engagement levels with children and young people with SEND in communities, such as the BAME and Roma-Slovak communities.

- 10.3 In relation to human rights advice and implications, the review group identified the requirement for progress relating to children and young people with SEND feeling unsafe in general within communities, online and at school. The review group recommended that the feedback from the Autism Strategy Consultation should be reflected in the support offer available.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no implications for CO₂ emissions and climate change directly arising from this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The implications for partners are described in the main sections of the report. Implementation of any recommendation is at the discretion of the relevant partner organisation. The recommendations contained in this report are offered acknowledging the contributions that have been made by each of the partner organisations.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There are no risks arising directly as a result of this report.

14. Accountable Officers

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	30/09/24
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/09/24
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/09/24

Report Author: Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor

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

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Public Report with Exempt Appendices
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 October 2024

Report Title

New Applications for Business Rates Hardship Relief

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

Rachel Humphries – Operational Manager, Local Taxation, Revenues, Benefits and Payments, 01709 255159 or rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

To consider the applications for Business Rates Hardship Relief in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy (approved by Cabinet on 12th December 2016).

Recommendations

That Cabinet refuse the applications for Hardship Relief.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Exempt Addendum to Report
- Appendix 2 Initial Equality Screening Document
- Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Discretionary Rate Relief Policy - Approved by Cabinet on 12th December 2016

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

Yes Appendix 1

An exemption is sought for Appendix 1 under paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as this report contains the applicant's business financial information.

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption would outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information because disclosure could jeopardise the reputation of the business and place competitors at an unfair advantage.

New Application for Business Rates Hardship Relief

1. Background

1.1 The Council has a duty under Section 49(1) of the Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1988 to consider remitting or reducing rates where a ratepayer would sustain hardship if a remission or reduction was not granted and it would be reasonable to do so after taking regard of the interests of the Council Tax Payers. Hardship Relief can be granted in respect of rates on occupied and unoccupied properties.

1.2 Government guidelines advise that the granting of a remission or reduction should only be done in exceptional circumstances and consideration given to the following:-

- Whether the hardship is being suffered as a direct result of unusual factors outside the control of the business
- Would not granting the relief impact on employment within the borough
- Would relief give the business an unfair trading advantage
- Whether the business is suffering due to poor financial management.

1.2.1 The Council has operated a system of awarding relief through the application of a policy that was approved by Cabinet on 12th December 2016.

1.2.2 Central Government and councils share every £1 of rates due as follows:

Central Government	50%
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	1%
Rotherham MBC	49%

1.3 Application 1

1.3.1 The application for the award of hardship relief does not meet the Council's qualifying criteria as set out in its Policy, as an award would be considered to be giving the applicant an unfair trading advantage.

1.3.2 The business undertakes logistical activities, such as freight forwarding (particularly international freight), customs agent and order fulfilment. Their current financial difficulties are attributed to three main factors:-

- Liquidation of a major client, which resulted in a circa £15,000 debt write-off.
- The business was a victim of a large-scale fraud.
- During late 2022 business started to slow down, and this continued into 2023 and 2024 as the UK economy was in decline. Utilities and business expenses have continued to increase.

1.3.3 The company has limited liquidity due to the difficult trading conditions and the resulting rates bill represents a major challenge to the company's financial position.

1.3.4 The ratepayer is applying for Hardship Relief with regards to their 2023/24 and 2024/25 rates liability. The financial implication of awarding the relief is set out in section 6 of this report.

1.4 **Application 2**

1.4.1 The application for the award of hardship relief does not meet the Council's qualifying criteria as set out in its Policy, as an award would be considered to be giving the applicant an unfair trading advantage.

1.4.2 The applicant has requested that relief to be awarded on three empty properties for which the company is actively seeking tenants. These properties are proving difficult to let in the current climate.

1.4.3 The company states that their financial forecasts indicate that without tenants and with continued payment of business rates, their financial stability will decline further and, potentially, leading to insolvency by April 2025. They have already taken measures to minimise expenses, including the director foregoing a salary.

1.4.4 The ratepayer is applying for Hardship Relief with regards to their 2024/25 rates liability. The financial implication of awarding the relief is set out in section 6 of this report.

2. **Key Issues**

2.1 To consider the applications requesting the award of Hardship Relief.

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 Given the discretionary nature of the relief requested, the Council can determine either to award or not award Hardship Relief.

3.2 In helping Members make such a decision, the Council has put in place a specific Policy framework to consider individual applications. In accordance with that Policy, application (including supporting documentation) for relief has been considered in line with the qualifying criteria and other considerations set out in that Policy.

3.3 In line with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy, having regard to the financial cost of the proposed relief it is recommended that Hardship Relief be refused.

3.4 The alternative option was to award Hardship Relief. This option has been rejected as the application does not meet the Council's Policy.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The recommendation in the report is based on the application of an existing policy. There has been no specific consultation carried out in relation to any individual organisation referred to within this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The applicants will be advised by letter of the outcome of their application for relief within 10 working days of the Cabinet decision.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The applicants have completed a full application for the proposed relief to ensure compliance with the Council's discretionary scheme criteria. The financial information has been fully reviewed by the Finance Team, and that information has been used as part of considering this Hardship Relief application.

6.2 The total value of the relief for the financial year 2023/24 is £12,350.25 and for the financial year 2024/25 is £84,127.75 for 2 applications. The recommendation in the report is to refuse both applications for Hardship Relief. If both applications are approved, then the cost to the Council would be £6,051.62 in 2023/34 and £41,222.60 in 2024/25 based on the Council's 49% share. Paragraph 6.3 below shows the value of the relief for the applicants alongside the specific cost to the Council.

6.3	Year	Total Amount of Relief	Cost to RMBC
	Applicant 1		
	2023/24	£12,350.25	£6,051.62
	2024/25	£12,350.25	£6,051.62
	Applicant 2		
	2024/25	£71,777.50	£35,170.98

6.4 As indicated in paragraph 1.2.2, 49% of the cost of the relief is met by the Council with 50% falling on Central Government and 1% on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The statutory framework for discretionary relief is set out in the body of the report.

7.2 The recommendation is made in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy and with consideration to the criteria. A decision to refuse the application when the criteria set out within the policy has been met would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Discretionary Rate Relief Policy criteria includes consideration of organisations who actively encourage membership from groups in the community which include, young people, women, persons with a disability and ethnic minorities. In recommending that these applications are refused, there is judged to be no detrimental impact on those with protected characteristics.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 It is anticipated that an award of relief would not change the organisation's current operational activities and therefore will not impact CO2 emissions.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 As stated in 1.2.2, 1% of the cost of any relief granted is met by the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. In this case this cost is minimal.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The Government has issued guidance notes to advise authorities what criteria should be used in considering applications for Discretionary Rate Relief. Authorities have been strongly advised to treat each individual case on its own merits and to not adopt a policy or rule which allows them to not consider each case without proper consideration. In cognisance of these guidance notes, the Council has formally adopted a Policy framework for considering individual discretionary business rates relief applications with the decision to award reserved for Cabinet.

14. Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director, Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	29/09/24
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/09/24
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/09/24

Report Author: Rachel Humphries – Operational Manager, Local Taxation, Revenues, Benefits and Payments, 01709 255159 or rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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

Document is Restricted

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Appendix 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: New Applications for Business Rates Hardship Relief	
Directorate: Finance and Customer Services	Service area: Financial Services
Lead person: Robert Cutts	Contact number: 01709 823320
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	
Cabinet Report to consider applications for the award of Business Rates Hardship Relief.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The report presents applications for the award of Business Rates Hardship Relief which has been considered in line with the policy agreed by Cabinet on 12 December 2016.
The policy criteria includes consideration of organisations who actively encourage membership from particular groups in the community which include, young people, women, persons with a disability and ethnic minorities.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		✓
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		✓
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		✓
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		✓
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		✓
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
The recommendation in the report is to refuse hardship relief to the organisations as granting relief is not in line with the Council's policy.		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**
- **Key findings**
- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
--	-----

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
--	-----

Lead person for your Equality Analysis:	N/A
---	-----

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Rob Mahon	Assistant Director	

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	5 September 2024
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Report title and date	New Applications for Error! Reference source not found.
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If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
--	--

Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	06/09/2024
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Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No impact				
Emissions from transport?	No impact				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	No impact				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No impact				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	No impact				

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No impact				
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:					

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

It is anticipated that the refusal of Hardship Relief will not change the organisations current operational activities and therefore will not impact CO2 emissions.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Rachel Humphries, Operational Manager, Finance and Customer Services
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA338 Katie Rockett, Climate Change Officer

Public Report with Exempt Appendices
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 October 2024

Report Title

Dinnington Compulsory Purchase Order

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Authors

Alex Richardson, Project Manager

Megan Hinchliff, Regeneration Programme and Strategy Manager.

Ward(s) Affected

Dinnington

Report Summary

This report seeks Cabinet authority to make and then seek confirmation of a Compulsory Purchase Order (“CPO”) for the acquisition of land and property interests identified on the plan and in the schedule in appendices 1 and 2 of this report (the Order Land).

This is intended to assist in facilitating the redevelopment of the Laughton Road shopping area as per previous Cabinet decisions in August 2023 and July 2024.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Authorise the Council in the making of a CPO for the land shown coloured pink and edged red (“the Order Land”) on the plan contained at Appendix 1 under section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 because it thinks that:
 - a. The acquisition will facilitate the carrying out of the development, redevelopment, or improvement (including regeneration) on or in relation to the Order Land; and

- b. The development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to the achievement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the Council's area.
2. Authorise the Council in acquiring new rights under section 13 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in respect of the land shown shaded in blue on the plan contained at Appendix 1 to facilitate the development, redevelopment, or improvement on or in relation to the Site.
3. Authorise in principle and subject to the confirmation of the CPO the appropriation of the land within the scheme to a planning purpose (to the extent that it is not so held already) to allow the redevelopment of the Order Land, pursuant to section 122 Local Government Act 1972;
4. Authorise the Council's Property Officer (Delegated to Assistant Director, Properties & Facilities), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy and the Assistant Director of Legal Services, to:
 - a. Approve terms for the acquisition of legal interests (including new rights) to the extent not already acquired by agreement including for the purposes of resolving any objections to the CPO;
 - b. Take all necessary steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the CPO, including, making further amendments by way of finalising the draft Statement of Reason (exempt Appendix 4) the publication and service of all relevant notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any future local public inquiry;
 - c. Consider the outcome of the Equalities Impact Assessment and ensure appropriate steps are taken to meet the Council's Public sector Equalities Duty.
 - d. Take all necessary steps to resolve any compulsory purchase compensation claims, including, if necessary, by way of making (or responding to) a reference to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber);
 - e. Subject to 3 above authorise, the Council's Property Officer and Facilities (following the confirmation of the CPO) to appropriate the land referred to a planning purpose.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Site location and red line Order boundary
- Appendix 2 Schedule of Interests – Order Land (exempt)
- Appendix 3 Land Referencing Schedule (August 2024) (exempt)
- Appendix 4 Draft Statement of Reasons (exempt)
- Appendix 5 3D image of the proposed scheme
- Appendix 6 Land acquisition status report and plan (exempt)
- Appendix 7 Initial Equalities Screening assessment
- Appendix 8 Carbon Impact assessment

Background Papers

MHCLG Compulsory Purchase and Compensation: Guide 1 – Procedure (December 2021)

MHCLG Compulsory purchase and compensation: Guide 2 – Compensation to Business Owners and Occupiers (December 2021)

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Cabinet: Dinnington: Capital Regeneration Grant 7th August 2023 (Minute 39 refers)

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Cabinet: Dinnington Progress Report 29th July 2024 (Draft Minute 33 refers)

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee 24th July 2024 Dinnington Project (Levelling Up Fund) Update Report (Draft Minute 16 refers)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

[Dinnington: Capital Regeneration Grant August 2023](#)

[Cabinet 29th July 2024: Dinnington Progress Report](#)

[Printed minutes Wednesday 24-Jul-2024 10.00 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.pdf \(rotherham.gov.uk\)](#)

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

Yes or No? If yes, use text below.

An exemption is sought for Appendix 2, 3, 4 and Appendix 6 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as this report contains details of all confidential negotiations to date and financial information relating to the purchase.

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption would outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information because all such negotiations and financial information should remain confidential between the parties.

Dinnington Compulsory Purchase Order

1. Background

- 1.1 In the spring of 2023, the Council secured funding for regeneration projects in two of the Borough's Principal Areas of Growth, Wath-Upon-Dearne and Dinnington.
- 1.2 The projects aimed to transform two prominent sites within those localities, with a focus on high quality place making to restore the cultural heart of the town centres, increase footfall, boost the local economies, and restore a sense of pride amongst communities.
- 1.3 On 30th June 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Council and Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) setting out the terms, principles, and practices that apply regarding administration and delivery of this funding.
- 1.4 The scope of the Dinnington scheme ("the Scheme") was approved by Cabinet in August 2023. Cabinet resolved to:
 1. Approve a budget of £11,049,547 to deliver the Dinnington High Street/Market project funded from the Government's Levelling Up Programme.
 2. Delegate the commissioning of the design of the scheme to the Strategic Director for Regeneration and the Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy and the Council's S151 Officer.
 3. Authorise the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport to negotiate and agree the acquisition of property interests to deliver the scheme, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy and the Council's S151 Officer.
 4. Resolve 'in principle' to investigate the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers if terms cannot be agreed, subject to a further report being submitted to Cabinet seeking a formal resolution to acquire property interests required to deliver the scheme by exercising the Council's CPO powers.
- 1.5 On the 29th July 2024 Cabinet approved the delivery of the Dinnington Principal Areas of Growth project within the parameters of an updated scope and budget, which included an additional £1 million of capital investment from the Council's Towns and Villages Fund.
- 1.6 Since the Cabinet meeting in August 2023, considerable progress has been made in assembling the land and property required to deliver the scheme, the Council has yet to reach agreement on the acquisition of 9 remaining plots of land needed for the Scheme. Details of these acquisitions and negotiations relating to the remaining plots are set out in Appendix 2

(exempt) and Appendix 6 (exempt) In light of the timescales involved in the CPO process, and in accordance with Government guidance, it is now prudent to commence the CPO process in parallel with those negotiations.

- 1.7 This report seeks Cabinet authority to make a CPO pursuant to section 226 (1) (a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 13 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to acquire these interests and new rights which are identified in the Appendices 1 and 2 of this report for the reasons set out in Appendix 4 (exempt).

2. Key Issues

The Scheme - objectives and benefits

- 2.1 The scheme seeks to regenerate an area in the centre of Dinnington, one of the Borough's identified 'Principal Settlements for Growth' which is characterised by vacant/derelict buildings and underused areas of land. The proposed scheme has the objective of revitalising the area and boosting trade through the refurbishment of an existing parade of shops, and the construction of 7 new commercial/retail units and a new Town Square that will accommodate an open market.

- 2.2 In summary, the scheme comprises:

(a) Demolition of:

- 36-44 Laughton Road, Dinnington
- The former indoor market building 34, Laughton Road, Dinnington
- The structures associated with the operation of the open market, off Constable Lane, Dinnington
- Number 32 Laughton Road, Dinnington

- (b) Construction of a block of 6 retail/commercial units and a secure storage unit for the market stalls at the southern end of the site and a separate commercial/community building with associated parking and servicing areas.

- (c) Refurbishment of 6 existing retail units 46-56 Laughton Road.

- (d) Construction of a new Town Square that will accommodate the open market.

- (e) Associated public realm improvements to improve pedestrian links between the High Street (Laughton Road) and the bus interchange and public car parks on Constable Lane.

Land proposed for compulsory acquisition.

- 2.3 The land proposed for compulsory acquisition is identified as that shown coloured pink and edged red on the plan at Appendix 1.

- 2.4 In respect of the land shown coloured blue (on the plan at Appendix 1), only

rights over this land are to be acquired compulsorily, the land itself is not to be acquired.

The purpose and justification for the use of CPO power

- 2.5 The draft Statement of Reasons attached to this report at Appendix 4 (exempt) sets out the full reasons supporting the Council's use of its CPO powers. In particular paragraph 6 specifically sets out the reasons and paragraph 10, the specific justification for the use of the powers.
- 2.6 A full land registry search has been completed and a Land Referencing Schedule compiled at Appendix 3 (exempt). Negotiations with landowners and other interested parties are on-going and the position with respect to those negotiations is set out in Appendix 2 (exempt).
- 2.7 Although it is not presently anticipated that the Council will need to use its powers to appropriate land to a planning purpose, there is a possibility that it might need to do so in respect of a small area of the Scheme for the purposes of facilitating the proposed development.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1: Do Nothing

- 3.1 The scheme design and feasibility work has been in development since Summer 2023; and the land assembly has been running in tandem which has transferred 15 Titles into Council ownership. Without the CPO, completion of the outstanding land assembly would be at risk and could render the proposed scheme undeliverable. It is key to note that effective management and maintenance of the assets secured to date would still be required therefore there is no "do nothing" option at this stage.
- 3.2 Although negotiations are continuing with the respective landowners/leaseholders to secure the land by agreement, some of these discussions have now stalled, with no realistic prospect of achieving a satisfactory outcome.
- 3.3 This option is not recommended as it would leave the site in fragmented ownership with no prospect of the landowners collaborating to develop the comprehensive scheme that is required to stimulate the growth of the town centre. Without a CPO the site would continue to deteriorate and have a detrimental impact on the economic wellbeing of adjacent businesses.

Option 2: Deliver a smaller scheme based on the Council's current ownership.

- 3.4 The Council currently owns the freehold of plots 1,6-18 and 20 shown on the Plan attached in Appendix 1 but does not control long-leasehold interests in Plots 9,12 and 15. This land holding is insufficient to deliver the comprehensive scheme that is required to regenerate the town centre.

- 3.5 Whilst improvements could potentially be made to land and property in the Council's ownership, these would be piecemeal leaving large parts of the site in a derelict or underused condition. This approach would fail to realise the potential of the open market to attract footfall into the area due to its back land position.
- 3.6 As this is not the option that attracted the funding through the competitive bidding process this option would be subject to a formal variation with the funder.
- 3.7 This option is therefore not recommended.

Option 3: Focus entirely on acquiring the Order Land by negotiation and redevelop it for the proposed Scheme.

- 3.8 Since Cabinet approved the proposed scheme in August 2023, the Council has been seeking to acquire the various interests required to deliver it by negotiation. Gateley Hamer have been appointed to act on the Council's behalf in these negotiations and the offers that they have made to the respective landowners/leaseholders have been based on an open market value and factored in respective Disturbance/Basic Loss/Occupiers Loss Payments and a contribution towards professional fees.
- 3.9 Despite protracted negotiations, it has not been possible to reach agreement to acquire the outstanding interests identified in the Schedule outlined in Appendix 2 (exempt). Although negotiations are continuing, this option is time limited and cannot be relied upon to deliver the approved scheme.
- 3.10 This option is deemed to be too high risk therefore is not recommended.

Option 4 (preferred): Acquire the outstanding interests by CPO and develop the approved scheme.

- 3.11 This option provides the greatest degree of certainty that the scheme, as illustrated in Appendix 5 can be delivered by the Council in accordance with the objectives that have been set out during consultation with MHCLG, Elected Members and local businesses.
- 3.12 The scheme has been developed in detail, consultation has taken place, the planning application is due for determination imminently and assembly of the redevelopment site is being assembled largely through negotiation. The proposals accord with the Planning Policy Framework for the area and there are no legal restrictions in place that will prevent the construction of the scheme.
- 3.13 Grant funding has been secured from MHCLG to facilitate the scheme's development, and the Council has allocated an additional £1 million funding from its own capital programme to support delivery. This will fund legal, and surveyors' fees associated with the progression of the CPO and the ultimate

cost of acquiring the outstanding interests and constructing the proposed development.

- 3.14 It is therefore recommended that the Council move forward with the current scheme by moving to acquire the outstanding interests by CPO as necessary on grounds of local regeneration.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 4.1 The planning application for the proposed scheme was submitted on the 20th of July 2024. Subject to planning approval, the detailed design will be finalised with a view to the development commencing in early 2025.
- 4.2 The Council will continue to endeavour to reach agreement with landowners on the acquisition of the outstanding interests required for the Scheme.
- 4.3 At present the Government-imposed deadline for drawing down the grant is 31st March 2026 however the Council capital contribution extends beyond that.

5. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 5.1 The costs associated with any CPO including fees and the cost of acquisitions will be funded from the approved budget for the scheme.
- 5.2 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report in respect of progressing the CPO. As the scheme develops in construction appropriate consideration must be given to the procurement approach to ensure compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 (whichever is the applicable legislation at the time) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

6. Legal Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The Council has a range of powers to promote CPOs. In this instance, there are powers contained in section 226 Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the power to acquire land if a local authority thinks that the development, redevelopment, or improvement (including regeneration) of land will promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of the Council's area.
- 6.2 The Council has powers to acquire rights over land only in accordance with section 13 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. In this instance those powers would be utilised to facilitate access over adjoining land in order to facilitate the delivery of the scheme.
- 6.3 In promoting a CPO Government guidance provides that:
- Acquiring authorities (the Council here) should look to use the most specific power available for the purpose in mind. A CPO should only be made where there is a compelling case in the public interest. The

Secretary of State will expect the acquiring authority to demonstrate that they have taken reasonable steps to acquire all of the land and rights included in the CPO by agreement.

- Compulsory purchase is intended as a last resort to secure the assembly of all the land needed for the implementation of projects. However, if an acquiring authority waits for negotiations to break down before starting the compulsory purchase process, valuable time will be lost. Therefore, depending on when the land is required, it may often be sensible, given the amount of time required to complete the compulsory purchase process, for the acquiring authority to plan a compulsory purchase timetable as a contingency measure; and initiate formal procedures. This will also help to make the seriousness of the authority's intentions clear from the outset, which in turn might encourage those whose land is affected to enter more readily into meaningful negotiations.
- When making an order, local authorities should be sure that the purposes for which the CPO is made justify interfering with the human rights of those with an interest in the land affected. The officers' report seeking authorisation to make a CPO should address human rights issues.
- The Council has to give due regard to its Equalities Duties, in particular with regard to general duties arising from the Equality Act 2010, section 149 and for the purposes of this report, section 20, Part 2 of the Equality Act. The latter provision creates a duty on public and private organisations to make adjustments for disabled people. Having due regard to the need to advance equality also involves the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons.

7. Human Resources Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

8. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

8.1 It is not considered that the recommendation would have implications for Children, Young People or Vulnerable Adults.

9. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

9.1 Initial Equalities Screening assessment attached in Appendix 7 of the report. A further Equality Impact Assessment is to be made and findings considered.

10. Implications for CO² Emissions and Climate Change

10.1 The current scheme contains two parades of shops that were built 50 years ago, which have poor thermal efficiency and outdated heating and

ventilation systems. The proposed scheme will reduce CO² emissions by meeting Part L of the Building Regulations, will be thermally efficient and incorporate air source heat pumps.

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 The scheme is being developed in consultation with private sector partners, existing businesses, and the Dinnington St John's Town Council.

12. Risks and Mitigation

- 12.1 **Risk:** The current funding window for grant spend is March 2026 however risk should be noted with regards to the CPO process which does not have fixed timescales.
- 12.2 **Mitigation:** The Council will continue attempting to acquire outstanding interests by negotiation and will liaise with the funding body with regards to the funding deadline.
- 12.3 **Risk:** Costs decided by Public Inquiry are higher than we have budgeted for.
- 12.4 **Mitigation:** Surveyors and solicitors have been appointed at an early stage to provide 'worst-case' scenarios and ensure all potential compensation costs are covered.

13. Accountable Officers

Kevin Fisher, Assistant Director, Property and Facilities
Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Regeneration and the Environment
Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

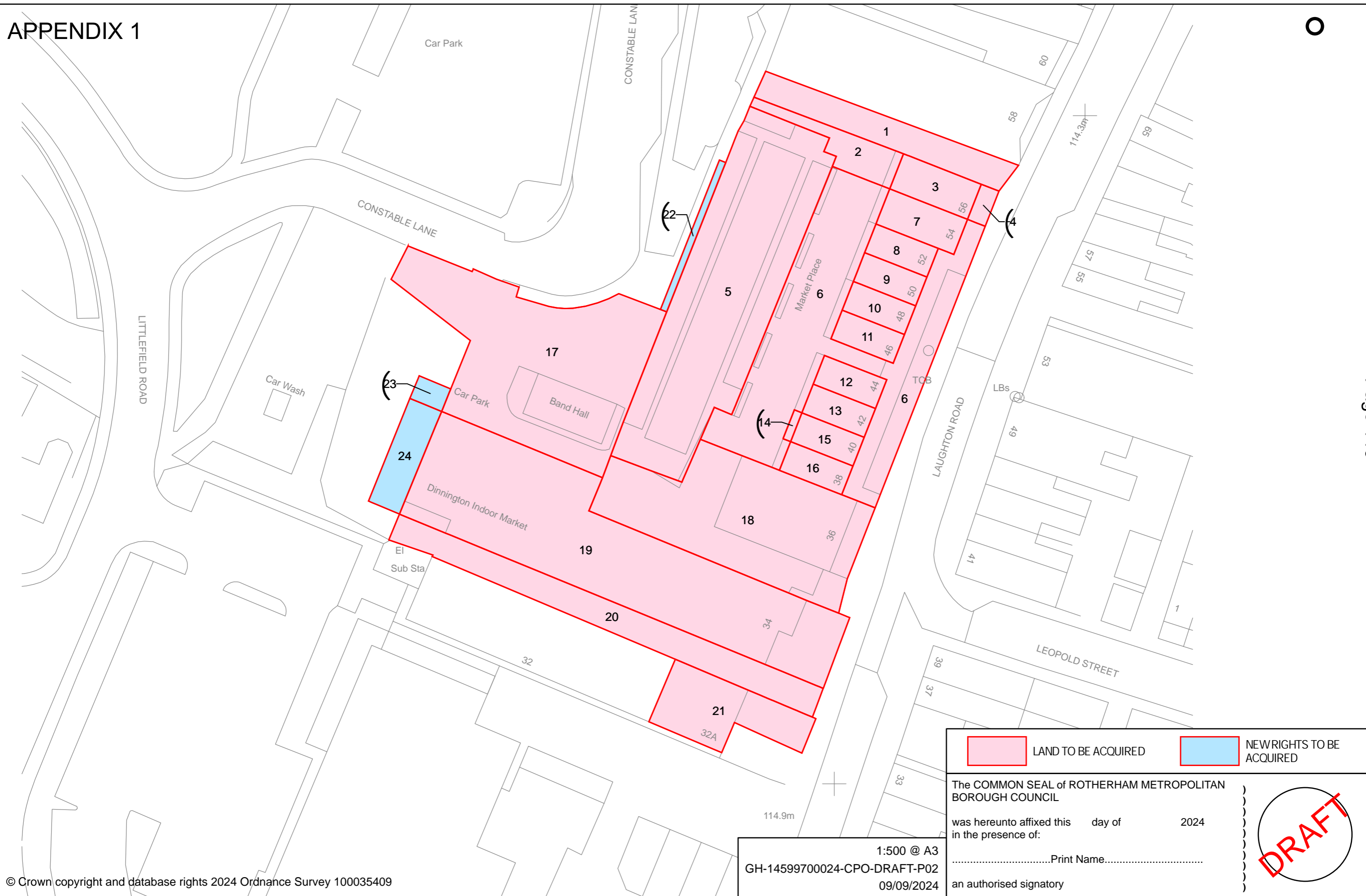
	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	30/09/24
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	24/09/24
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	24/09/24

Report Author: Megan Hinchliff, Regeneration Programme and Strategy Manager

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

MAP REFERRED TO IN THE ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (DINNINGTON MARKET PLACE) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2024

APPENDIX 1



LAND TO BE ACQUIRED	NEW RIGHTS TO BE ACQUIRED
The COMMON SEAL of ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL	
was hereunto affixed this day of 2024 in the presence of:	
.....Print Name.....	
an authorised signatory	

1:500 @ A3
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PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Approval of use of Compulsory Purchase Powers: Laughton Road/Constable Lane, Dinnington	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Regeneration
Lead person: Megan Hinchliffe	Contact number: 01709 289207
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify Officer Delegated Decision for making of a compulsory purchase order to progress the development of the Dinnington High Street/Markets scheme.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The subject area comprises land between Laughton Road and Constable Lane in the centre of Dinnington. The boundary includes 32A Laughton Road, the former indoor market (34 Laughton Road), 36 – 56 Laughton Road, the outdoor market, the colliery band building (10 Constable Lane) and associated land, and two passageways at either end. The land measures approximately 5,500m ² and is shown edged red on the plan at Appendix 1. The area includes several derelict buildings and areas of underused land adjoining the Primary Retail frontage in Dinnington.

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It is untenable to permit dereliction on this scale in such a key location and the Council has secured £11.05 million grant investment from central government to redevelop the area for a scheme that includes the construction of a block of 6 retail/commercial units, a stand-alone commercial/community building, a new Town Square that will accommodate an open market and associated car parking and servicing areas and public realm improvements. 6 existing retail/commercial units will be retained and substantially improved as part of the proposed scheme.

The site is in multiple ownership and is being assembled by the Council to facilitate the development of the scheme. Despite several approaches from the Council, it has not been possible to reach agreement to acquire several plots and it has become explicitly clear that the Council will need to rely on CPO powers to bring the proposed development to fruition.

To resolve the issue outlined above, it is intended to bring the Order Land into public ownership. It is intended that the Council to lead the project and procure a contractor to demolish the current, derelict buildings, and construct the new development.

Therefore, the Cabinet report is seeking authority to progress Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings to acquire the outstanding interests and provide Delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport in consultation with Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy and the Head of Legal Services to make the Order, and serve the Order on the landowners, publishing legal notices in the local press and on site.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	X	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		X

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Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

Making a compulsory purchase would not materially change the use of the site and there will be no adverse impact affecting different groups or service users.

The requirements of potential user groups have been considered as part of the design of the scheme, particularly those individuals that may have disabilities which could impact on the way that they access and utilise the facilities in the proposed scheme.

Communication with businesses and tenants who do not have English as their first language has been carefully considered.

- **Key findings**

- Equality and Diversity considerations have been a central feature in designing the proposed scheme, which has now been submitted for planning approval.
- Those businesses and tenants who do not have English as their first language

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<p>have been requested to advise Officers if they have any difficulty in understanding verbal and written communication with them.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions The design of the scheme will improve accessibility for service users to the various units as the scheme will comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and will replace areas that have an uneven, inconsistent surfaces and contain numerous potholes with legible, even and consistent surfaces using materials that assist users with visual impairment navigate around the proposed scheme. The scheme will include appropriate signage to assist users in navigating there way to the facilities provided. Contrary to the fixed structures that are currently in place, the stalls associated with the new market will be dismantled at the end of each trading day and stored in a secure location. The new scheme will provide improved pedestrian and cycle links between the high street (Laughton Road) and the bus interchange and public car parks on Constable Lane. 	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	31.8.24
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	15.9.24
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Lorna Vertigan Head of Regeneration

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Megan Hinchliff	Regeneration Programme and Strategy Manager	18/08/2024
Steve Eling	Policy & Equalities Manager	20/08/24

6. Publishing

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

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

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A copy of all screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	16.8.24
Report title and date	Officer Delegated Decision - Compulsory Purchase Powers: Laughton Road/Constable Lane, Dinnington – date to be determined.
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet 14.10.24.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16.8.24.

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Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase of emissions during demolition and construction; reduced emissions during operation	Increased emissions during demolition and construction of non-domestic buildings.	<p>Disused and poorly performing buildings will be replaced with modern methods and sustainably focussed design.</p> <p>The design of replacement non-domestic buildings will aim to minimise operational carbon emissions through a fabric-first approach.</p> <p>Increasing patronage of new and existing units may cause an increase in energy demand.</p>	<p>Design and construction that mitigates emissions will be explored.</p> <p>The use of locally sourced materials has been explored to minimise carbon footprint.</p> <p>Overall, the scheme replaces less energy efficient buildings with more efficient buildings which will be beneficial.</p> <p>Heat pumps are to be included for the commercial units to provide more energy efficient heating.</p>	<p>Emissions from the new non-domestic assets will be monitored by the Climate Change Team as long as they remain part of the Council's energy procurement portfolio.</p> <p>If the assets are leased to tenants who purchase their own energy, then emissions will fall outside the current scope of emissions accounting.</p>
Emissions from transport?	Increase of emissions during demolition and construction; unknown during operation.	Increase from travel to site during construction phases.	There may be increased footfall in Dinnington town centre, due to increased patronage of new and existing units. However, the project's intention is to improve local provision, which may avoid some emissions from transport	The site is located next to Dinnington bus interchange: travelling to the site by public transport, walking and cycling has been promoted through design by incorporating new public realm which	<p>Contractors will be required to report project emissions.</p> <p>Existing monitoring of air quality and public transport use.</p>

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			<p>if residents no longer need to travel elsewhere for some amenities.</p> <p>The development is directly adjacent to the bus station which could encourage higher use of public transport.</p>	<p>provides an attractive dwell space.</p>	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	<p>Increased emissions during construction, neutral in operation</p>	<p>The construction process will generate waste.</p>	<p>Replacement buildings will generate approximately the same level of waste in operation.</p>	<p>Promotion of waste segregation and diversion from landfill during the construction process and adherence with local waste management practice during operation. Waste recycling in operation.</p>	<p>Contractors will be required to report project emissions.</p>
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
Emissions from construction and/or development?	<p>Increases emissions</p>	<p>The redevelopment will involve significant demolition and construction works and key activities that will impact on emissions.</p> <p>This includes use of local power generation until permanent power is available.</p>	<p>Temporary increase in Borough emissions.</p>	<p>Look to promote active travel and reduce single occupancy car journeys.</p> <p>Responsible construction waste management.</p> <p>Locally sourced materials and resources where possible.</p>	<p>Industry standard practises to be managed by contractor. The contractors will be required to report project emissions.</p>

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Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Minor reduction in emissions	The development relates to brownfield land and is an opportunity to create a greener and healthier environment.	Construction and operational emissions will be partially offset through planting of trees and soft landscaping.	Tree planting, soft landscaping, greening of brownfield land all to contribute to carbon capture.	Impact will be captured through qualitative assessment of project completion as per landscape design plans.
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Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

Small increase in emissions and waste due to current retailers having to move to alternative premises during demolition and construction, and then potentially moving again post-construction.

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

The impact of this project on emissions is likely to be high due to the various demolitions that are required, and the construction that will take place to complete the redevelopment. This process brings with it an increase in transport and energy emissions, as well as increased waste. The buildings that are currently in-situ are highly inefficient and will be replaced by energy efficient buildings that are built for the future. The ground will be greened with a new landscaped town square that will provide social and environmental benefits, as well as health benefits by improving the general aesthetic of the town and creating a welcoming and safe town centre. Impacts have been mitigated as much as possible through the design, and further mitigations will be put in place for the construction phase. The scheme encourages higher usage of public transport, and active travel; it is hoped that by improving Dinnington town centre, the number of car journeys further afield will be reduced.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Megan Hinchliff, Regeneration & Development Project Manager RiDO, Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	Stage 0 – 3 Design Information
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA335 Katie Rockett, Climate Change Officer

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