



CABINET

Monday 18 November 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 18 November 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 - 17)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 October 2024.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There are no exempt items on the agenda.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

6. Looked After Children (LAC) Sufficiency Update (including the residential development progress update) (Pages 19 - 67)

Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made to deliver the in-house children's residential development, the positive impact for Children in Care and financial efficiencies that will be achieved.
2. Approve the Care Leavers addendum to the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023 – 2028.
3. Agree that the LAC and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy Delivery Plan be updated to increase the appropriateness and number of available accommodation options for Care Leavers as per the Care Leaver addendum to the LAC sufficiency strategy (see 2 above).
4. Note that on 16 October 2023 authority was delegated to the Assistant Director of Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to acquire up to 100 properties in line with the Housing Acquisitions Policy, which includes scope to acquire properties to meet the accommodation needs of Children and Young Peoples Services.
5. Authorise the Councils Designated Property Officer, or relevant Strategic Director in their absence, to negotiate any additional accommodation required and complete necessary transactions, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer, Strategic Director Children's and Young Peoples Services, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services and the Assistant Director of Legal Services.

7. Rotherham Leaving Care Strategy 2024-2027 (Pages 69 - 102)

Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet approve the Leaving Care Strategy and approve the three-year plan as set out within the Strategy.

8. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (Pages 103 - 336)

Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet endorse the South Yorkshire Multi Agency Safeguarding arrangements which include the place-based Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.
2. That Cabinet approve the Local Authority involvement in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements and receives appropriate reports on progress against the RSCP priorities and the Annual Report on impact of the RSCP in safeguarding children and young people.

FINANCE & SAFE AND CLEAN COMMUNITIES

9. September 2024-25 Financial Monitoring Report (Pages 337 - 362)

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £5.3m.
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.
4. Approve the adoption of the Department for Education's procedure to help local authorities financially assess Special Guardians as part of the process for setting up Special Guardianship Orders.
5. Approve the proposed debt write off detailed at 2.44

HOUSING

10. Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy (Pages 363 - 436)

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the Housing Services Repairs and Maintenance Policy (Appendix 1).
2. Approve the increase in decoration allowance from £25 to £50 per room, up to a maximum of £350 per property, as proposed in the Housing Services Repairs and Maintenance Policy (Appendix 1).
3. Note the ongoing work to scope the future repairs and maintenance delivery model for Rotherham and agrees to receive a further update on this work in 2025.
4. Approve the Housing Services Gas and Carbon Monoxide Safety Policy (Appendix 2).
5. Approve the Housing Services Electrical Safety Policy (Appendix 3).
6. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to make amendments to the following housing policies in line with operational, regulatory and legislative demands:
 - Housing Services Repairs and Maintenance Policy
 - Housing Services Gas and Carbon Monoxide Safety Policy
 - Housing Services Electrical Safety Policy
 - Housing Services Fire Safety Policy
 - Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy as it relates to housing assets.

11. Temporary Accommodation Policy (Pages 437 - 514)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the increase in homelessness and growing demand for temporary accommodation and the work being undertaken by the Council to respond to this demand.

2. Approve the adoption of the new Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy (Appendix 1).
3. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health for a 3-year period in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to make operational amendments to the Policy when the need is identified.
4. Note officers' intention to continue to pursue opportunities for a 3-year period to increase the portfolio of Council-owned temporary accommodation to meet service demands, subject to available budget and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing.

SOCIAL INCLUSION & NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING

12. Household Support Fund Update (Pages 515 - 528)

Report from the Assistant Chief Executive.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the provisional allocations of the Household Support Fund Grant of £2.489m have been made as follows:
 - a. £1.028m for food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals for school holidays up to and including Easter 2025.
 - b. £1.156m to support applications from households for assistance with energy costs, through the Council's Energy Crisis Support Scheme.
 - c. £150k towards the costs of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme.
 - d. £45k to support care leavers, being young people leaving foster or local authority care and living independently in their own accommodation who are responsible for paying their own utility bills, providing additional financial support through the cost-of-living increases.
 - e. £60k to local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas / New Year through a supplement to the Crisis Support service level agreement.
 - f. £50k to provide parcels of household items to be distributed through VCS community support including food banks, social supermarkets, and the Open Arms programme drop-in sessions.


2. Delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Neighbourhood Working, to determine revised and final allocations for the Household Support Grant, to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of Household Support Fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the approved options.

13. 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 13 November 2024.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 16 December 2024 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.



SHARON KEMP OBE,
Chief Executive.