CABINET

Monday 17 March 2025
10.00 a.m.
Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

Cabinet Members:-

Leader of the Council	Councillor Chris Read
Deputy Leader of the Council, Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working Portfolio	Councillor Dave Sheppard
Housing Portfolio	Councillor Sarah Allen
Children and Young People Portfolio	Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio	Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy Portfolio	Councillor Robert Taylor
Finance & Safe and Clean Communities Portfolio	Councillor Saghir Alam

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

CABINET

Venue:	**The Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**
Date and Time:	**Monday 17 March 2025 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 - 24)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 February 2025.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There are no exempt items on the agenda.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

6. Confirmation of Supplementary Public Health Grants for 2025/26 and approval of grant spend (Pages 25 - 74)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:-

1. Note the delivery of commitments for 2024/2025 and the impacts of those services for Rotherham.

2. Note the allocations and changes to the supplementary Public Health Grants for 2025/2026.

3. Approve the delegation to Director of Public Health, in consultation with the lead member for Adult Care and Public Health, for spend against the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) in line with grant conditions.

4. Approve the delegation to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the lead member for Adult Care and Public Health, for the spend against the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (LSSSSG) for 2025/2026 in line with grant conditions.

5. Approve the delegation to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the lead member for Adult Care and Public Health, for spend against the Individual Placement and Support Grant for 2025/26 in line with grant conditions.

7. Moving Rotherham Partnership Delivery of Place Expansion Grant (Pages 75 - 102)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves spending of the Sport England Place Expansion grant in line with Sport England grant conditions and the development bid proposal outlined in this report.

2. Notes the ambitions of the Moving Rotherham Partnership beyond the Sport England grant.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

8. Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham Year 1 Update (Pages 103 - 133)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress made in year one of the Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029 Delivery Plan.

2. Notes the minimum expectations detailed in The Families First Partnership Programme: Initial guidance document issued in December 2024.

3. Are provided with a further update, and refreshed action plan in autumn 2025, once future government guidance is received.

9. Response to Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge - Health and Wellbeing (Pages 135 - 170)

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

Recommendation:

That Cabinet approve the response to the recommendations, as detailed in Appendix 1, and note the report.

FINANCE & SAFE AND CLEAN COMMUNITIES

10. Modern Slavery Transparency Statement - Annual Refresh (Pages 171 - 204)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made to date.

2. Approve the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2025/26 and its publication on the Council's website.

HOUSING

11. Housing Capital Programme 2025-29 (Pages 205 - 249)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the four-year outline Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2025-26 to 2028-29 with total planned investment of £291m broken down into the following areas of investment:

    - Improving homes and estates £154.1m
    - Aids and adaptations to Council homes £13.2m
    - Housing Delivery Programme £121m
    - IT and digital transformation £2.6m

2. Approve the detailed 2025-26 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme with total planned investment of £73m broken down into the following areas of investment:

    - Improving homes and estates £33.1m
    - Aids and adaptions to Council homes £3.3m
    - Housing Delivery Programme £36m
    - IT and digital transformation £0.5m

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

12. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025/26 (Pages 251 - 277)

Report from the Assistant Chief Executive.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the projects for submission to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority for award of UKSPF for 2025/26 as follows:

    a. Local Business Support

        i. £945,256 for sub-regional business support supporting three strands of Launchpad (start-up support), Productivity and Low Carbon.
        ii. £390,000 (£270,000 capital) for shop unit grants and market improvements.
        iii. £137,667 for social value to increase opportunities for local businesses and ensure delivery against commitments.

b. People and Skills

i. £444,985 for a skills programme incorporating Ambition (children and young people), Core Skills (community-delivered basic skills training) and Advance (support to progress in work).
ii. £275,000 for Children's Capital of Culture to extend the traineeship programme.

c. Communities and Place

i. £200,000 for Children's Capital of Culture, to provide additional capacity during the festival year, supporting ongoing programme development and delivery, as well as marketing and design costs.
ii. £255,000 for Events, delivering a wide-ranging programme of events and festivals in the town centre.
iii. £359,549 for community-based support, including ongoing delivery of local advice sessions and engagement events through Open Arms Rotherham, and further funding for Reaching Out (£30,000) - strengthening connections with Rotherham's diverse communities.
iv. £86,000 (capital) for Active Lives, providing match funding to enable delivery of a multi-use games area.

2. Agrees to delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to determine revised and final allocations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This is to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of the fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the allocations above.

TRANSPORT, JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

13. Transport Capital Programme 2025/2026 (Pages 279 - 300)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the schemes and allocations of funding outlined in Section 2 of this report.

2. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the type and location of pedestrian crossing to be designed per paragraph 2.2.4 following the

prioritisation process.

3. Approves the reprofiling of £175,000 previously allocated to the Collision Investigation & Prevention workstream, to enable these funds to be allocated, subject to subsequent Cabinet decision, in the 2026/27 Transport Capital Programme as set out in paragraphs 2.2.11 and 2.2.12.

4. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered with the Structures and Minor Works allocations.

5. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine new schemes for delivery in Rawmarsh West and Wath wards, within budgets approved in March 2024, as part of tranche 2 of the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme.

14. Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy (Pages 301 - 368)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet approve the draft Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policy attached to this report as Appendix 1 for consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

15. 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 12 March 2025.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 14 April 2025 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.

SHARON KEMP OBE,
Chief Executive.

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THE CABINET
10th February, 2025

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Baker-Rogers.

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was made:

Member	Agenda Item	Interest Type	Nature of Interest
Councillor Dave Sheppard	Agenda Item 119 - Business Rates Discretionary Relief Renewals In 2025/26	Nonpecuniary	Volunteer at the Arc Church Foodbank

113. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

114. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 January 2025 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

115. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Appendix 2 to Minute 120 (Housing Delivery Programme Report 2024-25) was exempt under Paragraph 3, Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1974. However, the meeting remained open to the public and press throughout.

116. SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) SUFFICIENCY UPDATE (SAFETY VALVE)

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update in respect of SEND Sufficiency following the previous update report to Cabinet in March 2024 and detailed annual High Needs / Safety Valve Programme updates to Audit committee in July 2024. The report also detailed the key activities undertaken in implementing the SEND Sufficiency programme focusing on the development of resource provision and delivery of the School’s Accessibility Capital Funding Programme across both mainstream and special schools. An update was

also provided on plans to address sufficiency requirements across identified specialist provision as part of the Safety Valve programme. A timeline for consultation and development of a longer term SEND Sufficiency Strategy, which would coincide with the end of the Safety Valve programme in 2025/26, was laid out in the report.

The most recent phase of SEND Sufficiency aligned to Safety Valve was approved for implementation in June 2023. This phase aimed to support mainstream inclusion of SEND through the development of 10 resource provisions across mainstream settings creating 100 new SEND places. A second aim was the implementation of the schools Accessibility Funding Framework across both mainstream and special schools. The aim of the Schools Accessibility Funding was to increase inclusivity in existing schools in Rotherham by encouraging schools to create/ maintain SEN placements with capital improvements.

Further reports to Cabinet in July 2024 and December 2024 had given approval for additional increases in places as part of the continued development of Elements Academy since its opening in September 2023. Approval was also granted for capital investment to address sufficiency challenges at Newman School as part of the academisation with TEAM Multi-Academy Trust.

Following due diligence, capital development and Department for Education approval, 5 new resource provisions had opened, and 3 existing provisions had agreed an increase in places (creating 90 school places in 8 out of the 10 planned new provisions). The newly established resource provision placed along with incremental growth of provision created in previous phases of sufficiency had led to 140 young people currently accessing resource provision across Rotherham as of November 2024. This was an increase of 100 placements since the commencement of Safety Valve. Additional places created through the new provisions would continue to grow throughout the academic year 24/25 and 25/26.

The Accessibility Small Grant Capital Programme had been fully implemented with five funding rounds. As of November 2024, 28 mainstream schools had been successful in receiving grant funding. Successful projects had been diverse and wide reaching, working closely with schools to identify capital projects to support schools to meet a wider level of need linked to known existing pupils and those who may attend the school in the future. Examples of successful projects were set out in paragraph 2.9 of the report.

During the meeting the demand for additional places and provision both nationally and locally was discussed. Members and officers noted that it was not a situation that the Council could build itself out of. Following the General Election it had been noted that the Department for Education was now more supportive of keeping children in mainstream schools which was positive. However more work was needed to ensure the curriculum was inclusive.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note the activity undertaken and progress to date on the latest rounds of SEND Sufficiency in line with the commitments within the Safety Valve Agreement.

117. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES & ALTERNATIVE PROVISION (SENDAP) STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the results of the public consultation on the proposed SENDAP Strategy. The new SENDAP Strategy (Appendix 1) recognised the importance of Alternative Provision in delivering good outcomes for children and young people. Alternative provision was essential to meet the needs of children and young people who could not attend mainstream schools due to exclusion, illness, or other reasons. It included education arranged by local authorities or schools to ensure that these students continued to receive suitable education. Alternative Provision could also involve directing students to off-site programs to improve their behaviour or meet their specific need.

Nationally, the White Paper on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan published in March 2023 had identified the key pressures on the SEND System nationally. This had been confirmed by the more recent National Audit Office report in October 2024. These papers consistently found that the SEND system was dealing with a level of volume for which it was not designed with insufficient resources. Across the Country, this had resulted in a loss of parental confidence, poor outcomes for children and young people and large amounts of debt. Local government had been given the responsibility to commission and shape local provision yet lacked the powers to develop and change systems. The Rotherham Joint Local Area SEND inspection in July 2021, led by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), while identifying some strengths, required the local area to produce a written statement of action prioritising the following four areas for action:

- Quality of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Communication of Local Offer
- Preparation for Adulthood
- Graduated Response

The Rotherham SEND system was re-inspected by Ofsted and the CQC in October 2024. The Area SEND Inspection of the Local Area Partnership placed it among the highest performing areas nationally and recognised the very significant work undertaken by the Council in its widest sense, the Integrated Care Board, health provider partners and schools to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Rotherham. However, significant national and local challenges remained

and where there was a need for further development within Rotherham, the local area partnership was judged as taking appropriate actions.

Co-production workshops and engagement with young people had highlighted the need for the new Rotherham SENDAP Strategy to be written in a format that enabled the children and young people to see how it would impact their lives. This was reflected in the language used in the 7 outcome statements as set out in paragraph 2.7 of the report.

Paragraph 2.10 of the report detailed the five commitments which had been identified as priority areas of development and monitoring, two of which were also highlighted in the recent Area Send Inspection.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the refreshed Rotherham SENDAP Strategy 2025 to 2030 (Appendix 1) that has been co-produced with partners across the Borough.

118. DECEMBER 2024/25 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which was the fifth financial monitoring report for the 2024/25 financial year. As at December 2024, the Council currently estimated an overspend of £3.1m 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 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 2.5%, the Council's base costs had significantly increased across the recent high inflation period by well in excess of 20%.

Whilst the Directorate overspend, which stood at £15.2m was concerning, it had reduced from a peak of £17.2m. As a result of these cost pressures the Council had been working on budget recovery plans to reduce the overspend in year and minimise the year end requirement for reserves. In addition, elements of this overspend were forecast with two key Budget contingencies created as part of setting the Council's Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (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 are 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. It was estimated that this should see the Council generate savings of at least £5.1m for 2024/25, though again market conditions were out of the

Council's control.

It was noted that the Capital Programme Update could be found on pages 134 to 139 of the report.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £3.1m.

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.

119. BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF RENEWALS IN 2025/26

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the renewal applications for the awards of Discretionary Business Rate Relief for the organisations and premises listed in Appendix 1. This was in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy which had been approved by Cabinet in December 2016.

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%

The total costs of granting the relief for the financial year was:

Year	Total Amount of Relief	Cost to RMBC
2025/26	£ 940,928.66	£461,055.04

The recommendation was to approve the award of Discretionary Business Rate Relief for the organisations listed in Appendix 1. However, any award had to comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 before it was applied to the Business Rates Relief account. The Council would therefore undertake an assessment of each of the approved applications before 31 March 2025 in order to ensure that they met the requirements of the act.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the applications for Discretionary Business Rate Relief for the organisations listed in Appendix 1 of this report and in

accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report, for the 2025/26 financial year.

Councillor Sheppard declared a nonpecuniary interest in this item as he volunteered at the Arc Church foodbank which received rate relief.

120. HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME REPORT 2024-25 – UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which was the latest six-monthly update to Cabinet on the latest developments and future plans for the Council's Housing Delivery Programme. There were over 7,000 households on the Council's housing register. The Council's ability to meet this demand continued to be eroded by the Right to Buy, which had seen 1,041 Council homes sold between January 2018 and November 2024. As such, there was a clear and continuing need for more affordable homes across the Borough, an issue further exacerbated by the current cost-of-living crisis. The Council continued to address this need through delivery of the Housing Delivery Programme, with a target to deliver hundreds of new homes between January 2018 and March 2026.

The programme combined development on Council owned land and the acquisition of new and existing homes. Through the Housing Delivery Programme, which started in 2018, the Council expected to deliver 1,000 new Council homes across the Borough by Summer 2027. The Council had been very successful in using its land and resources to build and acquire new Council homes and was making significant progress on the delivery target, notably reaching the 600th Council home milestone in September 2024. Overall, from 1 January 2018 to 30 November 2024, the Council had successfully delivered 630 new Council homes consisting of 495 homes for rent and 135 homes for shared ownership. In addition, the Council had also built 125 new homes for market sale. An updated photographic summary of delivery along with a selection of quotes from tenants was provided at Appendix 3.

34 properties had been acquired since December 2023 and the latest position on these was included at exempt Appendix 2. In addition to the 34 acquired properties, sales were agreed on a further 40 properties. Whilst there was a risk that a small number of these might not progress to legal completion, it was anticipated that the majority would legally complete during the financial year 2024/25. The forecast costs for these 40 properties was lower than the estimated costs and so it was anticipated that more than 100 homes would be acquired within the original budget of £18m. Cabinet was therefore asked to approve a change in the programme target to 'a minimum of 100 homes' rather than 'a maximum of 100 homes', as long as the overall budget provision was not exceeded.

The Council had continued to review its approach to procurement to respond to changes in market conditions and maximise what could be delivered in the current programme timeframe. Based on feedback from

extensive market engagement (undertaken in the first half of 2024), and in response to a volatile and uncertain construction sector, the majority of the remaining new build schemes on Council owned sites were to be procured on a two-stage design and build basis. This would allow the Council to review scheme costs before entering into construction contracts, whilst working with contractors to develop the best design solutions to maximise value for money on what were typically constrained brownfield sites. Any sites which were forecast to deliver more than ten homes required separate Cabinet approval (with early forecasts based on indicative site capacity layouts). Several sites had been presented to Cabinet over recent years which had forecast to deliver over ten homes. However, it was not until early design work had been completed and a scheme had been granted planning permission that the number of homes to be delivered on a site was more certain. There was a need for increased flexibility during the 'design stage' to allow appointed contractors to optimise scheme designs and progress schemes more efficiently in to the 'build stage' without undue delay which could contribute to increased costs. Cabinet was therefore asked to approve a change to the requirement for separate Cabinet approval on individual sites from 'more than ten homes' to 'more than fifteen homes'.

During the meeting it was noted how important the Housing Delivery Programme was for the people of Rotherham and how it was making and would continue to make a huge difference to resident's lives.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the significant progress made since 2018 through the implementation of the Housing Delivery Programme, including the completion of the 600th new Council home in September 2024.

2. Approve the purchase of homes from any of the schemes identified in Exempt Appendix 2.

3. Note that authority to purchase homes in line with the Housing Acquisitions Policy was delegated to the Assistant Director for Housing following Cabinet approval on 16 October 2023.

4. Approve an increase to the number of new homes the Council has authority to purchase under the Housing Acquisitions Policy (utilising the delegations referred to in Recommendation 3) from 'up to 100 homes' to 'a minimum of 100 homes and not exceeding the approved budget'.

5. Approve the proposal to change the requirement for separate Cabinet approval for individual Council housing development sites from 'more than ten homes' to 'more than fifteen homes'.

6. Agree to continue to receive an update on the housing development programme every six months.

121. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX REPORT 2025-26

Consideration was given to the report submitted which proposed the Council's Budget and Council Tax for 2025/26, based on the Council's Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2025/26, budget consultation and the consideration of Directorate budget proposals. A review of the financial planning assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) had been undertaken.

The proposed Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy reflected the Council's priorities as set out in the Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan. The development of the Budget proposals for 2025/26 and the further update of the MTFS took into account prevailing economic factors, supplier market factors, demand and complexity of care pressures, and the lasting impact of periods of high inflation during 2023/24. Following the Council's technical MTFS updates, proposed budget decisions within this report and the impact of the Provisional Financial Settlement, the Council had been able to propose a balanced budget for 2025/26 and 2026/27 with a potential £3.2m funding gap in 2027/28.

In setting the proposed 2025/26 budget, Cabinet were asked to recommend to Council a 3% increase in Council Tax, made up of an increase of 1% in the Council's basic Council Tax plus an increase of 2% for the Adult Social Care precept. The Budget also proposed a further year of a Local Council Tax Support Top-up Scheme to operate across 2025/26 to provide further support to low income working age households in the Borough to assist them in managing the impacts of the cost of living crisis and support the most financially vulnerable households.

In introducing the report, the Leader stated that the context for setting the budget had changed for the better since the General Election in July 2024. The Autumn Statement and Policy update, along with the Provisional Financial Settlement, had given the Local Authority sector a much needed boost in terms of the funding package available. The confirmation of £1.3bn additional grant for the sector was much needed, with £0.68bn towards Adult Social Care (£3.8m for RMBC) and £0.7bn to be provided through the new Recovery Grant allocated on a deprivation basis (meaning £8.7m of new un-ringfenced grant for RMBC). Whilst some smaller grants had been removed to support this £1.3bn national uplift, overall the funding package represented a substantial increase in Local Authority funding. The settlement represented the most significant increase in core funding in the last 15 years and the Council would be around £14m better off in 2025/26 than was expected a year ago.

It was noted that, although the position for Local Authority Funding had shifted positively, the Council remained committed to increasing efficiency

and delivering on the priorities of residents. As such, in order to invest in key priorities, this Budget included Budget savings proposals of £2.6m aimed at increasing the efficiency of service delivery and reducing or removing spending on services that were no longer required or could be delivered differently. For example, through maximising grant funding opportunities in Children's Services or route optimisation within Waste Management.

In recognition of escalating cost pressures within Adult Social Care, relating to increased complexity of care and rising demand for the service, market inflation and transitions, the Council would provide for approximately £17m of additional funding to support the delivery of Adult Social Care services. Further investment of £4.3m would also be provided to address unavoidable cost pressures in complying with Home to School Transport requirements and £1.5m for unavoidable Waste Management costs. In addition, the Budget would provide some additional investments to help support people and to support with delivering on the Council's ambitions for the Borough with specific regard to the Council Plan aims.

In concluding, the Leader thanked all those involved in the production of the budget.

Councillor Alam stated that this was a responsible and prudent budget on which the public and partners had been consulted. The results of this consultation were attached at Appendix 5. Councillor Alam referenced the investment proposal that would establish the Street Safe Team to improve feelings of safety in town and village centres (paragraph 2.7.4). In order to encourage more visitors into the town centre, the first hour of parking would be free at Drummond Street, Wellgate North, Wellgate Multi Storey, Douglas Street, Unity Place, Westgate, Clifton Hall, Forge Island and Scala (Monday to Friday inclusive.) The Council was also proposing to invest an additional £100k to improve road markings on the classified road network and in estates as detailed in paragraph 2.7.15 of the report. Councillor Alam also thanked everyone involved in the budget setting process for their input.

Councillor Taylor expressed his support for the positive budget. He also referend the improvement to road markings. The proposed additional investment would allow the service to become proactive in identifying and addressing these issues through creation of an annual programme of road markings to be refreshed, which would be published and communicated to Councillors and the public. The Employment Solutions Team would have its funding arrangements mainstreamed which would enable a stable programme of support for residents looking to get into or stay in work.

Councillor Sheppard thanked all involved for their hard work on producing the budget. He referenced the investments relating to the "A Cleaner, Greener Local Environment" theme which included proposals to invest £375k in providing modern, efficient and effective plant equipment to

undertake grounds maintenance and street cleansing across the borough. It was also proposed to invest £60k per year in establishing a green spaces general maintenance and repair budget. The overflow parking at Clifton Park would be improved and prices on leisure activities at Rother Valley and Thrybergh Country Parks would be frozen. Following the flooding from Storm Babet in 2023, it was proposed to invest £6m in the Catcliffe Village (River Rother) Flood Alleviation Scheme. Councillor Sheppard also referenced the additional support for residents with school uniform costs (paragraph 2.7.19) and the extension of the additional temporary resource for which assisted residents to complete the application process for Pension Credit (paragraph 2.7.20). It was also proposed that enquires take place regarding the expansion of the Food Works offer from Sheffield to Rotherham (paragraph 2.7.21).

Councillor Cusworth explained that, building on the existing programme, the Council would deliver a further investment of £378k as match funding into the in-house residential programme to provide additional complex needs provision for children. This built on the previous phases of development which had seen five children's homes open with a current in house of capacity of 11 beds. Councillor Cusworth also noted that the investment throughout the budget would have a positive impact on families and children across the borough.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process and the Board fully supported the recommendations. The main points of discussion centred on:

- The persistent overspend in Children and Young People's Services (although it was noted that a number of contributing factors were outside of the Council's control).
- The conclusion of the Pause programme and provision of support to service users following the conclusion.
- The number of children in care in Rotherham (which was decreasing due to works being undertaken.)
- The savings proposal for Waste Service Route Optimisation.
- The investment proposal for the Street Safe Team.
- The investment proposal within the Employment Solutions Team.
- The hiring of vehicles for the investment proposal relating to Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements.
- The funding model for the Food Works programme.
- Investment in Customer Services.
- Investment in the Capital Programme.

Full details on the discussion of the budget at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting held on 5 February 2025 can be found in the minutes of that meeting. A number of additional recommendations were presented by OSMB and Cabinet agreed to accept those recommendations.

Councillor Steele wished to place on record his thanks to the Scrutiny Officers for their help in facilitating the scrutiny on the budget.

The Budget and Council Tax Report would be presented for approval at the Council meeting on Wednesday 5 March 2025.

Resolved:

That Cabinet recommend to Council:

1. Approval of the Budget and Financial Strategy for 2025/26 as set out in the report and appendices, including a basic Council Tax increase of 1% and an Adult Social Care precept of 2%.

2. Approval of the extension to the Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, that will provide up to £126.12 of additional support to low income households accessing the Council's Council Tax Support scheme. It will support the most financially vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills as described in Section 2.5.15.

3. Approve the proposed changes to the Local Council Tax Support scheme as set out at 2.5.10 and proposed changes to Council Tax Premiums as set out in Section 2.5.19.

4. Approval of the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2027/28, as described within Section 2.6.

5. Approval of the Reserves Strategy as set out in Section 2.8 noting that the final determination of Reserves will be approved as part of reporting the financial outturn for 2024/25.

6. To note and accept the comments and advice of the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer), provided in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as to the robustness of the estimates included in the Budget and the adequacy of reserves for which the Budget provides as set out in Section 2.14.

7. To note the feedback from the public and partners following the public consultation on the Council's budget for 2025/26 which took place from 18 November 2024 to 10 January 2025, attached as Appendix 5.

8. Approval of the proposed increases in Adult Social Care provider contracts and for Personal Assistants as set out in Section 2.4.

9. Approval of the proposed approach and increases in Childrens Social Care costs as set out in Section 2.4.25.

10. Approval of the revenue investment proposals set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 2.

11. Approval of the proposed revenue savings set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 4.

12. Approval of the Council Fees and Charges for 2025/26 attached as Appendix 7.

13. Application of the Business Rates Reliefs as set out in Section 2.10, in line with Government guidance.

14. Approval of the proposed Capital Strategy and Capital Programme as presented in Section 2.12 and Appendices 3A to 3F.

15. Approval of the Treasury Management matters for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 9 of this report including the Prudential Indicators, the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Investment Strategy.

16. Approval that any changes resulting from the Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2025/26 be reflected in the Budget and Council Tax Report to Council on 5th March.

17. Continuation of the principles and measures adopted since April 2020 to make faster payments to suppliers on receipt of goods, works and services following a fully reconciled invoice as described in Section 2.11.

18. Approval of the Budget allocations for the Community Leadership Fund as set out in Section 2.9.

19. Approval that the Capital Programme Budget continues to be managed in line with the following key principles:

    i. Any underspends on the existing approved Capital Programme in respect of 2024/25 be rolled forward into future years, subject to an individual review of each carry forward to be set out within the Financial Outturn 2024/25 report to Cabinet.

    ii. In line with Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules 7.7 to 7.11 and 8.12, any successful grant applications in respect of capital projects will be added to the Council's approved Capital Programme on an ongoing basis.

    iii. Capitalisation opportunities and capital receipts flexibilities will be maximised, with capital receipts earmarked to minimise revenue costs.

That Cabinet accept the additional recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. That an update on progress following the implementation of Waste Service Route Optimisation programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months.

2. That an update on the progress following the implementation of the Street Safe Team programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months.

3. That a report be provided to OSMB within three months detailing the performance information for the Employment Solutions Team.

4. That the Leader liaises with officers regarding the 'Free Courses for Jobs' DfE funding allocated to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to consider if this could be utilised for the Employment Solutions Team and feeds back to OSMB.

5. That information be provided to the Chair of OSMB regarding the method of funding for Food Works in Sheffield.

6. That Democratic Services arrange a meeting with Councillors, Steele, Bacon, Blackham, Marshall, and Baggaley along with officers to consider the most appropriate manner to monitor the Capital Programme going forward.

122. STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the application process for Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (Strategic CIL) funding which had taken place following Cabinet approval in July 2024. The report also set out the findings of the Strategic CIL officer group assessment on submitted projects against relevant criteria to determine the infrastructure that would most support new growth areas and help bring forward development sites to implement the Local Plan.

The Council had a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in place for Rotherham which secured contributions from developers towards infrastructure to support growth. CIL payments were required alongside planning permission for certain types of development and worked in tandem with payments negotiated as "Section 106" planning obligations. As of January 2025, the Council held approximately £9.2m in the Strategic CIL fund. The allocation of Strategic CIL funds was a Cabinet decision and funding applications were invited on an annual basis. The overall fund did not need to be used in any one year, it could be rolled forward fully or in part to accumulate with future CIL payments.

In August 2024 a Strategic CIL application pack was sent to over 100 infrastructure contacts responsible for the different types of infrastructure that were reflected in the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule that supported the Local Plan. These types of infrastructure included water, flood risk, broadband & telecommunications, energy, green infrastructure/environment, transport, health, emergency services, cultural & community facilities, education, libraries, and waste. The providers of these different types of infrastructure included external organisations and internal Council services.

Twelve applications were received for Strategic CIL funding through this application round. Seven applications were submitted by the Council's services and five applications by the NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. The NHS bids were all for similar schemes to improve local primary care facilities at locations around the Borough affected by growth, so were combined into one bid for assessment. This resulted in eight applications in total being assessed using the criteria approved by Cabinet. Details on the CIL eligibility criteria were set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 of the report.

Applicants were sent a CIL scoring matrix alongside the application form for transparency and clarity. A Strategic CIL officer panel applied the scoring matrix to the eight applications that were submitted. The Panel had carefully considered whether the projects met the important 'Gateway Tests', as set out in paragraph 2.6 of the report, that formed part of the application process. These tests reflected the fundamental role and purpose of Strategic CIL funding, in supporting the delivery of growth as planned for through the Rotherham Local Plan and forming part of the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule.

Out of the eight applications assessed, four potential projects fulfilled the requirements of the Gateway Tests:

- Medical Centre Improvements
- A633 Rotherham to Dearne Valley Bus Priority
- Trans Pennine Trail Community Access
- Rotherham East Sustainable Transport Corridor Extension

Further details on these projects, including information on costs, dates, proposed works, deliverability, funding and benefits. were set out in paragraph 2.8 of the report and at Appendix 1.

Since the submission of CIL bids, the Department of Transport had announced it would develop a new Integrated National Transport Strategy, and it was anticipated a new round of funding would be announced for transport schemes following the Comprehensive Spending Review in late spring 2025. This could allow for transport schemes submitted to CIL to be delivered through external funding. As such, it was not proposed to commit any CIL funding to transport at this time.

The total cost of the eligible projects was £11,737,294. As this exceeded the current Strategic CIL funds and the uncertainty of external funding to transport schemes, preferred options were set out in Section 3 of the report with the remaining project(s) to be considered for future funding rounds.

The Medical Centres Improvements project and Trans Pennine Trail Community Access project were recommended for support. The A633 Rotherham to Dearne Valley Bus Priority project and Rotherham East Sustainable Transport Corridor Extension project were recommended for consideration in future rounds. Paragraph 2.13 of the report detailed the ineligible projects.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the allocation of Strategic CIL funds to the following project(s):

    - Medical Centres Improvements
    - Trans Pennine Trail Community Access

2. That Cabinet approves delegation to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to establish the process to release funding to the approved project(s) as set out in Section 5 of the report.

123. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Council's Climate Change activity for the previous year. A full progress report for 2024/25 and an action plan for 2025/26 were appended to the report. Key progress was highlighted in the report with respect to the specific themes of:

- Monitoring and measurement
- Energy decarbonisation
- Transport
- Housing
- Waste
- Built & Natural Environment
- Influence & Engagement (including culture and heritage)
- Adaptation

Nature Recovery was included within the Built & Natural Environment theme to align with existing work streams around tree planting and woodland management.

2025 was highlighted as a key milestone in the Council's original climate

declaration, marking five years since Cabinet approved its net zero targets. As such 2025 presented an opportunity to review progress made, consider the challenges experienced and the socioeconomic and political changes observed during this time. It was also an opportunity to reflect on a refined view of the Council's carbon footprint following work to improve this dataset and to consider how these impacted upon the Council's ability to reach its targets. It was therefore proposed that a review be carried out and an assessment of the recommended approach to the next five years be undertaken. It was also an opportunity, as the Council moved into the final 5 years to improve governance around this programme to enable more focussed progress.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the Climate Change Action Plan in Appendix 2, noting the key achievements and opportunities summarised in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.

124. 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.

125. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

The next meeting of the Cabinet would be held on Monday 17 March 2025, commencing at 10.00am, in Rotherham Town Hall.

Agenda Item 6

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 17 March 2025

Report Title
Confirmation of Supplementary Public Health Grants for 2025/26 and approval of grant spend

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)
Jessica Brooks, Public Health Specialist
Jessica.Brooks@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Rotherham Council received Supplementary Public Health Grant funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery and stop smoking and support during 2024/25. This paper provides an update on the 2024/25 spend, outlines the confirmation of allocations and changes to these supplementary grants for 2025/26 and seeks approval for delegating the 2025/26 spend to the Director of Public Health in line with the Grant conditions and associated plans.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

1. Note the delivery of commitments for 2024/2025 and the impacts of those services for Rotherham.

2. Note the allocations and changes to the supplementary Public Health Grants for 2025/2026.

3. Approve the delegation to Director of Public Health, in consultation with the lead member for Adult Care and Public Health, for spend against the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) in line with grant conditions.

4. Approve the delegation to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the lead member for Adult Care and Public Health, for the spend against the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (LSSSSG) for 2025/2026 in line with grant conditions.

5. Approve the delegation to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the lead member for Adult Care and Public Health, for spend against the Individual Placement and Support Grant for 2025/26 in line with grant conditions.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Part A Equality Impact assessment for services
Appendix 2 Drug and Alcohol 2022 paper Part A Equality Impact assessment for services
Appendix 3 Drug and Alcohol 2022 paper Part B Equality Analysis Form
Appendix 4 LSSSG 2024 paper Initial Equality Screening
Appendix 5 LSSSG 2024 paper Full Equality Analysis
Appendix 6 Carbon Impact form

Background Papers
Drug and Alcohol Grants:
Public Health Proposals for Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025
Public Health Proposals for Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025 - Annual update
Dame Carol Black's independent review of drugs: phase two report
From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives
Additional drug and alcohol treatment funding allocations: 2022 to 2023
Additional drug and alcohol treatment funding allocations: 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant:
The Khan review: making smoking obsolete.
Swap to Stop
Cabinet Report: Tobacco Control Review 16 October 2023
Notice of motion: Tobacco Control 12 April 2023
Health and Wellbeing Board 25 January 2023
Cabinet Report: Public Health, Healthy Lifestyle Services Pathway 16 May 2022
Cabinet Report: Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant 12 February 2024

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Confirmation of Supplementary Public Health Grants for 2025/26 and approval of grant spend

1. Background

1.1 Rotherham Council had received Supplementary Public Health Grant funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery and stop smoking and support during 2024/25. These grants were made as part of the Government strategies on Drugs and Alcohol, and Tobacco, respectively. Both Grants have specific conditions including maintaining baseline Public Health Grant spend on the respective core services.

1.2 The supplementary grants consist of:

- Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) – Rotherham allocation of £2,178,186.
- Inpatient Detoxification Grant (IPD) – Rotherham allocation of £64,077.
- Individual Placement Support Grant (IPS) – Rotherham allocation of £165,719.
- the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (LSSSSG) – Rotherham allocation of £398,587.

1.3 This paper provides an update on the 2024/25 spend against each of these grants. It outlines the changes to these supplementary grants for 2025/26 and the confirmation of allocations to Rotherham Council. It seeks approval for delegating the 2025/26 spend to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the lead member for Adult Care and Public Health and in line with the Grant conditions and associated plans.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Grants

1.4 In July 2022 Cabinet received a report ‘Public Health Proposals for Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025’ outlining the availability of 2 grants being made available to Rotherham by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)- part of the Department of Health and Social Care- to support the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery agenda, and recommendations on how they could be utilised. These grants are: The Supplemental Substance Misuse Recovery and Treatment Grant (SSMTRG) and the Inpatient Detoxification (IPD) Grant. This paper and the subsequent September 2023 Cabinet report contain further details.

1.5 OHID also allocated grant funding for the Rotherham Individual Placement and Support (IPS) service which launched in December 2022. The funding is aimed at delivering employment support for those in substance misuse treatment.

1.6 For 2025/26 continuation of this funding OHID have amalgamated several grants into a single Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG). The grants that will be consolidated which are received by Rotherham are SSMTRG and the IPD grant, with IPS grant remaining as a standalone grant.

1.7 Rotherham’s allocation for the DATRIG has been confirmed as £2,242,263, which is the same as the combined amount received through the SSMTRG and IPD

grants for 2024/25 with no uplift for inflation. The DATRIG grant priorities are broadly the same as those for SSMTRG, with the renewed areas of focus being:

1. Quality system coordination and commissioning.
2. Improving capacity and quality of children and young people's alcohol and drug services.
3. Outreach and harm reduction provision.
4. Strong care pathways and integration between education, criminal justice, health, housing and social care services and alcohol and drug treatment.
5. High quality of treatment services.
6. Increased capacity and quality of recovery support services.
7. Strengthened local recovery community.

1.8 The 25/26 Grant Plan has been developed in consultation with the Rotherham Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) and is subject to an approval process from OHID.

1.9 Whilst the DATRIG is made as part of a 10-year national strategy, this is a one year allocation and there is currently no certainty of funding beyond 2025/26.

1.10 Rotherham’s 2025/26 allocation for the Individual Placement Support Grant is £165,719 giving an uplift on the 2024/25 allocation.

Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant

1.11 In February 2024 Cabinet received a report following the Government announcement of a set of Tobacco Control proposals in response to the Khan Review and the Government's ambition to make England smoke-free by 2030. Alongside the proposed legislation to create a 'Smokefree Generation', a ringfenced £70m Local Stop Smoking and Support Grant was announced with the intention of supporting an additional 360,000 people to quit smoking nationally.

1.12 Rotherham's allocation was £384,845 for 2024/25. Based on an estimated smoking prevalence of 15.15% (Average 3-Year Smoking Prevalence for 2021-2023), this allocation has increased to £398,587 for 2025/26 with a similar amount to be confirmed each year through to 2028/29, giving an estimated total of £1.92m over five years.

Grant allocations

1.13 A summary of the 2025/2026 supplementary Grant Allocations compared to 2024/2025 is shown below (SSMTRG and IPD shown as DATRIG components in 2025/2026):

		2024/25	2025/26
Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant	Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant	£2,178,186	£2,178,186*
	Inpatient	£64,077	£64,077*

	Detoxification Grant		
	Total	-	**£2,242,263***
Individual Placement Support		£157,432	£165,719
Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant		£384,845	£398,587

*Amounts are subject to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Treasury approvals and as such final allocations could vary.

2. Key Issues

Grant Activity

2.1 The below provides an overview on the delivery of and spend against the SSMTRG, IPD and LSSSSG Grants for 24/25 and overview outlines the future targets and plans for the 25/26 Grants.

2.2 The aims of SSMTR Grant were to increase access to structured substance misuse treatment and recovery, both within commissioned services and wider partners. The forecasted end of year spend is to budget (£2,178,186). Activity funded in 24/25 has included: quicker access to treatment, enhanced Children's and families and criminal justice provision, additional residential rehabilitation placements and increased clinical capacity. The below table describes progress of the workstreams funded via the SSMTRG as continued from the previous update.

Forecast 24/25 spend)	Update
Commissioning support staff (£270,398)	All staff are in place, including additional Commissioning Officer resource until March 2025 to support with the management of the new DATRIG funding and project management/set up. There are 5.5WTE Public Health and Commissioning support posts attached to the SSMTRG.
Drug & Alcohol Related Death (DARD) Review Process (£25,999)	Drug and alcohol death surveillance system, provided by Quality Education Solutions Ltd (QES), procured. With You staff and key partners have been trained on the system, with further training of partners to be rolled out. Three DARD Review panel sessions have been held to inform the development of the death review process. A Prevention Officer employed by South Yorkshire Police (SYP) continues to be crucial in the co-ordination of Rotherham processes with the other South Yorkshire Local Authorities and the sharing of drug intelligence from SYP.

	The SYP naloxone pilot was successfully launched in December 2024, funded via the SSMTRG and SYP are indicating that officers have saved two lives within the first month.
Workforce Development (£42,249)	Over 1000 professionals in Rotherham have attended substance misuse skills and awareness training. Bespoke sessions have also been delivered, such as Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder training to midwives. Feedback from all training sessions has highlighted the positive impact on individual's roles.
Residential Rehabilitation (£316,179)	23 placements have commenced (year to date) and performance is on track to meet the target of 26. A wider range of rehabilitation providers have been used and enhanced mental health units. When clients achieve an alcohol and drug free lifestyle this then supports others, providing role models of visible recovery.
Treatment provider activity (£1,019,160)	Additional activity delivered by With You (the commissioned drug and alcohol service provider) during 24/25 includes: • Harm reduction provision • Enhanced Criminal Justice activity • Increased prescribing and access to treatment • Community Alcohol treatment and detoxification • Dual diagnosis clinical provision • Enhanced Treatment access • Recovery- long term opiates • Young People school workers Activity outcomes and targets are shown in section 2.4 below.
Sexual Health Service substance misuse screening project (£79,995)	The project is to discontinue as planned after 31st of March 2025. As a result of the project, substance misuse screening has been embedded within sexual health assessments. Staff from both ROADS and The Rotherham Foundation Trust have been upskilled in this area.
Early Help Substance Misuse Team CYPS (£134,196)	The staff team are in post and working from the Family Hubs. The team commenced taking referrals from September 2023, and data shows positive outcomes in engagement of families, reductions in substance use and engagement with ROADS. The wider Early Help staff have been upskilled and now screen for substance use issues in all new assessments.
Dual Diagnosis substance misuse and mental health issues (spend included with treatment provider activity)	Activity has included work to develop pathways for people presenting with a substance misuse issue who are thought to also have mental health concerns.

Recovery Community this is being delivered by Voluntary Action Rotherham (£285,000)	There is now a visible and accessible recovery offer in Rotherham, with 1488 attendances at recovery activities and events during 23/24, and 16 recovery grants awarded to fund grass roots recovery activity in the community. VAR are supporting existing recovery community groups and activities to become sustainable in applying for other funding or becoming Community Interest Companies.
Alcohol Screening and Brief intervention (including DrinkCoach) (£5,010)	Promotion of the online alcohol intervention via GP text messages to patients and well as a social media campaign have proved successful in increasing the number of people accessing the website and using the AUDIT screening tool to assess their alcohol consumption.

2.3 The aim of the Inpatient Detoxification allocation, which is delivered through a consortia led by Doncaster MBC, is to increase access to inpatient detoxification for individuals using both drugs or alcohol where community interventions are not appropriate. The allocation of £64,077 has been used in full - this equates to 12 placements for Rotherham residents.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant

2.4 This table displays the key OHID SSMTRG/ DATRIG targets, including 2022 baseline data, current performance and 2025/26 ambitions.

Local Target	**Baseline (March ’22)**	**Recent Performance (Sept ’24)**	**2024/25 ambition**	**2025/2026 ambition***
Adults in treatment	2016	2294	2415	2415
Young people in treatment	34	74	34	74
Adults attending residential rehabilitation	1	28	26	28
Proportion of adults with substance misuse problems leaving prison are engaged with treatment (Continuity of Care)	29%	58%	75%	75%

*indicative targets as currently set in the OHID planning documents. To be agreed by OHID and the Council.

2.5 DATRIG targets for 2025/2026 have been set to maintain 2024/25 performance or achieve previous ambitions where these are yet to be met. Rotherham has met several of the 2024/2025 SSMTRG targets already and continues to work towards the ambitions for Continuity of Care (between prison and community services on

prisoner release) and the numbers of adults in treatment for opiate use. There is an additional focus, not just on numbers in treatment in 2025/2026 but also on treatment quality which is represented by targets for retention and progress in treatment.

2.6 The Local Delivery Plan will undergo a process, with confirmation from OHID as per grant conditions, with planned activity including the expansion of Rotherham's Recovery Community, and improving the quality and capacity of treatment within ROADs.

2.7 The aims of Individual Placement Support grant are to support individuals who are accessing substance misuse treatment to gain employment and to sustain this in the longer term. This also supports positive treatment and recovery outcomes. The forecast end of year spend is to budget (£157,432). Activity funded in 24/25 has included staffing, promotional activity and client expenses, such as travel, clothing expenses and role-specific training (e.g. food hygiene qualification). In the period, December 2022 to February 2024 the IPS service in Rotherham achieved 60 Job Entries from 336 referrals to the service.

Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant

2.8 The aim of LSSSG 24/25 is to build capacity and demand in the local stop smoking service and increase the number of people setting a quit date by 5,330, with the aim for Rotherham to become smoke free by 2030 (defined as achieving <5% prevalence).

2.9 The forecast end of year spend is £384,845. Activity funded in 24/25 is detailed in section 2.9 with activity being funded through South Yorkshire Tobacco Alliance and Connect Healthcare Rotherham CIC.

2.10 Activity aligned to the five strategic aims in the South Yorkshire Tobacco Control Workplan, which has been delivered through the grant in 24/25 are detailed below.

- Tobacco Alliance (£40,000)
    - Contributed to the South Yorkshire Tobacco Alliance delivery of a South Yorkshire 'Smokefree Starts' communication and engagement plan with a focus on changing social norms within communities with high smoking rates. Two regional online streaming tv adverts were created with a focus on mental health and tackling the myths around smoking and mental wellbeing. A new regional website landing page supported smokers to reach local stop smoking service support.

- Connect Healthcare CIC (£344,845)
    - Recruited a 3.5 additional dedicated specialist staff to provide smoking cessation interventions and support.
    - Delivered training to improve the knowledge and skills of non-specialist staff to extend the reach of stop-smoking interventions.
    - Provided increased access to specialist and non-specialist advisers in locations where the most addicted smokers routinely attend, such as GP

surgeries, mental health services, the hospital QUIT programme, Lung Health Checks and employers.
- Increased spending for stop smoking aids for smokers to use in their quit attempts from the range of products available as recommended by National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCT) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guideline NG209.
- Enhanced the overall stop smoking service infrastructure, digital and remote support and establishing a physical presence in prominent locations.
- Targeted outreach efforts, especially for local priority populations, such as ethnic groups and manual and routine workers.

2.11 The published data for the delivery of the LSSSG so far covers Q1 stop smoking service quits for April to June 2024. The target set by the DHSC was to increase the number of people setting a quit date by 267 in year 1 and increases to 533 in year 2, 1,333 in year 3 and 1,599 for years 4 and 5. In the first three months the service has increased the number of people setting a quit date by 144, and it is therefore expected that the service will exceed the target. There was no target for number of successful quits, but the table shows the rate has remained similar whilst the number has increased.

	Setting a quit date	**Successful Quitter**
April 2023 to June 2023	189	142 (75%)
April 2024 to June 2024	333	234 (71%)
Difference	+144	+92

2.12 Plans for 2025/2026 delivery of the grant follow the same strategic aims as developed previously to align with the Khan review.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option one is to accept the recommendations that: That Cabinet notes the proposed allocation of the Supplementary public health grants (DATRIG, IPS and LSSSG) to support the delivery of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery and stop-smoking services as detailed in the paper and associated work plans and approves delegation to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the lead member for Adult Care and Public Health for the spend of the grants in line with grant conditions.

3.2 Option two is not to accept the funding, this is not recommended. That Cabinet does not accept the funding. Not recommended as this additional resource will enable Rotherham to continue the positive impacts already achieved. The risks associated with this option would be the need to give staff notice and any associated costs both within the Council and for commissioned services.

3.3 It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made against the targets for 2024/2025 and the impacts of those improvements for Rotherham.

2. Note the allocations and changes to the supplementary Public Health Grants for 2025/2026.
3. Approve the delegation to the Director of Public Health for spend against the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) in line with grant conditions.
4. Approve the delegation to the Director of Public Health for the spend against the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (LSSSSG) for 2025/2026 in line with grant conditions.
5. Approve the delegation to the Director of Public Health for spend against the Individual Placement and Support Grant for 2025/26 in line with grant conditions.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Council's Grant Acceptance process has been adhered to for each grant.

4.2 The Operational grant group, which worked to develop plans for SSMTRG expenditure, continues to contribute to grant plan development and management and now reports to the CDP. Additional groups have been established as appropriate to inform the priorities on the grant allocation.

4.3 The Tobacco Control Steering Group have worked in partnership to develop the updated Tobacco Control Work Plan (2025– 2029). The group membership includes Council Directorates (Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, Regeneration and Environment and Children and Young People's Services), Connect Rotherham Healthcare CIC, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust and Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust and representation from South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board Rotherham Place. This group meets quarterly to continue to oversee and contribute to the delivery of the work plan.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The grant awards will be made to the Council for the year 2025/26, with quarterly payment terms. Following Cabinet approval Memoranda of Understanding will be signed with Government and grant spending will commence in line with the grant conditions and local strategies.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The 2024/25 grant is expected to be fully spent in line with grant conditions and Council procedures and should Cabinet approve that the 2025/26 grant it will be similarly managed.

6.2 Where applicable the procurement requirements described at sections 2.2 and 2.8. have been procured in compliance with the Councils Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023.

Subject to acceptance of the proposed grant funding future procurement activity must be undertaken in compliance with the Council Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and applicable legislation, Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended) to be replaced with the Procurement Act 2023 on the 24th February 2025 or Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Council is responsible for improving the health of the Borough's population and part of this relates to the provision of services relating to the prevention of alcohol and drug misuse, supporting stop smoking, and also delivering employment support for those in substance misuse treatment. These functions are not reserved to the Council in legislation or regulations and therefore are executive functions, exercisable by the Cabinet, and capable of delegation in accordance with this report.

7.2 These functions are not reserved to Council in legislation or regulations and therefore are executive functions, exercisable by the Cabinet. The Service must ensure compliance with all the grants' conditions which includes the claims, reporting, and monitoring arrangements set out in the terms and conditions of the three grants; DATRIG, LSSSSG, and Individual Placement and Support Grant are followed in accordance with Rule 14.10 to 14.14 of the Council's Financial, Procurement Procedure Rules."

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 All of the roles created by SSMTRG, continued by the 2025/2026 DATRIG allocation will potentially be at risk should the expected Grant be discontinued after that time, both within the Council and in provider services. Due Human Resources processes will be complied with should there be a service change.

8.2 There are no HR implications associated with LSSSG for this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Stakeholders including children's and young people's services, safeguarding, adult care and housing are integral to both the Combatting Drugs Partnership and the Operational Grant group. Within the new DATRIG plans there is a specific area of focus on Improving capacity and quality of children and young people's alcohol and drug services. This has been developed with ROADS and the findings from the recent Children and Young People's Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment.

9.2 Supporting adults to quit increases the likelihood of children living in smoke-free homes.

9.3 The grant funding is to support smokers to quit tobacco; the current commissioned service provided by Connect Healthcare Rotherham CIC includes a Young Person Stop Smoking service, which is delivered in partnership with the school nurses as part of the 0-19 Service (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust) for young people aged 12 and over who are dependent on nicotine.

9.4 The aim to reduce variation in smoking rates and will also direct efforts to support Rotherham's most vulnerable groups, including:

- People with mental health conditions.
- People working in routine and manual jobs.
- Communities in areas of high deprivation.
- Ethnic groups with a high smoking prevalence.
- LGBTQIA+ people.

9.5 The referral route via NHS Health Checks will support engagement with this population as the delivery of NHS Health Checks prioritises the populations of GP practices with the highest levels of deprivation.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An equalities screening has been completed to support this decision and is attached at Appendix 1. This screening concludes that an equalities impact assessment needs to be completed however, the previous impact assessments connected to these grants remain valid and so no new impact assessment has been completed. (The original impact assessments for these grants are attached at appendix 2,3,4 and 5 for information).

10.2 Some demographic groups are known to have higher rates of smoking and substance misuse, therefore, be at greater risk of substance misuse-related ill health, including people from lower socioeconomic groups. Interventions to reduce prevalence of substance misuse in our communities will help to reduce this health inequality.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no specific implications for CO2 emissions and climate change from this change in approach. If successful in reducing tobacco consumption in Rotherham, there will be indirect benefits along the tobacco supply chain. A Carbon Impact Assessment form has been completed and can be reviewed in Appendix 6.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 For the Public Health Supplementary grants there are a range of key internal partners including Housing, CYPS, Regeneration and Environment and Safeguarding. Key external partners include the current service providers WITHYOU and Connect Healthcare, South Yorkshire Police (including District Commander of Rotherham, and CDP co-chair, Chief Superintendent), South Yorkshire Probation Service, The Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office, Public Health commissioned sexual health services, Voluntary Action Rotherham, Local NHS strategic leads including the Alcohol Care Team at TRFT and RDaSH mental health services. These partners are actively engaged in delivery and oversight of the grants through the Combatting Drugs Partnership and Tobacco Control Steering Group.

12.2 Additional capacity within these Public Health services will enable providers across the borough to play a more focused role in referring people they see in front-line services to access quick and effective support. These support services can receive referrals from any source, including self-referral and online.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 As noted above, current grant allocations are indicative, there is a risk as authorisation process is completed with OHID the allocation may change.

13.2 DATRIG is part of a 10-year national strategy. The allocation continues to be provided on an annual basis and must be spent in the same financial year. To mitigate this, where possible, consideration is made for commissioning activity that will have a legacy impact (e.g. upskilling staff or improved processes).

13.3 There is a continued risk of SSMTRG/DATRIG underspend which may also impact on any possible future funding allocations beyond 2026. To mitigate this, there is flexibility within the plan to ensure minimisation of funds lost to Rotherham and maximisation of use of funds when there is further information on funding post 2026. The Public Health Commissioning team will manage this risk and Public Health Senior Management Team and Drug and Alcohol Grant Management Group will have oversight of grant spending.

13.4 Some of the smoking population might be described as more clinically complex (for example, they may have higher levels of tobacco dependency, live more complex lives or have a range of additional clinical needs or long-term conditions). Over time, there will be a greater proportion of the smoking population remaining in this group. This can make the task of the services more difficult over time whilst potentially increasing the cost of these interventions. To mitigate this challenge, it is important that services are resourced and that the most recent evidence-based practice is used with this group.

13.5 Failure to meet the grant conditions of maintaining the current spending on stop-smoking services and not delivering services as set out in the grant reporting conditions could lead to DHSC withholding up to 30% of the allocated financial year's funding.

13.6 The Public Health Commissioning team will manage compliance with the grant conditions via quarterly contract management meetings, which will monitor and manage grant spending, ensuring that services are delivered as outlined in the grant conditions. The Public Health Senior Management Team and the Tobacco Control Group will have oversight of grant spending via quarterly reporting.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director, ACH&PH

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	03/03/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/02/25
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	19/02/25

Report Author: *Jessica Brooks, Public Health Specialist*
Jessica.Brooks@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 1.

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: Confirmation of Supplementary Public Health Grants for 2025/26 and approval of grant spend	
Directorate: Public Health	**Service area: Commissioning**
Lead person: Jessica Brooks	**Contact:** Jessica.Brooks@Rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Cabinet report sets out recommendations relating to continuation of several supplemental public health grants (Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG), Inpatient Detoxification Grant (IPD), Individual Placement Support Grant (IPS) and the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (LSSSSG).

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?	Yes	
Could the proposal affect service users?	Yes	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	Yes	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?	Yes	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	Yes	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		No
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?** This is a continuation of grants approved by cabinet in 2022 and 2024, although there are potential impacts on equalities. EIAs have previously been completed for each of the

grants which can be found here:

Public Health Proposals for Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025
Public Health Proposals for Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025 - Annual update
Cabinet Report: Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant 12 February 2024

- **Key findings**

Although there are equalities implications for each of these grants, due to that fact that equalities screenings were completed for the previous cabinet reports and there has been no change in the equality's implications for each grant in regard to protected characteristics, it was deemed appropriate to follow those EIAs when considering the approval of the continuation of these grants.

- **Actions**

Due to there being no change in the equality's implications of these grants, and the EIAs from previous papers still being completely relevant, no further action is needed for the continuation of these grants.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A see above
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A see above
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Simon Dennis, Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Jessica Brooks	Public Health Specialist	05/02/25
Jacqui Wiltschinsky	Consultant in Public Health	05/02/25

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	05/02/25

Report title and date	**Confirmation of Supplementary Public Health Grants for 2025/26 and approval of grant spend**
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Will be submitted to go to Cabinet on 17th March 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	05/02/2025

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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: Management of Public Health Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025	
Directorate: **Public Health**	**Service area:** **Commissioning**
Lead person: **Jacqui Wiltschinsky**	**Contact:** Jacqueline.Wiltschinsky@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: [ ] **Strategy / Policy** [x] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Public Health team are preparing for the management of an OHID grant to the support the drug and alcohol services. To inform the commissioning process, targeted groups are being asked to share their experiences of the current service. This will enable commissioners to identify potential gaps in service as well as areas of excellence. The information will be used to improve the service design prior to retendering for the service.

This service is funded through an OHID grant and will support the wider Public Health aim with the delivery of the Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Strategy which sets out 4 priorities:

- All children get the best start in life and go on to achieve their potential
- All Rotherham people enjoy the best possible mental health and wellbeing and have a good quality of life
- All Rotherham people live well for longer
- All Rotherham people live in healthy, safe and resilient communities

It is important to ensure that the process listens and learns from people who use the service, professionals, and partners through the use of a thorough consultation and market engagement exercise.

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?	Yes	
Could the proposal affect service users?	Yes	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	Yes	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?	Yes	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	Yes	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		No

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The Service operates a single point of access (SPA) and referrals are disseminated accordingly. The Service also links with other agencies and partners such as Housing and Early Help to ensure wider accessibility to the service.

It is known that poor physical and mental health is disproportionately experienced by some of the most vulnerable members of our local communities and the recommissioned service will aim to address inequality in health as a general principle, and to prioritise certain target groups.

It will be key to ensure that the specification for the recommissioned service clearly sets out the above requirements to ensure equal access and outcomes across all of Rotherham's communities whilst ensuring that no protected equalities group is being unintentionally disadvantaged or excluded.

To ensure that the recommissioning process identifies any barriers to access, gaps in provision or shortfalls in expected outcomes which may have resulted from either the current service design or delivery, comprehensive consultation will be undertaken.

A Consultation plan has been developed which, through the use of management briefings, team meetings, questionnaires, market engagement, and partnership events will highlight any areas of weakness or strength in the current service design to inform the retender.

There is currently a gap in the information that can be obtained from those that have never accessed support for drug and alcohol misuse. The needs assessment and consultation event are supporting in filling these gaps via other stakeholders including Housing, Probation services, the youth offending team etc. The outcomes will be used to support in shaping a service which will offer equality and diversity for Rotherham residents who require support with substance misuse.

The proposal is for an 'all age' service, within this service the specification will ensure that different age groups have a slightly different service offer in line with consultation outcomes, what has worked well previously and national guidance. Additionally, to this, all people who use the service that require enhanced support will be given a personalised care plan which will be developed with the service user to ensure an individualised approach.

- **Key findings**

Data from the needs assessment identifies that it will be key to consider access and outcomes for the following groups:

- People with a disability
- People with mental health conditions
- Unemployed people and those with low incomes
- Criminal offenders
- Victims of domestic violence, sexual exploitation and child exploitation
- Homeless people
- Children and Young People
- Dependant adults

The consultation will inform how these groups experience the Service currently.

Intelligence and analysis are required to identify any further groups who should also be subject to consultation to ensure that no protected equalities group is being unintentionally excluded.

Work will be undertaken through partnership meetings to strengthen pathways between agencies and services including voluntary services to support vulnerable groups and to ensure they are supported in a timely manner.

In addition an action plan will be developed ensuring the grant meets the requirements of the newly published drugs strategy (From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives).

- **Actions**

The consultation will allow us to gain insight into the outcomes and views of people who currently use the service; the questionnaire will have an Equality and diversity section which will allow us to identify both individual differences and trends across specific groups.

The needs assessment will also feed into the outcomes for specific groups.

The information provided will identify what works well for some and not so well for others within our current service. This information will then be used to inform the new service model and ensure that equality and diversity is considered in every aspect of the specification; allowing an accessible service for all of Rotherham's residents who require support with drug and alcohol misuse.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Planning began: July 2021
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	01/06/2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Jacqui Wiltchinsky PH Consultant

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Jacqui Wiltchinsky	Public Health consultant	01/06/2022
Anne Charlesworth	Head of Public Health Commissioning	01/06/2022
Jessica Brooks	Public Health Specialist	01/06/2022

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	01/06/2022
Report title and date	Management of Public Health Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Will be submitted to on the xx to go to Cabinet on 11th July 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	07/06/2022

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 3

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Management of Public Health Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA):01/06/2022	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Public Health Commissioning
Lead Manager: Anne Charlesworth/Jacqui Wiltschinsky	**Contact number:**
Is this a: [ ] **Strategy / Policy** [X] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Anne Charlesworth	RMBC	Head of Public Health Commissioning
Jacqui Wiltschinsky	RMBC	Consultant in Public Health
Jessica Brooks	RMBC	Public Health Specialist

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.)

Public Health has the lead responsibility for the Management of Public Health Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025 and commissioning of the drug and alcohol service. A commissioning exercise is currently being undertaken which will deliver a new all age drug and alcohol advice, treatment and recovery service from April 2023.

The commissioned drug and alcohol service will deliver the majority of the services, covering advice, treatment and recovery. Additional services will be commissioned via a local delivery partnership which includes partners from the Criminal Justice sector to ensure continuity of care, which will drive a local strategy/action plan.

The services will be available to all Rotherham residents who require support with substance misuse.

Services commissioned by RMBC for drug and alcohol users will be responsive to service user needs and delivered in a way which will be recovery orientated with recovery aspirations being built in from first contact. The service will be integral to improving the treatment completions and exit profiles for Rotherham making recovery more visible to the drug and alcohol users in the borough.

The services will be suitable for all age groups ensuring that a separate children's and young person's offer is available. Additionally, separate pathways for adults requiring treatment and those entering recovery will be developed.

The overarching aims of the services are to prevent young people from becoming dependant adults and to reduce the number of substance misuse dependant adults. The service will also:

- Reduce the level of harm caused to individuals, families and the wider community as a result of drug and alcohol misuse.
- Ensure an accessible service including self-referral routes with short wait times.

- Deliver high quality and safe care which is client centred, offering personalised opportunities for those using drugs and/or alcohol to move towards sustained recovery.
- Offer opportunities for individuals to enter and maintain recovery from dependence .
- Provide non-judgmental services that are fair and equitable providing good access to all and delivering a range of interventions which are evidence based, cost - effective and are responsive to client need.

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

The key sources of information used were:

- National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Monitoring Systems, NDTMS, NATMS this is the primary source of data on the drug and alcohol treatment population nationally and locally.
- Public Health England fingertips profiles which provide comparisons with our statistically similar local authorities.
- Information from the Drugs and Alcohol health needs assessment which has recently been undertaken (August 2021) and consultation and engagement.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Age

Drug and alcohol misuse is a widespread issue and can affect people of all ages. We know from national guidance, best practice and from national and local consultation that children and younger people require a different approach to dependant adults. The service offer must be tailored to each service user, be age appropriate and in line with evidence based best practice.

There is an aging population of opiate users in treatment coupled with an emerging younger population who are using new psychoactive substances.

The average age group (over an 11-year period) of alcohol misuse treatment service users is 35-54. Alcohol misuse can occur at any age. The physical health problems caused by lifelong alcohol misuse may not be realised until later in life.

Regarding young people, there are certain groups of young people identified as more vulnerable to substance misuse which include: children of substance misusing parents; young offenders; young people in care; homeless young people; excluded pupils or frequent non-attenders; sexually exploited young. The needs of children in care and disadvantaged children need to be carefully considered as evidence shows that childhood trauma has been linked with a wide range of negative outcomes in adulthood including substance misuse and mental health problems.

Rotherham's 2019 Secondary School Lifestyle Survey highlights that the percentage of pupils that have tried alcohol but no longer drink or drink a few times a year has increased since 2018. The number of pupils that have alcohol at home under parental / carer supervision has also increased to 65.5% from 64.1% in 2018. The percentage of pupils drinking on a regular basis has decreased. This information could suggest that regular

drinking is decreasing amongst pupils out of the home environment, however controlled methods are taking place within household settings.

The Data from the drugs section of the survey show that there has been an increase of 0.7% in the number of young people who said they have never tried a drug. 6.9% of pupils that were asked said they have tried some form of drug. The most common substances were Cannabis followed by Cocaine and Ecstasy. Compared to the previous year Solvents have been replaced by Ecstasy in popularity.

Sex

A report from the national office of statistics[1] highlights that the number of males in treatment for all substances throughout 2018-19 was 69% compared to 31% of females. This is no different than the local picture. In Rotherham throughout 2018-19 the number of males in treatment for all substance was 70% compared to 30% of females. In the under 18's service 69% were male and 31% female. Although men are more likely to abuse alcohol this is not in proportion with local service user and it will be important to address both male and females need in view of this imbalance. However, the reasons for this could be that women are less likely to use services due to male dominance within the service. To avoid unintended consequences for women, such as male-dominated environments, providers must be alert to their needs and to raised risks. Women with childcare responsibilities may not seek treatment without the provision of a suitable environment, or easy access to one, for their children, which again needs to be considered.

Disability

People with physical disabilities are more likely to misuse substances at 2 to 4 times the rate of the general population. People with a substance misuse addiction are also more likely to become disabled, either through accidental injury or long-term side effects of substance misuse. People with drug and/or alcohol dependencies often have complex needs and other related or unrelated health problems.

Both nationally and locally, there are a large number of drug and alcohol service users that have a disability. In Rotherham 34% of the over 18-year-olds in treatment consider themselves to have at least 1 disability.

Mental Health conditions: In Rotherham throughout 2019-20, 64% of adults and 26% of under 18's were identified as having a mental health need when entering treatment.

It's important to note that little is known about the health of the 'hidden majority' of adults with learning disabilities who don't use learning disability services. It's this group of people with more mild learning disabilities who are most likely to misuse alcohol or drugs.

Race/ Ethnicity

Language barriers can sometimes be an issue, particularly when confidentiality is important. Cultural differences in understanding what constitutes as problematic alcohol consumption may prevent people from presenting to treatment. Appropriate translation

[1] Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2018 to 2019: report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

and interpretation services will need to remain a key priority within the future service model.

Families and people on low incomes

Families and those on low incomes may have difficulty accessing services due to transport links and/or affordability. Childcare issues may be a barrier for some people to engage with treatment interventions. It is important to note that economic disadvantage and social exclusion are primary factors influencing risk of development of serious drug and alcohol problems, and treatment and recovery support needs.

Pregnancy and Maternity

Assumptions should not be made about the parenting capacity of those in substance misuse treatment. Safeguarding assessments are essential but should not be a barrier for people to engage with substance misuse services.

Additional support needs to be made available to support mothers who require support from the service. There are health risks for both mother and baby if the mother misuses drugs and/or alcohol. Services must closely monitor the pregnancy and provide post-natal support and monitoring.

Gender reassignment

Staff need to communicate appropriately with people undergoing gender reassignment e.g. sensitive use of titles Mr/Mrs/Miss.

People need to feel safe and not intimidated within waiting areas.

No issues were identified for those with a religion or belief, those who are Married or in a civil partnership or an individual's sexual orientation. However, actions will ensure that all people will be treat appropriately and with respect.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?
There is a wealth of information surrounding those already engaging with a drug and alcohol service. Additionally, national evidence backs up this information. New trends and patterns of substance misuse, the role of internet sales, and new emerging drugs make it almost impossible to keep up with changes. As a result the service that is offered has to be flexible, expert and able to respond quickly to emerging needs.
However, there are some gaps with local information that is collected for some of the protected characteristic groups this will be improved as part of the new service to be tendered.

There is no routinely available data on people accessing alcohol prevention services (in primary care and other settings), according to protected characteristics.
The NTDMS and NTAMS reports do not include statistical information relating to: transgender, religion or sexual orientation.

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

Monthly contract meetings will be in place between Public Health Commissioning and the provider to monitor the service. The successful service provider must ensure that:

- treatment is provided according to individual needs and that all staff are respectful and sensitive to the needs of all regardless of any protected characteristics and in accordance with legislation and local and national good practice.
- all staff are trained in equality and diversity and competent to work with people who have protected characteristics.
- staff have access to and know how to effectively use interpretation and translation services to enable equity of access and understanding.
- all premises used for service delivery are accessible to disabled people and are well signposted.
- when planning locality working a range of community settings and venues are considered to maximise engagement from a range of communities.
- waiting areas are made as client friendly as possible to prevent these being a barrier to access.
- service promotion and information leaflets are available in plain English/ easy read versions.
- All service offers are age appropriate and in line with national guidance and best practice

The provider will collect appropriate data, conducts regular equity audits, and have the provision to monitor their equality performance and agree actions plans to improve this where necessary.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Consultation with drug and alcohol service users started on 26/08/2021 in the form of a questionnaire which has an 'About you' section focusing on equality, as well as group discussions. Initial information received indicated that service users did not have any complaints with the current service in terms of equality. Findings indicated a similar picture to our data collection surrounding a high number of service users who have a disability and/ or a mental health condition. A full report was produced. Respondents identified the following areas as their most important priorities: • Quick access • Multi-agency working • Outreach and community services • Harm reduction services • Education and training to support prevention and harm reduction • Mental health support • A separate alcohol offer

	The service specification responded to these findings and will be further developed with additional grant funds.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Consultation with service staff started on the 26/08/2021. Service employees make it clear that equality is a priority for the service and that regular audits are done to ensure that each service users' needs are considered, and that employee equality and diversity training is up to date. Employees feel that access options already available meet the needs of service users, particularly as they have community-based options. Key findings of the consultation are included above We have established a stakeholder group which includes a range of staff members for the grant and a wider group we be established upon the commencement of the grant.

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 services, through regular commissioned services, are available to everyone in Rotherham that has a substance misuse need and additional support and signposting will be available for those that need it. The service will strive to be service user led, meaning that where possible they will adapt to the needs of the service user. The grant will further extend availability and accessibility. The services are available at a central location with good disabled access and offers community options across Rotherham, particularly through a GP shared care scheme and community centres. This enhances the accessibility and allows easier access and support for the hard-to-reach cohort. Given the high percentage of people that present with a disability and mental health need a particular focus within the service is to support those individuals; ensuring that the service is fully accessible and that joint pathways with other providers are seamless when offering enhanced support. A service employee will work with the service user at first contact to establish any specific requirements using a joint treatment and recovery support care plan. The services will work with various stakeholders to deliver joint care to ensure that individuals that require enhanced support (which could be due to a protected characteristic) will get the most

appropriate level of care. This could include joint care with the mental health service, maternity or sexual health etc. The services will consider additional communication needs and where there is a need, they will offer a solution. This will include easy to read information and access to interpreters. All members of staff will be expected to undertake equality and diversity training, and this will be monitored on an annual basis. Members of staff will be sensitive, considerate and treat all service users with respect.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? Presently no, but depending on the new provider and engagement with the system e.g. primary care to continue shared care, but this is unknown at this stage.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? The service model of the main drug and alcohol service has a focus on community support options which will ensure access to people closer to home if they need it. An element of the service will be to offer training to stakeholders to ensure that a wide range of professionals can engage and refer/signpost those who may need support across a wider patch, including the harder to reach communities. The design and re-commissioning of the services will establish a more preventative and recovery-based model, and also secure more effective and efficient use of the resources available. Overall, the redesigned treatment system will ensure that more people are supported in achieving sustained recovery from substance misuse and dependence by improving access, and providing individualised care, treatment and support that take account of diversity of needs.
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) Having services in the community could upset those that don't misuse drugs and alcohol; however, community services have been in place for many years as part of the drug and alcohol service and no such affect has become apparent. The current base for the services will remain as Carnson House which is accepted within the community and have had no problems in the past.

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: Equality Analysis for Management of Public Health Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, Public Health Commissioning
Lead Manager: Anne Charlesworth
Summary of findings:
As a strong service is already in place in Rotherham and Equality standards have been regularly monitored. The findings from this report are not a surprise and many actions are already in place. A key summary of the findings is below: • The services needs to cater for all age groups • A high proportion of service users present with a disability • A high proportion of service users present with a mental health need • Language barriers can sometimes be an issue • More men than women enter the service • Community based service options support in accessibility • Additional support needs must be made available either within the service or via joint care/ signposting. • Families or those with low income may need additional support or a different approach (for example: a time and place to suit them due to childcare issues)

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Deliver a service which is sensitive to the needs of all regardless of any protected characteristics. Undertake Equity Audits including service user questionnaires/user experience feedback. Monitor and review equality performance of services. Undertake staff training in equality and diversity and working with people with protected characteristics.	**All**	**Service start date: 01/07/2022**
Develop an all-age service model with specialised pathways to suit all age groups.	**A**	**Service start date: 01/07/2022**
The service will ensure access to appropriate translation and interpretation service when required.	**D, RE**	**Service start date: 01/07/2022**
The service will ensure that interventions are accessible across a range of community venues in culturally appropriate locations.	**D, RE, O**	**Service start date: 01/07/2022**
Provide written literature which is accessible to all.	**D, RE**	**Service start date: 01/07/2022**
Undertake proactive outreach and service promotion amongst traditionally hard to reach groups.	**All**	**Service start date: 01/07/2022**
Work with stakeholders to ensure the services have joint care pathways in place for additional needs.	**D,SO,PM,O**	**Service start date: 01/07/2022**
Ensure a service user led approach is developed through a joint care plan as described in the recommissioning of the project is continued throughout the grant work	**ALL**	**Service start date: 01/07/2022**

***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**
Ben Anderson	Director of Public Health	17/06/2022

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	01/06/2022
Report title and date	Management of Public Health Drugs and Alcohol Grant 2022-2025
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	07/06/2022

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Appendix 4

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: Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Public Health
Lead Person: Amelia Thorp	**Contact number:** 01709 807773
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Cabinet report sets out recommendations relating to the proposed allocation of the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant. The report includes an overview of the proposed applications of the Grant and its potential impact on Public Health.

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?		
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?**

Smoking is the single largest driver of health inequalities in England, where the more deprived a person is, the more likely they are to smoke and to suffer from smoking-related disease and premature death. Additional investment in Local Stop Smoking

Services and Support would help to reduce these inequalities in smoking-related harm.

Tackling health inequalities is a key strand of the Tobacco Control Work Plan, which has been updated to reflect this additional resource. The Plan outlines interventions that aim to reduce the variation in smoking prevalence across communities in Rotherham. A Health Needs Assessment was completed prior to the development of the Tobacco Control Work Plan, which set out key findings and made recommendations that are all addressed in the Plan. Therefore, targeting underserved communities and those at the greatest level of need is a key part of the proposed Plan and is outlined clearly within the Plan. These groups include:

- people with mental health conditions
- people working in routine and manual jobs
- communities in areas of high deprivation
- Ethnic groups with high smoking prevalence
- LGBTQIA+ people

- **Key findings**

More recent data available indicates the same issues as identified in the needs assessment and state that:

- The odds of smoking amongst adults (aged 18-64) with a routine and manual occupation in Rotherham are 2.45 times the odds of smoking amongst people in other occupations.
- 30% of adults with long term mental illness and 25% of adults with anxiety or depression smoke in Rotherham.
- 26% of unemployed people smoke compared to 13 % of employed people, nationally.
- 20% of people who are from a Mixed ethnic group smoke, followed by Other ethnicities (16%); White (14%); Black (10%) Asian (8%) and Chinese (7%) groups
- 22% of people who identify as gay or lesbian smoke compared to 16% of straight people nationally
- 15.1% of men smoke compared to 11.5% of women nationally.

- **Actions**

The findings from the needs assessment identify several key groups for whom smoking is a key factor in exacerbation of health inequalities and therefore impacts on equality. These key groups are therefore identified in the Tobacco Control Work Plan as key priorities.

The proposal for the allocation of support grant will help to fund areas of work where current resource is not available to implement the necessary interventions to support these key groups.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Done alongside Part A screening
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	Completed November 2023
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Amelia Thorp Public Health Specialist

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Gilly Brenner	Consultant in Public Health	23rd November 2023

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	23rd November 2023
Report title and date	Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant
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 – October 2024
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	24th November 2023

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 5

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socioeconomic 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: Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 23/11/2023	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Public Health
Lead Manager: Gilly Brenner	**Contact number:** 01709 254116
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Gilly Brenner	RMBC	Consultant in Public Health
Amelia Thorp	RMBC	Public Health Specialist

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Tobacco Control Steering Group have developed a Tobacco Control Work Plan (2022/23 – 2024/25) that aims to meet the nationally set Smokefree (defined as <5% smoking prevalence) by 2030. Before developing the Plan, a Tobacco Control Health Needs Assessment was conducted. This identified several key groups for whom smoking is a key factor in the exacerbation of health inequalities. The Plan outlines actions to target interventions to the populations with the highest prevalence.

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

The key sources of information used were:

- Office for National Statistics: Adult smoking habits in the UK
- Office for Health Improvement & Disparities Fingertips profiles
- Information from the Tobacco Control Health Needs Assessment (undertaken in April 2022) and associated consultation and engagement.

Age
The 2021 Census showed that there are 265,807 people living in Rotherham, which is a 3.3% increase from the previous Census in 2011. Rotherham has an age structure similar to that of England. In the UK, those aged 25 to 34 years had the highest proportion of current smokers (15.8%), compared with those aged 65 years and over who had the lowest (8.0%).

Sex
In 2021, Rotherham displayed a similar proportion of male and female residents across all age groups. National data shows that a higher proportion of men smoke (15.1%) than women (11.5%).

Disability
The 2021 census showed that 9.9% of Rotherham's population are disabled, and day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long-term conditions (when compared to 7.5% in England). A further 11.4% of Rotherham's population are disabled, when compared to 10.45% in England). The proportion of Rotherham residents who were not disabled was 78.7%, a 1.0% increase when compared to the 2011 Census.

It is estimated that 18.6% of residents aged 16 and over have a common mental health disorder. In Rotherham, 30% of adults with long-term mental illness and 25% of adults with anxiety or depression smoke.

Race/Ethnicity
In the 2021 Census, 88.3% of residents in Rotherham identified their ethnic group as "White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British," a decrease from 91.9% in 2011. The next most common ethnic group was "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh", accounting for 5.3% of the population. National data shows that 20% of people who are from a Mixed ethnic group smoke, followed by Other ethnicities (16%), White (14%), Black (10%), Asian (8%) and Chinese (7%) groups.

Families and people on low incomes
In Rotherham, 21% of LSOAs are in England's 10% most deprived LSOAs. Employment in Rotherham has risen to 73.4% in 2021/22, which is lower than the England average (75.7%). In Rotherham, average weekly full-time earnings are 89% of the national average.

The odds of smoking amongst adults (aged 18-64) with a routine and manual occupation in Rotherham are 2.45 times the odds of smoking amongst people in other occupations. Nationally, 26% of unemployed people smoke compared to 13 % of employed people.

Sexual orientation
Census data from 2021 shows that 91.6% of Rotherham residents are heterosexual, and 2.4% of Rotherham residents are gay or lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, queer, or other. The remaining 6.0% did not respond to the question on sexual orientation. Nationally, 22% of people who identify as gay or lesbian smoke, compared to 16% of heterosexual people.

Gender reassignment
Census data from 2021 shows that 94.6% of Rotherham residents' gender identity was the same as their sex assigned at birth, and 0.5% of residents' gender identity was different from their sex assigned at birth. The remaining 4.9% did not respond to the question on gender identity.

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

There is a wealth of information regarding smoking trends nationally; however, detailed smoking prevalence data, which outlines the demographic groups most likely to smoke, is not available at a local level. The Tobacco Control Steering group are currently working in partnership to build local intelligence to mitigate these gaps in the data.

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

The Tobacco Control Steering Group meet quarterly to monitor the progress of actions outlined in the Tobacco Control Work Plan (2022/23 – 2024/25). Additionally, a Tobacco Control Dashboard has been developed. The Dashboard is reported through the Tobacco Control Steering Group on a quarterly basis.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Engagement was conducted as part of the procurement of the Better Health Service in August – September 2022 which included tobacco control as a key topic. This included:
	
	• Consultation using 'Textocracy' (a texting service aimed at anyone who lives in Rotherham.) – August-September 2022
	
	• Three facilitated in-person workshops with underserved communities within:
	  ○ Rawmarsh (23rd September)
	  ○ Maltby with an older people's group (27th September); and
	  ○ Ferham with an ethnic minority women's group (28th September.)
	
	These workshops were targeted at those living in the 20% most deprived communities but aimed to reach diverse groups within this population segment, acknowledging the heterogeneity of socioeconomic deprivation.
	
	• Engagement with community groups, including:
	  ○ Social supermarket cooking class – 16th September.
	  ○ Crossroads Care – 21st September.
	  ○ Rotherham RISE Mums and Toddlers Group – 22nd September.
	
	Key findings from these include:
	• Taking a compassionate approach – multiple groups mentioned themes that link with services offering a compassionate approach
	• Sustainability – both in terms of favouring sustainable approaches to staying healthy and sustainable support in communities
	• Communication – Social media was important but alternative communication methods should also be utlisied
	• Tackling wider determinants – issues relating to cost-of-living crisis etc.
	• Motivation – potential for incentives to be utilised

Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	The Tobacco Control Work Plan (2022/23 – 2024/25) was produced by the Tobacco Control Steering Group, a multi-agency group that aims to achieve the Smokefree (defined as smoking prevalence <5%) by

	2030 target for Rotherham. The group meets quarterly to monitor progress of actions of the Plan. The Terms of Reference for the group state that representatives should include (but are not limited to) senior representatives from the following: • RMBC – public health • RMBC – Trading Standards and environmental health • RMBC – housing • RMBC – children's services • RMBC – school improvement service • South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue • ASH • QUIT • REMA • SATOD (Stop Smoking at Time of Delivery) • South Yorkshire ICB – respiratory leads • PCN clinical lead/manager • Pharmacy representative • Dental representative • Breathing Space (community respiration team) • RDASH • ROADS • Healthy Hospital Lead TRFT • Respiratory Consultant/Lead TRFT

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) Through regular commissioned services, the services are available to everyone in Rotherham who would like support to quit smoking. The proposals will positively impact the current offer of Community Smoking Stop Smoking Service or the QUIT programme; therefore, they will continue to meet the needs of all regardless of individual protected characteristics, allowing the service to reach more of the population. <u>Gender Reassignment, Sexual Orientation and Race</u> Findings from the tobacco control health needs assessment identified that LGBTQIA+ people and particular ethnic groups have high prevalence of smoking. The additional resource made available through the Local Stop Smoking Service and Support Grant will enable the exploration of opportunities to improve reach to these communities as outlined in the Tobacco Control Work Plan (2022/23 – 2024/25).

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? It is not expected that acceptance of the Local Stop Smoking Service and Support Grant would present any problems or barriers to communities as this would increase the capacity of the community stop-smoking service (CSSS).
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? Acceptance of the Local Stop Smoking Service and Support Grant would increase community stop-smoking service (CSSS) capacity; this will provide communities with more opportunities to engage with the CSSS and smoking cessation support, thus reducing any barriers to access. The grant would also provide opportunities to fund targeted interventions for populations with the highest smoking prevalence, including manual workers, ethnic groups with the highest prevalence, LGBTQIA+ people and people with a severe mental illness (SMI).
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) The most additional funding will be allocated to the existing provider of the CSSS. The current provider as the GP Consortium is accepted within the community.

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: Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health – Public Health
Lead Manager: Gilly Brenner
Summary of findings:
A tobacco control health needs assessment was conducted in 2022 and outlined the communities that have high smoking prevalence in Rotherham. These findings informed the development of the Tobacco Control Work Plan (2022/23 – 2024/25).

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Monitor the impact of the funding on prevalence levels to ensure that smoking rates are reducing in all groups.		**Ongoing**

***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
Ben Anderson	Director of Public Health	11/12/2023
Councillor David Roche	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Public Health	12/12/2023

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk 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	24th November 2023
Report title and date	Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant – February 2023
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

Appendix 6 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	**Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.**	**Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts**	**Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out**
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	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:

This is a continuation of grant delivery, any increases in emissions are likely to be scope 3 related (indirect emissions) – where we are procuring products, services, or people (such as through commuting or service users access to services). These are likely to be minimal.

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

As above, minimal impacts expected as a result of this report. A method of monitoring scope 3 emissions from procurement is currently being reviewed as part of the 2024/25 climate change action plan.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: **(Name, title, and service area/directorate).**	Jessica Brooks Public Health Specialist Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	Qualitative.
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.	No measurement available.
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	CIA420 (Please see also CIA119 and CIA138 for carbon emission changes against none-grant funded baseline activity) Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager

Agenda Item 7

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 17 March 2025

Report Title
Moving Rotherham Partnership Delivery of Place Expansion Grant

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)
Gilly Brenner, Public Health Consultant
gilly.brenner@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides an overview of proposed Sport England investment for Rotherham as part of the Place Expansion programme. It outlines key activities to be undertaken to expand opportunities for physical activity and develop the existing Moving Rotherham Partnership priorities.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

1. Approves spending of the Sport England Place Expansion grant in line with Sport England grant conditions and the development bid proposal outlined in this report.
2. Notes the ambitions of the Moving Rotherham Partnership beyond the Sport England grant.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Part A Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 2 Equalities Full Assessment
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Health and Wellbeing Board, 6th March 2024. Item 12: Annual Update - Physical Activity/Moving Rotherham Board (Pages 105 – 122 in report pack).

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Moving Rotherham Partnership Delivery of Place Expansion Grant

1. Background

1.1 There is growing recognition that increasing physical activity is essential for improving the overall health of the population. Regular movement can significantly reduce the risk and impact of long-term health conditions, enhance social engagement, and support positive mental health for people of all ages in Rotherham.

1.2 However, inactivity (doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week) is distributed unequally with higher rates of inactivity in areas of deprivation, across certain demographic groups and in those with long-term health conditions and disabilities.

1.3 Inactivity in Rotherham is greater than the national average, with almost 1 in 3 inactive adults. Improving physical activity levels across the population, with a particular focus on the least active, would reduce the health risks associated with prematurely developing long-term conditions and improve healthy life expectancy which contributes to wider economic benefits, such as a healthier workforce.

1.4 An increased focus on wider physical activity in Rotherham began with the Local Authority Healthy Weight Declaration which was signed in January 2020.

1.5 Yorkshire Sport Foundation (YSF) were then commissioned by the Chief Executive in July 2021 to undertake a strategic review of physical activity in Rotherham. A broad range of stakeholders were engaged in this process to understand the local system, what was working well and what the challenges were. This culminated in a final Big Active Conversation workshop in January 2023 to develop an action plan.

1.6 This plan is being delivered by the Moving Rotherham Partnership, with a Board chaired by the Director of Public Health, and Council-led subgroups made up of key stakeholders reporting up to the Board. The Moving Rotherham priorities include:

- *Active Champions* - Develop skills and knowledge in relation to physical activity across all organisations and services, so that conversations with local people about being active happen as often as possible.
- *Active Environments* - Help create environments than enable physical activity, whether this is outdoors in green spaces, town centres and local streets, or within schools, colleges and workplaces.
- *Active Communities* - Bringing people together through physical activity has huge potential in helping local communities thrive and become vibrant places to live.
- *Active Communications* - A Rotherham-wide ‘social movement’ and communications plan, helping to make being active in Rotherham something that everybody does, whether this is taking a few extra steps to

open the door to a carer, or running a marathon, and everything in between!

1.7 In 2023 Sport England committed to investing £250m over the next 5 years to expand its Place Partnerships to an additional 80. Sport England's focus for funding is:

- Increasing activity (increasing amount of time people spend being active)
- Decreasing inactivity (decreasing the proportion of population that are classed as sedentary/inactive.)
- Tackling inequality.
- Providing positive experiences for children and young people.

1.8 Rotherham has been identified as investment ready due to the acknowledgement of the successful work and partnerships already in place, with the Council being chosen as a partner in phase one of place expansion. This has resulted in the awarding of a £455k Development Award to Rotherham. The investment has the potential to significantly impact on the Moving Rotherham priorities noted above, and positions Rotherham as part of a selected group of local areas that receive direct support from Sport England.

1.9 This approach will see Rotherham working collaboratively to address local health inequalities, particularly in deprived areas, by fostering a culture that sees physical activity and movement as being a vital, yet normal, part of people's day to day lives.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Sport England investment is in two phases: a development bid, and main award. The development bid is to help better understand the needs and priorities for physical activity in Rotherham ahead of a full award bid being submitted in early 2026.

2.2 The development bid and subsequent main award will significantly increase the scale and pace of the Moving Rotherham partnership plan delivery. The proposal has been developed to continue and build on the work already done, and underway locally, and has involved engaging with partners and stakeholders, using past projects and recent research to inform what should be prioritised in the development phase.

2.3 Three themes have been identified to progress this work – building system capacity, understanding our communities, and people living well and feeling included.

2.4 Under these themes, the development bid proposal includes:

- Creation of new roles that build local capacity to deliver the Moving Rotherham priorities. These include Council-hosted roles of a Programme Manager, Research and Evaluation Lead, and Children

and Young People Officer.

- Providing funding through a grant agreement for a project to use community engagement activities to identify how we can utilise outdoor and green spaces to better effect for physical activity, delivered by Voluntary Action Rotherham (Flux).

- Creation of an Activity hub hosted by Connect Healthcare to increase accessibility to exercise and activity for people with long-term health conditions, through a single referral route and use of health coaches. This will help connect people to activity opportunities that best suit their needs, including condition-specific and more generalised community-based activity sessions. Connect Healthcare are well placed to deliver this service as they have access to clinical records and are integrated into primary care delivery and are successfully delivering a health coach model for the Better Health Service weight management contract.

- Help us develop initiatives and positive messages to help normalise everyday movement through some media and marketing support.

- Support the partnership through additional training for a range of stakeholders.

2.5 The development grant award is £455,870. The spend proposal is outlined below:

Activity	Value	Action
RMBC Staffing Moving Rotherham Programme Manager 1FTE for 2 years Research and Evaluation 0.6 FTE for 18 months CYP Officer 0.6 FTE for 18 months	216,910	RMBC Recruitment
Projects and community engagement support Outdoors Active provided by Voluntary Action Rotherham (FLUX) (£40K) (Grant Funding) Marketing and Comms plan commission (£20K) Community facilitation fund (£10K) Training and development for partners (£14,200) Incurred development costs (£700)	84,900	Grant Agreement Procurement in compliance with Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

Activity Hub provided by Connect Healthcare Health Coaches x 3 and Lead health coach Hub development and training	154,060	Procurement via the existing Integrated Public Health & Lifestyle Behaviour Change Service (Get Healthy Rotherham - Wellbeing) - Non-Core Framework in compliance with The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023

2.6 Delivery of the bid elements will additionally enable the partnership to expand its work across the 4 active priorities in areas not directly funded by the grant. Work will include greater reach to inactive people, with additional work to focus on community development, supported by Yorkshire Sport Foundation, and building a stronger disability network to support those with greater barriers to accessing physical activity. It also enhances the existing work within the Culture Sport and Tourism service particularly with local sports providers, such as community sports clubs and voluntary organisations. It will contribute to the development of leisure facilities and green and blue space infrastructure. It aligns to the Children's Capital of Culture programme delivery, supporting a wider range of young people's active opportunities as defined by them.

2.7 Progressing with this work will allow the Moving Rotherham Partnership to create projects and programmes that address specific local issues, health inequalities, or education, based on what the community needs most, ensuring that the people of Rotherham have a say in decisions that affect them.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1: Cabinet approves spending of the Sport England Place expansion grant in line with grant conditions and the proposals outlined in the body of this report.

3.2 Whilst Sport England place expansion is place led, it must be in line with Sport England expectations and working principles highlighted in the bid process. Rotherham's submission for this Sport England funding is based on working principles that include use of the National Evaluation Learning Partner (NELP) framework which promotes community led and system wide approaches, the demonstration of how the investment strengthens this, and the creation of sustainable ways of working. The Development funding will support further joint working with Sport England ahead of the full award submission in 2026.

3.3 Option 2: Cabinet does not approve spending of the grant and rejects the Sport England investment.

3.4 Recommended Proposal

Option 1 is recommended. Not accepting the bid funding would significantly impact the progression of the Moving Rotherham priorities and potential future Sport England investment.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The commissioned Yorkshire Sport Foundation strategic review of physical activity and resulting Big Active Conversation engaged a broad range of stakeholders, including the Council, partner organisations, voluntary sector, and local providers. This engagement set the direction for the Moving Rotherham Partnership action plan and current direction for physical activity focus.

4.2 Insight from public consultations conducted in other areas has also been utilised to inform the bid submission, including from patients with long-term health conditions through a Primary Care Network supported survey, Children's Capital of Culture engagement projects, mental health consultation work, engagement at Rotherham Show and other neighbourhood feedback.

4.3 Internal and external partners have also widely been engaged in the development bid proposal through consultations and presentations to key groups, including:

- Public Health Senior Management Team
- Moving Rotherham Board
- Culture, Sport and Tourism Senior Management Team
- Prevention and Health Inequalities Board
- Cultural Partnership Board
- Health and Wellbeing Board

4.4 Additionally, leadership training for system partners has been delivered and will continue as an ongoing program in the coming months.

4.5 South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR), Connect Healthcare, Yorkshire Sport Foundation, Rotherham United Community Trust and Places Leisure, all provided statements of support for the bid. Their input has helped make the proposal clearer and more effective by including important insights and expertise.

4.6 Further engagement and consultation will be undertaken ahead of the full award submission early 2026.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Sport England approved the development bid submission in January. Subject to Cabinet approval, formal agreements and award of the funding can progress immediately.

5.2 The Council on behalf of Moving Rotherham Partnership are applying for a development award at this stage with a full award to be applied for in twelve months' time.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Council associated with this report. The grant allocation is £0.456m and will fund all planned spend on the activities associated with the place expansion programme.

6.2 There are varying procurement implications associated with the activity contained within this report and detailed in the table at section 2.5.

6.3 There are no procurement implications associated with the RMBC staffing, as this will be subject to Council recruitment processes.

6.4 For the Projects and community engagement support activity there are no procurement implications associated with the grant funding project for Outdoors Active to be delivered by Voluntary Action Rotherham (FLUX). The remainder of the activity in this section will be procured in line with the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

6.5 The Activity Hub requirement aligns with the scope of an existing framework contract delivered by Connect Healthcare Rotherham CIC for the Integrated Public Health & Lifestyle Behaviour Change Service (Better Health Service) which is now subject to the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 ("PSR"). To ensure compliance with PSR it is proposed a call off arrangement/work order is made from the framework contract to cover the requirements of the Activity Hub.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 In relation to the services relating to the Activity Hub these would be services subject to the new Provider Selection Regime under the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023.

7.2 If the Council wishes to call-off under the Non- Core Framework for Integrated Public Health & Lifestyle Behaviour Change Service (Better Health Service), it would be a new award and must comply with the Provider Selection Regime.

7.3 Regulation 18(3) states that where a framework agreement is concluded with a single provider, an authority may award a contract without a competition in accordance with that framework agreement.

7.4 The Council has created a Non-Core Framework Agreement with a single provider and as such is permitted to complete an award/call off without a competition in accordance with the original framework as established.

7.5 In relation to the Head Grant from Sports England, the Service must ensure that the claims, reporting, and monitoring arrangements set out in the terms

and conditions of the development and final grant with Sports England are followed in accordance with Rule 14.10 to 14.14 of the Council's Financial, Procurement Procedure Rules.

7.6 The proposed onward grant to Voluntary Action Rotherham (Flux) will set out what is required of them in terms of outputs and outcomes and will be legally enforceable. Further, the grant would not amount to a subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 as Voluntary Action Rotherham (Flux) is not an enterprise engaged in economic activity.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 The development bid proposal includes creating three new temporary posts within the Council. Programme Manager, Research and Evaluation Lead and Children and Young People Officer. Due processes to be carried out in accordance with Council Policy.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The development bid proposal includes a specific Children Young People post to ensure strong links with Children's Capital of Culture and ongoing support for this cohort of the population in the future.

9.2 Plans are already being made to further speak with communities and learn about their challenges, community consultation is important for understanding the needs of children, young people, and their families so programmes can be designed to help them in the best way.

9.3 By building on work already being done, this funding can support programmes that make it easier for these groups to be active, leading to better physical and mental health, confidence, and opportunities to connect with others.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Equalities implications have been considered and are described in the Sport England place expansion development bid themes.

10.2 *Understanding Our Communities*. This is about gaining a deeper understanding of local communities and the factors driving or hindering physical activity in different neighbourhoods or demographics, with a particular focus on Middle Super Output Area neighbourhoods identified by Sport England as priorities due to greater levels of inactivity. Initiatives will then be co-designed with communities, ensuring they are relevant and accessible.

10.3 *People Living Well and Feeling Included*. This theme of work will focus on physical activity support for inactive people including those with long-term conditions and disabilities, who are more likely to face barriers to being active.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications for CO_2 emissions and climate change arising from this report.

11.2 Being more physically active benefits the environment by reducing carbon emissions through walking or cycling instead of driving, lowering fuel consumption, and improving air quality. It decreases resource use by reducing the demand for cars, infrastructure, and disposable vehicle-related products. Active lifestyles also promote the creation and use of green spaces, which support biodiversity and absorb CO_2, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable environment[1].

11.3 The wider work of the Moving Rotherham Partnership links closely with the active travel agenda, which can contribute to a modal shift to more sustainable transport including walking, cycling and wheeling.

11.4 An active outdoors project, led by Voluntary Action Rotherham (Flux), will also be funded to help identify how outdoor space can be used more regularly to support people moving more.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Involving partners in physical activity work brings many positives, including opportunities to support communities and promote sustainable development.

12.2 Advocacy is key to showcasing the benefits of physical activity. Workforce development through education and training ensures skilled delivery of initiatives with consistent messaging to strengthening community health and wellbeing.

12.3 To see meaningful system change, partners are developing a more integrated and collaborative approach. Supporting communities and promoting sustainable development require partners to think beyond isolated initiatives and work together across sectors.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There is a reputational risk and a risk of not being able to secure future investment from Sport England if the grant is not accepted at this development stage.

13.2 One of the key challenges will be gaining buy in from all stakeholders and bringing them along with the changes. The complexity of system wide changes needs a measured and deliberate approach. To fully realise the potential of Moving Rotherham priorities, continuing to strengthen partnership working will be essential. Not being able to do this, whilst unlikely, would have a negative impact on the pace of delivery. Systems leadership training

[1] Cycling and walking can help reduce physical inactivity and air pollution, save lives and mitigate climate change

sessions have been provided to support partners in this way of working and ongoing training support is included in the grant.

13.3 Alternative metrics that better reflect the true impact and effectiveness of the changes of the work of the Moving Rotherham Partnership will be considered to ensure a more accurate and informed assessment of success. Measuring impact of complex systems programmes of activity is difficult and an ongoing national challenge. The Research and Evaluation officer post is included in the grant to provide capacity and expertise in supporting Rotherham to better identify and monitor the impact of this work on physical activity levels in the borough.

14. Accountable Officers

Gilly Brenner, Public Health Consultant

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	03/03/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/02/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	19/02/25

Report Author: Gilly Brenner gilly.brenner@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1

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: Moving Rotherham partnership delivery of the Sport England Place Expansion grant	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Public Health
Lead person: Gilly Brenner	**Contact:** gilly.brenner@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** X **Other** **If other, please specify:** Partnership delivery of a Council-hosted grant. Includes services / functions (eg Active Hub and active outdoors engagement project), but also includes strategic development of action plans, wider system-based working and evaluation.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This is a screening of the proposed delivery of Rotherham's Sport England Place Expansion development grant.

- Creation of new roles that build the capacity to grow the Moving Rotherham Partnership and will include Council hosted roles of a Programme Manager, Research and Evaluation Lead, and Children and Young People Officer.

- Provide funding for a project to use community engagement activities to identify how we can utilise outdoor and green spaces to better effect for physical activity, delivered by VAR (Flux Rotherham).

- Creation of an Active Hub to increase accessibility to exercise and activity for people with long term health conditions, through a single referral route and use of Health Coaches. This will navigate people to activity opportunities that best suit them, including condition-specific and more generalised community-based activity sessions.

- Media and marketing support to develop initiatives and positive messages to help normalise everyday movement.

- Additional training for a range of stakeholders.

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

N/A

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?** Consideration of equality and diversity is inherent in the grant proposal as a criterion of the bid outcomes is "tackle inequalities".
• **Key findings** It is well evidenced (Understanding and addressing inequalities in physical activity report) that there is inequality in access and uptake of physical activity and sport. People with disabilities or health conditions and individuals living in more deprived areas, females and certain ethnic groups are more likely to be less active.
• **Actions** The development bid proposal describes how inequalities will be addressed through 2 of the delivery themes: *Understanding Our Communities.* This is about gaining a deeper understanding of local communities and the factors driving or hindering physical activity in different neighbourhoods or demographics, with a particular focus on Middle Super Output Area neighbourhoods identified by Sport England as priorities due to greater levels of inactivity. Initiatives will then be co-designed with communities, ensuring they are relevant and accessible. *People Living Well and Feeling Included*. This theme of work will focus on physical activity support for inactive people including those with long-term conditions and disabilities, who are more likely to face barriers to being active.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	20 January 2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	31 January 2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Gilly Brenner

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Public Health Senior Management Team		16/01/25

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	10 January 2025
Report title and date	Moving Rotherham partnership delivery of the Sport England Place Expansion grant
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 paper for 17th March 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	Part A sent 10 January 2025

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 2
PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Moving Rotherham Partnership delivery of the Sport England place expansion grant	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 31/01/25	
Directorate: **Adult Care, Housing and Public Health**	**Service area:** **Public Health**
Lead Manager: Gilly Brenner	**Contact number:**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify** Partnership delivery of a Council-hosted grant. Includes services / functions (eg Active Hub and active outdoors engagement project), but also includes strategic development of action plans, wider system-based working and evaluation.	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Gilly Brenner	RMBC	Public health consultant
Kate Green	RMBC	Public health specialist
Nick Wilson	Yorkshire Sport Foundation	Development manager

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

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

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

It is well evidenced that increasing physical activity is essential for improving the overall health of the population. Regular activity can significantly reduce the risk and impact of long-term health conditions, enhance social engagement, and support positive mental health for people of all ages in Rotherham.

Despite this, inactivity (doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week) is distributed unequally with higher rates of inactivity in areas of deprivation, across certain demographic groups and in those with long-term health conditions and disabilities. Inactivity in Rotherham is greater than the national average, with almost 32% of Rotherham's adults classed as inactive. That national average for inactive adults is 26%.

The Sport England investment will be used to help the Moving Rotherham Partnership gain a deeper understanding of local communities and the factors driving or hindering physical activity in different neighbourhoods or demographics, with a particular focus on Middle Super Output Area neighbourhoods identified by Sport England as priorities due to greater levels of inactivity.

Rotherham are receiving investment as part of a development award at this stage, there will be an opportunity to bid for a main award in 12 months, which will enable us to implement specific actions to address the challenges raised.

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

There is a range of information available that has been and can continue to be used to inform the work. We will also be collecting more data around this as we move to complete our full awards plan for Sport England.

https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/data/health-behaviours/physical-activity

https://www.yorkshiresport.org/data-hub

https://www.yorkshiresport.org/what-we-do/data-and-insight/sport-and-physical-activity-matters-in-south-yorkshire

The Active Lives Children and Young People Survey by Sport England is the most comprehensive study of activity levels among 5-16-year-olds in England. It provides annual insights into their sport and physical activity habits.

Key Findings from the 2023-24 Report:

Activity levels remain stable, with 3.3 million (47.8%) children meeting the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) guideline of 60+ minutes of activity per day. This is unchanged from last year but up 4.5% since 2017-18.

2.1 million (29.6%) children are less active, averaging under 30 minutes per day. This figure is also stable from last year but has improved by 3.3% (250,000 fewer inactive children) since 2017-18.

Attitudes towards sport and physical activity have remained largely unchanged over the last two years.

The full report provides further insights into trends and participation levels.

Whilst this is the national overview this can be coupled with additional data sources (see above) to help gave a richer picture.

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

Inequality in access and uptake of physical activity and sport is well evidenced
Understanding and addressing inequalities in physical activity

We know people with disabilities or health conditions and individuals living in more deprived areas, females and certain ethnic groups are more likely to be less active. What we want to better understand, and what the development award will be used for, is what this looks like in Rotherham. We want to engage local communities to understand what the barriers and enablers are to being physically active, particularly in deprived areas and those who are least active. Outcomes from this engagement will inform a further bid to Sport England for additional investment, and the ongoing development of the Moving Rotherham plan including actions which address inequalities and make physical activity more accessible to everyone.

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

As part of our investment we will be recruiting a dedicated officer to lead the work around data and insight on physical activity.

We will also have the following in place:

- Theory of Change

Where needed, we will also develop additional Theories of Change to better understand and address specific local needs, ensuring interventions are targeted and impactful. This work will be supported by Yorkshire Sport Foundation (YSF) and Rotherham's Public Health Intelligence Team, who will provide additional expertise and data to guide decision making. This also includes working closely with community leaders to identify specific barriers, co-produce solutions, and test interventions that support behaviour change.

- 6 Monthly Evaluation and Learning Reporting

We have defined progress measures, such as collaborative activities, participation growth, and insights gathering, which will contribute to the required 6 monthly reporting cycle. These measures will ensure progress is tracked, learning is captured, and approaches can be adapted based on insights and evidence.

- Insights and Data Infrastructure

The development of the Physical Activity dashboard and the gathering of data on activity levels, barriers, and local insights will form the evaluation infrastructure. This work will be further supported by the YSF (Yorkshire Sport Foundation) and the Public Health Intelligence Team, ensuring we generate high-quality, evidence-based insights to inform our plans.

- Learning Through the Place Expansion NELP Programme

Rotherham's representation on Cohort One of the Place Expansion NELP sessions has provided valuable opportunities to share learning, reflect on emerging challenges, and build capacity. This experience will further inform and enhance our evaluation and learning approach during this phase.

By combining collaborative approaches, data-driven insights, and flexibility to respond to emerging needs, our methods align fully with the Development Award requirements. The support from partners like YSF, the Public Health Intelligence Team, and learnings from the NELP programme will ensure Rotherham's evaluation and learning goals are well-supported and ready for deeper impact in future phases. The ongoing work around systems maturity will also be beneficial here.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	A survey of patients with long term health conditions registered at practices in selected areas of high deprivation (Maltby and Dinnington) was undertaken in December 2023 to better understand their preferences and experiences in relation to managing their condition. The survey demonstrated that physical activity helps people with long term conditions look after their health, this insight contributed to development of the bid proposals.

	Insight from Children's Capital of Culture engagement projects, mental health consultation work, engagement at Rotherham Show and other neighbourhood feedback has also informed the development bid. We have used recent insight around mental health and loneliness and the Uplift evaluation reports also give additional insight that can be utilised. One of the central themes of this work is to undertake a wide range of community engagement and it is expected that this will increase our understanding in this area.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Yorkshire Sport Foundation were commissioned to undertake a strategic review of physical activity in Rotherham in 2021, which engaged a broad range of stakeholders including the Council, partner organisations, voluntary sector, and local providers. This led into the Big Active Conversation workshop in January 2023 which set the direction for physical activity in Rotherham. A series of stakeholder workshops took place in 2024 to develop a model to put exercise into clinical pathways for people with long term health conditions. One of the elements of this model (developing a referral hub) forms part of the develop bid proposals. Internal and external partners have also widely been engaged in the development bid proposal through consultations and presentations to key groups, including: • Public Health Senior Management Team • Moving Rotherham Board • Culture, Sport and Tourism Senior Management Team • Prevention and Health Inequalities Board • Cultural Partnership • Health and Wellbeing Board • Moving Rotherham – Wider physical activity and health sub-group Leadership training for system partners also took place in July 2024 and will continue as an ongoing program as part of the place expansion work. This was attended by a range of partners and helped demonstrate the importance of system wide work in developing physical activity opportunities. This will be followed up in

	February 2025 with further sessions due to be planned to keep the momentum. A chronic pain workshop was held on 13th February 2024 which covered a number of topics and highlighted the importance of physical activity in supporting this work.

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) This is to be built on a community led approach, ensuring that the needs and priorities of the community shape its development. This means actively engaging with individuals and groups to gather insights, listen to their experiences, and identify the specific challenges they face. As we continue to learn more through ongoing dialogue and engagement, the approach will evolve to better meet the needs of the people it aims to support. A key focus is on understanding the barriers that different groups experience, whether these are physical, social, financial, or psychological. By identifying these challenges, the initiative can work towards removing obstacles and creating more inclusive opportunities. At its core, this approach promotes a **‘**physical activity for all’ ethos, ensuring that everyone—regardless of age, ability, background, or circumstances—has the opportunity to participate in and benefit from physical activity. By prioritising inclusivity and continuous learning, we should see a stronger, healthier, and more engaged community.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? The work of the Moving Rotherham Partnership should not create any problems or barriers. It seeks to remove and tackle those that already exist.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? The aim is to create a positive impact by actively identifying and removing barriers that may prevent individuals or groups from accessing opportunities. These barriers can take various forms, including physical, social, financial, or perceived obstacles. By gaining a deeper understanding of how these challenges affect different members of the community, the initiative can implement targeted solutions to improve accessibility and inclusivity. A key component of this effort is the development of an Active Hub, which will serve as a central resource for understanding community needs, signposting individuals to relevant opportunities, and creating new initiatives where gaps exist. The Hub will work to ensure that people from all backgrounds can participate fully, whether by addressing physical

access issues, tackling social barriers such as lack of awareness or confidence, or challenging perceptions that may discourage engagement.
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) It is expected to have a positive impact on community relations by promoting inclusive benefits for all. However, there may be a perception that certain groups gain more than others, particularly based on funding distribution. To address this, clear and transparent communication will be key in demonstrating that the initiative is designed to bring advantages to the entire community. Efforts will focus on building on existing communications, such as active travel campaigns, while developing a structured marketing and communications plan. This will include sharing case studies, showcasing role models, and ensuring consistent messaging that highlights the broader benefits. Additionally, alternative funding sources may be explored to support groups that may not be central to the main funding bid, ensuring that no one feels excluded or disadvantaged. By proactively addressing concerns and maintaining open dialogue, we hope to build on positive community relations and a sense of shared benefit.

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: Moving Rotherham Partnership delivery of Sport England place expansion grant
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health. Service: public health
Lead Manager: Gilly Brenner
Summary of findings:
Consideration of equality and diversity is inherent in Rotherham's grant proposal as a criterion of the bid outcomes is "tackle inequalities". The equality analysis assures that in developing the proposal equality and diversity issues have widely been considered, and demonstrates how these will be addressed through key actions.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Recruitment of lead roles (Programme Manager, CYP lead & research and evaluation lead) – will support increased capacity to tackle inequalities in delivery of the Moving Rotherham Partnership. The CYP Officer post will specifically focus on equality and uptake of physical activity for children and young people. For young people the drop off in physical activity in girls as they age will be a focus.	**O (CYP), S**	**April 2025**

Identification of focus MSOAs – using data to identify neighbourhoods with lower uptake of physical activity will help us target and then work with communities of inequality.	**O (areas of deprivation)**	**March 2025**
Commission the Active Hub (in partnership with Connect Healthcare) – this service will specifically work with people with long-term health conditions who are less physically active. These conditions are over-represented in older people and people with disabilities. This focus should also support carers.	**A,D,C**	**April 2025**
Gathering of evidence of need through community, partner and stakeholder consultation in order to submit the full award bid to Sport England – community insight is a significant part of this work, identifying barriers and enabling more equal access. This will contribute to a further main award submission to support these findings with greater investment.	**This will identify key groups that need additional support**	**January 2026**

***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
Ben Anderson	Director of Public Health	03/02/25
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult, Care and Housing	03/02/25

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	31 January 2025
Report title and date	Moving Rotherham Partnership delivery of the Sport England Place Expansion grant – Cabinet report 17 March 2025
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	3rd February 2025

Appendix 3 - Carbon Impact Assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	**Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.**	**Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts**	**Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out**
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No impact		Any change in use of buildings such as leisure facilities and community buildings is not expected to have an impact on overall emissions.	Places Leisure in Rotherham are currently installing solar panels to improve energy efficiency and emissions.	Energy use of Places Leisure facilities is reported via contract meetings.
Emissions from transport?	No impact			The overall impact of increasing physical activity levels is expected to increase uptake of active travel which will decrease emissions through modal shift.	
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: None					

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

Supporting information:	
Completed by: **(Name, title, and service area/directorate).**	Kate Green, Public Health Specialist Gilly Brenner, Public Health Consultant Public Health Service, Adult, Care Housing and Public Health.
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	None
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: Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer

Agenda Item 8

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 17 March 2025

Report Title
Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham Year 1 Update

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
Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)
Kelly White, Acting Assistant Director Early Help & Family Engagement

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024-2029, approved by Cabinet in March 2024, was developed in response to revised government guidance, including the Department for Education (DfE) new edition 'Working Together to Safeguard Children December 2023'.

Following the launch of the Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024-2029 in November 2024, the government published 'Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive'. This policy statement set out the Government's ambitious approach to rebalancing the children's social care system toward earlier intervention through Family Help.

This report provides an update on the progress made in year 1 of the Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024-2029.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress made in year one of the Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029 Delivery Plan.

2. Notes the minimum expectations detailed in The Families First Partnership Programme: Initial guidance document issued in December 2024.

3. Are provided with a further update, and refreshed action plan in autumn 2025, once future government guidance is received.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms
Appendix 2: Family Help Road Map
Appendix 3: Part A - Initial Equality screening Assessment form
Appendix 4: Early Help Strategy Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Cabinet report - Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029. 18th March 2024
Early Help Strategy – Family Help in Rotherham 2024-2029
Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)
Children Act 2004 (legislation.gov.uk)
Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) | NSPCC Learning
Guide for children and young people: Stable Homes, Built on Love - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Children's social care: national framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-programme%20
Place Partnership – Healthy Rotherham (yourhealthrotherham.co.uk)
Health Wellbeing Strategy 2018 New branding.pdf (rotherham.gov.uk)
https://www.rscp.org.uk/downloads/file/158/child-exploitation-priorities-2023-to-2028
council-plan-2022-25 (rotherham.gov.uk)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
N/A

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham Year 1 Update

1. Background

1.1 The Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024-2029, approved by Cabinet in March 2024, articulates Rotherham's vision for family help:

All agencies working together to ensure that children, young people, and families have their needs identified early so that they can receive swift access to targeted help and support. (co-produced and agreed by partners, stakeholders, children, young people, and families.)

1.2 The Strategy describes three phases of support for children and families and concludes with how children, families and other key stakeholders will co-produce delivery of the vision over the next five years.

1.3 The Strategy was developed in response to legislative change. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (Working Together) gives every practitioner working in a multi-agency system clarity about what is required of them individually and how they need to work in multi-agency partnerships to deliver effective services, support and help to children and their families.

1.4 The Strategy describes three areas of support for children and families. These are Universal and Community Family Help; Focused Family Help; and Specialist Family Help. In line with the new government direction, the Council have adopted the use of the term 'Family Help' as reflected in our Strategy. Going forward, unless referring to documents named under the previous naming configuration, Family Help will be the used term.

1.5 **Universal and Community Family Help**

Universal and Community services are available to all children, young people, and families in Rotherham. These services are provided by lots of different agencies such as nurseries, schools, and colleges; GPs, midwives, and health visitors; children centres and family hubs, libraries, youth services, and community organisations. They are the starting point for any family in Rotherham requiring information, advice and support. Most families will not require support beyond this offer.

1.6 **Focused Family Help**

This will provide help where families are not managing to effect positive change and they require enhanced, more focused and/or specialist support. This will include children and their families who need additional support to meet their full potential or whose needs are sufficiently complex. Examples include mental health support in schools, targeted prevention work from Youth Justice teams or early help casework in Children and Young People's Services.

1.7 **Specialist Family Help**

Specialist services to children and their families are provided where children and young people need a higher level of support; may be experiencing or likely to suffer significant harm; in circumstances where improvements have not been achieved through universal and community family help, or focused family help. This can include services for disabled children, special school arrangements or specialist physical or mental health provision. It may also include child protection services, working with those experiencing harm outside the home, care arrangements or youth justice services, including custody. Specialist Family Help is provided to families where the concerns are high, and support has been exhausted or not appropriate due to the level of concern.

1.8 A five-year Delivery Plan accompanied the Strategy as a roadmap to achieving the three areas of support for children, young people and families. They detail:

Phase 1 (2024/24) Design
Phase 2 (2025/26) Implement and Deliver
Phases 3 & 4 (2026-2028) Maintain and Operate
Phase 5 (2029) Evaluate

1.9 Phase 1 (2024/25) Design objectives included:

- Consult with children, young people and families on new ways of working.
- Identify and consult with stakeholders (wider Local Authority, Police, Health etc.)
- Consider the new 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' Framework 2023 and incorporate any required changes for Rotherham (P2.)
- Develop a roadmap - child's journey across the Family Help system
- Review and update Early Help Systems Guide (July 2024.)
- Budget and HR integration for relevant agencies.

1.10 Additional to this, the Children's Social Care National Framework (National Framework) sets out the purpose, principles and enablers of good practice and the outcomes that should be achieved.

1.11 As well as the National Framework, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (Working Together) gives every practitioner working in a multi-agency system clarity about what is required of them individually and how they need to work in multi-agency partnerships to deliver effective services, support and help to children and their families. The guidance describes what everyone working with families should do and helps everyone come together with a clear vision for how to transform the support that families receive.

1.12 In November 2024 the Government published 'Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive'. This policy statement set out the Government's ambitious approach to rebalancing the children's social care system toward earlier intervention through Family Help and strengthened multi-agency child

protection - alongside other efforts to support children to live with kinship carers or in fostering families and fix the broken care market.

1.13 The Families First Partnership Programme: Initial guidance document (to be followed by published guidance in spring 2025) is the first step in confirming the expectations for the national reforms. The guidance is intended to support Local Authorities and their partners to start developing plans for April 2025 and beyond. The expectation for the next year is that Local Authorities and partners will focus primarily on transformation. Local Authorities and their partners are encouraged to consider:

- How the end-to-end system of preventative services function in their area in preparation for review and redesign of the system.
- Engaging early with local partners and agencies and protecting time to consider how services can be co-designed and developed in partnership.
- Who in their areas will be leading on local transformation, e.g., a lead Assistant Director.
- Taking steps to assess their local authority's readiness for reform.

The pending guidance is key to undertaking this work.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Rotherham Together Partnership wants Rotherham to be a great place to grow up, where children and young people have the best chance to reach their full potential. This will mean that children grow up happily, safe, in good health and develop the skills and qualifications they need to be successful. The Strategy articulates Rotherham's vision for children, young people and families:

Best Start - Children get the best start in life.
Safe - Children and young people are safe from harm.
Achieve - Young people feel empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations.
Have fun - Children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go.

2.2 Significant progress has been achieved against phase 1 in year one of the five-year Delivery Plan and progress updates against each of the design objectives is included below.

2.3 Consult with children, young people and families on new ways of working

2.3.1 Feedback from 1326 families who have received help and support from Early Help between January and October 2024 highlights that 94% of families feel that things had improved and 95% of families felt that the positive changes made can be maintained long term. Re-referral rates have steadily reduced and remain consistently low during 2024/2025 (YTD). This provides us with

evidence that families are receiving the right support and are then able to continue to sustain positive changes themselves.

2.3.2 Focused consultation has been undertaken with families to gain feedback about how the Council can further help children and families get the right help at the right time in an easy way. A survey was completed by 92 families.

2.3.3 An analysis of feedback highlighted clear themes. When families have needed help and support from services in the past, being able to contact them when they needed to (timeliness), signposting to services (help and support) and being helped to access services (easy access) was what they considered made the most difference.

2.3.4 Families have told us that they would like to be able to easily access services at a time that is convenient to them and through digital methods (24/7 and out of office working hours). Families would like clear, helpful, and up to date information. This includes information about who to approach at the first point of contact (to get the right help) and that they only have to tell their story once.

2.3.5 Timely services are important to families including no waiting lists and quicker processes for accessing the right help and support. Families would like to know what to expect in terms of the timeliness of services such as how long support is likely to last, being informed and updated of any changes, particularly any likely delays.

2.3.6 New parents fed back that they would like timely interventions, with earlier signposting to services and pre-pregnancy support. Parents have a real appetite for increased baby, toddler and parent groups, classes and programmes to support them with caring for their child. They would also like to be able to access informal/peer support groups to increase their network of support and friends.

2.3.7 An analysis of the annual Rotherham School Student's Survey 2024 completed by 4,641 young people highlights that Year 7 and Year 10 students would like to see more safe spaces to chat with other young people, increased online support and resources on accessing support which is important for improving mental wellbeing.

2.4 **Identify and consult with stakeholders (wider Local Authority, Police, Health etc)**

2.4.1 In order to set out the vision and raise awareness of the Strategy, between June and August 2024, 39 consultation events (face-to-face and virtual meetings) were held with 217 stakeholders (internal and external partners and practitioners) across the partnership. As part of the consultation 355 responses were received to an interactive consultation tool. In addition, an update on progress with detail about how the Strategy will be implemented was provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission in January 2025 and their comments taken on board.

2.4.2 Overwhelmingly, stakeholders like the term ‘Family Help’ and felt it was a term both families and practitioners would be able to relate to. In terms of the strengths in current practice that stakeholders want to retain as part of the family help transformation, there were three clear themes; partnership working; the quality of direct work with children and families/capturing the voice of the child and a skilled workforce/supporting workforce development.

2.4.3 Stakeholders highlighted varied areas of focus that the Council needed to address to ensure the Council could deliver the vision of effective family help. Examples of feedback included clear and consistent thresholds, a strengthened youth offer, caseload management and increased training for practitioners.

2.4.4 Consultation was also carried out via additional meetings and briefings such as the Safeguarding Committee (Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust), Local Authority briefing to school leaders, Special and PRU Headteachers Consultation and Secondary Heads meeting.

2.4.5 A CYPS staff engagement event provided feedback around the challenges the Council need to address as part of the family help transformation programme. Varied responses included CAMHS waiting times, partners (working together/information sharing) and support groups/drop-ins.

2.4.6 Stakeholders’ areas of focus that the Council needed to address to ensure the Council could deliver the vision of effective family help include the timelines of access to mental health services, clear and consistent thresholds, a strengthened youth offer, caseload management and increased training for practitioners.

2.5 **Consider the new ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ Framework 2023 and incorporate any required changes for Rotherham**

2.5.1 A maturity matrix self-assessment was carried out in May 2024 to understand the extent to which updated and new statutory guidance and requirements are already embedded in practice, and identify areas where action is required.

2.5.2 Progress against actions is reported to the Change Management Board on a regular basis for oversight. Change Management Board is a function of the CYPS Directorate Leadership Team (DLT). Its purpose is to provide overall direction to projects identified within the programme of work. The Change Management Board has overall responsibility for ensuring project objectives are realised and sustained. Change Management Board is chaired by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People’s Services and meets bimonthly. Progress in relation to key transformation projects are reported to Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Cabinet as required.

2.5.3 Chapter 3 ‘Providing Help, Support and Protection’ has a renewed focus on how organisations and agencies provide help, safeguarding and protection for children and their families.

2.6 **Develop a roadmap - child's journey across the Family Help system**

2.6.1 Whilst Working Together 2023 defines Early Help, it also talks about 'Family Help'. This term is inclusive of all ages and incorporates a number of services across the partnership. Family Help in Rotherham is not a single service, but a collaborative, whole system approach, that works across the partnership. This means children, young people and their families receive support at the earliest opportunity from a range of different services, dependent on their needs.

2.6.2 Family Help is made up of public, voluntary and community sector organisations working together to meet the needs of children and their families so that they receive the right support at the right time. These organisations include public health nursing, midwifery, mental health services, the Police, schools, nurseries, substance misuse providers, educational psychologists, domestic abuse services, housing providers, and other services working with children, young people, and families.

2.6.3 The Council know that prevention is better than late intervention to improve outcomes for children and their families. For this reason, the Council focus on meeting needs early, as problems arise to help prevent them from getting worse.

- Identify needs early
- Right Support at the right time to stop things getting worse
- Best possible start through early education
- Whole family approach

2.6.4 *"Early Help is support for children of all ages that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. It is not an individual service, but a system of support delivered by local authorities and their partners working together and taking collective responsibility to provide the right provision in their area" (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023).*

2.6.5 Work has been undertaken to review current arrangements and to design an effective delivery model taking into consideration feedback and changes to government guidance and legislation. This includes a working group, led by the Assistant Director for Early Help, and included representatives from across Early Help and Children's Social Care.

2.6.6 A road map has been designed (See Appendix 2) as a visual aid for families and professionals to support their understanding of the different support and help available across Family Help services, as well as encouraging and promoting the benefits of positive engagement in Universal and Community Help to prevent escalation and reliance on other services.

2.6.7 The table below takes each stage of support as referenced in the strategy and demonstrates the changes that the new Family Help pathway (column on the right) will bring, consolidating all relevant services. This is particularly useful in highlighting the Family Help offer that sits beyond Council services and highlights the strength of the multi-agency partnership.

2.6.8

Current arrangements	Family Help Pathway
Universal and Community Family Help • Family Hubs • Children's Centres • Universal Youth Work • Healthy Holidays • Street-based work with young people • Operation Keepsafe	**Universal and Community Family Help** • Family Hubs • Children's Centres • Universal Youth Work • Healthy Holidays • Street-based work with young people • Operation Keepsafe • Nurseries • Schools and colleges • GPs • Midwives • 0 to 19 public health nursing services • Libraries • Voluntary and community organisations • With Me in Mind (Mental Health in Schools)
Focused Family Help • Partner led Early Help Assessments • Early Help Family Support • Evidence Based Hub • School Attendance Matters Pathway (SAMP) • Targeted work with young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and Not Known • Universal and Targeted Groups for children and families	**Focused Family Help** • Front Door • Family Help Practitioners will complete a Family Assessment of Need (FAN) • Family Help Practitioners will support. • Evidence Based Hub • School Attendance Matters Pathway (SAMP) • Targeted work with young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and Not Known • Targeted work with children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities • Universal and Targeted Groups for children and families • Early Help Service co-working with Children's Social Care • Teenage pathway • Domestic Abuse services • Drug and Alcohol services

	• Stop Smoking services • Obesity Services • Oral Health Services • CAMHs Getting Advice/ Getting Help/ Neuro-developmental
Social Care • Early Help Service Co-working with Children's Social Care • Children's social care Section 17/ Section 47 Children's Act	**Specialist Family Help** • Multi-Agency Child Protection Practitioners will protect children from harm • Children's social care Section 47 Children's Act • Harm outside the home (Contextualised Safeguarding) • CAMHs Crisis

2.7 **Review and update Early Help Systems Guide (July 2024)**

2.7.1 The Early Help Systems Guide, linked to the Supporting Families programme, outlines a national vision and descriptors for a mature Early Help System. It is completed annually and shared with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and DfE. It provides a toolkit to assist local strategic partnerships responsible for their Early Help System. This was reviewed collectively with partners in the Early Help Partnership Group and was updated and submitted to the Supporting Families Programme team before 1 July 2024 deadline. Feedback from the regional Supporting Families team concluded positively that the assessment provided an accurate overview of Rotherham's context. Due to the changes in Government guidance and the national development of a family help offer, it is not clear whether there will be a requirement to review and update the systems guide during 2025 or whether this will be replaced with alternative monitoring expectations. The Council expect further information to follow in relation to this.

2.8 **Budget and HR integration for relevant agencies**

2.8.1 Following the announcement of the new policy statement and minimum expectations set out in the guidance, the work to consider budget and HR integration for relevant areas has paused to ensure thorough consideration of any proposed changes reflected in the expected guidance anticipated to be published in the spring.

2.8.2 Recent Government legislative and policy change including the Children's Social Care National Framework (National Framework); Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (Working Together); 'Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive' and The Families First Partnership Programme:

Initial guidance is intended to support local partnerships with planning for system transformation.

2.8.3 The minimum expectations set out for local areas in the Families First Partnership Programme: Initial guidance is that the following is prioritised:

- Responding to the voices of children, young people, families and communities in design and delivery.
- Multi-agency working is prioritised and effective.
- Leaders drive conditions for effective practice.
- The workforce is equipped and effective.
- Bring together targeted family help and Section 17 (CIN) into a seamless offer of family help, with an emphasis on whole family working and intervening at the earliest opportunity to prevent escalation.
- Establish the Family Help Lead Practitioner role.
- Establish community based, multidisciplinary Family Help team(s).
- Establish a welcoming, integrated 'front door' to services – to function as a central triage point for all referrals made to the local authority from parents and practitioners seeking help, support or protection for a child.
- Establish a single-Family Help assessment and plan – which can stay with the family as needs change and be accessed and jointly overseen by all agencies working with the family.
- Establish and test multiagency child protection team(s) (MACPT.)
- Establish and test parental representation in child protection.
- Embed family group decision making (FGDM) throughout children's social care services, including at family help and child protection stages.
- Offer of a family group decision making meeting at the pre-proceedings stage.
- Identify Lead Safeguarding Partners.
- Identify Delegated Safeguarding Partners.
- Identify partnership chair.

- Ensure a clear system of independent scrutiny.

- Create a stronger role for education at strategic level.

2.8.4 Multi-agency practice in Rotherham already reflects many of the expectations above. The Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029 Delivery Plan set clear objectives to achieve system reform over the next 4 years.

2.8.5 In summary, significant progress has been achieved against phase 1 in year one of the five-year Delivery Plan, as highlighted above. All actions have been achieved in a timely way and practice changes have started to take place as a result. Whilst government guidance remains outstanding, we have continued to drive progress and considered the minimum expectations set out for local areas in the Families First Partnership Programme.

2.8.6 We have a strong proven record for responding to the voices of children, young people, families and communities in design and delivery. This work is continuing in relation to the Family Help strategy and delivery.

2.8.7 Multi-agency working is prioritised and can be evidenced in our approach to Family Hubs, where services are both collocated and co deliver services for children and their families. This is also further highlighted in the table at 2.6.8.

2.8.8 Our Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a well-established integrated 'front door' to services, and function as a central triage point for all referrals made to the local authority from parents and practitioners seeking help, support or protection for a child.

2.8.9 We have established a single assessment tool, called a Family Assessment of Need (FAN) to be used across a child's journey. It can be built on as the needs of the family change and be accessed and jointly overseen by all agencies working with the family.

2.8.10 **Phase 2 (2025/26) Implement and Deliver**

- Clear governance arrangements.
- Operational Group(s).
- Implement key outcome measures.
- Implement the re- designed system.
- HR support.
- Budget monitoring.
- Continued engagement with children, young people, families, staff and stakeholders.

2.8.11 **Phases 3 and 4 (2026/28) Maintain and Operate**

- Ongoing delivery of services.
- Implement Government changes/legislation.
- Monitor service quality and adjust.
- Measure success/outcomes.

- Responding to learning - continuous improvement.
- Budget pressures.

2.8.12 **Phase 5 (2028/29) External evaluation**

- Evaluate.
- Seek feedback from children, young people and their families.
- Assess and identify areas of development.
- Review and refresh the Strategy.

2.8.13 It is proposed that the minimum expectations of the Families First Partnership Programme (2.8.3) be considered by the Operational Group(s) during phase 2 of the delivery plan. These will be reflected in the implementation and delivery of clear governance arrangements and re- designed system, the key outcome measures and associated Human Resource and Budget implications. Underpinning all activity will be continued engagement with children, young people, families, staff, and stakeholders.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Cabinet is asked to note the progress made in year one of the Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029 Delivery Plan.

3.2 Cabinet is asked to note the minimum expectations detailed in The Families First Partnership Programme: Initial guidance document issued in December 2024 and agree to be provided with a further update once further government guidance is received. This will ensure the Council is compliant with the recent legislative and policy change and is able to deliver its commitment in line with best practice to ensure effective services are in place for all children and young people in the Borough.

3.3 The alternative option is not to note the progress and agree to incorporate any required changes for Rotherham into the Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029 Delivery Plan. This would result in non-compliance with the government's legislative and policy requirements including the statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children. This would present a significant barrier in achieving the necessary national and cultural shift to continue to reform children's social care and early help in Rotherham. This option is not recommended.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Phase 1 of the delivery plan has involved significant consultation with key stakeholders across the wider Council, Health, Police and children and families as detailed above. This has informed co-design and co-production from the start.

4.2 A summary of the consultation with children, young people, and families on new ways of working, is included at section 2.4. This has informed the co-design and co-production of the new arrangements.

4.3 A summary of the consultation with stakeholders (wider Local Authority, Police, Health etc) on new ways of working, is included at section 2.5. This has informed the co-design and co-production of the new arrangements.

4.4 Local learning indicates the importance of embedding co-production to ensure the voices of those who use, and access services influence the continuous improvement of the Family Help Offer. The new legislative and policy framework sets out new expectations for 'shared responsibility' and introduces a set of multi-agency expectations to ensure that practitioners share the same goals, learn with and from each other, have what they need to help families, acknowledge and appreciate difference and challenge each other. Genuine Partnerships and the Four Cornerstones (also known as the Rotherham Charter) evolved from a unique partnership involving the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum and Rotherham Council. The Rotherham Four Cornerstones (developed from research involving Rotherham children and young people with special educational needs, and their parents and carers) defines how the partnership works together and with children and families, acknowledging that the development of shared goals requires co-production rather than consultation. Consequently, the delivery plan continues to include engagement, consultation and co-production in phase two and beyond.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029 Delivery Plan covers the period 2024 to 2029.

5.2 Progress against the delivery plan and review of objectives is monitored by the Family Help Partnership Group and the Children and Young People's Service Directorate Leadership Team.

5.3 A further update will be brought to Cabinet following the delivery of Phase 2 implementation and delivery.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications from the delivery, in the first year (i.e. 2024/25), of the 'Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029 Delivery Plan'. Implemented changes undertaken during the year have been achieved within agreed resource envelope for Children & Young People services.

6.2 It should be noted that a new Children's Social Care Prevention Grant has been allocated to local authorities in 2025/26 (£2.5m for Rotherham) aimed at enhancing early intervention and family support services to prevent issues from escalating and to keep children safely within their families. A significant portion of this funding is designated for the national rollout of Family Help. The grant will also support the implementation of Family Group Decision Making, empowering families to collaboratively make decisions about the care and welfare of their children.

6.3 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The progress set out in this report about the implementation of the Family Help Strategy and delivery plan reflects how the Council have responded to the updated Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. This statutory guidance regarding Family Help strengthens the role of education and childcare settings in supporting children, keeping them safe. With the stronger emphasis on working with families and the role of family network meetings to improve family network engagement in decision making and supporting family, this too has been embedded in the Strategy set out above, along with how multi agency professionals can work with families.

7.2 In November 2024, the government set out its plan around how to keep children with families within its paper, “Keeping children safe, helping families thrive” rather than rely on residential care, and looks at strengthening the role of education within multi agency arrangements which the Strategy has also taken into consideration. With the progress noted above, and the recommendation at 3.1 and 3.2 as shown, there are no legal implications with following these recommendations.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 HR will continue to provide the support required.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029 aligns with the key local partnership priorities and plans including Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Plan 2022/25, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership plan and associated strategies, Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Plan and Rotherham Health and Social Care Place Plan.

9.2 The Strategy describes how partners will work together to ensure that all children and young people receive the right help at the right time so that Rotherham is a great place to grow up, where children and young people have the best chance to reach their full potential. This will mean that children grow up happily, safe, in good health and develop the skills and qualifications they need to be successful.

9.3 The Adult Social Care Strategy for Rotherham 2024–2027 is inclusive of young people preparing for adulthood with a refreshed vision which intends to make a real difference to the lives of local residents: ‘*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 Strategy sets out priorities over the next three years with an emphasis on strength-based approaches to improve outcomes for people with care and support needs, unpaid carers and local residents.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Equality and human rights are considered within the Strategy. Part A Equalities Screening is attached as Appendix 3.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Implications included in the Carbon Impact Assessment (Appendix 4).

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 These are referred to in the Strategy and associated delivery plan.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 These are referred to in the Strategy and associated delivery plan.

14. Accountable Officers

Kelly White – Acting Assistant Director, Early Help & Business Support

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	03/03/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	20/02/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	19/02/25

Report Author: Kelly White, Acting Assistant Director Early Help and Family Engagement kelly.white@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms

Sentence or Word Clarification	Clarification
Child Sexual Exploitation	Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse which can include forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, or whether the child is aware of what is happening and in some situations the child may believe they are in a loving consensual relationship – this is called grooming. The activities may involve physical contact, and may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Children or young people might be invited to parties or gatherings with others their own age or adults and given drugs and alcohol. CSE can happen in person or online and children encouraged to film or stream sexual activities and have sexual conversations. The national plan focuses on the relationship between Child exploitation and the Serious and Organised Crime delivery framework, also known as the '4Ps' – Pursue, Prepare, Protect and Prevent. This document can be found at Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Plan 2021 (publishing.service.gov.uk)
Children's Social Work National Framework	A Department for Education National Framework that brings together the purpose of local authority children's social care, the principles by which children, young people and families should be supported, the enablers that should be in place so the system is effective, and the outcomes that should be achieved so that children and young people can grow up to thrive. The National Framework puts the voices of children, young people and families at the heart of practice, so they can have a say in how they are supported. Children's social care: national framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Child Criminal Exploitation	Child criminal exploitation (CCE) is the manipulation, coercion and control of children and young people to commit crimes usually for the benefit of other abusive adult's or peers. This could be within extended families, communities or more sophisticated organised crime groups, linked to the modern-day slavery. transporting and storing of drugs and harbouring or receipt' monies. Such exploitation usually happens outside of the home and is extra-familial. The national guidance can be found at Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk
Early Help Partnership Group (EHPG)	Provides the strategic oversight and delivery of the Early Help Strategy and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Early Help Offer in Rotherham**.** The partnership offers strong support across the multi-agency partnership to embed a strong universal and targeted offer in Rotherham with shared responsibility.
Early Help and Family Support Service	Family support is provided to children and families by locality services delivering family support to help them to address problems at the earliest opportunity and deliver interventions to address presenting needs.
Early Help Systems Guide	The Early Help Systems Guide provides a framework, which helps to focus early help systems on common goals and progress towards these. The National Supporting Families programme is about building resilience by providing effective, whole family support at the earliest opportunity.

Evolve Team	The Evolve Team respond to and safeguard children who are or likely to suffer harm through child sexual exploitation in Rotherham. They aim to provide 'wrap around' support and protection to children and their family, with a team of people from a variety of support agencies. This includes social workers, a child sexual exploitation specialist nurse, a Barnardo's social worker, a children's social care operational manager, business support staff and police officers.
Family Group Conference	A Family Group Conference (FGC) is a meeting to bring family members, friends and anybody else important to the family together, with the aim of making things better and safer for the family concerned. Family Group Conferencing – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Family Hubs	Rotherham already benefits from co-location arrangements between a range of agencies working with children and their families as part of the development of our Family Hubs (children's centres). Family Hubs help improve whole family service support, including Start for Life services, through a physical network of hubs including a digital and virtual offer, as well as outreach and engagement support.
Family Hub Operational Group	Brings together a range of colleagues from a range of services to ensure effective parentship, collaboration and strong communication between agencies co-located in Family Hubs. Family Hubs Locality meetings feed into this group.
KPI	Key performance Indicator
NEET - Not in Employment, Education or Training	A young person who is not in full time employment, education or training.
Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)	Rotherham's Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) provides a multi-agency approach for professionals working with children, young people, and adults. They work collaboratively in order to protect children contextually, that is, to understand their environments and associations outside of the family home, and to engage with community partners in order to minimise risk within a certain area.
School Attendance Matters Pathway (SAMP)	The School Attendance Matters Pathway (SAMP) provides a framework which supports the Service's statutory duty of enforcement action for poor school attendance and ensures a restorative based approach where welfare is considered paramount, and support strategies are exhausted prior to enforcement action in Court.
Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP)	The Safer Rotherham Partnership is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-2025 can be found at safer-rotherham-partnership-plan (saferrotherham.org.uk)
S47 – Section 47	Where information gathered during a referral or an assessment (which may be very brief) results in the social worker suspecting that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, a strategy discussion Meeting should be held to decide whether to initiate enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
SEND Hub	A centrally based offer of recreational activities for children and young people with SEND. The Hub would provide a safe disability friendly space to support families accessing the Town Centre by providing a changing space and the opportunity for peer support and access to calm/ sensory spaces.
Stable Homes Built on Love	The Governments 'Stable Homes, Built on Love' Strategy sets out a vision for children's social care to provide the help families need to overcome challenges at the earliest possible stage, to keep children safe, and to make sure

	children in care have stable loving homes, long-term loving relationships, and opportunities for a good life. The Government's strategy presents a positive vision for a 'family-first', prioritising early family help and valuing the support wider family and friends can offer including as kinship carers. Children's Social Care: Stable Homes, Built on Love consultation response (publishing.service.gov.uk)
Supporting Families Programme	The programme focuses on building the resilience of vulnerable families, and on driving system change so that every area has joined up, efficient local services which are able to identify families in need and provide the right support at the right time.
Best Start in Life Programme	Rotherham has a key focus on supporting families to help children to have the very Best Start in Life. This includes a range of services from different organisations, located in one place and support is available for families with children aged 0 to 5. The Best Start in Life support is delivered from Family Hubs based in Childrens Centres which covers the 0-19 age range (25 with special educational needs and disabilities). We have good evidence that that the first 1001 days of a child's life (pregnancy to age 2) are critical for good development. Best Start in Life Programme – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
The Place Board	A forum where all partners across health and care in Rotherham come together to formulate and agree strategies and provide leadership to deliver the ambitions of the Place Partnership and the Rotherham Place Plan.
Vulnerable Child	Vulnerable children can be at greater risk of experiencing harm because of one or more factors in their lives including abuse, living in a home where there is domestic abuse, addiction or mental ill health, and or having additional needs such as learning or physical needs. Vulnerable children can have less resilience or safeguards around them to spot signs of risk.
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023	A Government guide providing the legislative requirements that apply to individuals, organisations and agencies in respect of multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children. The guidance focuses on • Strengthening multi-agency working across the whole system of support and protection for children and their families • Keeping a child-centred approach while bringing a whole-family focus • Embedding strong, effective and consistent multi-agency child protection practice The Working Together guidance can be found at Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)

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FAMILY HELP ROAD MAP

We want to make sure that children, young people, and families know how to get help, and it is available to them when they need it. We know that helping early can make the biggest difference for children and their families. We might know that families need help because they tell us or someone else might tell us on their behalf, such as a family member or professional who is working with them. This document is to help families understand the different support and help available.

Universal and Community Family Help

Universal and community services are for everyone – all children, young people, and families in Rotherham. These services help families to get the right support at the right time. These services are provided by lots of different agencies such as nurseries, schools and colleges; GPs, midwives, and 0-19 public health nursing; Family Hubs; libraries; youth services; and community organisations. These are the place to start for any family in Rotherham wanting information, advice and support.

These services are also still available to families who are getting help from Focused or Specialist Family Help Services.

Focused Family Help

Sometimes families need more help and support than the Universal and Community Services. Focused Family Help is available from lots of different services, who will work together to make sure families get the support they need.

You can learn more about the help and support available to children and families at www.rotherham.gov.uk/familyhubs.

Appendix 3

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: Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham Year 1 Update	
Directorate: Children and Young People's Services	**Service area: Early Help**
Lead person: Kelly White	**Contact number:** 01709 822318
Is this a: [x] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Early Help Strategy 2024-2029 describes the responsibility of agencies to work together and safeguard children in line with the refreshed statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. The strategy describes the local authority's responsibility to promote inter-agency partnership working to improve the welfare of all children under section 10 of the Children Act 2004. The previous Rotherham Early Help Strategy 2016-2019 was launched in January 2016 and was primarily focussed on the resources, staffing and services within the local authority. The Early Help Strategy 2024-2029 builds on these strong foundations as well as the vision of the previous strategy and sets the priorities for prevention and early identification and intervention in Rotherham.

Appendix 3

The Multi-Agency Early Help Partnership Group will oversee the implementation of the delivery plan reporting into the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the Place Board. This is a Year 1 update. An original Part B analysis form was carried out at the very start of the strategy. The equalities implications have not changed since the start of the strategy.

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? *(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)*	x	
Could the proposal affect service users? *(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)*	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*	x	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*	x	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*	x	

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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?

There are approximately 1,149 Early Help episodes open.

Number of Children in all episodes
2386

The Insight data dashboard breaks down equality and diversity information into locality, gender, age, ethnicity, and primary need.

To inform Year 1, consultation and engagement activity with partners has been undertaken.

The Early Help Partnership Group has met regularly to develop the priorities and themes for the strategy and Head Teacher briefings were held. An on-line consultation survey was also shared with partners and stakeholders.

Feedback from 1326 families who have received help and support from Early Help between January and October 2024 highlights that 94% of families feel that things had improved and 95% of families felt that the positive changes made can be maintained long term.

Focused consultation has been undertaken with families to gain feedback about how we can further help children and families get the right help at the right time in an easy way. A survey was completed by 92 families.

An analysis of feedback highlighted clear themes. When families have needed help and support from services in the past, being able to contact them when they needed to

Appendix 3

(timeliness), signposting to services (help and support) and being helped to access services (easy access) was what they considered made the most difference.

Families have told us that they would like to be able to easily access services at a time that is convenient to them and through digital methods (24/7 and out of office working hours). Families would like clear, helpful and up to date information. This includes information about who to approach at the first point of contact (to get the right help) and that they only have to tell their story once.

Timely services are important to families including no waiting lists and quicker processes for accessing the right help and support. Families would like to know what to expect in terms of the timeliness of services such as how long support is likely to last, being informed and updated of any changes, particularly any likely delays.

New parents fed back that they would like timely interventions, with earlier signposting to services and pre-pregnancy support. Parents have a real appetite for increased baby, toddler and parent groups, classes and programmes to support them with caring for their child. They would also like to be able to access informal/peer support groups to increase their network of support and friends.

An analysis of the annual Rotherham School Student's Survey 2024 completed by 4,641 young people highlights that Year 7 and Year 10 students would like to see more safe spaces to chat with other young people, increased online support and resources on accessing support which is important for improving mental wellbeing.

Recruitment to staff roles considers the need for the workforce to reflect the communities in which they work.

Information regarding protected characteristics is captured in the Early Help Assessment and informs the Plan that is coproduced with the family members.

Translation services are utilised as a range of bespoke provision is in place including specific targeted support groups for LGBT young people, BAME young people, Girls and young women, faith-based groups and provision, support for Ukraine and Afghanistan families and young people with autism.

Key findings

Rotherham's Early Help Offer supports some of the most vulnerable children, young people and families in Rotherham.

The five-year Early Help Strategy 2024-2029 is a partnership approach to prevention, early identification, and family help and support in Rotherham. It aims to deliver better outcomes for babies, children, young people, and families across Rotherham by ensuring that support is provided to all parents and carers, including those who are hardest to reach and/or most in need of help and support.

Appendix 3

Actions	
Further Equality Impact Analysis will be completed as required as part of the delivery associated with the Strategy. A range of approaches will be used to ensure that children, young people and families play a key part in the evaluation of the strategy. Service users have been involved with the development of the strategy and influence decision making and delivery as well as frontline staff, partner agencies. • Continued engagement with the Early Help Partnership Group • Continue to ensure that consultation and engagement with the service users is embedded in all Early Help Assessments and plans.	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	29 January 2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	29 January 2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Kelly White, Acting Assistant Director, Early Help

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Nicola Curley	Director of Children's Services	29/01/2025

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	29 January 2025
Report title and date	Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham Year 1 Update
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	17 March 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	30 January 2025

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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?	Unknown; potential increase in emissions	*Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024-2029* commits to develop a SEND hub in Rotherham Town Centre and to increase the Council's Universal Youth Work offer across the Borough. This may increase emissions from non-domestic buildings.		Existing facilities will be preferred, where appropriate to the needs of children, young people and their families.	Greenhouse gas emission from non-domestic buildings in the Council's energy procurement portfolio are monitored and reported in NZ30 carbon accounts.
Emissions from transport?	Unknown; potential decrease in emissions		Extending wraparound care options for primary school children may decrease emissions from transport through avoided car journeys. Developing mainstream SEND resource provision, so that children can continue to receive their education locally, may save people from travelling farther to access the same support.		Emissions from home to school transport (HST) provided by the Council are partially monitored, as fuel use in corporate fleet vehicles is reported in NZ30 carbon accounts. The Climate Change Team will seek to increase the Council's capacity to monitor emissions from taxis and private hire vehicles

					commissioned for HST.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?					
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?					
Emissions from construction and/or development?					
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?					

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

Developing a self-service and digital offer for families will have an uncertain carbon impact. There may be some benefit from avoided energy use in buildings, avoided journeys to access services and advice and avoided use of paper and other materials. However, digital resources have their own, significant carbon impact, due to data servers' high energy demand and the potential harm caused by electronic waste.

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

The Early Help Strategy 2024-2029 describes the local authority's responsibility to promote inter-agency co-operation to improve the welfare of all children under section 10 of the Children Act 2004.

Working Together 2023 provides the legislative framework for Early Help and describes how local organisations and agencies should have in place effective ways to identify emerging problems and potential unmet needs of individual children and families.

The previous Rotherham Early Help Strategy 2016-2019 was launched in January 2016 and was primarily focussed on the resources, staffing and services within the local authority. The Early Help Strategy 2024-2029 builds on the strong foundations and vision of the previous strategy and sets the priorities for prevention and early identification and intervention in Rotherham. This was agreed by Cabinet in March 2025.

The Multi-agency Early Help Partnership Group has been overseeing the delivery plan reporting to the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Kelly White, Acting Assistant Director, Early Help, Children and Young People's Services
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA 417 Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer

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Agenda Item 9

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 17 March 2025

Report Title
Response to Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing

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
Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)
Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, Adult Care, Housing & Public Health.
ben.anderston@rotherham.gov.uk

Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality. CYPS.
Helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative, where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management / leadership roles. As part of the Council's commitment to the CCTOC, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC), in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.

RYC chose Health and Wellbeing as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was identified as an issue nationally and locally within their manifesto's aims.

This report provides Cabinet's response to the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review - OSMB Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge –Health and Wellbeing

Recommendations

That Cabinet approve the response to the recommendations, as detailed in Appendix 1, and note the report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1	Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review –- OSMB - Children's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing
Appendix 2	Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form
Appendix 3	Equality Analysis Screening
Appendix 4	Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge Recommendations – Health and Wellbeing. Cabinet 20 January 2025.
Rotherham Youth Cabinet manifesto 2023/24
Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, 17 October 2024 – Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 17 October 2024
Cabinet – 20 January 2025

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Response to Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing

1. Background

1.1 The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management / leadership roles.

1.2 As part of the Council's commitment to the CCTOC, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.

1.3 The OSMB Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge held on 17 October 2024, was chaired by Alex G, from the Rotherham Youth Cabinet. Rotherham Youth Cabinet chose Health and Wellbeing as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was identified as an issue nationally and locally within their manifesto's aims, following consultation with over 4,000 young people.

1.4 The review group consisted of members of Overview and Scrutiny and members of Youth Cabinet.

1.5 The recommendations from the sub-group were presented to Cabinet on 14 January 2025, and Cabinet agreed to provide a response.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The recommendations to Cabinet from the Scrutiny Review - OSMB - Children's Takeover Challenge were:

a) Vaping:

1. That consideration was given to several young people from the Youth Cabinet to support a mystery shop in vape shops to identify sources, where possible.
2. That the Council identified and considered any potential opportunities to reduce vaping adverts on shopfronts, including areas where the Council does not have direct control, where possible.
3. That the Council sought to encourage all secondary schools to work together, to ensure a synchronised response to the vaping.

b) Mental Health:

4. That the Council sought to encourage all schools in the borough to ensure that young people feel listened to within the schools, and that schools were committed to support.
5. That consideration was given to how the provision of a dedicated youth space for young people could be achieved, for example, a development of a space similar to the Barnsley Youth Zone.
6. That the Council worked with its partners to enhance early detection and diagnoses of children and young people with Special Educational Needs

and Disabilities and the potential need for an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to assist with the reduction of potential waiting times for the young person to access the EHCP provisions.

c) Physical Activity:

7. That the Council sought assurances from schools within the borough that they would consider increasing extracurricular clubs, including the range of sports.
8. That the Council aimed to ensure that all parks within the borough were kept in good condition and safe.
9. That consideration be given to providing exercise equipment to all parks in the borough, where possible and that activity-based walks were considered at popular locations, in conjunction with the Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

d) Healthy Eating:

10. That the Council sought assurances from schools within the borough, that they ensured that healthy food options were available to all young people.
11. That schools in the borough to give consideration to the young inspectors completing an inspection of school lunches and lunches provided as part of Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, where possible.
12. That the Council and its partners give consideration to producing a teenage-specific campaign to support healthy eating.
13. That a site visit to the allotments be arranged for members of the Youth Cabinet

2.2 12 recommendations are accepted and Appendix 1 sets out further detail on how the recommendations have been or will be actioned. Where recommendations are made for schools, the Council is able to accept the recommendation on behalf of maintained schools.

2.3 Recommendation 5, that consideration was given to how the provision of a dedicated youth space for young people could be achieved, for example, a development of a space similar to the Barnsley Youth Zone, would require significant capital and revenue investment that is beyond the Council's capabilities at present. It would also mean that all the Council's resource was centred in one area and not distributed across the Borough. Therefore, this recommendation is not accepted at this time.

2.4 The Council is committed to having an inclusive universal offer for all young people that includes places to go and things to do in all wards across Rotherham.

2.5 Members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board have suggested they would like to support the development of a strategy creating and communicating 'youth zones' for young people across the Borough, including dedicated digital spaces in libraries, youth clubs and 'safe spots'.

These requests will be presented to the Rotherham Together Partnership for consideration and allocation to relevant agencies to progress.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The recommendation is that Cabinet approve the response to the recommendations, as detailed in Appendix 1, and note the report.

3.2 12 of the recommendations have been accepted and Appendix 1 sets out further detail on how the recommendations have been or will be actioned. It is recommended that Cabinet do not accept recommendation 5. Actions to improve access to youth zones are included in Appendix 1.

3.3 Accepting recommendation 5 places a significant financial risk on the Council.

This option is not recommended.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Strategic Director of Adult Social Care, Housing and Health have been consulted with regard to the response to the recommendations.

4.2 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health have been consulted with regarding the report and its recommendations.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The timetable and accountability are detailed in Appendix 1 Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review - OSMB - Children's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

6.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from most of the recommendations detailed in the report, with the exception of 'Recommendation 5' – that consideration be given to the development of a dedicated youth space similar to Barnsley's 'Youth Zone'. The provision of a Youth Zone for young people will require a significant capital investment in the region of £9m. This would typically be shared equally between the Council and contributions from the private or independent sectors.

6.3 In addition, once operational, the annual running cost of such Youth Zone is estimated at £1.3m, of which approximately £400k is expected to be contributed by the Council (on a recurrent basis), with the balance funded by local businesses or partner organisations. The above estimated investment (capital and revenue) is prohibitive and not something that is currently affordable for the Council.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report and the recommendation that cabinet approve the responses to the recommendations as set out at Appendix A. However, there are points to be noted for the purpose of awareness in respect of recommendations 1 and 6.

7.2 Recommendation 1 will be implemented by members of RYC undertaking a mystery shop in vape shops. Any test purchase should be carried out in accordance with the Age Restricted Products and Services: A Code of Practice for Regulatory Delivery [updated in 2014], in particular Parts 13 and 14 which address the use of test purchasing by young people for conducting spot checks on compliance.

7.3 Recommendation 6 refers to the reduction of potential waiting times for a young person to access EHCP provisions. As set out within Appendix A there is a statutory timeframe of 20 weeks within which an EHCP must be finalised and issued. All Local Authorities must comply with statutory duties imposed under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice which is statutory guidance for Local Authorities and various other organisations.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The implications for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults are set out in the Rotherham Youth Cabinet manifesto 2023/24 and Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, 17 October 2024 – Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Report: Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge Recommendations – Health and Wellbeing (background papers) and in the attached Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review –- OSMB - Children's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing (Appendix 1).

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Members of the 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 Support for young people specifically relating to risks associated with vaping, Mental Health, Physical Health, and Healthy Eating and the requirement for intervention to prevent serious implications for the physical and mental health of children into adulthood. The RYC wanted to support the Government's ambition to halve childhood obesity rates by 2030 and reduce the health inequalities that persist. The action plan (Appendix 1) addresses these issues.

10.3 An equality analysis screening and form are attached as Appendices 2 and 3.

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.

11.2 The Carbon Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 4.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The implications for partners are described in attached Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review –- OSMB - Children's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing (Appendix 1).

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 Failure to provide adequate support, specifically relating to risks associated with vaping, Mental Health, Physical Health, and Healthy Eating would risk serious implications for the physical and mental health of children and young people into adulthood and is detrimental to their achievement of outcomes.

13.2 The mitigations are described in attached Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review –- OSMB - Children's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing (Appendix 1).

14. Accountable Officers

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, Adult Care, Housing & Public Health
Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality. CYPS.

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	03/03/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/02/2025
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	19/02/2025

Report Author: *Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality. CYPS.*
Helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1.

Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review - **Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge Recommendations – Health and Wellbeing**

	Recommendation	**Cabinet Decision** *(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)*	**Cabinet Response** *(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)*	**Officer Responsible**	**Action by** ***(Date)***
1	**Vaping:** That consideration was given to several young people from the Youth Cabinet to support a mystery shop in vape shops to identify sources, where possible.	Accepted	Members of RYC are committed to undertaking a mystery shop, which will be completed within 6 months.	Joanne Hacking	August 2025
2	That the Council identified and considered any potential opportunities to reduce vaping adverts on shopfronts, including areas where the Council does not have direct control, where possible.	Accepted	The Council is not able to enforce restrictions on advertising space in the borough that is not under control of the Council. We are not aware of any space that is owned by the Council that currently doesn't meet this commitment. The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority is currently looking at its advertising policy which will cover South Yorkshire's public transport system.		
3	That the Council sought to encourage all secondary schools to work together, to ensure a synchronised response to the vaping.	Accepted	This work is already ongoing as captured in the Tobacco Control Action Plan overseen by the Tobacco Control Steering Group. There is a working group including Council officers from Public Health, Trading Standards and 0-19 service working with	Gilly Brenner	Sept 2025

			schools to determine how best to support them. Current resources will be reviewed and additional resources developed as required during this academic year.		
4	**Mental Health:** That the Council sought to encourage all schools in the borough to ensure that young people feel listened to within the schools, and that schools were committed to support.	Accepted	This work is ongoing. The council have contributed to the development of a Social Emotional and Mental Health Continuum which clearly identified our shared expectations for schools to listen to and support children and young people. The Council and partners are supporting schools to deliver the continuum through a competency framework, SEMH graduated response, SEMH Outreach support and With Me in Mind (Rotherham's Mental Health Support Teams in 70% of schools including all secondary schools). A multi-agency meeting is planned in March to embed the support. This work is ongoing, to encourage schools and measure impact the Council run a School Student Survey every year for all Students in Year 7 (ages 11 to 12) and Year 10 (ages 14 to 15) at secondary schools, pupil referral units, and those who are elective home educated. In 2024, all 16 secondary schools in Rotherham participated with a 62.7% participation rate. A section of the survey is focused on mental wellbeing.	Helen Sweaton Niall Devlin Lorna Quinn	March 2025 October 2025

			Schools receive an individual school report from the survey to assist them in gauging how well they are meeting their own health and wellbeing objectives and to help shape their PSHE curriculum. This is considered outstanding practice and provides evidence in relation to Ofsted grade descriptors.		
5	That consideration was given to how the provision of a dedicated youth space for young people could be achieved, for example, a development of a space similar to the Barnsley Youth Zone.	Rejected	The Barnsley Youth Zone was developed at a cost of £9.2 million and funded by a combination of private and public sector contributions including grants. The Council is committed to having an inclusive universal offer for all young people that includes places to go and things to do in all wards across Rotherham. Through the Universal Youth Work fund and Rotherham Healthy Holidays Programme (HAF), Early Help provide funding to voluntary and community sector organisations to expand the existing youth offer and create high quality, universal youth provision for young people across the Borough, ensuring young people have somewhere safe to go, to socialise and learn new skills, with a trusted adult who is skilled and trained to support them. Members of the Children and Young People's Partnership	Kelly White Helen Sweaton	Ongoing April 2026

			Board have suggested they would like to support the development of a strategy creating and communicating all 'youth zones' for young people including dedicated digital spaces in libraries, youth clubs and 'safe spots' across the Borough.		
6	That the Council worked with its partners to enhance early detection and diagnoses of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the potential need for an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to assist with the reduction of potential waiting times for the young person to access the EHCP provisions.	Accepted	The statutory timeframe for an EHC Plan states it must be finalised within 20 weeks of the request for an EHC needs assessment being made. The final EHCP will include the provision (including the school) to meet the identified needs. The Council has worked to reduce the number of children waiting longer than 20 weeks. The Council and it's partners have developed a graduated response to support schools to identify and meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities. Implementation of the graduated response is ongoing. Impact will be measured by the numbers of children receiving SEN Support and those with an EHCP educated in mainstream provision.	Niall Devlin	July 2025
7	**Physical Activity:** That the Council sought assurances from schools within the borough that they would consider increasing extracurricular clubs, including the range of sports.	Accepted	Schools decide how they deliver extra-curricular clubs and the range of sports offered.	Niall Devlin	July 2025

			The National curriculum in England: PE programmes of study are the statutory programmes of study and attainment targets for physical education at key stages 1 to 4. They are issued by law; schools must follow them unless there's a good reason not to. The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion, on behalf of the Council will seek assurance from all local-authority-maintained schools that they are offering a range of sports and extra-curricular clubs in preparation for the new academic year.		
8	That the Council aimed to ensure that all parks within the borough were kept in good condition and safe.	Accepted	This work is ongoing. Green Flag award achieved on 16 July 2024 for Clifton Park; Greasbrough Park; Rother Valley Country Park; and Thrybergh Country Park. Natural England Accreditation granted in June 2024 for three country parks: Rother Valley, Thrybergh and Ulley. Additional revenue investment to improve the environment has benefitted grounds maintenance, street cleansing, wildflower seeding and tree planting	Polly Hamilton	July 2025
9	That consideration be given to providing exercise equipment to all parks in the borough, where possible and that activity-based walks were considered at popular locations, in conjunction with the Rotherham Youth Cabinet.	Accepted	The current Council priorities include a commitment to a playground improvement programme over the next three	Chris Siddall	December 2025

			years, which will include consideration of exercise equipment provision in parks. A Sport England grant (due at Cabinet 17th March) will seek to provide a dedicated officer with responsibility for supporting children and young people's increased access to physical activity, focused on developing a consensus of need and opportunity across the borough and linked to the Children's Capital of Culture. Over the next 12 months they will draw together learning from engagement and work with partners to expand opportunities and highlight activities that exist. Any additional exercise infrastructure may require external grant funding should equipment in green spaces prove to be a priority from the consultation. It should be noted that Sport England do not fund play equipment. Make Your Mark results from 2024 indicated that Health and Wellbeing are a concern for young people. RYC is committed to working with Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director – Regeneration and Environment and his team. This will include consultation and some observed evidence of work taking place. RYC would like to		October 2025

			be involved in consulting on appropriate exercise equipment for parks, this again will be in conjunction with Regeneration and Environment.		
10	**Healthy Eating:** That the Council sought assurances from schools within the borough, that they ensured that healthy food options were available to all young people.	Accepted	Schools decide who they want to provide their school meals. The Council provides school meals to many of our schools through Riverside Catering. If schools choose to use the Council's Riverside Catering for their school meals, the Council is able to ensure they have access to a healthy balanced meal. Meals are prepared according to the Government's nutritional guidelines using fresh locally sourced produce. Riverside Catering has maintained their Soil Association Food for Life Served Here Bronze award accreditation. The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion, on behalf of the Council will seek assurance from all local-authority-maintained schools that they are offering healthy food options to all young people.	Niall Devlin	July 2025
11	That schools in the borough give consideration to the young inspectors completing an inspection of school lunches and lunches provided as part of Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, where possible.	Accepted	The Young Inspectors have added inspection of school lunches and lunches provided as part of Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme to their work programme. Inspections will take place during the next year with recommendations provided to those inspected.	Joanne Hacking/ Helen Sweaton	March 2026

12	That the Council and its partners give consideration to producing a teenage-specific campaign to support healthy eating.	Accepted	The Rotherham Food Network and Public Health officers will work with the Youth Cabinet to start to develop their own campaign over this academic year, using the materials from Bite Back national campaign, and support schools to use these resources.	Gilly Brenner	September 2025
13	That a site visit to the allotments be arranged for members of the Youth Cabinet	Accepted	Youth Cabinet will work with Jamie Calvert at the “Rotherham Allotments Alliance” to arrange a visit to a suitable site.	Joanne Hacking/ Cllr Clarke	September 2025

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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: Cabinet Response to the Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review - OSMB - Childrens Takeover Challenge	
Directorate: CYPS	**Service area: Commissioning**
Lead person: Helen Sweaton	**Contact: helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative, where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management / leadership roles. As part of RMBC's commitment to the CCTOC, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC), in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.

RYC chose Health and Wellbeing as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was identified as an issue nationally and locally within their manifesto's aims. The Cabinet decision to accept the response to the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review - OSMB Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing will impact on services involved in the operational delivery. The Services affect children and young people including those with SEND and their families.

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?**

The recommendations relate to existing services which have already undertaken reviews with respect to consideration of equality and diversity. The impact of the recommendations to improve these services for children and young people is considered in this assessment and a further part B assessment. A full data analysis is included in Part B to consider the health and wellbeing issues for children and young people and inequalities in distribution of those issues amongst different characteristic groups.

As well as age as an obvious characteristic relating to children and young people, the other characteristics of disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, and other socio-economic groups e.g. carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc are also relevant.

- **Key findings**

In relation to equalities, the review group identified the requirement for various actions to be completed to ensure improved services for children and young people, improving access to healthy meals, mental health and wellbeing support and physical activity, which a particular focus on young people with SEND.

- **Actions**

Part B will be completed to ensure a more thorough review of equalities assessment relating to the recommendations to improve services for children and young people with respect to the issues raised by Youth Cabinet of vaping, mental health, physical activity and healthy eating.

Appendix 1 of the report details how the recommendations are proposed to be addressed.

The recommendations relating to improving the robust approach to tackling vaping will support children and young people to not take up vaping or support them to stop. Vaping is associated with certain characteristic groups, therefore this recommendation should help to address those inequalities in health outcomes.

The recommendations relating to mental health are about improving access to support for young people, therefore this should help to address inequalities in access which would reduce inequalities. The recommendations relating to physical activity are about improving access to quality provision. Inequalities in access are supported by these recommendations alongside current work focused on this issue. The recommendations relating to healthy eating seek assurances from schools about access to healthy food. As food access is subject to inequalities, this would help to address these. If a campaign is developed, further consideration will be given to that process to ensure appropriate targeting of information to reach different demographic groups.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	30th January 25
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	30th January 25
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality.

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Helen Sweaton	Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality	30/01/2024

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	30th January 25
Report title and date	Cabinet Response to the Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review - OSMB - Childrens Takeover Challenge. 17 March 2025.

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 17th March 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	04.02.2025

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 3.

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Cabinet Response to the Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review - OSMB – Children's Takeover Challenge	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 30/01/25	
Directorate: CYPS	**Service area:** Commissioning, Performance and Quality
Lead Manager: Helen Sweaton	**Contact number:**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Helen Sweaton	RMBC/ Rotherham ICB	Joint Assistant Director
Niall Devlin	RMBC	Assistant Director, E&I
Gilly Brenner	RMBC	Public Health
Kim Fieldhouse	RMBC	Trading Standards Officer
Chris Siddall	RMBC	Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships
Joanne Hacking	RMBC	Manager, Safeguarding & Qa

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative, where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management / leadership roles. As part of RMBC's commitment to the CCTOC, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC), in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.

RYC chose Health and Wellbeing as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was identified as an issue nationally and locally within their manifesto's aims.

The Cabinet decision to accept the response to the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review - OSMB Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge –Health and Wellbeing will impact on services involved in the operational delivery.

The Services affect children and young people including those with SEND and their families.

In relation to equalities, the review group identified the requirement for various actions to be completed to ensure improved services for children and young people, improving access to healthy meals, mental health and wellbeing support and physical activity.

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

Equality information is already captured and used to shape priorities and deliver existing services across the Local Authority, health and education sectors.

Equality information is available through the JSNA and school survey.

Rotherham is a large minster town in South Yorkshire, England which along with its nearby settlements form the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham, with a population of 265,800 (ONS, 2021).

- The population of Rotherham is 265,800 (Census data, 2021)
- There are 125 schools in Rotherham.
- The percentage of children and young people who are eligible for free school meals is 11,621 — or 68% (Data as of July 2022)
- Rotherham ranks as the 35th most deprived upper tier local authority in England out of a total of 151 upper-tier local authorities (Index of multiple deprivation 2019 by LSOA)
- 20.4% of pupils in Rotherham (9,325) have identified SEND needs compared to 17.1% nationally (Spring School Census 2023)

Smoking/ Vaping

Despite a huge decrease in the number of people who smoke in the last 10+ years, smoking remains the leading cause of preventable and early deaths in the UK and Rotherham.

Indicator (year/period)	Rotherham*	All-England
Smoking prevalence amongst adults (2019 definition)	17.8%	13.9%
Smoking prevalence amongst adults (2020 definition)	12.5%	12.1%
Smoking prevalence at age 15 (2014/15)	10.0%	8.2%
Smoking in early pregnancy (2018/19)	27.9%	12.8%
Smoking at the time of delivery (2020/21)	14.0%	9.6%
Smoking prevalence in adults with a long-term mental health condition (2019/20)	35.9%	25.8%
Smoking amongst adults with anxiety or depression (2019/20)	24.8%	25.8%
Smoking amongst people who work in routine and manual occupations (2020)	26.3%	21.4%

*Colours indicate performance compared with all-England: Red = significantly worse; Orange = comparable; Green = significantly better.

Smoking is more common amongst some groups:
a. The odds of smoking amongst adults (aged 18-64) with a routine and manual occupation in Rotherham are 2.9 times the odds of smoking amongst people in other occupations.
b. 36% of adults with long term mental illness and 25% of adults with anxiety or depression smoke in Rotherham.
c. 27% of unemployed people smoke compared to 15% of employed people, nationally.
d. 20% of people who are from a Mixed ethnic group smoke, followed by Other ethnicities (16%); White (14%); Black (10%) Asian (8%) and Chinese (7%) groups;

e. 22% of people who identify as gay or lesbian smoke compared to 16% of straight people nationally.
f. 16% of men smoke compared to 13% of women nationally.

Healthy Eating

In general, Rotherham performs worse than the national average for most measures. Of note, there is currently a lack of granular data locally (for example, prevalence of excess weight by age, sex, ethnicity or geography) which could be used to identify areas of highest need to target interventions.

Excess Weight
The prevalence of excess weight has been increasing over time, both locally and nationally. Rotherham has a higher prevalence of excess weight than the national average.
• 26.6% of reception age children were overweight or obese in 2019/20, compared to 23.0% nationally
• 37.9% of Year 6 children were overweight or obese in 2019/20, compared to 35.2% nationally
• 72.9% of adults in Rotherham overweight or obese in 2019/20, compared to 62.8% nationally – this equates to around 150,000 adults in Rotherham with excess weight
• 28.3% of women in Rotherham were obese in early pregnancy in 2018/19, compared to 22.1% nationally
• National Child Measurement Programme data appears to show a significant increase in excess weight for 2020/21 (4.7%) which is likely to have been mirrored locally.

Underweight
Generally, there is a lack of local data about the prevalence of underweight in adulthood.
• 0.6% of reception age children were underweight in 2019/20, compared to 0.9% nationally
• 1.8% of Year 6 children were underweight in 2019/20, compared to 1.4% nationally
• Nationally, Health Survey for England data suggests that around 2% of the adult population (16+) are underweight – this would equate to around 3500 adults in Rotherham
• Nationally, referrals for childhood eating disorder services have doubled since the COVID19 pandemic
• Note that undernourishment is not synonymous with underweight; people who are undernourished may be of a ‘healthy’ weight

Physical Activity
• 42.4% of children and young people in Rotherham were considered physically active in 2018/19, compared to 46.8% nationally
• 64.3% of adults in Rotherham were considered physically active in 2019/20, compared to 66.8% nationally
• Uptake of cycling in Rotherham is particularly low, with just 0.3% of adults cycling for travel 3 or more days a week in 2018/19, compared to 3.1% nationally.

SEND
11926 (as of 23/04/2024) Children and Young People with SEND in Rotherham

- 3367 have an open ECHP

- 8560 receive SEN support

Of the children open to the service 7572 are male or identify as male, and 4417 are female or identify as female.

Ethnicity	Count
A1 - White British	9789
C2 - Pakistani	566
A3 - Any other White background	300
A5 - Gypsy / Roma	297
B2 – White and Black African	230
B3 - White and Asian	148
White and Black Caribbean	127
B1 - White and Black Caribbean	116
B4 - Any other mixed background	91
E4 - Information not yet obtained	87
C4 - Any other Asian background	78
E2 - Any other ethnic group	75
C1 - Indian	40
E3 - Refused	36
E1 - Chinese	25
D3 - Any other Black background	23
A2 - White Irish	16
Bangladeshi	6

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Students were asked, “How would you describe your mental health?”, with 4,026 responses. Year 7 students ranked their overall mental health better than year 10 students, with 62% saying their mental health was ‘good’ or ‘excellent’ compared with 57% of year 10 students.

Figure 27: Responses to, ‘My mental health is: _____’ by Academic Year

There has been a significant increase in the number of students answering the question from 3,455 in 2017 to now. Figures 28a and 28b show the trends to year 7 and year 10 students from 2017 to 2024, excluding 2020 and 2021 when the survey was not conducted. The greatest differences for year 7 students have occurred among those reporting excellent mental health (770 in 2017 to 489 in 2024) and fair mental health (302 in 2017 to 565 in 2024).

Figure 28a: Responses to, 'My mental health is:' Year 7 - 2017 to 2024 (excluding 2020 and 2021)

In year 10 there was a significant increase in fair and poor mental health between 2019 and 2022. This is over the course of the pandemic, during which time the school survey was not carried out and instead a mental health survey was conducted in its place.

Figure 28b: Responses to, 'My mental health is:' Year 10 - 2017 to 2024 (excluding 2020 and 2021)

When asked, "How has the way you feel about your mental health changed over the last 12 months?" there wasn't a significant difference between year 7 and year 10 students. Overall 74% (2,994) of respondents stated their mental health was about the same or better than it was 12 months ago.

Following up on how they rated their mental health, students were asked which support or strategies they used to support their mental health in the last 12 months. The most common answers from the 1,231 respondents were being active (58%), talking with family and/or friends (45.4%), trying new sports (35.7%), talking with school staff (31.8%) and learning a new skill (30.7%).

Figure 29: Responses to, 'What support/strategies did you use?'

Students were asked what things they believed were important for improving wellbeing and what they would like to see more of.

The three most important things to year 7 students were:

- safe spaces to chat with other young people (53.1%)
- schools providing resources on accessing support (41.3%)
- online support (39.9%)

Year 10 students agreed with:

- 53.5% reporting safe spaces to chat with other young people
- 43.9% reporting online support
- 37.3% reporting schools providing resources on accessing support as being important for improving wellbeing.

The actions identified in the response to the scrutiny review consider the respective service areas in relation to inequalities associated with age. The responses ensure that services are using the voice of children and young people to inform improvement to reduce inequalities.

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

Whilst there is the data included above and the schools survey information, no further in engagement has taken place with young people other than the Youth Cabinet to explore the issues in more depth and canvas the opinions of children and young people or specific protected characteristic groups.

As well as age as an obvious characteristic relating to children and young people, the other characteristics of disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual

orientation, and other socio-economic groups e.g. carers, looked after children, and families with low incomes are also relevant. There isn't data available to fully understand the extent of the issues affecting some of these groups. However, where monitoring of impact is possible, it will be considered.	
What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics? Existing data and established methodology will continue to be used to monitor impact on those groups with protected characteristics. Young People (via Rotherham Youth Cabinet) have been involved with the development of the recommendations and actions, they will continue to influence decision making and delivery through the work of the Youth Cabinet, children and young people's partnership Board, as well as frontline staff, partner agencies.	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	No engagement has taken place with service users in respect of the scrutiny review. However, the recommendations came from Youth Cabinet children's takeover of OSMB on 17th October 2024. Their recommendation proposals have been developed through their ongoing usual routes of engagement with wider cohorts of children and young people.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	No engagement has taken place with service users in respect of the scrutiny review. The following staff have been involved in developing the recommendations and actions, alongside OSMB Members and members of the Youth Cabinet. *Helen Sweaton, RMBC/ Rotherham ICB, Joint Assistant Director* *Niall Devlin, RMBC Assistant Director, E&I* *Gilly Brenner, RMBC, Public Health Consultant* *Kim Fieldhouse, RMBC, Trading Standards Officer* *Chris Siddall, RMBC, Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships* *Joanne Hacking, RMBC, Manager, Safeguarding & QA*

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 service delivery associated with vaping, healthy eating, physical activity and mental health are delivered to all residents in the Borough. This response to scrutiny provides recommendations (appendix 1) targeted at children and young people. These children and young people, and their families may have protected characteristics.

The recommendations relating to improving the robust approach to tackling vaping will support children and young people to not take up vaping or support them to stop. Vaping is associated with certain characteristic groups, therefore this recommendation should help to address those inequalities in health outcomes.

The recommendations relating to mental health are about improving access to support for young people, therefore this should help to address inequalities in access which would reduce inequalities. One recommendation relates to supporting young people with SEND and improving their access to services.

The recommendations relating to physical activity are about improving access to quality provision. Inequalities in access are supported by these recommendations alongside current work focused on this issue.

The recommendations relating to healthy eating seek assurances from schools about access to healthy food. As food access is subject to inequalities, this would help to address these. If a campaign is developed, further consideration will be given to that process to ensure appropriate targeting of information to reach different demographic groups.

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

It is not envisaged that the plan will present any barriers to communities and groups.

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

The actions identified as a result of the recommendations in this report will enhance equalities, diversity and inclusion in relation to the consideration of children and young people and their health and wellbeing when delivering services. The data shows that health and wellbeing is inequitably distributed in populations, including children and young people, with certain groups less able to access provision or more likely to suffer ill health or have increased risks to health – such as through unhealthy diets, being less physically active, or take up smoking, vaping or substance misuse. By working with young people to improve these services this will help improve reach to those young people with higher risk characteristics or reduce their risks to ill health by supporting healthier behaviours.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

The actions identified as a result of the recommendations in this report will enhance community relations by ensuring services are cognisant of the health and wellbeing needs

of children and young people. There is no identified negative impact of improvements to services on inequalities.

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: Cabinet Response to the Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review - OSMB - Childrens Takeover Challenge
Directorate and service area: Childrens – Commissioning, Performance and Quality
Lead Manager: Helen Sweaton
Summary of findings:
The Cabinet paper contains recommendations which would improve children and young people's access to services or improvements that would improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Equalities will be monitored through recommendation implementation, including through ongoing service delivery	A, D, S, RE, RoB, SO, C, O	**Ongoing and as appropriate**

***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**
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director, ACHPH	05/02/25
Cllr Cusworth	Lead Member CYP	04/02/25
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Lead Member Adult, Care, Housing and Public Health	04/02/25

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	03/02/25
Report title and date	Cabinet Response to the Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review - OSMB - Childrens Takeover Challenge. 17/03/25
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	04/02/2025

Appendix 4 – Carbon Impact Assessment - Cabinet Response to the Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review - OSMB - Childrens Takeover Challenge

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from transport?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Positive Impact	N/A	Impacts associated with recommendation 8 include tree planting and maintenance of green space which could have a small positive impact on carbon sequestration.	N/A	The Council monitors its tree planting programme annually.

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:
Healthy eating, including reduced fast food consumption and a greater use of good quality fresh fruit and vegetables may also have small positive benefits for climate change. Fruit and vegetables, un- or low-processed and locally sourced food products generally have lower carbon footprints than their counterparts.

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
The delivery of the scrutiny recommendations has no direct carbon impact for monitoring purposes.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: **(Name, title, and service area/directorate).**	Helen Sweaton Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, performance and quality.
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	CIA416 Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager Finance & Customer Services

Agenda Item 10

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 17 March 2025

Report Title
Modern Slavery Transparency Statement - Annual Refresh

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
Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Steve Parry, Community Safety Officer.
01709 334565 or steve.parry@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected.
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
This report provides the annual update in relation to the activities of the Council and its partners in seeking to both address and prevent modern slavery and a refreshed draft Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2025/26 for consideration and approval prior to publication. (Appendix 1).

On the 1 November 2022, the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) held a 'Spotlight Review' into the Council's and partners responses to tackling Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Rotherham. This was supported by a wide range of partners.

The findings and recommendations from the review were considered, approved, and incorporated into the current Modern Slavery Action Plan (Appendix 2).

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made to date.

2. Approve the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2025/26 and its publication on the Council's website.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Draft Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2025/26.
Appendix 2 – Modern Slavery Action Plan.
Appendix 3 – Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A).
Appendix 4 – Carbon Impact Assessment.

Background Papers
Modern Slavery Act 2015
Co-operative Party Modern Slavery Charter
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils Transparency Statement
Cabinet Report 18th March 2024

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Modern Slavery Transparency Statement - Annual Refresh

1. Background

1.1 At the meeting of the Council on 25 July 2018, Council resolved:

- That the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery be adopted to ensure that the Council's practices do not support slavery.
- That the Corporate Procurement Team be trained to understand modern slavery issues through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supplies (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
- That contractors be required to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
- That any abnormally low-cost tenders should be challenged, to ensure that they do not rely upon the potential contractor practicing modern slavery.
- That suppliers be advised that contracted workers are free to join a Trade Union and should not be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
- That the whistleblowing system to enable staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery be publicised.
- That tendered contractors be required to adopt a whistleblowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
- That contractual spending be reviewed regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
- That suppliers be advised of any risk identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
- That any contractor who is identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery be referred for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism.
- That a report on the implementation of this Policy be published annually.

1.2 Following this commitment, detailed reports have been presented to Cabinet annually. These reports provide updates about the activity of the Council and its partners, in seeking to both address and prevent modern slavery. The reports include a refreshed Modern Slavery Transparency

Statement which is considered by Cabinet and, if approved, published on the Council's website.

1.3 Changes to the 2025/26 Modern Slavery Transparency Statement compared to the 2024/25 statement are:

What is Modern Slavery

- The latest national picture in respect of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism compared to previous Transparency Statements.

Our Commitment

- The latest local data in respect of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism compared to previous Transparency Statements.

Our Policies

- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking now embedded within the Council's Child Exploitation Strategy.

What we have done.

- The delivery of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking training to professionals from across the partnership during Safeguarding Awareness Weeks, over 450 General Practitioners and Health Professionals at an open learning event held at Magna Science Adventure Centre.
- Worked with Social Landlords, including the Selective Licensing Areas, with the provision of awareness raising, spot the signs of modern slavery information and reporting pathways.
- Worked with South Yorkshire Police Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit on the enhancement of reporting pathways and intelligence/information sharing processes.
- Included a full section *'Children from abroad, including victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation'* in the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Manual that identifies Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and presents a pathway response when risk is identified within Children's Services.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Following the commitment made by the Council, a range of activities have been, and continue to be delivered within an established action plan, focussing on the Modern Slavery Charter requirements and OSMB recommendations.

2.2 Staff within the procurement team undertook the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPs) ethical procurement and supply training as required in the Co-op Parties Charter for modern slavery in 2018 when the charter was adopted. The team have been undergoing a refresh of this training with all relevant staff having completed this. This training has now been programmed for renewal every three-year period

as part of the overall modern slavery training provision.

2.3 Improvements to processes around Modern Slavery continue to be delivered through the raising of awareness and the provision of training, and through further developing the Councils role within the multi-agency South Yorkshire Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Group and the local Fortify Bronze Group, which tackles serious and organised crime. Between January and March 2024, Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned four 'Trafficking and Modern Slavery' training courses that were delivered to 48 professionals from across the partnership.

2.4 As part of Safeguarding Awareness Week, 18th – 22nd November 2024, bespoke modern slavery training was delivered to 54 professionals from a cross section of agencies. This training focused on raising awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking, how to spot the signs and how to report suspected cases.

2.5 Training was also delivered to 450 members of the health service, including General Practitioners, Nurses and other medical professionals at an open learning event held on 14th November 2024 at the Magna Science Adventure Centre. Again, this training focused on raising awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking, how to spot the signs and how to report suspected cases.

2.6 During October 2024, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking awareness raising information has been distributed to social landlords within the Councils Selective Licensing Scheme. This includes, how to spot the signs and how to report suspected cases.

2.7 Officers have continued to develop links with local and regional partners to ensure that intelligence and information is received in the right way and appropriately acted upon, either through responsive or proactive operational activity. As a result of work with the South Yorkshire Police Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Team, reporting pathways have been further improved with the introduction of an electronic reporting template available to partners.

2.8 The section *'Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation'* within the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Manual was updated in December 2024 and now explicitly identifies modern slavery and human trafficking and presents a pathway response when the risk is identified within children's services.

2.9 Tackling Modern Slavery and Serious Organised Crime continue to be key priorities for the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) and activity is managed through the Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Serious Organised Crime theme groups with oversight by the SRP Board which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance.

2.10 The Council has 8 employees from across directorates who have received the necessary training to be successful in becoming modern slavery Single

Point of Contact Officers (SPOCs). This has improved knowledge and expertise across the Council in respect of the identification and response to modern slavery cases and in the provision of support to the victims of modern slavery. The development of these officers will continue, and it is planned that extra officers will receive training during 2025/26 as part of a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Training Plan.

2.11 The Council continues to work closely with the South Yorkshire Police Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) in respect of raising awareness with partners, stakeholders, and the public.

2.12 The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive appropriate support. Only designated first responders can refer cases to the NRM. Local Authorities are designated ‘first responder organisations’ and are therefore able to refer cases to the NRM.

2.13 Between April 2022 and December 2024, a total of 126 referrals from Rotherham were made by the Council and other First Responder Organisations to the NRM. All referrals are reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board via the Performance Management framework.

2.14 Support from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) continues to be provided to potential victims of modern slavery through safe house accommodation on an outreach basis. Whilst outreach is provided to people across South Yorkshire, outreach clients will live either in council accommodation, National Asylum Support Service (NASS) accommodation, with friends, family or in their own private accommodation. In addition, support outside of the NRM structure is also provided by the Snowdrop Project who provide post NRM support in Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield.

2.15 Good progress has been made in respect of the actions within the existing action plan, with the majority of actions now fully completed. Work will now progress through the Modern Slavery Steering Group on the development of a revised action plan, including new, appropriate actions to enable further progression and improvements throughout 2025/26.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The Council is required to produce an annual update in relation to activities associated with modern slavery. The Council is further required to update its published ‘Transparency Statement’ each year. The report and attached action plan discharge the requirement for an annual update on activity.

3.2 Attached at Appendix 1 is the refreshed Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2025/26 and at Appendix 2 is the current Action Plan based on recommendations by the OSMB ‘Spotlight Review’ from November 2022 and managed through the Councils Modern Slavery Steering Group.

3.3 No alternative options have been considered because of the clear and ongoing commitment made by the Council since 2018.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Council Officers continue to work with a range of partners through the Safer Rotherham Partnership, which prioritises activity to address Modern Slavery. Direct consultation in respect of the Transparency Statement with external partners has not taken place as this is a Council specific statement.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Following Cabinet approval, the refreshed Modern Slavery Transparency Statement will be published on the Council's website.

5.2 The Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services continues to act as the Council's lead for Modern Slavery and is accountable for the implementation of the action plan.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 All costs associated with the delivery of the action plan have been contained within existing approved budgets.

6.2 The Council's procurement team will continue to support service areas in their procurement activity and identify through the pre-procurement phase, potential market industries where modern slavery may be prevalent and ensure the tender and resulting contract are robust to address this issue.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 As set out in the body of this report and previous reports about this issue, the Council is required to comply with duties as set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, including the duty to co-operate with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (section 43), the duty as to presumption of age of victims of human trafficking where there are reasonable grounds to believe they may be under 18 (section 51), the duty to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking (section 52) and the requirement to publish a transparency statement, including on the Council's website (section 54). This report and Appendices set out how the Council complies with these duties and the other requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

7.2 The Council also has a duty to consider crime and disorder implications under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. As Modern Slavery has been adopted as part of the protecting vulnerable adults key priority by the Safer Rotherham Partnership, the Council, as a 'responsible authority' of the partnership, has a duty to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on crime and disorder and a duty to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area, specifically in this case, Modern Slavery.

7.3 In approving the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2025/26 and publishing on the Council's website ensures that the Council is complying with its statutory duty under section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act. It is a requirement under the Act for a commercial organisation to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year. If the organisation has a website, it must publish the statement on the website and include a link to the statement in a prominent place on the homepage.

7.4 If an organisation fails to comply with the Section 54 duties the Secretary of State can obtain an injunction to enforce it, a failure will also leave the Council open to legal challenge such as judicial review.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Human Resources can support the tackling of the threat of modern slavery through an understanding the key people risk, advising on recruitment, communicating employee rights and procedures for raising issues and available training.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The recommendations links to the following Council Plan themes:

- People are safe, healthy, and live well.
- Every child able to fulfil their potential.

In addition, addressing the recommendations links explicitly to the SRP priorities of:

Protecting Vulnerable Children

- Work together with partners and the public to reduce the risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE) ensure accurate recording of investigations and quality outcomes.
- Increase understanding of CSE and CCE, reporting, and responses, with professionals and the public through training and awareness raising.
- Increase understanding of CSE and CCE, how it affects our communities and how our actions as a partnership improve the lives of children.

Protecting Vulnerable Adults

- Protecting and supporting vulnerable adults from harm, crime and becoming victims of exploitation as well as preventing them from becoming victims of modern slavery.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The publication of the statement itself, which is the decision within the report, does not represent any change in policy or delivery of function but reflects work done across a range of Council services, which are subject to their own decision-making processes and therefore equality impact assessment as appropriate. Therefore, an equality analysis is not required to accompany this report as there are no direct equality implications for the refresh of the published transparency statement.

10.2 Tackling modern slavery and human trafficking is a key priority for the Council and the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The potential for the exploitation of different groups is acknowledged and is monitored and managed by the multi-agency Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Children theme groups and reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Climate change and modern slavery are linked in a vicious circle. Even as climate change increases the likelihood of natural disasters, so people who are displaced or forced to migrate are more likely to be exploited, in the same industries which are most to blame for global CO_2 emissions.

11.2 Through robust safeguarding and supply chain assurance, the Council can mitigate the carbon as well as the human cost of modern slavery. This has special relevance to the renewable energy sector, where solar PV and battery electric vehicle supply chains may risk sourcing materials or components which have been produced by forced labour.

11.3 A carbon impact assessment with more details and a short bibliography is included as Appendix 4.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Modern slavery duties stretch across both the public and private sector. Statutory and other partners are actively engaged locally, regionally, and nationally. The Council has worked over the previous year on an intelligence led basis to increase links with private industry and contractors and suppliers in relation to modern slavery.

12.2 Tackling modern slavery and human trafficking is a key priority for the Council and the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks directly rising from this report.

14. Accountable Officers

14.1 Emma Ellis, Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	03/03/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/02/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	19/02/25

Report Author: Steve Parry, Community Safety Officer
01709 334565 – steve.parry@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Modern Slavery Act 2015 Transparency Statement 2025/26

Introduction

This statement sets out the Council's actions to understand and respond to risks relating to modern slavery. The statement has been drafted in broad acknowledgment of the wide-ranging role of the Council, from front line staff regulating business or visiting homes, through to our commissioning and procurement of works, goods or services and management of contracts.

Modern slavery can take many forms and present in many ways. Our approach to this issue is embedded within our safeguarding policy and practice and we will focus throughout the year on continuing to raise awareness through regular briefings and an increase in the number of appropriately trained staff. We will also continue to work with partners to increase the levels of intelligence and information sharing relating to modern slavery and the operational activity that results from such intelligence.

Finally, we will continue to strengthen our understanding of the risks relating to modern slavery within supply chains and continue to promote the issues with our contractors and suppliers.

This is the Council's sixth transparency statement in relation to modern slavery and is relevant for 2025/26. An annual progress report will be published on our website, alongside a revised statement for the following year.

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is a term that includes any form of human trafficking, slavery, servitude or forced labour, as set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and captures a whole range of types of exploitation, many of which occur together. These include, but are not limited to:

- Sexual exploitation: this includes sexual abuse, forced prostitution and the abuse of children to produce child abuse images/videos.

- Domestic servitude: this involves victims being forced to work in usually private households, performing domestic chores and childcare duties.
- Forced labour: this can happen in various industries, including construction, manufacturing, hospitality, food packaging, agriculture, maritime and beauty sector (nail bars).
- Criminal exploitation: This can be understood as the exploitation of both adults and children to commit a crime, such as theft, burglary, cannabis cultivation, drug trafficking and other similar criminal activities that are subject to penalties and imply financial gain for the trafficker.
- Human trafficking: this requires that a person arranges or facilitates the travel of another person with a view to that person being exploited. The offence can be committed even where the victim consents to the travel. This reflects the fact that a victim may be deceived by the promise of a better life or job or may be a child who is influenced to travel by an adult.
- Other forms of exploitation: human organ removal; forced begging; forced benefit fraud; forced marriage and illegal adoption.

In 2023, 17,004 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK were referred to the Home Office, which is a small increase to the 16,938 potential victims who were referred into the National Referral Mechanism in 2022. The number of potential victims of modern slavery in the UK shows a pattern of yearly increases apart from a slight decrease in 2020, commonly noted to be a result of the national lockdowns in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The number of referrals received in 2023 has been the highest since the National Referral Mechanism began in 2009. However, the increase in referrals does not necessarily correlate with there being more victims but could indicate that First Responders are improving at identifying potential victims.

There is no typical victim, and some do not understand they have been exploited and that they are entitled to help and support. Victims are often trafficked to a foreign country where they are unable to speak the language, have their travel and identity documents removed and are told if they try to escape, they or their families will be harmed.

Locally and across the United Kingdom, Criminal Exploitation generally and ‘County Lines’ drug trafficking, has become a prominent way in which people, particularly children, are increasingly exploited. ‘County lines’ is the practice of trafficking drugs into rural areas and smaller towns and cities, away from the major conurbations. Many factors contribute to the way in which vulnerable children and other individuals are exploited by traffickers and it is an important factor that a child can never consent to their own exploitation. The Council is fully aware of its designation as a ‘First Responder’ organisation under the National Referral Mechanism and its responsibility to identify potential victims and refer cases to the UK Human Trafficking Centre Competent Authority of the National Referral Mechanism.

The Council also works with other agencies to identify and tackle Modern Slavery, particularly through the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP), which is the statutory multi-agency Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for Rotherham, introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Our commitment

The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to modern slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Councils responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Council and 'First Responder' to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. To support this requirement, the Council will ensure staff are suitably trained to spot the signs and pass on relevant information for referral.

The Council currently has processes and procedures as a part of its Safeguarding Policy in relation to modern slavery, and work will continue to further raise awareness of these processes.

Between April 2022 and December 2024, a total of 126 referrals from Rotherham were made by the Council and other First Responder Organisations to the National Referral Mechanism. Data relating to all referrals are reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board via the Performance Management framework. The Council will continue to monitor the number of referrals and the action that it and other agencies have taken in respect of them.

The Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. This is managed by officers being made aware of the potential for modern slavery risks through awareness raising and appropriate briefings, alongside establishing robust assurance. They will consider the potential and likelihood of modern slavery and, where these are deemed to be high, they will seek to develop a clear understanding of the supplier's supply chain arrangements:

The Council's clear commitment is as follows:

- That the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery be adopted to ensure that our practices don't support slavery.

- That the Corporate Procurement Team be trained to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supplies (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.

- That contractors be required to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.

- That any abnormally low-cost tender be challenged to ensure that they do not rely upon the potential contractor practicing modern slavery.

- That suppliers be advised that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and should not be treated unfairly for belonging to one.

- That the whistleblowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery be publicised.

- That tendered contractors be required to adopt a whistleblowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.

- That contractual spending be reviewed regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.

- That suppliers be advised of any risk identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.

- That any contractor who is identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery be referred for investigation via the National Crime Agency's National Referral Mechanism.

- That a report on the implementation of this policy be published annually

The Council is committed to the Co-operative party Charter Against Modern Slavery, details of which can be found on the following link: Modern Slavery Charter

Our business and supply chain

Rotherham Council procures a diverse range of goods, works and services to enable the Council to deliver its public service. Procurement activity is categorised into 4 portfolio areas and the types of services include (but not limited to):

- **People:** commissioned social care provision for vulnerable children and adults, public health, homelessness
- **Places:** waste and recycling, green spaces, maintenance of the borough's highways infrastructure, facilities management, vehicles and transport, security, housing repairs and maintenance
- **Corporate:** ICT, professional services, financial services, consultancy, training, catering, leisure
- **Capital Works:** build and civil scheme development and delivery.

In undertaking procurement activity and the assessments of suppliers, the Council utilises the mandated Selection Questionnaire from Cabinet Office. This provides criteria for assessment to reduce the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chain.

In addition, the Councils contracts include clauses around suppliers' compliance towards legislation and best practice linked to modern slavery, including termination as a sanction for failure to comply. Contracts also include statements of expectation

from the Council in that all employees are to be treated fairly, have the right to join a trade union and that the supplier must adopt a whistleblowing policy for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected cases of modern slavery.

Our policies

Modern slavery is clearly embedded within Safeguarding practice at the Council. Copies of the relevant policy relating to adults can be found on the following link: https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1456/south-yorkshire-safeguarding-adults-procedures

The equivalent Policy in relation to Safeguarding children can be found on the following link:
Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation (proceduresonline.com)

The Councils whistleblowing policy is available on the following link:
https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/download/117/whistleblowing-and-serious-misconduct-policy

The Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership have agreed the Child Exploitation Strategy 2024-29: A vision for managing risk outside the home.
Leading organisations show ongoing commitment towards tackling child exploitation as new strategy is agreed — Partnership release – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

The Councils Procurement Ethics Policy is available on the following link:
Ethical Procurement Policy

Our governance and due diligence approach

As a public body the Council works with various statutory and non-statutory agencies around issues of local and national concern such as modern slavery. We will ensure that we engage with our partners locally and regionally to strengthen our collective understanding of, and efforts to combat, Modern Slavery in all its forms.

Internally, the Council's cross-directorate Modern Slavery Steering Group, chaired by the Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services, ensures operational delivery in line with the commitments made within this statement and further scrutiny is provided by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board. This issue may be subject to detailed scrutiny by the Council's political leadership at the direction of the Chair of the relevant Select Commission.

Awareness raising, and the strengthening of policies and procedures, alongside detailed training where required, will strengthen the Council's diligence in respect of modern slavery linked to the procurement of goods and services, alongside wider contract management.

What we have we done

Following the public commitment made by the Council, to achieve the standards laid out within the Co-operative party Charter against Modern Slavery, a significant amount of work has been delivered. This has included specialist training for procurement officers and the production of guidance for commissioners and contract managers.

The Council has updated and reviews relevant policies to ensure explicit reference to modern slavery. Likewise, it's previously updated Invitation to Tender documentation in respect of requirements under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and its Safeguarding Policy, that all suppliers and their staff delivering a contract must adhere to, which also sets out that they must have an up-to-date Modern Slavery Transparency Statement (where required by law) and that these statements are registered at https://TISCreport.org are subject of regular review.

To improve awareness and strengthen its ability to identify and respond to cases of modern slavery, the Council has maintained its commitment to having officers from across council directorates who have received specialist training to become single points of contact for modern slavery. This increased expertise has resulted in improved working practices and co-ordination between the Council, the Police and the wider partnership. The development of these officers will continue, and it is planned that extra officers will receive training during 2025/26 as part of a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Training Plan.

As part of Safeguarding Awareness Week, 18th – 22nd November 2024, bespoke modern slavery training was delivered to 54 professionals from a cross section of agencies. This training focused on raising awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking, how to spot the signs and how to report suspected cases.

Between January and March 2024, Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned four 'Trafficking and Modern Slavery' training courses that were delivered to 48 professionals from across the partnership.

Training was also delivered to 450 members of the health service, including General Practitioners, Nurses and other medical professionals at an open learning event held in November 2024. Again, this training focused on raising awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking, how to spot the signs and how to report suspected cases.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking awareness raising information has been distributed to social landlords within the Councils Selective Licensing Scheme. This includes how to spot the signs and how to report suspected cases.

Officers have continued to develop links with local and regional partners to ensure that intelligence and information is received in the right way and appropriately acted upon, either through responsive or proactive operational activity. As a result of work with the South Yorkshire Police Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Team, reporting pathways have been further improved with the introduction of an electronic reporting template available to partners.

Training and awareness raising material is available, with posters displayed around Council premises, an e-learning module available to all staff and specialist training for relevant front-line officers.

The section *'Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation'* within the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Manual was updated in December 2024 and now explicitly identifies modern slavery and human trafficking and presents a pathway response when the risk is identified within children's services.

A previously established Modern Slavery Steering Group continues to oversee the Councils response to modern slavery and human trafficking and comply with the legislative requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. An Action Plan has been produced to provide a clear structure for work to be carried out and this to record and monitor progress.

Modern Slavery continued to be a key priority for the SRP throughout 2023/24 and the Councils work, along with its partners towards eradicating it is reported to and monitored by the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

What we will do

The Council will continue to seek to increase the number of Modern Slavery referrals through the National Referral Mechanism. This is also a priority for the Safer Rotherham Partnership (statutory multi-agency Community Safety Partnership for Rotherham under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998)

The Council will continue to offer both generic and specialist training and will continue to support this with regular efforts to raise awareness both online, through social media and within its teams. The Council and its partners will also seek to raise awareness within communities, both about how to spot the signs and how and where to report.

The Council will continue to combat modern slavery by working in partnership and providing mutual support between departments and agencies.

The Council will continue to ensure that sound processes and procedures are in place to help identify and support potential victims of modern slavery, including staff having sufficient knowledge to be able to effectively deal with reports, incidents and issues raised.

The Council will work to further improve the gathering and sharing of modern slavery intelligence and information with its partners that may help to disrupt perpetrators and assist with bringing them to justice. This will be monitored through the Councils Modern Slavery Steering Group and the wider SRP, Community Safety Partnership.

The Council will continue to work with its partner agencies to map the evolving local modern slavery landscape to identify high risk industries and 'hot spots'.

The Council will work with its partner agencies to review and improve how young adults at risk of experiencing modern slavery are safeguarded during the transition from children to adult services and are age assessed appropriately.

The Council will continue to support its contract managers, procurement officers and commissioning staff to develop their awareness and understanding in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking and ensure active scrutiny of tenders.

The Council will continue to monitor contractual spend through the Transparency in Supply Chains organization, (https://tiscreport.org/) and continue to work with suppliers who have not yet demonstrated compliance to encourage greater engagement with Modern Slavery issues and responses.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the National Referral Mechanism.

Signed

Chief Executive

Leader of the Council

Modern Slavery Action Plan

CURRENT RAG STATUS	No. of actions:
Action may exceed original target date	0
Action progressing and on track	3
Action completed	8
Action planned but not started	0

Version: October 2022

Action may exceed original target date
Action progressing and on track
Action completed
Action planned but not started

Modern Slavery Steering Group Action Plan - Post Overview and Scrutiny Management Board 'Spotlight Review' which took place in November 2022.

No:	Action:	Lead Action Owner:	By When:	Progress Update:	Status:
1	That the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) consider rolling out a targeted learning and development offer/campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery, how to spot the signs and risks and how to raise concerns and make referrals:				
1a	To front line staff across agencies.	Steve Parry	Apr-25	A refreshed programme of 'Introduction to Human Trafficking' training courses for front line staff completed during 2022-23, delivered by the Snowdrop Project. As part of Safeguarding Adults Week 2023 the Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) delivered a 'labour exploitation in the care sector' presentation to colleagues working in the care sector. Further training is planned. - Also see 1c below. Four Trafficking and Modern Slavery training courses were delvered in 2023-24, commissioned by the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board as part of their training offer. Four courses have been commissioned for delivery in 2024-2025. A session on Modern Slavery was delivered to GP's at an event at Magna on 14/11/24 A session on Modern Slavery and a session on 'Cuckooing' were delivered to professionals on 20th November and 22nd November respectfully as part of Safeguarding Awareness Week commencing 18th November 2024. Safer Rotherham Partnership social media content regularly posted to raise awareness of modern slavery. A number of new learning resources have been located in the MS Teams 'Training' folder for reference. These were obtained by members of RMBC Procurment Team. Work will progress on the devlopment of a further training programme through 2025/26, with emphasis on further training for RMBC Modern Slavery SPOC's and also the recruitment and training of new SPOC's. The training of the SPOC's has been raised at the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery and Immigration Crime meeting with regards to the potential for joint training with the other three local authorities.	Action progressing and on track
1b	To elected members.	Steve Parry	Apr-24	Member Seminar took place on 21st November 2023, jointly delivered by RMBC, SY Police and Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) - Further Member Seminars will be delivered as and when required.	Action completed

No:	Action:	Lead Action Owner:	By When:	Progress Update:	Status:
1c	To the public and targeted businesses such as letting agencies	Steve Parry	Apr-25	Safer Rotherham Partnership social media content is regularly posted to raise awareness of modern slavery. Further work is still needed to target communications at businesses and is being considered as part of the 2025 training programme. Contact being made with RIDO and Chamber of Commerce regarding best approach to be adopted which could also include the use of Police and GLAA media resources i.e leaflets. Modern Slavery and 'Cuckooing' awareness raising information has now been circulated to Registered Landlords and 'Selective Licensing' Landlords across the borough via RMBC Startegic Housing. Meetings with the South Yorkshire Police Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit has resulted in improved working practices and information sharing around private social landlords. Training for Taxi drivers is being considered for delivery early 2025.	**Action progressing and on track**
2	That the SRP considers mapping the local modern slavery landscape to identify high risk industries and 'hot spots'	Steve Parry	Jan-25	Full data and information sharing now takes place at the county-wide meeting of the multi-agency Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime meeting. This group meets bi-monthly at which analytical data and information is provided by South Yorkshire Police analysts and GLAA. and data is also provided by the analyst on request. This forum and supporting data and shared information covers high risk industries and the changing modern slavery landscape - for example, hand car washes, nail bars construction sector, care sector. The group also provides current risk and threat updates. Certain sectors and products are at high risk for modern slavery, regardless of region. Typically, these sectors are: •informal and unregulated, with poor visibility over lower tier suppliers. •reliant on a workforce to carry out jobs that are considered undesirable, hazardous or low-skilled. •Car washes, beauty sector – nail bars. Seasonal and low-paying Examples of high-risk sectors include: •industrial cleaning, meat works, hospitality, construction, manufacturing, agriculture and fishing. •The Care Sector, including the recruitment of workers from overseas. Information to inform 2025/26 training plan.	**Action completed**
3	That consideration be given to establishing an RMBC internal governance group, including representation from services who may encounter modern slavery	Emma Ellis	Jun-23	The first meeting of the Council's Modern Slavery Steering Group chaired by Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services was held on Thursday 29th June 2023. The meeting focussed on agreeing Term of Reference, including membership and frequency of meetings. The group now meets on a regular basis and reports to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board through the Protecting Vulnerable Adults Theme Group.	**Action completed**
4	That consideration is given to how young adults at risk of experiencing modern slavery are safeguarded during the transition from children to adult services and are age assessed appropriately	Kevin Buck/Tony Morrissey	Apr-24	Discussed at CEDG and with the Evolve service who have connected with the HOS in adults. Work continues to formulate a more structured transition pathway. An Exploitation Strategy update specifically names modern slavery as a risk that requires a statutory assessment and response (in some circumstances). Lee Durrant is overseeing the training schedule. He highlighted that this is accessible via our virtual college for all children's professionals under the banner of PREVENT. The section 'Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation' within the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Manual has been updated and now explicitly identifies modern slavery and human trafficking and presents a pathway response when the risk is identified within children's services.	**Action completed**

No:	Action:	Lead Action Owner:	By When:	Progress Update:	Status:
5	That consideration is given to developing referral pathways to ensure that modern slavery victims (both adult and child) have access to appropriate support (housing, advocacy, mental health) on a timely basis	Steve Parry	Jun-23	**October 2023 -** Local, established homelessness pathways and National Referral Mechanism (NRM) pathway already apply. These existing pathways have been communicated to all partners and included in future training development for clarity. Quality assurance mechanisms will be reviewed to ensure the pathways are effective and there are no barriers to accessing support.	**Action completed**
6	That consideration is given to re-launching the Strategic Partnership Information Sharing Group at the earliest opportunity to improve the way that agencies can share data and intelligence, including examining how IT systems can work better together	Emma Ellis/Steve Parry	Jan-24	The county-wide South Yorkshire Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime meeting chaired by South Yorkshire Police has continued to meet on a regular basis. Data sharing takes place through the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime, the RMBC Modern Slavery Steering Group and Safer Rotherham Partnership Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Protecting Vulnerable Children's partner groups. The steering group will continue to explore opportunities to share information and intelligence to improve outcomes. The South Yorkshire intelligence portal, through which partners and agencies can submit items of intelligence for screening and appropriate action is now live at: https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/partners/partner-services/community-partner-intelligence/community-partnership-intelligence/community-partnership-intelligence-form/	**Action completed**
7	That consideration is given to widening the levels of investigation and auditing of contracts procured by the council to focus on the 'layers' of sub-contractors, including binding specifications to audit or 'dip-sample' contracts along the supply chain	Karen Middlebrook/ Steve Parry	Apr-25	As part of the overall training programme, the GLAA have agreed to deliver training to appropriate council Contract and Procurement Managers in respect of labour exploitation. Delivery style and required content has been discussed through the Modern Slavery Steering Group. Anticipated that training will be delivered as part of the 2025/26 training programme. Next steps in relation to auditing contracts will be monitored through the Modern Slavery Steering Group. RMBC commissioning requires contractors to have a Modern Slavery Statement that is validated by the contract manager. Safe recruitment practice (e.g. background checks) is embedded in processes.	**Action progressing and on track**
8	That consideration is given to how the Procurement Team can engage with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) supply chain advisor to improve processes, joint working, and awareness	Karen Middlebrook	Jun-23	Well established links already exist between the Councils Procurement Service manager and the SYMCA Supply Chain Advisor with regular meetings taking place between the two. The Councils Procurement Service Manager is a core member of the Councils Modern Slavery Steering Group.	**Action completed**
9	That consideration be given to allow victim advocates to make recommendations to Housing	Sandra Tolley	Jun-23	The process already in place in respect of the Council's Housing Assessment Panels does allow for third party representation and this would include the presentation of advice and recommendations by victim advocates for the panels to consider in respect of victims of modern slavery.	**Action completed**

No:	Action:	Lead Action Owner:	By When:	Progress Update:	Status:
COMPLETED ACTIONS 2018-2022					
	Council Actions:	**Action owner**		**Progress note:**	
	Incorporate the recommendations of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Spotlight Review (November 2022) within this action plan and agree action owners to ensure timely implementation	Emma Ellis, Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services		Recommendations received and incorporated into Modern Slavery Action Plan, as above and overseen by the Councils Modern Slavery Steering Group.	
	Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.	Karen Middlebrook		All relevant officers have now completed the course and passed the exam. Will seek to renew the training on an 3-yearly cycle.	
	Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance. (Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act is a transparency in supply chains measure that requires businesses who a) carry on a business, or part of a business in the UK; b) supply goods and services; and c) have an annual turnover of £36million or more to produce an annual statement on the steps they are taking to prevent modern slavery in their supply chains and own organisation.)	Karen Middlebrook / Legal		For all tenders undertaken above the EU threshold, the Council is mandated to the use the Selection Questionnaire (SQ) set by Central Government. One of the sections within this SQ is compliance with the Modern Slavery Act. For these types of tender, anyone failing to comply with the Act will not be shortlisted. The Council has signed up to TISCreport.org to help track suppliers and their compliance with the Act. The use of this tool has identified some suppliers, where direct engagement is now taking place through the Contract Managers within service areas to put them in a compliant manner. Further work is required by Legal to strengthen the Council's Terms and Conditions in this regard. Processes also require development in relation to contracts that are below threshold or where they are a call off from a framework agreement. The Council is now addressing this as contracts expire. New terms and conditions are drafted by Legal Services and entered into by all parties. Now complete and in place.	

No:	Action:	Lead Action Owner:	By When:	Progress Update:	Status:
	Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery. (Low cost tenders can be a sign of exploitation and should be challenged. Local Authorities can use Regulation 69 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (Abnormally low tenders) which means they can require tenderers to explain the price or costs proposed in the tender.)	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow		If the Council receives an abnormally low tender it would challenge this in accordance with Regulation 69 and this is detailed in the Council's tender template documentation for above threshold tenders. Working relationships within the Council have been strengthened with Procurement and Community Safety to try and tie this link. A list of high risk industries has been gathered and an understanding between the 2 teams that where an abnormally low tender is received in any of these industries, dialogue to take place to determine an agreed course of action. Further guidance has been developed.	
	Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow		Transparency within supply chains is supported and positively endorsed by Trade Unions and both national and local levels. Work has been done to include a section in the Council's updated tendering document that's highlights to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.	
	Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow		The Whistleblowing policy has been updated to include explicit reference to modern slavery. The Council's whistleblowing and serious misconduct policy is publicised and available on the internet and clear reference is made within the policy to modern slavery.	
	Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow		Work complete to streamline standard wording around Safeguarding within the Councils template tender documentation. The safeguarding section (8) of the Council's 'Invitation to Tender' document has been updated in respect of the policies that tendering organisations have in place. This includes the requirement for a 'Whistleblowing policy that is accessible to staff and volunteers'. (Section 8.2(l)	
	Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow		The Council has signed up to TISCreport.org to help track suppliers and their compliance with the Act. The Councils Modern Slavery Lead is a member of the Councils Commissioning Board and guidance has been developed for Commissioning Officers or those with relevant responsibilities.	

No:	Action:	Lead Action Owner:	By When:	Progress Update:	Status:
	Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed (It's important that suppliers also have aware of what modern slavery is, what the signs are and how they can tackle)	Karen Middlebrook / Sam Barstow		The Council has made systematic contact with non-compliant companies as identified through TISC-report. In many cases companies are found to be compliant however publications are not linked or verified so work is ongoing to support suppliers Linked with the action above and follow-up with companies however this now needs further review.	
	Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery. (This reiterates the duty for local councils to report concerns using the national referral mechanism, and a public commitment they will do that for their own contractors too)	Sam Barstow		A system is in place to support referrals regarding companies of concern.	
	Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually	Sam Barstow		A report is presented annually to Cabinet in respect of the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement.	
	Confirm Policy Arrangements both in relation to Childrens and Adult (To ensure that effective Policy is in place which makes clear reference to modern slavery in relation to safeguarding practice/procedure)	Vicky Schofield/Andrew Wells		Complete.	
	Develop an outline plan for compliance against the MS Charter requirements. (Ensure that the Procurement service is working toward compliance with the commitments made within the MS Charter)	Karen Middlebrook / Legal		Complete.	

No:	Action:	Lead Action Owner:	By When:	Progress Update:	Status:
	Explore available specialists training with wider Safeguarding Training	Sharon Clarke		All levels of Social Workers have had training and confirming that persons whom have “No recourse to public funds” are covered within the procedures.	
	Ensure basic e-learning is available to front line staff and manager	Steve Parry		E learning provided on the Directions Councils website	
	Ensure engagement in wider partnership activity to disrupt, prevent and address modern slavery	Steve Parry		Council in regular attendance at appropriate/relevant meetings.	
	Establish operational links to support response to intelligence and information (Engage with the Home Office, Gang Master Licensing Authority, SYP and Border Force to ensure that proactive operational links are in place and that Rotherham benefits from operational partnership activity)	Sam Barstow		Ongoing links established and continue through existing structures.	
	Develop a robust Transparency Statement on behalf of the Council	Sam Barstow		A refreshed Modern Slavery Transparency Statement is presented to Cabinet annually for approval prior to publication on the Councils website	
	Confirm Policy Arrangements both in relation to Children’s and Adult. (Ensure that effective Policy is in place which makes clear reference to Modern Slavery (MS) in relation to safeguarding practice/procedure)	Vicky Schofield/Andrew Wells		Complete	

No:	Action:	Lead Action Owner:	By When:	Progress Update:	Status:
	Develop an outline plan for compliance against the MS Charter requirements. (Ensure that the Procurement service is working toward compliance with the commitments made within the MS Charter)	Karen Middlebrook / Legal		Complete	
	Improve the Councils ability to identify and respond to (MS). (Working with partners, seek opportunities to enhance the expertise and ability within the Council to respond to Modern Day Slavery)	Steve Parry		The Council is a member of the South Yorkshire (MS) Partnership It also is represented on the South Yorkshire (MS) Practitioners Group and the county-wide and local Organised Crime Boards. A total of 11 Council officers have now been trained as (MS) Single Points of Contact Officers (SPOC's). This has significantly increased knowledge and expertise within the Council to identify and respond to (MS). Through work with the South Yorkshire (MS) Partnership, a detailed quarterly report is now to be presented to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board to inform its activities in tackling (MS).	

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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: Modern Slavery Update and Revised Transparency Statement	
Directorate: **Regeneration & Environment**	**Service area:** **Community Safety & Regulatory Services**
Lead person: **Steve Parry**	**Contact number:** **07443 477536**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The publication of the Transparency Statement itself, which is the decision within the report, does not represent any change in policy or delivery of function but reflects work done across a range of Council services, which are subject to their own decision-making processes and therefore equality impact assessment as appropriate. Therefore, an equality analysis is not required to accompany this report as there are no direct equality implications for the refresh of the published Transparency Statement.

Tackling modern slavery and human trafficking is a key priority for the Council and the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The potential for the exploitation of different groups is acknowledged and is monitored and managed by the multi-agency Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Children theme groups and reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employee's 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

The publication of the statement itself, which is the decision within the report, does not represent any change in Policy or delivery of function but reflects work done across a range of Council services, which are subject to their own decision-making processes and therefore equality impact assessment as appropriate.

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**.**	
• **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 (Include name and job title):	N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Emma Ellis	Head of Community Safety & Regulatory Services.	10/01/2025

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	10th January 2025
Report title and date	Modern Slavery Annual Transparency Statement 2025/26

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 to be presented to Cabinet on 17th March 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	11th January 2025

Appendix 4 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	**Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.**	**Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts**	**Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out**
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	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:

Climate change and modern slavery are linked in a vicious circle. Climate change is increasing people's vulnerability to modern slavery, by making sudden disasters such as storms and floods more likely and through slower onset disasters, such as drought and salination. Human trafficking for forced labour and sexual exploitation in the wake of natural disasters is well documented, as people who are displaced or forced to migrate lose their livelihoods and social ties in their communities. Extractive industries which cause the greatest environmental harm are also

the main source of demand for cheap labour in global supply chains and are linked to trafficking for sexual exploitation. People displaced by climate change are more at risk of being forced into modern slavery, in the same industries which are most to blame for global heating.

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: Climate change is a driver of modern slavery. In Rotherham and throughout global supply chains, exploitation has a carbon cost, which completes a vicious circle between modern slavery and climate change. By safeguarding people from modern slavery and acting to reduce exposure to modern slavery through its supply chains, the Council can mitigate the carbon as well as the human cost of exploitation.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Steve Parry, Community Safety Officer, Community Safety, Regeneration and Environment.
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	• *Climate-induced migration and modern slavery: A toolkit for policy makers*. Anti-Slavery International & International Institute for Environment and Development (2021). Available from: <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2021-09/20441G.pdf> • *From a vicious to a virtuous circle: Addressing climate change, environmental destruction and contemporary slavery*. Anti-Slavery International (2021). Available from: <https://www.antislavery.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ASI_ViciousCycle_Report_web2.pdf> • *Respecting Rights in Renewable Energy: Addressing forced labour of Uyghurs and other Muslim and Turkic-majority peoples in the production of green technology*. Modern Slavery and Human Right Policy and Evidence Centre (2024). Available from: <https://www.antislavery.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/MSPEC_Uyghur_Research_Summary.pdf>
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA 404 Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer, Asset Management, Finance and Customer Services

Agenda Item 11

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 17 March 2025

Report Title
Housing Capital Programme 2025-29

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)
Lindsay Wynn, HRA Business Planning Manager
07342718601 or Lindsay.wynn@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
This report seeks Cabinet authorisation for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2025-29. Key areas of focus include improving council homes, providing aids and adaptations, and acquiring and building new council homes. The report summarises the investment that has taken place or is planned to take place during 2024-25, provides an outline four-year Capital Programme (2025-26 to 2028-29) and a detailed programme for 2025-26.

Total planned HRA capital investment in the years 2025-26 to 2028-29 is £290.906m. This sum has been modelled and included with the 2025-26 HRA Business Plan that was approved by Council on the 15th January 2025.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the four-year outline Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2025-26 to 2028-29 with total planned investment of £291m broken down into the following areas of investment:
    - Improving homes and estates £154.1m
    - Aids and adaptations to Council homes £13.2m
    - Housing Delivery Programme £121m
    - IT and digital transformation £2.6m

2. Approve the detailed 2025-26 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme with total planned investment of £73m broken down into the following areas of investment:
    - Improving homes and estates £33.1m
    - Aids and adaptions to Council homes £3.3m
    - Housing Delivery Programme £36m
    - IT and digital transformation £0.5m

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 2025-26 to 2028-29 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme by area
Appendix 2 2025-26 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme budget detail
Appendix 3 2025-26 to 2028-29 Improving Homes and Estates budget detail
Appendix 4 2025-26 to 2028-29 Public Aids and Adaptation budget detail
Appendix 5 2025-26 to 2028-29 Housing Delivery Programme budget detail
Appendix 6 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme funding
Appendix 7a Equalities screening assessment
Appendix 7b Equality analysis form
Appendix 8 Carbon impact assessment

Background Papers

HRA Business Plan 2025-26
Aids and Adaptations Policy 2024
Housing Delivery Programme 2025-26

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Housing Capital Programme 2025-29

1. Background

1.1 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme encompasses four broad areas of investment:

- Improving council homes and estates
- Provision of aids and adaptations to enable tenants to remain in their homes
- Acquisition and build of new council homes (Housing Delivery Programme)
- Investment in IT and digital transformation

1.2 The scope of this report is HRA capital investment only. The Council also makes capital investments via the Furnished Homes service and through Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) for privately owned homes. These are not funded via the HRA.

2025-26 HRA Business Plan

1.3 The 2025-26 HRA Business Plan was approved by Cabinet on the 16th December 2024 and by Council on 15th January 2025.

1.4 The HRA Business Plan is updated annually to ensure it reflects the current operating environment. The 2025-26 Business Plan prioritises investment in three core areas:

- Ensuring tenant's homes are safe, decent and thermally efficient.
- Extending the benefits of council housing to more residents by expanding the Housing Delivery Programme.
- Modernising the housing service to enhance customer experience, improve productivity and achieve full regulatory compliance.

1.5 The HRA Business Plan incorporates emerging proposals to direct additional investment into the Council's existing homes, while continuing to deliver hundreds of new homes.

Key investments made in 2024-25

1.6 As of December 2024, the 2024-25 HRA Capital Programme had an approved investment programme of £57.283m. Appendix 1 sets out completed and planned investment by area. The table below summarises what investment in 2024-25 will deliver.

Table 1: Summary of HRA Capital Programme 2024-25 investments

Improving homes and estates (£28m)	• Refurbishment works including re-roofing and kitchen and bathroom replacements. Major roofing schemes have been delivered in Dalton, Thurcroft, Maltby and East

	Herringthorpe, and the Council is on track to replaced 200 kitchens and bathrooms. • Replacement of 1,700 central heating systems. • Approximately 450 properties have benefited from additional loft insulation. • Major works have been completed in 500 vacant properties. • Environmental improvement schemes in Greasborough, Kimberworth, Rawmarsh and Thrybergh.
Aids and adaptations in council homes (£2.6m)	• 740 major adaptations, such as level access showers, hard standings, and showers over baths. • 1,619 minor fixings installed, such as grab rails, key safes, and easy access steps. • 703 minor Council adaptations delivered, including external handrails and door widening.
Delivering new council homes (£26m)	• 10 Council new build homes at East Herringthorpe. • 126 new homes acquired. • More detail is provided in six monthly Housing Delivery Programme reports to Cabinet.

2. Key Issues

2.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for a 4-year Capital Programme covering the years 2025-26 to 2028-29. The table at Appendix 1 sets out the proposed programme, which is split into four areas:

(a) Improving council homes and estates
(b) Providing aids and adaptations
(c) Delivering new council homes (Housing Delivery Programme)
(d) Investing in IT to support digital transformation

(a) <u>Improving council homes and estates</u>

2.2 Investing in existing assets and maintaining them to the Decent Homes standard is a high priority for the Council and as such the programme includes a significant increase in investment in council homes and estates – worth approximately £25m across the three years 2026-27 to 2028-29 – over and above amount invested in 2024-25 and 2025-26. This additional investment will mean increased spend on external elements (roofs, facias, soffits, guttering), internal elements (e.g. bathrooms and kitchens), measures to ensure all properties meet Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C by 2030, and additional investment in the estate and environmental improvements programme.

2.3 Capital investment in existing stock will positively impact council tenants' quality of life, financial stability, and housing security:

- **Improved living conditions** - An on-going Capital Programme ensures properties are well maintained and meet decency. This investment will include modernisation of kitchens and bathrooms, structural repairs and replacing outdated heating systems.

- **Energy efficiency and thermal comfort** - Investing in better insulation and renewable energy systems can significantly reduce the energy costs for tenants, this in turn enables them to better manage household budgets and reduce their environmental footprint.

- **Health and wellbeing** - A well-maintained home will prevent issues such as damp, mould and poor ventilation. These can cause or aggravate health issues. Investing in aids and adaptations ensures accessibility, independence, and improved quality of life.

2.4 A proposed breakdown of the capital investment for 2025-26 to 2028-29 can be found at Appendix 3. This is based on current stock information held. The breakdown will be adjusted over the course of 2025-26 in line with ongoing work to conduct stock condition surveys, develop a decarbonisation plan and refresh the Council's Housing Asset Management Strategy.

Stock condition surveys

2.5 The Council has a stock condition database that helps inform the 30-year business plan and the four-year capital investment programme.
The data held within the system is primarily based on stock condition surveys that were undertaken between 2004 to 2010. Since then, it has been updated with different surveys and completed works information. However, only limited full house stock condition surveys have been undertaken over the past five years and this has been identified as a key improvement area in Housing Regulatory Assurance reports provided to Cabinet.

2.6 Using in-house surveyors, the Council has conducted or plans to conduct 700 stock condition surveys during 2024-25, focused on those properties where condition information is limited. In parallel, the Council is working with an external contractor to undertake a programme of stock condition surveys to 100% of properties over the next three years. A pilot programme of surveys commenced in early February with the full project due to ramp up from next month.

2.7 At the end of December 2024 94.11% of council homes in Rotherham met the Decent Homes standard. Without regular surveying and targeted, proactive investment, more homes will fall into non-decency each financial year. The Council is carrying out proactive element-specific surveys to review the condition of potentially failing elements and make amendments to stock data accordingly.

2.8 The outcome of the stock condition survey will inform the evolution of the Capital Programme and in particular the investment required to ensure the Council's housing stock meets the Decent Homes Standard.

Decarbonisation plan

2.9 By 2030, all social housing must achieve EPC band C where reasonably practicable. As of 31st December 2024, 57.43% of council homes in Rotherham were at EPC band C or above, which means approximately 9,000 council homes do not achieve band C. The Capital Programme includes investment earmarked to support energy efficiency improvements. Additionally, a funding bid has been submitted to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of the Warmer Homes scheme to secure investment that could enable the Council to deliver works to 1,470 council homes to achieve EPC C. This element of the proposed Capital Programme may need to be amended once the outcome of this bid is known.

Gearing up for delivery

2.10 As well as increasing investment, the Council is aiming to move towards a more proactive, intelligence-led investment programme and to work with the supply chain to ensure planned improvements can be delivered to time and to budget. A review is underway into the structure and resources within the Council's Housing Property Service to ensure the Council is geared up to deliver. This work will be concluded during 2025-26 so any new arrangements are in place prior to the additional investment kicking in during the following three years.

Detailed programme for 2025-26

2.11 The detailed 2025-26 programme can be found at Appendix 2. The programme includes continued delivery of phased external projects (e.g. roofing schemes) across the borough including, in Catcliffe, East Herringthorpe, Thurcroft, Richmond Park, West Melton and Maltby. The programme also includes a major rewiring project at Wharncliffe flats, the renewal of approximately 1,700 boilers and 200 kitchens or bathrooms.

2.12 The programme includes £2m for larger planned repairs for example repairs to paths, paving and boundary walls, plastering and pointing. There is also £2m for ventilation works, which forms part of a wider investment package to help prevent and mitigate damp and mould within properties.

2.13 In addition to this there is £1.8million which will see works being undertaken to improve the thermal efficiency of assets which will result in more properties reaching EPC Band C. This may be increased depending on the outcome of the Council's bid to the Warmer Homes scheme.

2.14 The programme also includes £6.5m for major refurbishments to properties that become empty and are due to be re-let to a new tenant. This budget

has increased significantly in recent years, driven by factors such as outdated kitchens and bathrooms, damp-proofing works, and rewiring.

(b) Providing aids and adaptations

2.15 This programme includes £13.2m over four years to deliver aids and adaptations to council homes, enabling older or disabled tenants to remain in their homes. Appendix 4 shows the budget breakdown over the 4 years.

2.16 In 2025-26 the £3.3m budget is expected to deliver approximately 900 major adaptations such as level access showers and 850 minor adaptations such as handrails and door widening. The detailed 2025-26 programme can be found at Appendix 2.

2.17 The Aids and Adaptations Service works closely with Housing Occupational Therapists to ensure homes that have already been adapted are utilised appropriately. Alternative housing options are always considered before costly adaptations are installed. In some cases, financial assistance towards the cost of moving is more cost effective than paying for adaptations. Following an in-depth assessment carried out by an Occupational Therapist, the suitability of the current accommodation is assessed. It may be deemed necessary to install minor adaptations and fixings as a short-term solution prior to moving to alternative accommodation.

(c) Delivering new council homes (Housing Delivery Programme)

2.18 The proposed Capital Programme includes £121m to support the Council's Housing Delivery Programme. This includes £88m to deliver the existing pipeline of projects to achieve 1,000 new council homes by summer 2027, alongside a further £33m to ensure the continuation of the Housing Delivery Programme beyond 2027. This programme of activity will continue to deliver much needed affordable housing within the borough while increasing rental income to the HRA and helping to reduce the impact of Right to Buy on council housing stock levels.

2.19 Appendix 5 shows how the £121m of proposed investment is split across the four Housing Delivery Programme workstreams and the four financial years in scope of this report. Earmarked investment is deliberately heavily backloaded, with £55m profiled in 2028-29. As specific schemes are identified and agreed via business cases or specific Cabinet approvals, investment is re-profiled into the correct financial years.

2.20 The programme assumes delivery of approximately 440 units across the 4 worksteams;

- New build
- S106 Acquisitions
- Market Acquisitions
- Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative

2.21 It is forecast that in 2025-26 a total of 27 new build homes will be completed including 13 at Warden Street and 10 at Princess Street. 102 homes will be

aqcuired, 66 directly from the market and 13 S106 homes at Laughton Gate. The detailed 2025-26 programme can be found at Appendix 2. The budget of £36m reflects the current approved budget. As mentioned in section 2.19 further budget will be reprofiled from 2028-29 as schemes come forward for approval.

2.22 In practice, the exact schemes which are delivered is likely to change in response to a range of factors. It is important to ensure that both individual projects and the overall programme delivers value for money and all projects are subject to specific approvals.

(d) Investing in IT to support digital transformation

2.23 The Council has an established rolling programme of capital investments into its IT and digital infrastructure and certain elements of this are supported with HRA investment. In line with this, the proposed Capital Programme includes £500k investment in IT during 2025-26. The detailed 2025-26 programme can be found at Appendix 2.

2.24 In addition, the 2025-26 HRA Business Plan identified an opportunity for additional investment to support digitally transformation activities and earmarked an increased budget of more than £2m across 2026-27 and 2027-28. Early priorities include supporting the transition to digital mobile working, upgrades to the Housing Online system and further investment in compliance systems.

2.25 Over the medium term, a housing digital transformation programme is being developed which will provide a roadmap for how the housing service will transition to digital by default allowing easier access for tenants and streamlining back-office processes. Areas of focus will include:

- Digitising back-office processes across all services
- Updating and expanding the use of Nippon Electric Company (NEC) housing software
- Improving customer access channels using technology

Funding sources

2.26 Appendix 6 sets out the funding sources of the proposed £290.906m HRA Capital Programme.

Grants and Contributions

2.27 It has been assumed that overall the remaining Housing Delivery Programme will be funded by 40% grant, this is either RTB141, S106 affordable housing contributions or grant from other sources such as:

- Homes England Affordable Homes Programme
- Brownfield Housing Fund
- Brownfield Release Land Fund
- Local Authority Housing Fund

2.28 The grant funding requirements will be closely monitored and will be reported to the Housing Capital Programme Board and Housing Delivery Programme Board, along with the impact of project approvals and the overall viability of the programme.

Warm Homes Grant

2.29 The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) gave Housing Providers the opportunity to bid for funding under the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3. The funding will upgrade a significant amount of the social housing stock currently below Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band C up to that standard. It will support the installation of energy performance measures in social homes in England, and help:

- deliver warm, energy efficient homes
- reduce carbon emissions
- tackle fuel poverty
- support green jobs
- develop the retrofit sector
- improve the comfort, health, and well-being of social housing tenants

2.30 The service area submitted a challenge fund bid for 1470 properties to receive a combination of measures including solar panels, LED lighting, along with cavity, and loft insulation. It is also anticipated that up to 10% of the homes within the application will also have their heating systems replaced from gas to air source. The estimated cost of the scheme is £27.3million, which is made up of £14.9million grant funding, along with £12.4million co-funding contribution from The Council.

Unsupported Borrowing

2.31 Additional borrowing is required in from 2026-27 to 2028-29 to support necessary investment in existing stock and to fund the continuation of the Housing Delivery Programme. The need for additional borrowing was reflected in the 2025-26 HRA Business Plan and provision for servicing this level of debt was built into the plan. The Business Plan was modelled to ensure healthy balances are maintained in all years. Work will take place during 2025-26 to develop the operating principles for additional HRA debt.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1 – Do not agree the proposed Capital Programme within this report. This would impact on the Council's ability to maintain, improve, and add to its housing stock. This would bring with it reputational risks with tenants and residents of Rotherham, external funders, and regulatory bodies. It would also mean the Council is unable to deliver on several legislative and regulatory requirements or the Council's strategic priorities. This option is not recommended.

3.2 Option 2 - Agree with the recommendations set out in this report and the use of funds to deliver the outlined programme in the supporting appendices. This is the recommended option.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Council has an active tenant engagement service supported by a Tenant Engagement Framework and a commissioned Tenant Federation contract. Consultation on housing services provided by the Council is undertaken throughout the year via the Housing Involvement Panel. The Housing Service also hold numerous tenant consultation events throughout the year, for instance the Annual Tenants Conference. These provide an insight into tenant priorities and are used to shape investment priorities.

4.2 Consultation on potential major investment schemes will also involve ward members and residents.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Following approval of the housing Capital Programme budget, the programme will be delivered as part of the 2025-26 Capital Programme of the Council.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The financial implications are set out in detail in Section 2 above. Proposed funding for the programme is shown at paragraph 2.26. Appendices 1 to 5 provide more detailed budgets by scheme or work area. The report proposes a Housing Revenue Account capital budget of £72.942m in 2025/26.

6.2 The grant funding anticipated for Housing Growth schemes will be secured as specific schemes are identified and agreed via business cases or specific Cabinet approvals where required.

6.3 Proposed borrowing will be secured as required dependent upon delivery and progress of relevant schemes. The revenue stream to support additional borrowing costs has been built into the HRA BP model and factored into revenue budget projections.

6.4 The viability of Housing Growth schemes will be reviewed as each individual scheme comes forward for approval.

6.5 The proposals have been tested for affordability in the latest iteration of the HRA Business Plan model and were included with the 2025-26 HRA Business Plan that was approved by Council on the 15th January 2025.

6.6 The HRA Capital Programme will be managed in line with the Council's key principles as detailed in the Budget and Council Tax 2025-26 and Medium

Term Financial Strategy Report approved by Cabinet on 10 February 2025 and being considered by Council on 5th March.

6.7 All procurement activity that supports delivery in this report must be procured in compliance with relevant legislation (the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023), whichever is the applicable legislation for the project, as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The contents of this report are in accordance with previous decisions, delegations and the Council's constitution and there are no legal implication arising from the contents.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Building new council homes can have a range of positive implications for children, young people and vulnerable adults including stability and sense of security, improved educational outcomes, better physical and mental health.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Council is aware of its duties under the Equality Act 2010 to promote equality, diversity, cohesion and integration and has ensured that the Housing Capital Programme is compliant with that duty. An initial equalities screening has been carried out to assess the impact of these proposals and due to the scale of investment and nature of households affected the Council has completed an Equality Impact Assessment for this plan. This will ensure the Council continues to promote positive impact and reduce or remove negative impact as a result of the proposed investments. An Equalities Analysis is attached at Appendix 7a and 7b.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Given the Government's commitment for the UK to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 and the Council's target for Net Zero greenhouse gas emission in the Borough of Rotherham is 2040, 10 years sooner than the UK target, this will require substantial investment in the Council's housing stock over the life of the Business Plan. Initial estimates put the cost of this at circa £600m which represents a formidable challenge to the HRA. As a result, this means that drawing in external funding to progress net zero commitments becomes even more significant. Participation in national grant funding schemes will be prioritised.

A copy of Carbon impact assessment is attached at Appendix 8.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 This report contributes to the sustainable neighbourhoods agenda by addressing future investment needs and it will help deliver a better quality of affordable housing to the community.

13. Risks and Mitigation

Inflation

13.1 Inflation is assumed within the budgets presented, however if inflation increases at a greater rate than forecast this will impact on the level of affordability within the programme, potentially resulting in reduced outputs or schemes becoming unviable. Inflation assumptions are reviewed annually as part of the HRA business planning process.

Funding

13.2 The delivery of the Housing Capital Programme, particularly the Housing Delivery programme relies on maximising grant income. If the required grant levels are not achieved the mix of funding will need to be reviewed and the impact on the overall programme will be assessed.

13.3 Section 2.31 highlights the need for additional borrowing to fund the Housing Capital Programme. Borrowing was included with the 2025-26 HRA business plan modelling and during 2025-26 work will be done to ensure a robust HRA investment framework is put in place to ensure the viability of any HRA investment.

Delivery

13.4 Ensuring that the Housing Capital Programme is delivered within scope and budget will be achieved through the housing capital governance structure that is in place. The Housing Capital Programme Board oversees the financial and output position of the overall programme and the Housing Delivery Programme Board monitors the delivery of new build and acquisition projects.

13.5 Regular contractor meetings take place to ensure contractor and supply chain resilience.

13.6 Risks directly related to a project will be addressed in the project SOP/SOC or business case when it is bought forward for approval.

14. Accountable Officers

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	03/03/25
Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/02/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	19/02/25

Report Author: *Lindsay Wynn, HRA Business Planning Manager*
07342718601 or Lindsay.wynn@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1 – 2025-26 to 2028-29 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme by area

Housing Revenue Account capital programme	**2024-25 Budget**	**2025-26 Budget**	**2026-27 Budget**	**2027-28 Budget**	**2028-29 Budget**	**TOTAL 2025-26 to 2028-29**
Improving homes and estates	28,189,915	33,149,641	39,089,651	39,772,590	42,061,713	**154,073,595**
Aids and adaptations in council homes	2,600,000	3,259,157	3,365,305	3,253,865	3,349,791	**13,228,118**
Housing delivery programme	26,003,585	36,033,324	23,929,132	5,042,110	55,963,388	**120,967,954**
IT and digital transformation	489,557	500,000	1,051,657	1,084,621	-	**2,636,278**
HRA Subtotal	***57,283,057***	***72,942,122***	***67,435,745***	***49,153,186***	***101,374,892***	***290,905,945***

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Appendix 2 – 2025-26 HRA Capital Programme budget detail

Improving Homes and Estates	2025-26 Budget	Work description
Externals (e.g. guttering, soffits and roofs)	8,955,098	**External envelope e.g. roof, gutters, fascia's, soffits, windows and doors. Internal works e.g. bathrooms and kitchens.**
Internals (e.g. kitchens and bathrooms)	2,000,000	
Windows and doors	550,000	
Prelims	450,000	
Flood resilience		
Planned capital repairs	2,000,000	
Refurbishments	**13,955,098**	
Voids	6,566,000	**Delivery of major works to void properties.**
Voids	**6,566,000**	
Boilers	4,480,000	**Gas, electrical and district heating improvements.**
Electrical	360,000	
Electrical - Wharncliffe	650,000	
District Heating	310,000	
Mechanical and electrical	**5,800,000**	
Ad-hoc structures	1,020,000	**Ad-hoc structural or element replacements that arise in year.**
Ad-hoc structures	**1,020,000**	
Environmental	800,000	**Various environmental projects across the borough inc. fencing, paths, planting, parking etc.**
Design and appraisal	50,000	
Environmentals	**850,000**	
Asbestos	300,000	**Undertake surveying, testing, and removal of asbestos to properties**
Asbestos	**300,000**	
EPC band C (prep work i.e. surveys and EPC's)	1,000,000	**Improving properties to an EPC band C, and other works such as fans to improve ventilation and decrease the risk of damp and mould.**
Thermal efficiency works	300,000	
Damp and mould mitigation works	500,000	
Ventilation	2,000,000	
Thermal and ventilation improvements	**3,800,000**	
Garages	100,000	**Works to garages HRA playgrounds**
Play area's	80,000	
HRA non dwellings	**180,000**	
To be allocated	678,543	**Any in year un-allocated**
To be allocated	**678,543**	
Improving Homes and Estates Total	**33,149,641**	

Public Aids and Adaptations	2025-26 Budget	Work description
Major Adaptations	2,587,941	For example level access shower installation.
Minor Adaptations	335,937	Examples include door widening or handrail installation.
Extensions	335,279	
Public Aids and Adaptations Total	**3,259,157**	

Housing Delivery Programme 1,000 Homes	2025-26 Budget	Work description
New Build	21,057,733	New build Council Homes directly delivered by RMBC.
S106 Acquisitions	5,675,591	New build Council Homes acquired from developers as part of the affordable housing planning process.
Market Acquisitions	9,300,000	Existing homes acquired directly from the market.
Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative	-	New build Council Homes acquired from small/medium developers.
Housing Delivery Programme Total	**36,033,324**	

Other - HRA	2025-26 Budget	Work description
IT/Digital Transformation	500,000	Rolling investment in IT and digital infrastructure.
IT/Digital Transformation Total	**500,000**	

HRA Capital Programme Total	**72,942,122**

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Appendix 3 – 2025-26 to 2028-29 Improving homes and estates budget outline

Improving homes and estates	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget	2028-29 Budget	Total 2025-26 to 2028-29	Work description
Refurbishments	13,955,098	14,999,651	14,972,590	15,981,713	59,909,052	External envelope e.g. roof, gutters, fascia's, soffits, windows and doors. Internal works e.g. bathrooms and kitchens.
Voids	6,566,000	6,600,000	6,700,000	6,800,000	26,666,000	Delivery of major works to void properties.
Mechanical and electrical	5,800,000	6,400,000	6,500,000	7,000,000	25,700,000	Gas, electrical and district heating improvements.
Ad-hoc structures	1,020,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,200,000	4,420,000	Ad-hoc structural or element replacements that arise in year.
Environmentals	850,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	6,350,000	Various environmental projects across the borough inc. fencing, paths, planting, parking etc.
Asbestos	300,000	310,000	320,000	330,000	1,260,000	Undertake surveying, testing, and removal of asbestos to properties included in the Capital Programme.
Thermal and ventilation improvements	3,800,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,500,000	28,300,000	Improving properties to an EPC band C, and other works such as fans to improve ventilation and decrease the risk of damp and mould.
HRA non dwellings	180,000	180,000	180,000	250,000	790,000	Works to garages HRA playgrounds
To be allocated	678,543	-	-	-	678,543	Any in year un-allocated
Total	33,149,641	39,089,651	39,772,590	42,061,713	154,073,595	

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Appendix 4 – 2025-26 to 2028-29 Public Aids and Adaptations budget outline

Public Aids and Adaptations	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Forecast Budget	TOTAL 2025/26 - 2028/29
Major Adaptations	2,587,941	2,672,048	2,583,575	2,659,531	10,503,095
Minor Adaptations	335,937	346,854	335,369	345,228	1,363,388
Extensions	335,279	346,403	334,921	345,032	1,361,635
Public Aids and Adaptations Total	**3,259,157**	**3,365,305**	**3,253,865**	**3,349,791**	**13,228,118**

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Appendix 5 – 2025-26 to 2028-29 Housing Delivery Programme outline

Housing Delivery Programme 1,000 Homes	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget	2028-29 Budget	TOTAL 2025-26 to 2028-29
New Build	15,434,574	8,155,374	-	33,368,911	56,958,859
S106 Acquisitions	5,675,591	6,345,674	2,677,184	- 4,784,872	9,913,577
Market Acquisitions	9,300,000	1,500,000	-	3,030,338	13,830,338
SME Initiative	-	-	-	7,179,864	7,179,864
1,000 Homes Subtotal	***30,410,165***	***16,001,048***	***2,677,184***	***38,794,240***	***87,882,637***

On-going Housing Delivery Programme	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget	2028-29 Budget	TOTAL 2025-26 to 2028-29
On-going Housing Delivery Programme Subtotal	***5,623,159***	***7,928,084***	***2,364,926***	***17,169,149***	***33,085,318***

TOTAL	**36,033,324**	**23,929,132**	**5,042,110**	**55,963,389**	**120,967,955**

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Appendix 6 – 2025-26 to 2028-29 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme funding

HRA Capital Programme Funding	**2025-26 Budget**	**2026-27 Budget**	**2027-28 Budget**	**2028-29 Budget**	**TOTAL 2025-26 to 2028-29**
Capital Receipts HRA	3,959,676	5,571,994	3,208,219	17,624,798	**30,364,687**
Grants and Contributions	4,958,805	2,639,970	816,312	24,764,618	**33,179,705**
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	36,908,952	25,255,962	27,803,485	28,669,155	**118,637,554**
Revenue Contributions	9,658,000	8,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	**29,658,000**
Unsupported Borrowing	17,456,689	25,967,819	11,325,170	24,316,321	**79,065,999**
HRA Total	***72,942,122***	***67,435,745***	***49,153,186***	***101,374,892***	***290,905,945***

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 7a
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: HRA Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2028/29	
Directorate: ACH & PH	**Service area:** Housing Services
Lead person: Lindsay Wynn, HRA Business Planning Manager	**Contact:** lindsay.wynn@rotherham.gov.uk **07342718601**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ✓ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Approval of the HRA Capital Programme Budget 2025/26 to 2028/29. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme encompasses four broad areas of investment: • Improving council homes and estates • Provision of aids and adaptations to enable tenants to remain in their homes • Acquisition and build of new council homes • Investment in IT and digital transformation

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? *(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)*		✓
Could the proposal affect service users? *(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)*	✓	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*	✓	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*		✓
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*		✓
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?
This report details the HRA Capital Programme each area and project will have its own specific equality implications:

Housing Delivery Programme
The Housing Delivery Programme responds to the needs of communities for affordable housing through gearing funds towards building 1000 new Council homes by 2026. The tenure, size and type of accommodation (including Disabled person units) has been informed by the Strategic Housing Market assessment.

Council homes are let via the Allocations Policy, for which a full Equalities Assessment has been carried out. This will ensure homes are allocated fairly and that no groups with protected characteristics are disadvantaged.

The Strategic Housing and Development Service contacts tenants who move into new build properties to carry out a follow-up questionnaire or 'new build survey'. This is done to find out more about the people who have moved into recently built Council homes. Equalities and diversity information is analysed and compared against the profile of people on the Council's Housing Register to identify any potential issues i.e. certain protected characteristic groups being under or over-represented in new build properties.

Quarterly Housing Delivery Programme Cabinet reports ensure that equality implications of approved projects are presented and considered.

Improving Homes and Estates
The Housing Investment Programme maintains investment in housing stock and the wider estate. The programme is asset led utilising data on stock condition to inform the forward programme. As projects are worked up tenant requirements are considered depending on the programme of works. This would enable the delivery of works to be personalised where required. An example of this would be providing respite in the form of opening local community centres to enable tenants to have a warm quiet environment while works take place within their homes.

Aids & Adaptations
The Aids & Adaptations Programme enables people with disabilities to remain in their own homes.

The demographic in Rotherham is aging. Because of this, there is likely to be a proportional year on year increase in the number of referrals for aids and adaptions.

The Aids & Adaptations policy is there to support Council tenants and those living in the private sector to live independently and safely through the provision of equipment and adaptations.

The policy ensures a transparent approach to making decisions on who is eligible for assistance and how decisions are made for Council tenants and for private residents who's approval for funding is governed by legislation in accordance with the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (the 1996 Act) and where the Council decided to use its power under Regulatory Reform Order 2002, Article 3 (RRO) powers.

IT & Digital Transformation
Equalities will be considered as part of the wider project approval for this section of the programme.

- **Key findings**

The Council owns circa 20,000 homes, 617 leasehold homes and 3,385 garages. The HRA Capital Programme covers 2025-26 to 2028-29. The Housing Delivery element of this programme plans to add approximately 440 additional units to this stock during this period.

A large proportion of the investment in existing stock is required to ensure compliance with regulation and legislation.

Collection of protected characteristic data for new and existing records on the housing management system is now mandatory. This will enable more in-depth analysis as the base data expands.

The Housing Capital Programme will deliver a broad range of projects to tenants and residents across the borough. The programme will closely align with other key strategies and frameworks across the Council as part of the "One Council" approach. Links to other key documents;

- Council Plan and Year Ahead Plan
- Housing Service Plan
- Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy
- Financial Inclusion Strategy
- Tenant Engagement Framework
- Housing Strategy

- **Actions**

Review this equalities analysis annually, alongside future annual housing capital programme Cabinet Reports.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	16/01/2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	16/01/2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Lindsay Wynn HRA Business Planning Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Paul Elliott	Head of Income & Support Services	03/02/25

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	16/01/24
Report title and date	HRA Capital Cabinet Report 2025/26 to 2028/29
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	27.01.25

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 7b.

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Housing Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2028/29	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 21/01/25	
Directorate: ACH & PH	**Service area: Housing Services**
Lead Manager: **Lindsay Wynn, HRA Business Planning Manager**	**Contact:** lindsay.wynn@rotherham.gov.uk **07342718601**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☑ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Lindsay Wynn	RMBC	HRA Business Planning Manager
Kath Andrews	RMBC	Finance Manager
Paul Elliott	RMBC	Head of Housing Income & Support Services

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)
The Housing Capital Programme delivers investment to both Council owned and private homes across the borough.

The impact of the investment is to ensure improved:

- Living conditions
- Energy efficiency and thermal comfort
- Health and wellbeing.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)
The Housing Capital Programme will deliver a broad range of projects. Projects delivered will be underpinned by analysis of housing need and demographic data which has been gained from a variety of sources including:

- Local population demographic data (Census 2021 emerging)
- Profile of existing Council tenants (including protected characteristics)
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Intelligence from Strategic Housing Forum which is attended by partners that represent different interests and groups eg, homelessness and young people etc
- Ward members will receive specific briefings on potential sites in their wards and their feedback will be considered and including in individual scheme EAs
- Ward profiles contain detailed, localised information both profiling housing stock in the ward and demand
- The Strategic Housing and Development service has worked with the Neighbourhood Service to assist with consultation and dissemination of information about development in localities, identifying alignment with ward priorities. Again, any feedback will be included in individual scheme EAs.
- Housing Involvement Panel which includes Council tenant volunteers.
- Data from new rented, shared ownership and open market sales is analysed to understand the equality impact of each development. The profiling of tenants/ owners is also reflected in completions report and any lessons learnt are applied when developing new projects.

Members have been consulted on various aspects of the Housing Capital Programme. This has helped inform the proposed programme.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of? From January 2024 it has been mandatory to collect protected characteristics for new records as per the equalities and monitoring standard data collection and monitoring form. From November 2024 the system has been updated to ensure any missing fields are captured for existing records. There are gaps in historic data but this should reduce over time.	
What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics? Individual Project Managers within the Housing service ensure relevant monitoring arrangements are in place for their programmes/projects.	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Consultation on the 2025/26 HRA Business Plan (which includes a large proportion of the Housing Capital Programme) is undertaken throughout the year via the Housing Involvement Panel (HIP). The last one being on 14th November 2024. Time was spent with the HIP building an understanding of the HRA Business Plan and looking the impact of the proposed rent increase and additional investment within the plan. The feedback was positive, and it was agreed that a further session would be arranged in Spring/Summer 2025 to build on the understanding and cover investment.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Meeting with Housing Managers and emails seeking feedback on the business plan and capital investment plans took place throughout August to November 2024. The programme has been developed with support from Council Officers and input from the Strategic Leadership Team and Members. Councillors, staff and partners play a vital role and inform the Housing Capital programme. The need to build additional investment in Council homes and the continuation of the Housing Delivery Programme were both identified as a result of a HRA Business Plan review that was carried out in 2024-25. The findings of the review were shared with the Leader, CEX, Finance colleagues and Housing Managers to ensure there was a shared understanding as to what needed to be achieved in the 2025-26 HRA Business Plan and the 2025-26 HRA Capital Programme.

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) Through the Housing Capital Programme the Council aim to make positive improvements to housing within Rotherham by: • Ensuring tenant's homes are safe, decent and thermally efficient. • Extending the benefits of council housing to more residents by expanding the Housing Delivery Programme. • Modernising the housing service to enhance customer experience, improve productivity and achieve full regulatory compliance. • Ensuring people can live independently at home. This investment will where possible consider the needs of protected characteristics and housing need. This will be done on a programme theme and project basis as an EA will accompany each decision as part of the business case.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? Extensive consultation take place prior to the delivery of the schemes within the Housing Capital Programme. The aim of this is to minimise potential problems and barriers before delivery. Where possible, additional requirements required to meet any specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of the works will be accommodated. An example of this would be providing respite in the form of opening local community centres to enable tenants to have a warm quiet environment while works take place within their homes. The data protected characteristic data collected via records on the housing management system will be used to identify potential problems and barriers. As explained in section 3 this data collection is now mandatory and gaps within the data should reduce overtime.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? **Housing Delivery Programme** The New Homes Programme responds to the needs of communities for affordable housing through gearing funds towards building 1000 new Council homes by 2026. The tenure, size and type of accommodation (including Disabled person units) has been informed by the Strategic Housing Market assessment. Council homes are let via the Allocations Policy, for which a full Equalities Assessment has been carried out. This will ensure homes are allocated fairly and that no groups with protected characteristics are disadvantaged. The Strategic Housing and Development Service contacts tenants who move into new build properties to carry out a follow-up questionnaire or 'new build survey'. This is

done to find out more about the people who have moved into recently built Council homes. Equalities and diversity information is analysed and compared against the profile of people on the Council's Housing Register to identify any potential issues i.e. certain protected characteristic groups being under or over-represented in new build properties.

Quarterly Housing Delivery Programme Cabinet reports ensure that equality implications of approved projects are presented and considered.

Improving Homes and Estates
The Housing Investment Programme maintains investment in housing stock and the wider estate. The programme is asset led utilising data on stock condition to inform the forward programme. As projects are worked up tenant requirements are considered depending on the programme of works. This would enable the delivery of works to be personalised where required. An example of this would be providing respite in the form of opening local community centres to enable tenants to have a warm quiet environment while works take place within their homes.

Aids & Adaptations
The Aids & Adaptations Programme enables people with disabilities to remain in their own homes.

The demographic in Rotherham is aging. Because of this, there is likely to be a proportional year on year increase in the number of referrals for aids and adaptions.

The Aids & Adaptations policy is there to support Council tenants and those living in the private sector to live independently and safely through the provision of equipment and adaptations.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

It is not envisaged that the HRA Capital Programme will negatively impact on community relations.

Consultations will be managed on a project/programme area basis.

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: HRA Business Plan, rent setting and service charges 2025-26
Directorate and service area: ACH & PH – Housing Services
Lead Manager: Lindsay Wynn – HRA Business Planning Manager
Summary of findings:
Following a review of the above there are no adverse impacts identified. Project impacts will be addressed individually by Project Managers and reported where appropriate though the Housing Capital Governance process.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
The Housing Service will monitor the impact on communities and individuals according to their protected characteristic.	All	March 2026
Review this equalities analysis on an annual basis alongside the annual refresh of the HRA Capital Cabinet Report.	All	March 2026

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
James Clark	Assistant Director of Housing	30/01/25
Cllr Sarah Allen	Cabinet member for Housing	31/01/25

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	27/01/25
Report title and date	HRA Capital Programme 2025-26 to 2028-29
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	27.01.25

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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?	Impact unknown	Schemes to upgrade District Heating boiler houses will be funded through the HRA Capital Programme, with a view to replace existing gas boilers with low or zero carbon alternatives in the long term.	Recommendations with respect to District Heating charges are benchmarked to the Ofgem energy price cap, so that households with a heat network connection are not penalised compared to those with central heating and a gas boiler. This may become relevant to carbon emissions in the longer term, since low or zero carbon heat networks offer an alternative technology to decarbonise domestic heating, in dwellings where an air source heat pump might be unviable. Homes which are connected to the Council's existing district heat networks comprise *ca*. 1% of all domestic properties in Rotherham.		Supply of gas and biomass (wood pellets) to District Heating boiler houses is monitored through the Council's energy procurement portfolio. Greenhouse gas emissions from District Heating are outside the scope of the Council's NZ30 target, however they will be included as scope 3 emissions in the 2025 Climate Change Annual Report.

Emissions from transport?	Impact unknown	For new residential developments and works to existing council stock vehicle movements to and from the site will be generated during demolition and construction.	While it is possible that new households will increase vehicle movements, they may also reduce them, depending on the location of new developments with respect to residents' places of work and access to services.	It is recommended that new housing development should account for access to public transport and active travel, in its location and design.	N/A
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	Construction and works to existing Council stock will generate waste materials through demolition, exporting of materials from groundworks and waste construction materials.	Albeit new homes might not mean more people living in the Borough, there may be a small increase in the amount of waste collected from households and distance travelled by waste collection vehicles.	Prospective contractors will be required to demonstrate how they will mitigate waste in their tenders, to include re-using/recycling materials on site where possible.	N/A
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Decrease		It is a principal focus of the 2025/26 HRA Business Plan to improve the thermal comfort of existing Council homes and to save Council tenants' spending on energy bills, which should have the additional benefit of cutting emissions from domestic heating. In 2022, domestic gas heating accounted for *ca*. 16.5% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the		EPC ratings are recorded for all the Council's housing stock. These data will be supplemented by stock condition surveys, to commence in January 2025. New buildings are monitored once they are occupied, to ensure their stated energy performance standards are met in practice.

			Borough of Rotherham; at the 2021 Census, 16.7% of households rented from the Council. £13 million is allocated in the HRA business plan to increase all Council homes' energy performance to EPC band C by 2030: the Council will seek to leverage further investment from external sources, including the Warm Homes: Local Grant. New build homes will be designed to Future Homes Standard, to be introduced in 2025. All options set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on the Future Homes Standard exclude the use of fossil fuel boilers in new dwellings.		
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	There will be emissions from the construction of new and refurbishment of existing housing. In the HRA business plan, 440 dwellings are to be		For new build schemes, there may be a smaller carbon impact per dwelling, where modern methods of construction are used.	It is recommended that a RICS 'whole life carbon assessment' or suitable alternative should be completed for at least one housing

		added to the Council's housing stock between 2025/26 and 2028/29, by a combination of acquisition and new development. Some new properties in the programme i.e., homes purchased by the Council as strategic acquisitions, will have a carbon impact regardless of the Council's purchase. It is possible that mature trees will be removed as part of the development of some new sites.		For refurbishment schemes, emissions from retrofitting properties to a higher energy performance standard will be partially offset by increased energy efficiency. If trees are present on the site of a proposed development, they will be retained wherever possible. Planning consent for the removal of mature trees will depend on their equivalent replacement, plus 10%.	development, to provide evidence which can inform the design of future schemes and increase understanding of their respective carbon impacts.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Decrease	New Build schemes within the Housing Delivery Programme will be required to manage habitats for nature through biodiversity net gain, which is expected to contribute to carbon capture.		Cost included within budget assumptions and scheme viability.	Habitats improved through Biodiversity Net Gain to be monitored through the Habitat Management and Monitoring Planning process (HMMP).
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields: N/A					

Appendix 8 – Carbon Impact Assessment

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

The Council's commitment for carbon emissions in Rotherham to be Net Zero by 2040 will require substantial investment in the Council's housing stock over the life of the Business Plan. Initial estimates put the cost of this at circa £600m which represents a formidable challenge to the HRA. As a result, this means that drawing in external funding to progress net zero commitments becomes even more significant. Participation in national grant funding schemes will be prioritised.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: **(Name, title, and service area/directorate).**	Lindsay Wynn, HRA Business Planning Manager.
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA410 Katie Rockett, Climate Change Officer

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Agenda Item 12

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 17 March 2025

Report Title
UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26

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

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)
Michael Holmes, Policy and Strategy Officer
michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-wide

Report Summary
The report sets out proposals and recommendations for use of Rotherham's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) £3.28 million allocation in 2025/26. A transitional year allocation, this builds upon the £7.2m of UKSPF that the borough received over three years from April 2022 to March 2025 and precedes the integrated settlement due to be in place for South Yorkshire from April 2026.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the projects for submission to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority for award of UKSPF for 2025/26 as follows:

    a) Local Business Support
        i) £945,256 for sub-regional business support supporting three strands of Launchpad (start-up support), Productivity and Low Carbon.
        ii) £390,000 (£270,000 capital) for shop unit grants and market improvements.
        iii) £137,667 for social value to increase opportunities for local businesses and ensure delivery against commitments.

b) People and Skills
   i) £444,985 for a skills programme incorporating Ambition (children and young people), Core Skills (community-delivered basic skills training) and Advance (support to progress in work).
   ii) £275,000 for Children's Capital of Culture to extend the traineeship programme.

c) Communities and Place
   i) £200,000 for Children's Capital of Culture, to provide additional capacity during the festival year, supporting ongoing programme development and delivery, as well as marketing and design costs.
   ii) £255,000 for Events, delivering a wide-ranging programme of events and festivals in the town centre.
   iii) £359,549 for community-based support, including ongoing delivery of local advice sessions and engagement events through Open Arms Rotherham, and further funding for Reaching Out (£30,000) - strengthening connections with Rotherham's diverse communities.
   iv) £86,000 (capital) for Active Lives, providing match funding to enable delivery of a multi-use games area.

2. Agrees to delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to determine revised and final allocations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This is to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of the fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the allocations above.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 Financial summary
Appendix 2 Project details
Appendix 3 Equality screening (form A)
Appendix 4 Equality assessment (form B)
Appendix 5 Climate impact assessment

Background Papers
August 2023 Cabinet report: UK Shared Prosperity Fund years two and three

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – 2025/26 transitional funding

1. Background

1.1 UKSPF is a government-funded programme channelled through South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), introduced as the successor fund to the European Structural Funds.

1.2 Rotherham received £7.2m of UKSPF over three years from April 2022 to March 2025, comprising £5.6m revenue and £1.6m capital (including £400,000 specifically for rural areas). This was allocated across the following three themes or 'investment priorities':

- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills
- Communities and Place

1.3 For 2025/26, the government is providing a further year of 'transitional' UKSPF funding, but with a reduced allocation compared to 2024/25. UKSPF activity must broadly align with the government's five national missions. From 2026/27, it is anticipated that SYMCA will receive an integrated settlement, which could incorporate further UKSPF allocations alongside other funding streams.

1.4 Rotherham's share of the SYMCA allocation for 2025/26 is £3.28 million, with £2.86 million revenue and £420,000 capital, a total reduction of £1.28m compared to 2024/25. This report sets out proposals for use of the funding.

2. Key Issues

2.1 For this transitional year of funding, the proposed approach is to:

- maintain delivery of key business support and skills projects prior to the introduction of an integrated settlement from 2026/27.
- continue to support community-based projects across Rotherham, including events and Open Arms one-stop-shop advice sessions.
- provide ongoing support for Children's Capital of Culture during this festival year.
- fund other projects that reflect current priorities for Rotherham, including initiatives to rejuvenate the town centre.

2.2 There is no match funding requirement for UKSPF, but the outlined approach will complement budget investments that seek to create an inclusive economy and support residents with the high cost of living.

2.3 Projects will support Rotherham businesses to start up and grow, enable people to develop their skills and achieve their aspirations, improve the town centre offer and increase footfall, and provide local help and advice in the communities where it is most needed.

2.4 Consideration has also been given to the deliverability of projects, bearing in mind that this is a one-year allocation. Most of the projects are therefore continuations from the current programme.

2.5 A summary of the proposals for each theme is set out below, with a more detailed breakdown included at Appendix 2 and an overall financial summary provided in Appendix 1.

2.6 **Supporting Local Business**
Three projects operating across South Yorkshire - Launchpad, Productivity, and Low Carbon - will:

- help entrepreneurs to test and develop their business ideas.
- offer wide-ranging support to boost business productivity.
- support businesses to transition to the low carbon economy.

2.7 A new ‘shop units grants’ programme will be available for businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other local high streets. Also in the town centre, additional resources will be provided to improve trading conditions in the market during the ongoing redevelopment.

2.8 Finally in this theme, further funding is proposed to promote the social value agenda in Rotherham, working with local businesses to help them access opportunities, and ensuring social value commitments are delivered.

2.9 **People and Skills**
It is proposed that the Ambition and Advance projects are maintained in 2025/26 as part of sub-regional skills programmes. Ambition will continue to address the multiple social, emotional and health barriers to learning and employment faced by some young people in Rotherham. Advance provides in-work help for those looking to advance or change their careers.

2.10 These projects complement the Employment Solutions project, which will be funded via the Council from April 2025. In addition, there is a proposed contribution to a local Core Skills programme. This is intended to build on the success of the community-focused elements of the Multiply numeracy skills programme, as well as ensuring strong links with the new economic inactivity trailblazer, known locally as Pathways to Work.

2.11 The proposals also include traineeships for a further cohort of young people as part of Children’s Capital of Culture.

2.12 **Communities and place**
Building on the extensive community-based programme of activity delivered through the current UKSPF programme, this theme will see ongoing delivery of support and advice sessions in neighbourhoods across Rotherham, with targeted help for residents who are financially excluded or isolated.

2.13 Further developmental work with local volunteers and groups will help to sustain activity, which will also include a series of community engagement sessions taking place in every ward.

2.14 Alongside this, continued funding for Reaching Out will further strengthen the Council's mechanisms for engaging with under-represented or seldom heard groups. This will help to ensure that plans and projects are informed by and effectively reach all of Rotherham's diverse communities.

2.15 The theme also includes additional support for delivery of Children's Capital of Culture, as well as for an extensive events programme in the town centre.

2.16 Finally, a capital allocation for Active Lives will provide match funding to the Football Foundation's Playzones programme, enabling the creation of a new multi-use games area.

2.17 **Project and programme management**
Following endorsement of the overall programme by Cabinet, it is proposed that the final and revised allocations for individual projects are approved by the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council. This includes use of the unallocated capital funding of £62,500 and unallocated revenue funding of £127,143.

2.18 It is intended that projects will be submitted to SYMCA (as the accountable body for the funding) for final approval as a package of projects within a single application (other than projects that are part of South Yorkshire wide programmes). This will enable the Council to have a single contract with SYMCA for the delivery of local projects, streamlining administrative processes and allowing project delivery to commence as quickly as possible.

2.19 It is anticipated that there will be no ongoing revenue implications for the Council arising from the proposed programme of activity. As part of the expected transition to an integrated settlement from 2026/27, SYMCA require project applications to describe how they will manage closedown of activity after March 2026 or shift to alternative funding streams.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The preferred option is the programme of activity set out above, which is deliverable within the one-year window, retains key projects from the current programme, and reflects the Council's priorities.

3.2 An alternative option would be to develop and commission an entirely new programme for 2025/26. This would risk losing the infrastructure that has been established to deliver effective activity across the three themes. It would also pose significant risks for developing and delivering an impactful programme within the limited timescales.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Discussions have been held with relevant services and partners to develop the proposed programme.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Outline project proposals have already been developed. Subject to Cabinet's endorsement, detailed proposals will be brought forward imminently for approval in line with the delegation in this report.

5.2 Ongoing coordination and oversight of Rotherham's UKSPF programme will continue to be carried out by Assistant Chief Executive's directorate, working with project leads across the Council and colleagues in Finance.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The report sets out the proposed allocation of UKSPF to revenue and capital projects. The planned investments should not result in any additional ongoing costs for the Council. If any additional costs are incurred, these should be managed within the existing service budget allocations and mitigations identified to ensure this does not result in an overspend position.

6.2 Any expenditure with 3rd party suppliers for the supply of goods, works or services arising from the project proposals indicated in this report will be subject to the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and the relevant procurement legislation (Public Contract Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023).

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The proposed projects are consistent with the requirements of the UKSPF programme, and it will be necessary for the Council to comply with the funding agreements in respect of the programme. Where necessary, the funding to be provided to the projects referred to in the report will need to comply with the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Due to the nature of funding arrangements, HR will provide advice in relation to the most appropriate contractual and recruitment options for any new fixed term posts required in line with internal processes.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 UKSPF will have a positive impact for children and young people with £126,149 allocated to the Ambition project, providing targeted support to young people who face barriers to accessing education and skills provision. In addition, the £475,000 allocated to the Children's Capital of Culture will extend the successful traineeship programme and provide additional capacity to ensure successful delivery of Children's Capital of Culture in 2025.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Equalities Screening (Form A) and Equalities Assessment (Form B) have been undertaken. Both are appended to this report.

10.2 The assessment shows that several projects are specifically focused on breaking down barriers to inclusion and offering opportunities to disadvantaged groups.

10.3 There is also a proposal (Reaching Out) to further strengthen the mechanisms by which the Council reaches out across its diverse communities.

10.4 Whilst some projects do monitor the extent to which people with protected characteristics access and benefit from the support provided, this is not comprehensive across the programme. Where relevant and practical, the requirement to collect, analyse and act upon equality-related information will be built into projects' monitoring requirements.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Activity that could contribute towards an increase in emissions includes the delivery of events, which could see an increase in journeys via private transport and a consequent increase in emissions. Events are not all concentrated in the town centre, with many taking place in local communities, which should reduce travel. The town centre is accessible by public transport for many people. Residents living in and around the town centre may be able to walk (or cycle) to events unless they have restricted mobility.

11.2 The Low Carbon project provides grants to businesses to enable them to reduce their energy consumption and reduce carbon emissions.

11.3 The social value proposal has the potential to decrease emissions by increasing local spend and encouraging local supply through anchor organisations' procurement activity.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. Key partners have been consulted in the development of Rotherham's UKSPF programme and are involved in delivery.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Active management of the programme through quarterly monitoring and returns provided to SYMCA will enable any over and under commitments to be identified and adjustments made to the programme to ensure full spend and outcomes from the grant.

14. Accountable Officers

Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence,
Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	03/03/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	28/02/25
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	28/02/25

Report Author: *Michael Holmes, Policy and Strategy Officer*
michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

Rotherham UKSPF programme 2025/26 - Financial Summary

Themes/Projects	Proposed Amount (£) 25/26	
	Revenue	**Capital**
Supporting Local Business		
Launchpad	245,256	0
Productivity	500,000	0
Low Carbon	200,000	0
Shop Unit Business Grants	60,000	270,000
Markets	60,000	0
Social Value	137,667	0
Total	**1,202,923**	**270,000**
People and Skills		
Ambition	126,149	0
Core skills	110,000	0
Advance	208,836	0
Children's Capital of Culture	275,000	0
Total	**719,985**	**-**
Communities and Place		
Children's Capital of Culture	200,000	0
Events programme	255,000	0
Open Arms Rotherham	329,549	0
Reaching Out	30,000	0
Active Lives	0	86,000
Total	**814,549**	**86,000**
Total cost of proposals	**2,737,457**	**356,000**
Total allocation	**2,864,600**	**418,500**
Balance remaining	**127,143**	**62,500**

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Appendix 2 - Rotherham UK Shared Prosperity Fund – proposals for 2025/26

Project	Proposed allocation (£) 2025/26	Description	Anticipated Impact
Supporting local business			
Launchpad (sub-regional project)	245,256	Continued delivery of start-up support programme, which is embedded within the package of support offered through the borough's business hubs. It includes an extensive series of workshops, as well as one-to-one support, and small grants. The project also receives referrals from DWP to support unemployed people who are interested in starting a business.	• 25 businesses receiving grants • 60 enterprises receiving non-financial support • 100 potential entrepreneurs helped to be business ready • 24 jobs created • 24 businesses created
Productivity (sub-regional project)	500,000	This project will offer grants to local SMEs to enable them to improve their productivity and increase digital innovation. It builds on the successful programme that has been delivered in the current UKSPF programme, with 54 grants awarded over two years.	• 24 businesses receiving grants • 16 jobs created • 8 productivity improvements • 8 businesses implementing new to the firm technologies or processes
Low carbon (sub-regional project)	200,000	Provision of grants to help businesses reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions, following on from the current UKSPF project.	• 11 Energy Audits • 14 Grants
Shop Unit Business Grants	330,000	A local small grants programme to enable businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other local high streets. The key aims are: • To improve the condition and appearance of local high-streets • To encourage economic revitalisation within the town 100% grants will be available for up to £10,000 (no match funding required). For grants above £10,000 and up to £25,000, match funding is required from the applicant on the amount above £10,000. Grants will be for capital expenditure, including internal and external refurbishment, accessibility improvements or fit out.	• 20 businesses receiving grants
Markets	60,000	Enhancing the operation of the outdoor market during the current redevelopment.	• 7 Local Markets Supported
Social Value	137,667	This will extend the project funded through the current UKSPF programme, incorporating three strands: • Support and information for businesses in relation to forthcoming contract opportunities through sector-based events • One-to-one support for businesses to help them become tender-ready • Ensuring that social value commitments are delivered by working with public sector contract teams and suppliers	• 160 businesses supported • 4 events
People and skills			
Ambition	126,149	Targeted and intensive support for young people, particularly those who are disengaged, to take up education, training and employment opportunities.	• 40 young people receiving support and 20 moving into employment, education or training
Core Skills	110,000	This project will draw on successful elements of the Multiply numeracy skills programme, offering community-based courses focusing on basic maths, English and digital skills. Multiply delivered over 3,500 learning opportunities in areas with high levels of worklessness. The project will link closely with the new economic inactivity pathfinder, which will provide further funding for delivery.	• 140 people supported to access basic skills courses ○ 120 out of work participants improving at least one basic skill

Appendix 2 - Rotherham UK Shared Prosperity Fund – proposals for 2025/26

Advance	208,836	Support for employees to improve their skills, gain qualifications and progress in or change their careers.	• 50 people receiving support to retrain • 10 people supported to sustain employment
Children's Capital of Culture Creative Skills	275,000	Extension of the successful traineeship programme, with young people gaining invaluable paid work experience through placements with local cultural organisations. The scheme targets economically inactive young people and the first cohort of trainees saw over 70% of participants enter into employment or training within three months of the traineeship ending.	A minimum of: • 15 people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills and supported to access basic skills, gain employment and sustain employment • 5 local events or activities supported • 5 organisations receiving grants • 15 organisations receiving financial support other than grants • 25 volunteer opportunities supported • Targeted training and development for up to 20 people in youth engagement and development practices
Communities and place			
Children's Capital of Culture Capacity Building	200,000	This will provide increased marketing to support the communications and reach of the Festival Year, to include outdoor advertising e.g. bus shelters and billboards and ensure a wider distribution of marketing materials across the borough and in neighbouring towns and cities.	• 60% increase in visitor numbers for town centre events • 30% increase in visitor numbers for events in parks and green spaces
Events	255,000	Extension and expansion of the events programme, combining large scale events in the town centre with local ward-based delivery, aiming to bring people together, increase footfall and enable people to access high-quality cultural experiences. The events include: • UPLIFT festival, 31st July – 2nd August - £40,000 • Rotherham Show, 6-7th September - £50,000 • Plug In & Play, October half-term - £55,000 • Bonfire Night, November - £20,000 • Signals Town Centre Festival, February 2026 - £10,000 • Development of Town Centre Events - £80,000	• Enhancement and expansion of the existing Rotherham events programme • Two new FTE fixed term employment opportunities to enable scale up of the previously planned activities • Satisfaction ratings of 90%+ • 60% increase in visitor numbers for town centre events • 30% increase in visitor numbers for events in parks and green spaces • For every £1 invested in event delivery estimated £5 return to the local economy • culture and leisure Jobs safeguarded • 40 organisations receiving financial support other than grants
Open Arms Rotherham	329,549	Further delivery of Open Arms, the local voluntary and community sector led response to cost of living challenges. In 2025/26, the project will focus primarily on: • Continued financial inclusion drop ins, maintaining regular sessions in key locations • Delivering community engagement events in every ward across Rotherham • Further developing local groups with coaching for volunteers	• 2,200 residents engaged in sessions • 220 sessions delivered • 400 residents engaged in ongoing 1-2-1 support • 8 community groups supported/developed • Creation of/involvement in 4 local forums • 16 community leaders trained/supported to take part in forums • 300 local people involved in group led community activities
Reaching Out	30,000	Extension of the work to establish local equality networks, ensuring that projects, activities and services are informed by and effectively reach all of Rotherham's diverse communities.	• New networks established • Increased engagement and improved perception
Active Lives	86,000	Match funding for a bid to the Football Foundation's Playzones programme enabling the creation of a multi-use games area.	• 1 local facility created

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 3

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: UK Shared Prosperity Fund proposals – 2025/26	
Directorate: ACEX	**Service area: Policy, Improvement and Risk**
Lead person: Michael Holmes	**Contact:** Michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify: Spending Proposal**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
UKSPF is a three-year government-funded programme channelled through South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). Rotherham received £7.2m of UKSPF over three years from April 2022 to March 2025, comprising £5.6m revenue and £1.6m capital (including £400,000 specifically for rural areas). This was allocated across the following three themes or 'investment priorities':

- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills
- Communities and Place

For 2025/26, the government is providing a further year of 'transitional' UKSPF funding, but with a reduced allocation compared to 2024/25. UKSPF activity must broadly align with the government's five national missions. From 2026/27, it is anticipated that SYMCA will receive an integrated settlement, which could incorporate further UKSPF allocations alongside other funding streams.

Rotherham's share of the SYMCA allocation for 2025/26 is £3.28 million, with £2.86 million revenue and £420,000 capital, a total reduction of £1.26m compared to 2024/25. This report sets out proposals for use of the funding.

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? *(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)*	x	
Could the proposal affect service users? *(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)*	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*	x	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or		x

employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*		
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?** UKSPF will have a positive impact on equalities with £475,000 allocated for the Children's Capital of Culture to extend and expand the traineeship programme and provide additional capacity to ensure successful delivery of Children's Capital of Culture in 2025. Furthermore over £443,063 is allocated for Rotherham skills programme providing 3 projects incorporating Ambition (children and young people), Core Skills (community-delivered basic skills training) and Advance (support to progress in work).
• **Key findings** A number of connected projects will provide seamless support to improve skills and employability, complementing the Council's Employment Solutions service. This will range from support with basic skills, including literacy and numeracy to in-work help for those looking to advance their careers. In light of the impact of the pandemic and the ongoing high cost of living on young people, a dedicated strand will address the multiple social, emotional and health barriers to learning and employment faced by some young people in Rotherham. £30,000 is set aside to reach out to reach out across our communities to ensure current and future interventions are informed by and effectively reach all of Rotherham's diverse communities.

- **Actions**

Ongoing coordination and oversight of Rotherham's UKSPF programme will continue to be carried out by Assistant Chief Executive's directorate, supported by an internal cross-service planning and delivery group comprising finance colleagues and lead officers for each project/theme. This oversight ensures protected characteristic groups mentioned above will receive their funding allocation and proposed projects will be delivered.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	19/02/25
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	20/02/25
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Fiona Boden	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	19/02/25

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	19/02/25
Report title and date	UK Shared Prosperity Fund proposals – 2025/26
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 17th March 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	20th February 2025

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 4

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: UK Shared Prosperity Fund proposals –2025/26	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 20/02/25	
Directorate: ACEX	**Service area:** Policy, Improvement and Risk
Lead Manager: Michael Holmes	**Contact number:** Michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify:** Financial Proposal	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Michael Holmes	RMBC	Policy and Strategy Officer
Kellie Rodgers	RMBC	Research Officer
Fiona Boden	RMBC	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence

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.)

UKSPF is a three-year government-funded programme channelled through South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA).

Rotherham received £7.2m of UKSPF over three years from April 2022 to March 2025, comprising £5.6m revenue and £1.6m capital (including £400,000 specifically for rural areas). This was allocated across the following three themes or 'investment priorities':

- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills
- Communities and Place

For 2025/26, the government is providing a further year of 'transitional' UKSPF funding, but with a reduced allocation compared to 2024/25. UKSPF activity must broadly align with the government's five national missions. From 2026/27, it is anticipated that SYMCA will receive an integrated settlement, which could incorporate further UKSPF allocations alongside other funding streams.

Rotherham's share of the SYMCA allocation for 2025/26 is £3.28 million, with £2.86 million revenue and £420,000 capital, a total reduction of £1.26m compared to 2024/25. This report sets out proposals for use of the funding.

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

Rotherham has comparatively low skills, particularly at degree level, and struggles both to retain and attract graduates. Only 35.6% of working age people in Rotherham are educated to degree level or above, compared with 47.3% nationally (2023 ONS Annual Population Survey). Rotherham's overall young population (under 15) increased from 46,000 in 2011 to 47,100 in 2021 (a 2.4% increase).

Between October 2023 and September 2024, 3.3% of economically active Rotherham residents were unemployed (4,000 people). Over the same period, 44,100 (27.4%) residents were economically inactive and of these 6,100 (13.9%) wanted a job. In January-December 2023 22.8% of households were workless (18,100 households).

Rotherham is an increasingly diverse borough, and the ethnic profile continues to change. Based on the 2021 census, the proportion of residents from ethnic minority communities increased from 8.1% in 2011 to 11.7% in 2021. Ethnic diversity is most evident amongst young people, as 20% of school age children were from an ethnic minority background (DfE 2021/22). The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after white British.

42% of ethnic minority residents live in areas that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country and for some groups the figure is higher. This compares with the borough average of 19.5%. Rotherham is in the top 20% most deprived areas in England with 11,904 children living in “absolute poverty” in 2022/23 according to Department for Work and Pensions figures.

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

Information on the take up of employment, skills and business support provision by protected characteristics groups is collected in some cases but is not comprehensive. Further intelligence should be gathered through the Reaching Out proposal, which aims to strengthen and expand local equality networks.

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

Ongoing coordination and oversight of Rotherham’s UKSPF programme will continue to be carried out by Assistant Chief Executive’s directorate, working with finance colleagues and lead officers for each project/theme. However, the onus will be on individual projects to put in place monitoring and recording systems that enable information to be captured in relation to the protected characteristics of project beneficiaries.

Most of the projects proposed to be funded in 2025/26 are continuations of existing projects. Of these, several projects do collect equalities monitoring information. Examples include:

Open Arms

In 2025/26, all equalities monitoring information will be collected. This will be reviewed at quarterly steering group meetings, with any changes required actioned at that point. If groups are under-represented, additional sessions will be considered in new locations/within existing small group settings to raise awareness and encourage access to the existing sessions. Cost-of-living and financial inclusion is a theme that cuts across protected characteristics, so we remain confident that the thematic approach is appropriate to engaging targeted communities.

Launchpad

The project captures age, current employment status, ethnicity, nationality, gender and disability during the initial assessment process. This information has historically only been used for ERDF reporting at a regional programme level for impact assessment but moving forward it is planned to make the data usable for internal statistical analysis on RiDO’s CRM database.

Engagement undertaken with customers (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Initial proposals for the use of Rotherham's UKSPF 2025/26 allocation were consulted on with Council directorates and external partners over the winter of 2024/25. External partners included Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) & Rotherfed. VAR have worked with a diverse range of local VCS groups to develop their proposals for Open Arms Rotherham. As Open Arms has included and: • United Multicultural Centre, Clifton Learning Partnership, Wah Hong, GROW (Giving Real Opportunities to Women,) YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association,) BME Young People and Carers group, Rotherham Parent/Carer Forum, AGE UK, Liberty Church, Barnardo's, The Rainbow Project and Speak Up. VAR have emphasised that the project will contribute to improved engagement with targeted communities and seldom heard groups, removing barriers and delivering directly in local communities.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Further discussions have been held with relevant services and partners to develop the proposed programme for 2025/26.

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) We hope that via our Reaching Out project we will engage with more residents from across the borough, including those with protected characteristics, to ensure they feel heard and they feel they are actively making a difference in areas where they live by being consulted on changes being made. The skills and employment projects and the Open Arms project will provide targeted help to people facing barriers to inclusion, those who are struggling financially, and unemployed or economically inactive people, with a particular focus on the borough's most deprived communities. Our children and young people will receive funding for the Children's Capital of Culture programme. This provides opportunities for young people to shape the programme of activity and to develop their cultural skills, including through paid work experience with

cultural organisations. The traineeship programme has led to a high proportion of young people moving into employment or training.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? Overall, UKSPF is expected to have a positive impact on equality, diversity and inclusion. The Open Arms project and several of the skills projects specifically aim to support people who are excluded or have barriers to accessing opportunities. The Launchpad project targets individuals looking to start or grow a business. The team works proactively with a network of organisations, including the Department for Work and Pensions, to establish referral mechanisms and ensure the service is accessible to marginalised communities. Due to an increase in such referrals, a dedicated workshop has been developed as an introduction to self-employment.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? UKSPF will have a positive impact with £329,549 allocation to Open Arms Rotherham, with a significant focus on financial inclusion, £236,149 allocated to skills projects that seek to break down barriers, and £475,000 allocated to Children's Capital of Culture, delivering an extensive programme of events, activities and training that seeks to engage and involve a diverse range of young people, creating opportunities and providing enriching experiences.
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) By strengthening engagement mechanisms with particular groups, the aim is create an avenue for our diverse communities to participate in public life, giving them a voice and channel to communicate their priorities and enabling them to contribute to making positive change in their communities.

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: UK Shared Prosperity Fund proposals – 2025/26
Directorate and service area: ACEX, Policy & Equalities
Lead Manager: Michael Holmes
Summary of findings:
By establishing local equality networks, partners will ensure current and future interventions are informed by and effectively reach all of Rotherham's diverse communities.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Monitor protected characteristic data from projects and who is being supported by funded projects	All	12/25
Use protected characteristic data to ensure underrepresented are supported and included across the lifespan of projects	All	12/25

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Fiona Boden	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	25th February 2025

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	20th February 2025
Report title and date	UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26 – Cabinet 17th March 2025
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	20th February 2025

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Appendix 5 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	**Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.**	**Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts**	**Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out**
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Reduces emissions	N/A	Provision of grants to help businesses reduce energy consumption should support the reduction of borough-wide emissions.	N/A	The feasibility of evaluating the impact of grants on emission reductions will be explored.
Emissions from transport?	Increases emissions	N/A	Projects delivering events in the town centre and throughout the borough have the potential to increase emissions from transport as more people may use private transport to visit or make journeys within the borough. Depending on how they are delivered, activities in some of the other funding streams may also generate smaller amounts of transport-related emissions, for example: provision of courses; cost of living support sessions; equalities networks and business events.	Events are not all concentrated in the town centre, with many taking place in local communities, which should reduce travel. The town centre is accessible by public transport for many people. Residents living in and around the town centre may be able to walk (or cycle) to events unless they have restricted mobility.	Development of carbon footprinting work for large scale council events is ongoing.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase in emissions	N/A	A small increase in waste and therefore emissions would be expected as a result of increased events.	It is recommended that waste management is considered as part of any events undertaken.	Assessment would be factored into the waste contractor's emissions

					calculations and unless collected by the Council would be recorded in the borough calculations.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No impact on emissions				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increases emissions	The funding is contributing to a planned capital scheme to create a multi-use game area. There will be an increase in emissions by the contractors during construction and development.	Funding allocated to businesses bringing empty shop units back into use may increase borough-wide emissions from construction, through emissions associated with shopfitting.	There is no planned direct mitigation, although the impact is expected to be minimal.	N/A
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	No impact on emissions				
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields: Further developing and enhancing the approach to social value within the Council and across partner organisations has the potential to decrease emissions by increasing local spend and encouraging local supply through anchor organisations' procurement activity.					

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
In the 2025/26 UKSPF programme, projects will continue to help Rotherham businesses to start up and grow, develop the skills our residents need to get a good job and progress in their careers, and provide targeted support to local communities in the face of cost of living and other pressures. Activity under the programme which could contribute towards a potential increase in emissions includes: • Non-domestic emissions: grants to support businesses to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions. • Transport: the programme of cultural events, which aims to increase visitor numbers to the town centre, potentially increasing emissions linked to travel. Smaller scale activities and events involved in other proposals may also increase emissions. • Waste: the programme of cultural events, which aims to increase visitor numbers to the town centre. • Construction and development: there is also one capital construction scheme that will produce emissions. There is limited mitigation for this, but impact is expected to be low.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: **(Name, title, and service area/directorate).**	Michael Holmes, Strategy and Policy Officer Policy, Performance and Intelligence, Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA424 Katie Rockett, Climate Change Officer

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Agenda Item 13

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 17 March 2025

Report Title
Transport Capital Programme 2025/26

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 Author(s)
Nat Porter, Interim Head of Service – Transportation Infrastructure
nat.porter@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report details the Transport Programme for the upcoming 2025-26 financial year, for both revenue and capital, including its funding sources and programme areas, and explains how projects will be managed within them.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the schemes and allocations of funding outlined in Section 2 of this report.

2. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the type and location of pedestrian crossing to be designed per paragraph 2.2.4 following the prioritisation process.

3. Approves the reprofiling of £175,000 previously allocated to the Collision Investigation & Prevention workstream, to enable these funds to be allocated, subject to subsequent Cabinet decision, in the 2026/27 Transport Capital Programme as set out in paragraphs 2.2.11 and 2.2.12.

4. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment,

in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered with the Structures and Minor Works allocations.

5. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine new schemes for delivery in Rawmarsh West and Wath wards, within budgets approved in March 2024, as part of tranche 2 of the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Assessment
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements: guidance for mayoral combined authorities
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/city-region-sustainable-transport-settlements-developing-proposals/city-region-sustainable-transport-settlements-guidance-for-mayoral-combined-authorities

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Transport Capital Programme 2025/26

1. Background

1.1 In July 2022, the Department for Transport (DfT) confirmed a new round of funding called the City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). This funding is distributed to Local Transport Authorities within Combined Authority areas for a funding period from 2022-2027. The DfT has allocated £570 million to South Yorkshire, of which a total of £72.4 million capital is designated for schemes in Rotherham.

1.2 This funding includes a £6 million allocation over the 5-year period (2022-2027) for a Local Neighbourhood Complementary Transport Programme (LNCTP) that is intended to support localised transport improvements, including the Local Neighbourhood & Road Safety schemes and specific interventions, such as pedestrian crossings and minor works.

1.3 This report considers the LNCTP funding that remains to be allocated in the 2025-26 financial year (the fourth year out of the 5-year period).

1.4 There is also an additional allocation of £426,400 for highway structures asset maintenance. This is part of the separate CRSTS Network Asset Maintenance block funding.

1.5 The DfT expects that all CRSTS funding, including LNCTP, will contribute to the overarching objectives of amongst other things driving growth and productivity, decarbonisation and promoting modal shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling. The Council is increasingly being monitored against delivery on outputs and outcomes from the programme.

1.6 These objectives are applied and evidenced through the internal project mandate and business case process, therefore ensuring compliance with the funder's criteria and ensuring that the capital is diligently expended on suitable projects.

1.7 Rotherham Council has been invited to bid for Active Travel Fund tranche 5 (ATF5), as part of a wider South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority bid. It is not confirmed this bid is successful at this time; approvals are sought subject to that bid being successful so as to allow work to commence promptly.

2. Key Issues

2.1.1 **The 2024-25 programme**

The 2024-25 programme included the successful completion of the Transforming Cities Fund schemes, making Rotherham the first of the five South Yorkshire authorities to complete its programme. Additionally, two large emergency structural repair schemes were completed on Centenary Way Viaduct and at Packman Road, Brampton.

2.1.2 New pedestrian crossings were also delivered at Upper Wortley Road, Kimberworth; at Chesterfield Road, Swallownest, and at Corton Wood retail park. Design work has commenced on a new crossing at Wath Road, Brampton Bierlow.

2.1.3 Progress has been made on Tranche 1 of the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme. Works in five wards are complete, with a further six programmed for construction in the first half of the 2025/26 financial year.

2.1.4 Unfortunately, during the 2024-25 financial year, SYMCA withdrew its proposed funding for bus priority works – this decision was made in respect of all bus priority works across the region and was not a reflection of this particular proposal. This has necessitated some changes to scope and funding for the A633 bus priority scheme, as set out in paragraph 2.2.8 – 2.2.11.

2.2.1 **The 2025-26 Local Neighbourhood Complementary Transport Programme (LNCTP)**
The proposed 2025-26 Local Neighbourhood Complementary Transport Programme is shown in Table 1 below, along with the breakdown of funding sources.

Table 1 - Proposed 2025-26 Local Neighbourhood Complementary Transport Programme (LNCTP)

	£ thousands			
Theme	Carry forward 22-25	CRSTS (LNCTP)	RMBC capital	**Total 25/26**
Operational activity	0	32	0	**32**
Pedestrian crossings *of which…*	205	100	0	**305**
- *Wath Road*	*205*	*0*	*0*	***205***
- *Planning for 2026-27*		*100*	*0*	***100***
Contribution to A633 BSIP bus priority scheme	281	400	0	**681**
Local Neighbourhood & Road Safety (LNRS)	600	415	0	**1,015**
Capital projects monitoring & evaluation	115	100	0	**215**
Minor works	36	0	200	**236**
Total	**1,237**	**1,047**	**200**	**2,484**

2.2.2 The 2025-26 financial year is the penultimate year of this funding round. The above allocations leave £1,023,000 of CRSTS-LNCTP funding to be allocated for the 2026/27 financial year. Allocations for that year will be covered by a subsequent Cabinet report.

2.2.3 *Operational activity*
This theme is intended to fund operational activity for which no alternative funding is available – this typically includes purchase of software, data or resources required to develop, deliver, and monitor the Capital programme. An allocation of £32,000 is proposed for this activity, wholly funded from the CRSTS-LNCTP fund.

2.2.4 *Pedestrian crossings*
An allocation of £100,000 is proposed to enable identification and design of a pedestrian crossing for delivery in the 2026/27 financial year. This is proposed to be wholly funded from the CRSTS-LNCTP fund. An additional £350,000 may be available subject to the outcome of SYMCA's bid into ATF5. The location where these two crossings will be prioritised amongst those locations where the Council has received requests since 2021, on the basis of how difficult it is for pedestrians to cross the road, and the numbers of pedestrians impacted. A lighter touch prioritisation process will likely be required for the Active Travel Fund funded crossing owing to external funders timelines not permitting sufficient time for data collection. It is recommended that the decision as to which crossing is progressed is delegated to the Strategic Director, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member, (refer to paragraph 3.3), so as to permit design work to be commenced within the 25/26 financial year. Further detail in respect of the prioritisation process would be given as part of any subsequent Delegated Decision Report.

2.2.5 Design work on the crossing at Brampton Road, Wath is underway. Delivery is to be funded by £205,000 carried forward from monies approved in 2024/25.

2.2.6 The proposed crossing at Broad Street, Parkgate forms part of the A633 Bus Priority scheme (see paragraph 2.2.10).

2.2.7 *Contribution to A633 BSIP bus priority scheme*
Design work progressed in 2024/25, in the expectation that SYMCA CRSTS Bus Service Improvement Plan monies would be available to deliver this work. Unfortunately, this funding opportunity was withdrawn by SYMCA during the 2024/25 financial year. As such there is insufficient funding to deliver the project described in last years' report. Whilst design work has progressed, this has been deliberately handled as a lower priority to allow the Local Schemes team to recover the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme – consequently £281,000 is carried forward into 2025/26.

2.2.8 Opportunity has been found to deliver the proposed changes at the junction of Ship Hill and Westgate as part of the Regeneration-led scheme on Corporation Street, and utilising £550k of Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) monies saved on delivery of the Sheffield Road cycleways scheme. Change control for the TCF monies was approved by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority in December 2024. This budget variation was noted by Cabinet in the January 2025 Financial Monitoring Report.

2.2.9 In order to ensure delivery of the low-cost high-impact enforcement intervention at Wath Interchange, and to ensure delivery of both the bus priority works and the associated pedestrian crossing at Broad Street, Parkgate, an additional allocation of £400,000 of CRSTS-LNCTP funding is recommended.

2.2.10 It is proposed that design work will continue in respect of remaining elements of the projects, in particular the bus lane proposed on Warren Vale, utilising part of the carried forward funds. Delivery will be subject to successful future funding bid(s).

2.2.11 *Collision Investigation & Prevention*
The remaining live collision investigation & prevention projects were completed in 24/25. This funding is specifically for addressing sites with recorded collision history. This workstream holds a balance of £175,000 – the reason being that investigations since 2022 have not found sufficiently effective casualty reduction interventions to warrant spend of the available budget.

2.2.12 So as to modernise and improve the Council's management of road safety, the Council has allocated £80,000 of CRSTS revenue funding to investigate trends patterns and performance in respect of road traffic collisions, and other harms associated with road transport, across the borough. This is in part a response to traditional collision investigation and prevention approaches being unable to identify suitable interventions. This study work will support the Council in discharge of its duty under s.39 Road Traffic Act 1988 in an effective manner. No further capital works are proposed until this study reports; the £175,000 balance is proposed to be held until 2026/27 to ensure availability of budget in the final year of this funding round.

2.2.13 *Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety (LNRS)*
As previously forecast, an additional £415,000 is allocated this year, to bring the total allocation to its final £3 million value. Schemes were approved in the 2024/25 Transport Capital Programme Report. This money brings the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme to its close.

2.2.14 It is proposed to vary two projects, in Wath and Rawmarsh West wards, where feasibility work has found no viable affordable solution in respect of the originally agreed project. It is therefore proposed to reallocate these funds to new LNRS2 projects in the same wards to new schemes, to be agreed with ward members. It is also proposed the decision on the redesignation of these two schemes is delegated to the Strategic Director, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member, to enable work to commence promptly once new schemes are identified.

2.2.15 *Capital projects monitoring & evaluation*
£100,000 is proposed to be used for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of capital projects. This will help the Council demonstrate the outcome of previous projects, to be used in project evaluation and applying

lessons to shape future programmes. The following projects will be investigated: –

- Sheffield Road cycleways
- Rotherham to Maltby bus corridor

Additionally, £115,000 of monies is carried forward from 2024/25. This mostly relates to schemes not completing in sufficient time to allow for monitoring to take place in 2024/25 – these monitoring activities will take place will take place in 2025/26.

2.2.16 *Minor works*
This theme is identified for small scale works to address minor requests in the highway, funded wholly by RMBC capital allocated in the 2024 budget. Work to prioritise this workstream is underway – should delegation be granted under recommendation 4, it is anticipated that this programme will be confirmed by the end of April 2025.

2.3.1 **Structures**
As detailed in paragraph 1.4, there is an allocation of £426,400 for structures for the 2025/26 financial year. This will be added to existing funding carried forward. Approval is sought for this money to be utilised for capital maintenance as may be identified through the Council's ongoing programme of General and Principal Inspections to enable this critical work to be undertaken in a timely manner.

2.3.2 It is recommended that the decision as to which structures schemes are progressed is delegated to the Strategic Director (refer to paragraph 3.3), in conjunction with the Cabinet Member, so as to permit work to commence within the 25/26 financial year.

2.4.1 **Clean Air Zone**
Projects to deliver statutory compliance with air quality legislation were completed in 2022, and were delivered well within budget. A sum of £874,451 remains and this money was granted solely for measures to achieve compliance with statutory limits on concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide.

2.4.2 Rotherham remains within the Government's Clean Air Plan programme, on account of its joint mandate with Sheffield, and also owing to the requirement to remain within the programme until compliance is confirmed beyond doubt in both Sheffield and Rotherham. Of the sites of concern, Fitzwilliam Road is at greatest risk of non-compliance, and whilst monitoring to date suggests compliance is likely to be achieved here, this is not sufficiently certain at this time to allow for exit from the Clean Air Programme.

2.4.3 Challenges remain in Sheffield however, principally relating to the underperformance of bus retrofit technologies. To address these and ensure compliance across the joint Sheffield-Rotherham Clean Air Plan, it is proposed to accelerate the roll-out of electric buses. To support this, it is

recommended that the £874,451 saved on delivery of Rotherham Clean Air Plan measures is reallocated to the Sheffield Council-managed Clean Air Fund. The Government's Joint Air Quality Unit, funder for this work, approved this change in December 2024. It is important to consider that joint mandating of Sheffield and Rotherham means Rotherham cannot leave the Clean Air Programme until compliance is demonstrated in both Sheffield and Rotherham.

2.4.4 In order to bring sufficient certainty that compliance will be achieved, the money will include works to support the deployment of electric buses on the X3 Sheffield-Rotherham-Doncaster route which runs along Fitzwilliam Road.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1 – do not agree to receiving the CRSTS Funding referred to in 1.2 of this report. This would severely impact on the Council's ability to maintain and improve its transportation assets and would carry significant reputational risk for future awards of funding. This is option is not recommended.

3.2 Option 2 – utilise CRSTS element of 2025-26 approved funding as set out in paragraph 2.1 onwards. This would require Cabinet approval be sought to approve the list of schemes as they are identified where this is not described in this report; this is not recommended, as the additional time required to finalise all projects and submit for Cabinet approval would add delay to programme delivery.

3.3 Option 3 – as option 2, and additionally delegate responsibility to the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Job and the Economy to confirm –

- The pedestrian crossing scheme to be taken into delivery (paragraph 2.2.4);
- Replacement LNRS2 schemes for Wath and Rawmarsh West wards (paragraph 2.2.15); and,
- Schemes to be taken forward under the Structures capital programme (paragraph 2.4.2).

This is the recommended option.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 No community consultation has yet taken place on the 2025-26 transport infrastructure programme. This is to be undertaken once further detail on projects within each scheme are identified and sufficiently developed to enable meaningful consultation.

4.2 Consultation on individual projects takes place at levels consistent with the scale of each project. For example, small schemes often engage with Ward Councillors and local community interests whereas larger schemes require wider community and public engagement.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Following approval of the Council's transport capital programme budget, the programme will be delivered as part of the 2025-26 capital programme of the Council.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 This report outlines recommendations on how to allocate existing external funding to the Council's capital programme. The Council must ensure that it abides by any conditions stipulated by the grant funder to minimise the risk of clawback. As set out above, there may be further funding available. Any bids and acceptance of additional funding will need to follow internal approval processes.

6.2 To support delivery of the programme, all procurement activity must be procured in compliance with the relevant procurement legislation (the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 whichever is applicable) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The recommendations of this report are in compliance with Council's constitution and there are no substantive legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report. The programme will be delivered through existing staff resources within the Transportation and Highways Design Service within Planning, Regeneration and Transportation. Specialist consultants, the internal highways service provider (Highways Delivery Team) and external works providers will be used as required, in accordance with Council procurement procedures, and where able to offer the required services.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The implications of the programme will depend on the detail of schemes that will be delivered. Typically, measures such as improved crossings, reduced and local transport improvements can be expected to improve conditions for children, young people and vulnerable adults – this will need to be confirmed by Equalities Impact Assessment for each project as they are developed.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Equalities Screening Assessment is attached at Appendix 1 of this

report. The implications of the programme will depend on the detail of the schemes that will be delivered. Typically, measures such as improved crossings, reduced road traffic collisions and local transport improvements can be expected to improve outcomes. This will need to be confirmed by Equalities Impact Assessments for each project as they are developed.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 CO2 emissions impacts have not been quantified, as it is not possible to do this at this stage of programme development. However, at high level it is anticipated these will fall into three categories:–

- Emissions from transport (impact unknown);
- Emissions from construction (forecast increase emissions);
- Operational emissions (forecast increase emissions).

11.2 Further detail can be found in the Carbon Impact Assessment at Appendix 2.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Transport infrastructure schemes carry implications for all road users – which in practice is everyone. In terms of partner agencies and organisations, key stakeholders are the emergency services, utility provider companies, transport operators (road & rail), road haulage associations and companies, key highway user groups such as motoring, cycling, walking and disability representation bodies. The exact nature of these implications will vary considerably between individual schemes.

12.2 Where required engagement takes place with interested parties during scheme development and at construction. Any implications that may arise through specific measures would be addressed as part the scheme design and / or Traffic Regulation Order process that governs the operation and use of the road network.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Project risks are identified within scheme design, business case preparation and then at operational level during the construction process. These are managed using recognised risk register approaches and in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules for the approval of any project or programme changes.

14. Accountable Officers

Nat Porter
Interim Head of Transportation Infrastructure Service
Email: nat.porter@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	03/03/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	20/02/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	19/02/25

Report Author: *Nat Porter,*
Interim Head of Transportation Infrastructure Service
nat.porter@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1

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: Transport Capital Programme 2025-26	
Directorate: **Regeneration & Environment**	**Service area:** **Transportation Infrastructure Service**
Lead person: Nat Porter	**Contact:** nat.porter@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☑ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Approval of Transport Capital Programme 2025-26

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.

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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? *(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)*	✓	
Could the proposal affect service users? *(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)*	✓	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*	✓	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*	✓	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*		✓
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).

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

The report details a programme of work, and its division of themes. General consideration has been given to equalities implications of work in these themes; however specific impacts will not be identifiable until individual schemes are identified. It is proposed as schemes are identified under each theme, the programme and schemes within them will be subject to an update of this Initial Screening Assessment, with individual schemes subjected to Equality Analysis as required by RMBC Policy.

Much of the 2025-26 programme relates to allocation of money to ongoing schemes subject to their own individual processes. Consequently this screening applies only to the following parts of the programme -

- The allocation of £100,000 for works to prioritise and design an additional pedestrian crossing;
- The withdrawal of £175,000 from the previous Collision Investigation and Prevention workstream;
- The re-definition of tranche 2 LNRS projects in Rawmarsh West and Wath wards;
- The approved of schemes to enter the 2025-26 Minor Schemes programme;
- The allocation of monies for the Structures Capital Maintenance Programme;
- The allocation of Clean Air Plan monies to support accelerated deployment of electric buses; and,
- Reallocation of savings from the delivered moving traffic enforcement project.

- **Key findings**

Local and national data identify a number of inequalities in respect of transport which will need to be considered in the development of the programme, some of which may be cause of or an effect of existing traffic and transport conditions. Headline inequalities identified are –

- Children, young people and the elderly are overrepresented amongst road traffic casualties relative to their population size;

- Wheelchair and mobility scooter users express notably worse satisfaction with provision of safe and level crossing points, and obstruction of footways, than others;

- Men are overrepresented amongst road traffic casualties relative to the average;

- Access to cars is lower amongst people of non-White ethnicity, and amongst lower income households;

- People without access to cars travel significantly less far despite spending similar (but slightly lesser) amounts of time travelling compared to the average. They are also more dependent on non-motorised travel, and especially buses, for their mobility.

In light of these headlines, the following initial findings are made –

- Introduction of an additional pedestrian crossing can be expected to advance equality of opportunity for those amongst children and young people, the elderly,

Appendix 1

people with disabilities and those without access to cars – however this will depend upon the final prioritised crossing. A screening assessment will be made as part of the report to enter the prioritised crossing into the programme. • As children, young people and men are overrepresented in road traffic collisions, there is a risk of adverse outcomes of reallocation of Collision Investigation & Prevention monies for these groups. However, in the context of the study into road traffic collision patterns and trends in the Borough should leave the Council better informed to tackle road traffic collisions and their attendant inequalities, and this is considered likely to be of greater benefit in the longer term than any disbenefit in not promoting a scheme this year. Any works and/or changes in policy arising from the study will be subject to their own Equalities Impact Analysis.
• **Actions** - Ensuring consultation and engagement activity seeks the view of groups with protected or other characteristics where there may be inequalities of which we are unaware and/or lack information; - Conduct an Initial Equality Screening Assessment on projects within each theme as these are developed. This will include an assessment to be included as part of the decision report for the prioritisation of the new pedestrian crossing. - Progress schemes to Equality Analysis where screening assessment indicates this is required.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	See Actions – above.
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	See Actions – above.
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Nat Porter, Interim Head of Transportation Infrastructure Service

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Nat Porter	Interim Head, Transportation Infrastructure Service	28th January, 2025
Simon Dennis	Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager	31st January, 2025

Appendix 1

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	28 Jan '25
Report title and date	Transport Capital Programme 25/26 17 Mar '25
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	28 Jan '25

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Appendix 2 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	**Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.**	**Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts**	**Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out**
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	No impact				
Emissions from transport?	Decrease emissions	Additional emissions may be expected from travel related to the development and construction of projects in the Transport Capital Programme.	This will depend on each project taken forward. Generally, schemes which reduce demand for travel, or facilitate active travel and/or public transport may be expected to reduce emissions. Measures which facilitate car ownership or use, or additional travel more generally, may be expected to increase emissions. The likely greatest impact is associated with the reallocation of Clean Air Plan monies to support accelerated deployment of electric buses - saving 70% of emissions on treated routes at 2019 grid average electricity, which could	Where possible scheme PMs will be expected to provide estimates of changes in carbon emissions consequential to the schemes.	To be determined once projects and their impacts are understood in more detail. It is proposed to investigate outcomes from the Sheffield Road cycleways and Rotherham - Maltby bus corridor schemes. Evaluation of these completed projects may increase the Council's understanding of their respective carbon emissions impacts and inform the development of future schemes.

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**
			increase up to 100% with fully renewable electricity.		
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase emissions	Most schemes will result in excavations and/or disposal of materials as part of construction, with consequential one-off increase in waste and associated emissions.	There may be a waste implication depending on the decisions of commercial operators as to how ICE buses remaining in the fleet are utilised or scrapped.	Scheme PMs will be expected to work with designers and contractors to ensure carbon emissions are minimised as far as practicable, including actively seeking opportunities to cut emissions from existing operation.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	No impact				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase emissions	All highway schemes have construction emissions arising from the supply, installation, maintenance and operation of the schemes. The scale and nature of these cannot be confirmed until schemes	No impact expected beyond the contribution from RMBC and its contractors.	Scheme PMs will be expected to work with designers and contractors to ensure carbon emissions are minimised as far as practicable, including actively seeking opportunities to cut	

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**
		are identified and more developed.		emissions from existing operation.	
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Impact unknown	It is possible schemes will be identified involving removal of small numbers of trees.	No impact expected.	Impacts on trees will be avoided in the first instance. The advice of arboriculturists will be sought in respect of replacement planting in the event of tree impacts being identified.	To be determined once projects and their impacts are understood in more detail.
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:

In summary, the following impacts are expected, with the scale and balance of emissions unknown until projects are further developed -

- A one-off increase in emissions associated with development and construction of the projects;
- An ongoing increase in emissions associated with the maintenance and operation of the projects;
- Potential but as yet unknown change in emissions from transport resulting from the schemes;
- A likely ongoing reduction in carbon emissions from operation of services buses in Sheffield and Rotherham, arising from the accelerated deployment of electric buses.

The increases associated with development, construction, maintenance and operation reflect the systemic nature of the carbon emissions problem; whilst the energy and construction systems are emitters of carbon, any additional activity utilising these systems can be expected to result in increases in emissions. The changes are thought likely to be very small in the context of overall transport emissions in Rotherham, and very small in the context of the NZ30 and NZ40 targets. Mitigation will principally consist of emissions estimates being prepared as schemes are developed, PMs being required to ensure emissions are reduced as far as practicable in the design and construction of the projects, and this feeding into scheme development.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: **(Name, title, and service area/directorate).**	Nat Porter Interim Head, Transportation Infrastructure Service Regeneration & Environment
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.	Project report MIS072 - Low Emission Bus Scheme monitoring programme (TRL, 2022)
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA 414 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer Finance and Customer Services

Agenda Item 14

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 17 March 2025

Report Title
Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy

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 Author(s)
Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager
01709 254955 or alan.pogorzelec@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires the Council to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy which sets out the principles it proposes to apply in exercising functions under the Act. The Statement of Licensing Policy must be reviewed and republished at five year intervals.

The current Statement of Licensing Policy was published in 2020, and therefore is now due for the five year review. The Cumulative Impact Policy was reviewed in 2023 and is therefore not due for further review until 2026.

The Council's Licensing Service have carried out informal consultation with partners, local licence holders and members of the public to identify any areas within the current Policy that would benefit from development. This feedback has been used to formulate an ambitious draft Policy that is considered to strike an appropriate balance between the need to promote a thriving licensed trade within the Borough whilst ensuring that any negative impacts of licensable activity are kept to an absolute minimum.

The draft Policy is presented to Cabinet for review and approval prior to the commencement of a period of statutory consultation. A further report will be presented to Cabinet after the consultation has concluded for approval of the final Statement of Licensing Policy 2025.

Recommendations

That Cabinet approve the draft Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policy attached to this report as Appendix 1 for consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Draft Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy 2025
Appendix 2 Equality Analysis – Initial Screening Document
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policy 2020
Guidance issued under s182 of the Licensing Act 2003

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy

1. Background

1.1 As the Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) the Council is responsible for licensing:

- the sale and supply of alcohol.
- regulated entertainment such as live and recorded music, performances of theatre, dance, cinema and indoor sports.
- the sale of hot food and drink between 11 pm and 5 am.

1.2 Under Section 5 of the Act, a licensing authority must prepare a Statement of Licensing Policy which effectively sets out the principles it proposes to apply in exercising functions under the Act. This Statement of Policy must be published at least every five years.

1.2.1 The Statement of Licensing Policy has a number of key objectives including:

- Providing applicants with a clear, consistent basis for submitting applications and notices in the Borough.
- Providing a clear, consistent basis for determining licensing applications in Rotherham.
- Ensuring the relevant views of those affected by licensed premises are taken into consideration.
- Ensuring that local area issues are taken into account by licensed premises; and
- Supporting the wider strategies of the Council and the approach to licensed activities and premises across the Borough.

1.3 The current Statement of Licensing Policy was published in 2020, and therefore the five year formal review is now due.

1.4 Licensing officers commenced the review of the Policy in October 2024 and this included a period of informal consultation with partner agencies, licence holders and members of the public. In addition, officers have carried out a review of other policies from across the UK to identify best practice that could be adopted in Rotherham.

1.5 As a result of this initial review, licensing officers have developed a draft Policy, attached as Appendix 1, that is considered to be ambitious in nature, whilst continuing to strike the correct balance between promoting a vibrant licensed economy and protecting local people and communities from any negative consequences of licensable activity. The areas where changes have been made are highlighted in yellow on the attached document.

1.6 This draft Policy is being presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval prior to the commencement of a period of statutory consultation. Following the consultation, a further report will be brought to Cabinet for consideration and agreement of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2025.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The licensed entertainment and hospitality industry is a major provider of full time, part time and casual employment and it makes a significant contribution to the local economy. It fulfils an important social and community role, providing facilities for both residents and businesses, and provides vital support for related sectors such as retail and tourism.

2.2 As of December 2024, the number of licensed premises in Rotherham is as follows:

Club licensed to sell alcohol (e.g. working men's club)	51
Premises licensed to sell alcohol (e.g. pub, shop, restaurant)	682
Premised licensed for late night refreshment (e.g. late night takeaway) or regulated entertainment (without alcohol)	124

2.3 The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy should strike a balance between the need to encourage a vibrant and dynamic entertainment industry as part of the regeneration of the Borough, whilst ensuring that the Licensing Objectives specified in the Act are sufficiently promoted. The Licensing Objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder,
- The promotion of public safety,
- The protection of children from harm,
- The prevention of public nuisance.

2.4 The way that licensable activities are managed on site can often influence the wider issues that arise through the sale and supply of alcohol or the provision of late night refreshment. Critically, there are areas of the Statement of Licensing Policy that can direct the way that establishments are managed and operated, including setting standards for training around key priorities through to requirements for security staff and their training and accreditation.

2.5 It is for this reason that the draft Policy includes additional sections relating to specific aspects of the licensed economy. It is expected that the inclusion of these sections within the Policy will encourage applicants and licence holders to adopt best practice, and clearly set out the Council's expectations with regard to the activities that take place at licensed premises.

2.6 It is recognised that many of the principles outlined below are aspirational in nature, and it will be made clear within the Policy that although the Council has certain expectations of licensed premises in the Borough, the principles within the Policy will only be mandated if they are required to prevent one or more of the Licensing Objectives from being undermined. Despite the limitations of the Licensing Act and Statement of Licensing Policy, it is nonetheless considered important that the Council provides appropriate best practice guidance and encourages local licence holders to go beyond the

minimum that is required with the ultimate aim of ensuring that licensed premises are safe and enjoyable places to be, and that the activities that take place there have minimal negative impact on local communities and the wider environment.

2.7 The Council is mindful that there is a need to encourage and facilitate growth and development within the Borough, and the licensed trade have an obvious role in this. It is therefore important that the Statement of Licensing Policy does not deter appropriate development and investment within the Borough, and the draft Policy is considered to strike the correct balance between encouraging economic growth and minimising any negative impacts on those that may be affected by the activities that are taking place.

Key new additions to the draft policy include:

2.8 Specific policies with regard to the Licensing Objectives:

The current Policy outlines the Council's expectations with regards to the promotion of the Licensing Objectives. The proposed Policy develops this by providing additional information and advice regarding the obligations that licensed premises have with regard to, for example, the prevention of general crime and disorder, counter terrorism (including Martyn's Law) and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

In addition, the proposed Policy will provide licence holders and applicants with details of good practice which the Council believes will assist licensed premises to further promote the Licensing Objectives. Such good practice includes making adequate provision for the welfare of customers, management of smoking / vaping, minimisation of waste, rehearsal of written contingency plans and enhanced safeguarding practices (such as the appointment of a "safeguarding champion" at the premises).

2.9 Premises specific policies:

The proposed Policy recognises that the expectations / requirements applicable to licensed premises will vary depending on the nature of the premises themselves. For example, requirements for pubs / bars will be different to late night takeaways. The Policy will therefore set out specific areas relevant to each class of premises and make it clear that the Council expects applicants and licence holders should consider these matters when submitting an application / managing their premises.

2.10 Promoting Equality and Inclusion in Licensed Venues:

It is already a requirement that licensed premises should operate in a manner that does not discriminate against groups / individuals with a particular characteristic. The proposed Policy encourages applicants and licence holders to go further than this to further improve the experiences of all communities within licensed venues. This will include the provision of inclusive and transparent policies / procedures, accessible venues and regular training for staff on equality and inclusion.

2.11 Promotion of Environmental Best Practice:

Licensed premises have a significant role in maintaining and promoting a clean and green Borough. The proposed Policy sets out good practice regarding waste minimisation, energy efficiency, reducing road traffic and action on climate change. Simple, practical suggestions on how premises can improve their environmental performance will be detailed in the Policy (for example, the use of online menus and reusable drinking vessels).

2.12 Safety of Women in Licensed Venues:

The Policy will provide advice and guidance on the practical steps that licensed venues can take to keep women safe when using licensed premises. The adoption of good practice will be encouraged, including Ask for Angela, Walksafe (and similar schemes) – along with training for staff and regular testing of procedures to ensure that they are being effectively implemented within the premises.

2.13 Core Hours Policies:

The Policy recognises that premises operating hours can have a significant impact on local residents, the economy and the local area. It therefore sets out a number of core hours that are applicable to each type of licensed premises. The Policy makes it clear that applications for licences outside of the core hours will not necessarily be refused, but that the Council will expect applicants to provide more detail on the steps they will take to minimise the impact on the local area outside of the core hours specified in the Policy.

2.14 Clarification of Roles, Responsibilities and Guidance:

The Policy will set out the responsibilities of licence holders, applicants, the Council and partners. It will also provide guidance to members of the public so that they feel confident raising concerns relating to licensed premises and are aware of the opportunities within (and importantly, the limitations of) the Licensing Act 2003 when it comes to addressing concerns with regard to licensed premises.

2.15 Large Events:

The Policy will include specific guidance for large events taking place at outdoor venues, sports stadia, arenas etc with a capacity of more than 2000 persons. The Policy will strongly encourage involvement with those with an interest in large events in the Borough (for example, through attendance at Rotherham Safety Advisory Group). The Policy will recognise the benefits of large events, but clarify the expectation that applicants and licence holders will give additional consideration to security, counter terrorism, safeguarding, traffic management, welfare facilities etc.

2.16 More detail in relation to the proposals outlined in paragraphs 2.8 to 2.15 is included within the draft policy, in particular within Appendices F to H. The

amendments reflect national best practice and the Council's ambition to develop a Licensing Act Policy that both addresses our local priorities and encourages licence holders and applicants to meet the highest standards possible.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The Council is statutorily obliged to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy and to consult on that Policy. However, the Council does have a degree of discretion in relation to the contents of the Policy and the way in which a consultation is conducted.

3.2 Option 1

To consult on the content of the current Policy, and to seek comment on the aspects of the Policy that should be developed or amended. These comments would then be formulated into a drafty Policy that would be further consulted upon prior to being brought to Cabinet for consideration for adoption.

Although this approach will facilitate the capturing of views / comments from a large cross section of those affected by the Policy, it is unlikely to result in the provision of feedback that is significantly different to that which has already been obtained through the informal consultation and document review undertaken by licensing officers.

3.3 Option 2

The Council proposes a draft Policy with amendments based on the feedback obtained via the document review and informal consultation carried out by licensing officers. This would allow all those affected by the Policy to comment on the proposals, whilst ensuring that the development process remains as efficient as possible.

3.4 Option 2 is preferred as it both demonstrates the Council's ambitions to move forward its Policy position and will allow for a more efficient Policy development process, which will still ensure that all those affected by the Policy have the opportunity to comment on the proposals. This report therefore recommends that Cabinet approve the draft Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policy for consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Before determining its Policy, the licensing authority must consult the persons listed in section 5(3) of the 2003 Act. These are:

- the chief officer of police for the area.
- the fire and rescue authority for the area.
- each local authority's Director of Public Health in England (DPH) for an area any part of which is in the licensing authority's area.

- persons/bodies representative of local premises licence holders.
- persons/bodies representative of local club premises certificate holders.
- persons/bodies representative of local personal licence holders; and
- persons/bodies representative of businesses and residents in its area.

4.2 The views of all these persons or bodies will be given appropriate weight when the Policy is determined. It is recognised that in some areas it may be difficult to identify persons or bodies that represent all parts of industry affected by the provisions of the 2003 Act, but licensing authorities must make reasonable efforts to do so. Licensing authorities should note that the terms of the 2003 Act do not prevent them consulting other bodies or persons.

4.3 In addition, responses to the consultation will be sought from the wider public to ensure that the Council's approach is fully informed at a local level.

4.4 The Council's Licensing Committee, who are responsible for considering and determining applications under the Licensing Act 2003, will be fully consulted as part of this approach.

4.5 The consultation is anticipated to be open for a period of six weeks and will take the form of an online consultation, with written requests for responses directed to those stakeholders that the Council is statutorily required to consult with.

4.6 The consultation will be complemented by communication and marketing methods including website, intranet, social media and ward member briefings. Detailed consideration will be given to ensuring that the consultation is open and accessible to all.

4.7 The responses received will be fully considered and will be used to inform the development of a final Statement of Licensing Policy which will be presented to Cabinet before formal adoption by the Council later in 2025.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval, the consultation will commence in April 2025. The results of the consultation will be used to finalise the Statement of Licensing Policy and this will then be presented to Cabinet in the summer of 2025.

5.2 The final Policy will then be considered by full Council with a recommendation from Cabinet that the Policy is approved.

5.3 The Policy will then fall due for a further formal review in 2030.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 This proposal is part of the statutory duty as a Licensing Authority. The costs of this are met within the Licensing account and should be covered by fees

paid by licence holders. Under the Licensing Act 2003, the fees a Licensing Authority can charge are set by Central Government and not at a local level.

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Section 5(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 [the Act] requires a licensing authority to determine its Licensing Policy with respect to the exercise of its licensing functions and to publish this before the beginning of each five year period.

7.2 The Licensing Policy must be published before the licensing authority carries out any function in respect of individual applications and notices made under the terms of the Act. During the five-year period, the policy must be kept under review

7.3 The Licensing Authority must consult with those persons listed in Section 5(3) of the Act in relation to a proposed statement of Licensing Policy, as set out at Paragraph 4.1 of this report.

7.4 The Council must have regard to the Statutory Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act, Part 14 relates to Statements of Licensing Policy. Paragraph 14.6 makes it clear that subject to any statutory requirements, the extent of the consultation process of a matter for each Local Authority. The Act does not set out a minimum consultation period in respect of the proposed statement of Licensing Policy.

7.5 The Guidance makes it clear that Local Authorities should always consider a full consultation, as a limited consultation may not allow all person's sufficient opportunity to comment on and influence local policy, which in turn then leaves the Council open to legal challenge.

7.6 The extent of the consultation process requires consideration of any previous consultation and the length of time since that consultation, it is good practice to consult widely.

7.7 The Council must have regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance in order to ensure that the consultation process is conducted in accordance with any legal requirements and full consideration must be given as to the length of the consultation to minimise the risk of legal challenge.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 It is appreciated that it would not be possible for licensing Policy statements to anticipate every issue of concern that could arise in respect of children in

relation to individual premises and therefore the individual merits of each application should be considered in each case.

9.2 However, the protection of children from harm is one of the Licensing Objectives and the draft Policy sets out a series of actions that can be taken by licence holders to ensure that this is promoted within premises that they are responsible for. This may include limiting the access of children to any premises where this is appropriate for the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm, but could also include a range of other alternatives such as the introduction of good safeguarding practice.

9.3 The draft Policy also includes reference to model conditions that maybe used to promote the protection of children from harm.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 This report seeks a decision with regard to the commencement of consultation on a draft Policy. Consequently, the decision itself will have minimal impact on equalities and human rights. However, it is recognised that the Policy will make reference to the steps that licence holders and applicants can take with regard to the promotion of equality and diversity within the venue.

10.2 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 imposes a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) on the Council and Public Sector Partners. This duty requires the Authority to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations when exercising any of its functions.

10.3 In accordance with corporate requirements, an Equality Analysis screening assessment has been undertaken. Given that this report recommends undertaking consultation to inform the development of a Policy, it is assessed that an Equality Analysis is not required at this stage as any changes to Policy are not as yet identified. However, once the consultation is completed then the need for Equality Analysis will be revisited. A copy of the initial screening assessment is attached as Appendix B.

10.4 The Human Rights Act 1998 requires UK legislation to be interpreted in a manner consistent with the European Convention on Human Rights. It is unlawful for the Council to act in a way that is incompatible (or fail to act in any way that is compatible) with the rights protected by the Act. Any action undertaken by the Council that could have an effect upon another person's Human Rights must be taken having regard to the principle of proportionality: the need to balance the rights of the individual with the rights of the community as a whole. Any action taken by the Council which affects another's rights must be no more onerous than is necessary in a democratic society. The matter set out in this report must be considered in light of the above obligations.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 This report seeks authorisation for Council officers to commence consultation on the proposed Policy, therefore the decision itself will have minimal implications for CO2 emissions and climate change.

11.2 However, the Policy itself encourage licensed premises to have regard for environmental best practice, which if adopted would positively impact on the level of CO2 emissions and contribute to a reduced impact on climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The draft Statement of Licensing Policy does not introduce any negative implications for partners.

12.2 A number of partner agencies will be formally consulted with during the statutory consultation process, and their contributions will be taken into consideration during the drafting of the final Policy document.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Failure to publish a Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policy exposes the Council to legal challenge as a result of failing to comply with statutory requirements.

13.2 Failure to carry out the required consultation in accordance with the legislation and guidance is also likely to open the Council up to legal challenge.

13.3 In addition, the absence of an up-to-date Policy may lead to inappropriate decisions being made in relation to licence applications.

13.4 In order to mitigate this risk, it is proposed that the Statement of Licensing Policy be introduced as soon as possible (ensuring that all statutory processes are observed).

14. Accountable Officers

Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	03/03/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/02/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	19/02/25

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This report is published on the Council's website.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy

2025 - 2030

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 This Statement of Licensing Policy explains how the licensing authority will carry out its role under the Licensing Act 2003, during the next five years. During this period the licensing authority will keep the policy under review and may make revisions to the document following consultation with the bodies outlined below.

1.1.2 It will also:

- be used as a guide by members of the Licensing Authority in their decision making;
- inform applicants about how applications will be viewed and how a licensed premises is likely to be able to operate within the area of the Licensing Authority, albeit that each application will be examined and considered on an individual basis;
- inform residents and businesses about how applications will be viewed and how their needs will be addressed;
- Be used to support decisions made by the Licensing Authority when these decisions are challenged in a court of law.

1.1.3 This Policy is normally in place for five years but will be kept under review during that five year period.

1.2 Consultation

1.2.1 In developing this Statement, the Licensing Authority has consulted in accordance with section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003. This has included direct consultation with the following:

- South Yorkshire Police,
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service,
- The authority's Director of Public Health,
- Local responsible authorities identified under the Licensing Act 2003
- Persons/ bodies representative of local premises licence holders,
- Persons/ bodies representative of local club premise certificate holders,
- Persons/ bodies representative of local personal licence holders,
- Persons/ bodies representative of local business and residents,
- Local Town and Parish Councils,
- Local Ward Councillors,
- Local Members of Parliament,
- Members of the general public.

The views and any comments made by the above individuals / organisation have been considered and taken into account in the development of this policy.

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1.3 **Licensable Activities**

1.3.1 The licensable activities are:

- the sale of alcohol by retail;
- the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club, or to the order of, a member of the club;
- the provision of late night refreshment, limited to hot food or hot drink, between 23:00 – 05:00;
- the provision of regulated entertainment.

1.3.2 Regulated entertainment requires a licence when it is performed in front of an audience and includes the following:

- a performance of a play;
- an exhibition of a film;
- an indoor sporting event;
- a boxing or wrestling entertainment (indoors and outdoors);
- a performance of live music (not incidental music, i.e. a piano in a restaurant);
- any playing of recorded music;
- A performance of dance and similar types of musical or dance related entertainment.

1.3.3 There are a number of exemptions listed in Schedule 2 to the Act namely:

- Film exhibitions solely for the purpose of demonstrating any product, advertising goods or services or providing information, education or instruction or forming part of an exhibit for any museum or art gallery.
- Live or recorded music which is incidental to some other activity which is not a licensable activity.
- Receipt and playing of live television programmes.
- Entertainment or entertainment facilities for the purpose of or incidental to religious meetings or services, or at a place of public religious worship.
- Entertainment or entertainment facilities at a garden fete or similar which is not promoted with a view to private gain.
- Morris dancing or similar or live unamplified music which is an integral part of such a performance.
- Entertainment or entertainment facilities on board a vehicle which is moving.
- Hot food or drinks which contain alcohol, or are supplied free of charge, or are supplied by a registered charity or person authorised by a registered charity or supplied on a moving vehicle.
- Hot drinks supplied by a vending machine.

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1.3.4 As a result of deregulatory changes that have amended the 2003 Act, no licence is required for the following activities:

- Plays: no licence is required for performances between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, provided that the audience does not exceed 500.

- Dance: no licence is required for performances between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, provided that the audience does not exceed 500

- Films: no licence is required for 'not-for-profit' film exhibition held in community premises between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day provided that the audience does not exceed 500 and the organiser (a) gets consent to the screening from a person who is responsible for the premises; and (b) ensures that each such screening abides by age classification ratings.

- Indoor sporting events: no licence is required for an event between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, provided that those present do not exceed 1000.
- Boxing or wrestling entertainment: no licence is required for a contest, exhibition or display of Greco-Roman wrestling, or freestyle wrestling between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, provided that the audience does not exceed 1000.

- Live music: no licence permission is required for:

    - A performance of unamplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, on any premises.
    - a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day on premises authorised to sell alcohol for consumption on those premises, provided that the audience does not exceed 500.
    - A performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, in a workplace that does not have a licence, provided that the audience does not exceed 500.
    - a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, in a church hall, village hall, community hall, or other similar community premises, that is not licensed by a premises licence to sell alcohol, provided that (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and (b) the organiser gets consent for the performance from a person who is responsible for the premises.
    - a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, at the non-residential premises of (i) a local authority, or (ii) a school, or (iii) a hospital, provided that (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and (b) the organiser gets consent for the performance on the relevant premises from: (i) the local authority concerned, or (ii) the school or (iii) the health care provider for the hospital.

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- Recorded Music: no licence permission is required for:
    - any playing of recorded music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day on premises authorised to sell alcohol for consumption on those premises, provided that the audience does not exceed 500.
    - any playing of recorded music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, in a church hall, village hall, community hall, or other similar community premises, that is not licensed by a premises licence to sell alcohol, provided that (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and (b) the organiser gets consent for the performance from a person who is responsible for the premises.
    - any playing of recorded music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, at the non- residential premises of (i) a local authority, or (ii) a school, or (iii) a hospital, provided that (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and (b) the organiser gets consent for the performance on the relevant premises from: (i) the local authority concerned, or (ii) the school proprietor or (iii) the health care provider for the hospital.

- Cross activity exemptions: no licence is required between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, with no limit on audience size for:
    - Any entertainment taking place on the premises of the local authority where the entertainment is provided by or on behalf of the local authority;
    - Any entertainment taking place on the hospital premises of the health care provider where the entertainment is provided by or on behalf of the health care provider;
    - Any entertainment taking place on the premises of the school where the entertainment is provided by or on behalf of the school proprietor; and
    - Any entertainment (excluding films and a boxing or wrestling entertainment) taking place at a travelling circus, provided that (a) it takes place within a moveable structure that accommodates the audience, and (b) that the travelling circus has not been located on the same site for more than 28 consecutive days.

1.3.5 Where de-regulated activities take place on licensed premises, any licence conditions relating to ‘live’ music or entertainment will be suspended but it is possible to impose new, or reinstate existing, conditions following a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate.

1.3.6 When considering whether an activity constitutes ‘the provision of Regulated Entertainment’, each case will be treated on its own merits.

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1.3.7 There will inevitably be a degree of judgement as to whether a performance is live music or not, so organisers of events are encouraged to contact the Licensing Authority to discuss whether a licence will be required.

1.3.8 It is a criminal offence under section 136 of the 2003 Act to carry on any of the licensable activities listed above other than in accordance with a licence or other authorisation under the 2003 Act. If an unauthorised activity takes place then the Police and local authorities have powers to take action.

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2. Fundamental Principles

2.1. Background

- This Statement of Licensing Policy is the key document relied upon when delivering the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003. However, all decisions relating to licences will be made on the merits of the individual case, having regard to this policy, including any Cumulative Impact Assessment in place, as part of the decision making process.

- All applications for new premises licences or variations need to be supported by an operating schedule. The schedule must specify (amongst other things) the steps which the applicant proposes to promote each of the licensing objectives. Each of the licensing objectives is of equal importance; therefore it is important that the applicant gives each of the four objectives the upmost consideration.

- Where appropriate, copies of the application paperwork must be provided to the agencies identified as responsible authorities under the Licensing Act 2003. Details of these agencies can be found in Appendix E to this policy.

- Any Responsible Authority, or other person, is entitled to make a representation to the Licensing Authority in relation to applications for licences. Any representation made by these persons must be 'relevant', meaning that the representation must relate to at least one of the licensing objectives and must not be considered frivolous, vexatious or repetitive.

- It is for the Licensing Authority to determine whether a representation, other than those made by a Responsible Authority, is relevant. The Authority's discretion will be engaged in making this decision as to whether the representation is intending to cause annoyance without reasonable cause or displays a lack of sincerity. Representations can be made in support of, or opposition to, an application and may be made by an individual, body or business that has grounds to do so.

- Where there are relevant representations against a licence being issued, then a hearing before a licensing sub-committee will follow. After the hearing, the sub-committee must, having regard to the representations, take such steps as it considers necessary to promote the licensing objectives. These may include refusing the application or adding to or modifying conditions proposed in the operating schedule.

- In exercising its discretion, the licensing sub-committee will have regard to (amongst other things) this licensing policy. Therefore, in drawing up their operating schedule, applicants would be well advised to read this policy carefully. Where an operating schedule complies with this policy, it is generally less likely that an interested party or responsible authority will make representations about it. Therefore, compliance with this policy is likely

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to assist the applicant to avoid delay and expense of a contested hearing, and the risk of a refusal or the addition of unwanted licence conditions.

- This is not to say that an application which complies with the policy will necessarily be granted or that an application which does not comply with it will necessarily be refused. Where there have been relevant representations, the licensing authority will always consider the merits of the case, and interfere with the operating schedule only when, and to the extent, necessary to promote the licensing objectives. Nor will blanket or standard conditions be applied without regard to the merits of the individual case. For example, the licensing authority can only interfere with an operating schedule which does not comply with this policy, and where the steps proposed are not sufficient to meet the licensing objectives in the individual circumstances of the case.

- In addition to this general policy, the Licensing Authority has developed a series of specific Licensing Objective Policies. These policies will apply to all applications and applicants must be able to demonstrate that they will promote the four licensing objectives.

- The relevant considerations and criteria that the Licensing Authority will take into account are listed within these policies. Each application will be considered on its own merits having regard to this policy and the Secretary of State's Guidance (which may be issued from time to time).

- The Licensing Objective Policies are attached as Appendix F. Operational considerations are attached as Appendix G.

- If a relevant representation is received, the Licensing Authority will apply the principles outlined in Appendix F and Appendix G. These appendices will also be applied to any other appropriate application made under the Act (such as an application to vary or review a licence).

2.2. The Licensing Objectives and Responsible Authorities

- Where the licensing authority has discretion to deal with an application for a new licence, variation, transfer or review it will do so on the individual merits of the case and by reference to the four licensing objectives which are:

  - the prevention of crime and disorder;
  - public safety;
  - the prevention of public nuisance and
  - the protection of children from harm.

- Where relevant representations have been made the licensing authority may have no alternative but to refuse an application or to attach further conditions unless adequate proposals for addressing these issues are included in the

operating schedule. The licensing authority will, as far as possible, assist applicants on how best to adequately address these matters (if this is possible) or advise where further advice and information can be obtained. The licensing authority wishes to encourage applicants to submit fully completed applications in order to reduce unnecessary delays and costs associated with returning application forms or the attendance at hearings.

- Various factors need to be considered when addressing licensing objectives and the weight attached to each objective will vary depending on the circumstances. Relevant factors will include the size, facilities, design or state of repair (where this may impact in public safety) of the proposed premises; the type and frequency of entertainment to be provided; the location of the premises and its proximity to such places as offices, schools, religious establishments and residential property; and access to public transport or off street parking (where this may be an issue), although this is not an exhaustive list. Applicants will only be expected to address issues that are in their direct control but encouraged to co-operate with official agencies in establishing precautions for minimising any disturbance etc. caused by patrons away from licensed premises.

- In most cases, where the responsible authorities and interested parties do not raise any representations about the application made to the licensing authority, the licensing authority will grant the licence or certificate subject only to conditions that are consistent with the operating schedule or club operating schedule and any mandatory conditions prescribed by the Act.

- The 2003 Act does not require responsible authorities to make representations about applications for the grant of premises licences or to take any other steps in respect of different licensing processes. However, the licensing authority is able to act in its capacity as a responsible authority when it considers it appropriate to make a representation. Such circumstances may include occasions where other responsible authorities have failed to take action and the licensing authority is aware of relevant grounds to make a representation.

- Each responsible authority has equal standing under the 2003 Act and may act independently without waiting for representations from any other responsible authority.

- Although not specifically identified as responsible authorities under the Licensing Act 2003, the licensing authority will circulate certain applications to local Town and Parish Councils and invite their comments where appropriate. Such applications will include applications for the grant or variation of licences for premises situated within the in the Town / Parish Council area. Furthermore, a weekly update will be sent to all Town and Parish Councils within the borough listing all active applications.

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- The licensing authority has produced a series of guidance notes that are designed to assist applicants in relation to the licensing objectives. The guidance notes are attached to this policy as Appendix D.

2.3. **Balance**

- The licensing authority will also seek to achieve a balance between leisure / entertainment and the needs of residents and other businesses for an acceptable environment and quality of life.

- This Policy will not undermine the right of any individual to apply for a variety of permissions and to have any such application considered on its individual merits. Nor will it override the right of any person to make representations on an application or seek a review of a licence or where provision has been made for them to do so in the Licensing Act 2003.

2.4. **Relevancy**

- Licensing is about the control of premises and places being used for licensable activities and the vicinity of those premises and places. The terms and conditions attached to various permissions are focused on relevant matters that are within the control of the holders of those permissions. This means those matters occurring at, and in the immediate vicinity of, the premises, and the direct impact they have on nearby residents and businesses.

- Licensing law is not a mechanism for the general control of anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or permission concerned.

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3. Cumulative Impact

3.1. In support of the Statement of Licensing Policy, the Council is able to identify areas within the Borough where the further granting of licences or variations to licences could impact on the Council's obligations in respect of the Licensing Objectives. This would be through a 'Cumulative Impact Policy'.

3.2. This policy can outline Cumulative Impact Zones, where a Cumulative Impact Assessment has taken place, and where the evidence from that assessment shows that the cumulative impact of the licensed premises is having a negative impact one or more of the licensing objectives. A Cumulative Impact Assessment can:

> *"… limit the number or type of licence applications granted in areas where the number of licensed premises is causing problems. Such problems typically include crime and disorder or public nuisance caused by large numbers of drinkers being concentrated in one area."*

3.3. The concept of Cumulative Impact has been described in the guidance to Licensing Authorities since the commencement of the Licensing Act 2003. However, the Policing and Crime Act 2017 gave Cumulative Impact Assessments a statutory position within Section 5A of the Licensing Act 2003.

3.4. In some areas where the number, type or density of licensed premises is high, serious problems of nuisance and disorder may occur directly outside, or within the vicinity of those premises. These problems generally occur as a result of alcohol, with a large number of people under the influence of alcohol being concentrated in a small area.

3.5. A large concentration of vulnerable people may also attract criminal activities such as drug-dealing, pick pocketing and robbery. Local services cannot always meet the demand posed by the concentration of users, such as street cleaning and public transport. This can lead to issues such as littering, public nuisance, street fouling, traffic congestion and parking issues.

3.6. Although these problems are more likely to occur in town centres, they may also occur in other urban centres or suburbs, for example smaller high streets with a high concentration of licensed premises.

3.7. There are a number of mechanisms for addressing concerns about the behaviour of those individuals within and around licensed premises which are able to work alongside the licensing policy:

- Planning control and enforcement
- Licence or pub watch
- Business Improvement Districts
- Community Protection Orders
- The use of CCTV

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- Public Space Protection Orders
- Police tasking concerning disorder and anti-social behaviour in specific areas
- Prosecution for the offence of selling alcohol to a person who is drunk
- Late Night Levy
- Early Morning Restriction Orders
- Other licensing conditions

Cumulative Impact Assessments

3.8. A Cumulative Impact Assessment may be published by a licensing authority to limit the number or type of licensed premises granted in a specific area where there is evidence to show that the density of licensed premises is having a cumulative impact and undermining the licensing objectives.

3.9. Legislation states that a formal consultation process must take place with the following groups:

- The Chief Officer of Police for the area
- The Fire and Rescue Authority for the area
- The local authority's Director of Public Health
- Representatives of local premises licence holders
- Representatives of local club premises licence holders
- Representatives of businesses and residents in its area.

3.10. When consulting on a cumulative impact assessment, the persons listed above must be provided with the following information:

- The reasons why the licensing authority is publishing a Cumulative Impact Assessment;
- a general indication of the part or parts of its area which it is considering describing in the assessment;
- whether it considers that the assessment will relate to all premises licence and club premises certificate applications and variation applications, or only to those of a particular kind described.

3.11. The Council must review any Cumulative Impact Assessment every three years, as required by legislation. The Council is able to review areas more frequently if it considers this necessary.

Cumulative Impact Zones

3.12. A Cumulative Impact Assessment has shown that the density of licenced premises granted in the following areas are having a cumulative impact and causing problems in the area which are undermining the licence objectives.

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Wickersley

3.13. The Council have assessed statistics from the police, ambulance service, environmental health and public health for an area designated in Wickersley, which has determined that the zone is suffering from the cumulative impact of on-licensed, and on and off licensed premises.

3.14. The evidence contained within the Cumulative Impact Assessment can be found within the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy, alongside a map showing the exact location of the Cumulative Impact Zone.

3.15. In this area, there are problems surrounding anti-social behaviour, low-level crime, public nuisance including noise and ambulance related alcohol call outs in a mainly residential area. These problems are being suffered by the people living within this area.

3.16. It would be inconsistent with the Council's duty to promote the licensing objectives to grant new applications, or variations to existing licences, for any premises which seeks to apply for or vary an on-premises licence, or on and off premises licence.

Applications within a Cumulative Impact Zone

3.17. Publishing a cumulative impact assessment sets a strong statement of intent about the approach that will be taken when considering applications for the grant and variation of premises licences or club premises certificates in the area described. The Council will have regard to the assessment when determining or revising the Statement of Licensing Policy, as well as when making determinations alongside the Section 182 guidance.

3.18. Any cumulative impact assessment does not change the fundamental principles by which licensing decisions are determined and the Council reserves the right to grant an application where it is appropriate and demonstrates through the operating schedule that the applicant would not add to the cumulative impact of the area in which they are applying.

3.19. However, the Council would expect an applicant to consider the potential cumulative impact of their licence on local issues when setting out the steps that will be taken to promote the licensing objectives. An applicant must be able to demonstrate to the Council and other responsible authorities that granting a new or varied licence will not add to the cumulative impact already being experienced within the area.

3.20. This policy does not create a ban on the grant of licences within the assessed zone and the Council can only consider cumulative impact to refuse an application if one or more relevant representations are made. Where no relevant representation is received, the Council must grant the licence, as stated in the Licensing Act 2003.

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3.21. Therefore, a cumulative impact assessment does not reduce the onus placed on responsible authorities, local residents or residents' groups in making representations where they consider this necessary in order to uphold and promote the licensing objectives. This policy gives a basis of information which can be used when making a representation; a representation can be made just on the fact that an assessment has been published. Any person making a representation must be able to demonstrate that the representation withstands the scrutiny which it will be subjected to at a Licensing Committee, or sub-committee meeting.

3.22. The obligation to demonstrate that the application is suitable for the area is placed onto the applicant. An applicant must suitably evidence that their proposal will not add to the cumulative impact within the area. To assist this process, the Council recommends early consultation with responsible authorities. This can be achieved separately with each responsible authority, or through the Council's Licensing service.

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4. Licensing Hours

4.1. In making decisions that relate to the hours for which a premise is licensed, consideration will be given to the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance.

4.2. It is recognised that longer licensing hours are important to help to ensure that concentrations of customers leaving licensed premises simultaneously are avoided. In turn this will reduce the potential for disorder at fast food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport.

4.3. In making decisions in respect of licensing hours, consideration will be given to representations made by residents and businesses in the vicinity of the premises, their representatives, and the police as well as the applicant. This may lead to the imposition of stricter conditions on noise controls in areas having more sensitive residential accommodation such as residential care homes or sheltered housing schemes.

4.4. The Licensing Authority has set core hours which it believes are appropriate for certain premises uses. The Core Hours Policy provides the core hours for each premises use and can be found attached to this policy as Appendix H.

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5. Promotion of the Licensing Objectives

5.1. The Licensing Authority is required to carry out its functions so as to promote the licensing objectives. This includes its role in:

- Granting or refusing applications for licences;
- Reviewing licences;
- Imposing conditions;
- Deciding how to integrate with other strategies of the council.

5.2. Licence applications should be accompanied by an operating schedule that includes the steps that the licensee proposes to take to promote the licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority expects that the process of developing the operating schedule will include a thorough risk assessment with regard to the licensing objectives, which will assist in identifying those steps.

5.3. Applicants for licences are urged to discuss their proposals with the responsible authorities prior to submitting an application. This will enable them to seek advice on the production of their operating schedule and may avoid the need for a hearing in response to representations made by the authorities. The relevant authorities are:

- Prevention of Crime and Disorder – South Yorkshire Police, RMBC Trading Standards, Home Office Immigration Enforcement (on behalf of the Secretary of State).
- Public Safety – South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, the Council's Environmental Health Officers with responsibility for Health & Safety
- Public Nuisance – the Council's Environmental Health Officers with responsibility for Pollution Control
- Protection of Children from Harm – Children's Safeguarding Board, South Yorkshire Police, Trading Standards, and Public Health.

5.4. Further information is provided in the following sections of this policy on a variety of steps to promote the licensing objectives that the Licensing Authority will support. However, the Licensing Authority will not impose them indiscriminately. It is for the applicant to decide which of these are appropriate for inclusion in the operating schedule for the premises, based on the exact circumstances involved. The Licensing Authority will however take this policy into account when undertaking its functions under the 2003 Act.

5.5. The Council's Licensing Objective Policies can be found at Appendix F to this policy.

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6. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

6.1. The licensing authority will have regard to the likely effect of the exercise of its licensing function, and do all it can to prevent crime and disorder throughout the borough. In so doing the licensing authority will have regard to the likely impact of licensing and related crime and disorder in the borough when considering the location, operation and management of all proposed licence applications, reviews and variations, when its discretion has been engaged.

6.2. An applicant will be expected to demonstrate in their Operating Schedule how they intend to promote the prevention of crime and disorder. The licensing authority will only expect applicants to take such action or precautions that are in their control, but would normally expect applicants to have taken appropriate advice from the Police before making their application. All applicants are therefore advised to seek advice and guidance from South Yorkshire Police and look to the Police as the main source of advice in relation to Crime and Disorder when addressing these issues. Applicants are also advised to take account of local planning and transport policies, tourism, neighbourhood working, cultural implications and crime prevention strategies. Details of where these policies can be viewed can be found in the Guidance to Applicants.

6.3. Crime prevention measures will where appropriate include suitable training of all bar staff and security personnel to prevent the use and supply of drugs and other illegal substances within the licensed premises and to ensure that incidents of crime and disorder in the premises are reduced to a minimum.

6.4. Applicants for personal licences will be expected to have both knowledge of the relevant licensing law and also the practical implications of how this relates to their responsibilities.

6.5. Applicants for premises licences will be expected to be fully aware of their legal responsibilities for ensuring adequate supervision and management of licensed activities at all times. They will also be expected to consider issues relating to ‘designing out’ potential problems. These may, where appropriate, include provision of appropriate lighting outside the premises, installation of CCTV cameras, non-shatter glass on windows etc.

6.6. All door staff working whether under contract for a security company or employed ‘in-house’ will be required to be registered under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 and regulated by the Security Industry Authority. Door staff are defined as those responsible for security, protection, screening the suitability of persons entering the premises or conflict management in places such as pubs, clubs and other licensed premises open to the public. Further information can be found at http://www.the-sia.org.uk.

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6.7. Applicants are also expected to address the issue of how to anticipate and minimise any potential disorder that might be caused in the vicinity of their premises. Issues concerning liaison with local bus, taxi and private hire companies should be considered both as a means of preventing public nuisance and crime and disorder on departure and also as a way of promoting the safety of their own staff. The licensing authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned when addressing the prevention of crime and disorder in their application. The licensing authority acknowledges that licensing law is not the primary mechanism for general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from licensed premises and, therefore, beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or authorisation concerned, although it is a key aspect of such control.

6.8. The licensing authority expects that under normal circumstances the person responsible for any premises where alcohol is available for sale or supply and consumption on those premises will be a member of an appropriate licence watch or similar scheme which is approved by the licensing authority and South Yorkshire Police (where such a scheme exists). A full list of current schemes can be obtained from the Licensing or Police Authority on request. Such schemes are designed to discourage troublemakers from pubs and clubs throughout the borough by information sharing and are a useful body to represent licensees.

6.9. The licensing authority expects applicants to state within their Operating Schedule the occasions on which they determine the need to use toughened glass or polycarbonate glasses in their premises to limit sale and supply of bottled drinks to diners at tables. Examples of where the Licensing authority may encourage these measures can be found in Appendix A - Model Conditions.

6.10. The licensing authority expects applicants to provide secure storage for used/discarded drinks bottles to prevent their use as offensive weapons.

6.11. The licensing authority expects a risk assessment to be carried out in relation to dance floors to ensure a safe environment. The risk assessment should normally consider adequate supervision of dancers, a safe location for the DJ or band and use of special effects and lighting.

6.12. To further assist in the promotion of the crime prevention objective, further conditions may be attached to a premises licence. Such conditions will normally arise out of the applicant's operating schedule and/or be drawn from the licensing authority's model pool of conditions as may be appropriate for the particular premises.

6.13. A significant part of Rotherham town centre is the subject of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). This is an area where there is a power for the

Police to request someone to refrain from drinking to address nuisance or annoyance. Failure to comply with this request is a criminal offence. To support this, the Licensing Authority considers it appropriate for Rotherham town centre premises to adopt a policy of prohibiting open containers of alcohol being taken from the premises. This approach will also prevent the use of these containers as offensive weapons.

6.14. The Licensing Authority will support an approach to the marketing of alcohol and the management of licensed premises that promotes the responsible consumption of alcohol. Irresponsible promotions are against the law and the Policy imposes a mandatory condition that staff must not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions.

6.15. Determining whether a drinks promotion is irresponsible or not will require a subjective judgement. The sale of alcohol to persons who are already drunk is an offence under the Act. The incidence of drunken people present at premises may provide an indication that the marketing and sale of alcohol at the premises is not being approached in a responsible way.

6.16. There are a wide range of other steps which may be appropriate in particular circumstances including:

- Prohibiting the sale of alcohol in bottles for consumption on the premises, to prevent their use as weapons
- Requiring drinking vessels to be plastic or toughened glass
- Requiring the provision of retail radios to connect premises supervisors in town centres to the police
- Appropriate measures to prevent overcrowding in parts of the premises
- The provision of staff to control admission and to control customers inside the premises.
- The adoption of an age determination policy such as Challenge 25 to prevent underage sales

6.17. The Council also recommend licence holders put in place measures to reduce gender-based violence, intimidation and harassment for all staff and customers. This may include ‘Ask for Angela’ and/or specific training for staff.

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7. Public Safety

7.1. The licensing authority recognises that different types of premises will present differing issues of public safety. For example, the safety considerations of public houses, nightclubs, restaurants, hotels (with entertainment), theatres and cinemas will raise issues peculiar to them. However, there are also many common themes. The licensing authority will work with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and other agencies to secure consistency and a standardised method of carrying out risk assessments which may be used where appropriate.

7.2. However, the prime responsibility for securing the safety and wellbeing of their customers and staff is placed on those providing entertainment, refreshment or events. Operating schedules are therefore expected to identify both the risks and precautions that will need to be taken to minimise or eliminate these. Guidance notes to assist applicants can be found in the appendices to this Policy.

7.3. Any conditions the licensing authority may need to attach to licences to address safety issues will seek to secure the most cost effective solution without prejudicing public safety, taking account of the nature of the premises and the scale or type of entertainment to be provided.

7.4. The licensing authority recognises that there are five key areas to address in ensuring the environment for a dance event is safe:

- Prevention of overcrowding
- Air conditioning and ventilation
- Availability of drinking water
- Further measures to combat overheating
- Overall safety

7.5. Applicants who intend to promote dance events are expected to give details of how they intend to address each of the following areas:

- Prevention of overcrowding
- Air conditioning and ventilation
- Availability of drinking water
- Further measures to combat overheating
- Overall safety

7.6. Further information and advice on dance events can be obtained from the publication “Safer Nightlife”. This guide can be viewed at: http://newip.safernightlife.org/pdfs/digital_library/uk_safer_nightlife_guideline.pdf

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7.7. Applicants are also expected to address positively the need to secure reasonable access and safety for people with disabilities who wish to visit their premises. In this regard licensees are reminded of their obligations under equalities legislation.

7.8. Specific types of adjustments licensees should consider in order to comply with their obligations under equalities legislation, depending on the type of premises concerned include:

- Making adjustments to the premises such as improving access routes and ensuring that they are free of clutter or redecorating part of their premises to provide better to contrast to someone with a visual impairment;
- Providing appropriate or additional training for staff who may come into contact with customers to help them provide services for people with different types of disabilities;
- Acquiring or using modified equipment, for example a telephone with text display for use by deaf customers; and
- Making service literature and instructions more accessible for example providing a Braille version for blind customers and ensuring service, reception and payment points are designed to facilitate ease of use by all;
- Accessible sanitary provisions

7.9. Where relevant representations have been received, the licensing authority may require evidence that items in respect of the building structure included have been considered by a suitably qualified person. In order to avoid relevant representations, applicants may consider the provision of relevant safety certificates such as Electrical Safety Certificates, Gas Certificates, Fire Safety Certification, appropriate Risk Assessments and/or policy documentation including safe capacities appropriate for the type of premise and its usage.

7.10. The licensing authority encourages adequate numbers of appropriately trained first aid staff to be on the premises. Where first aiders are employed they must be qualified to a standard recognised by a voluntary service organisation such as St John Ambulance, if they are to treat members of the public. Arrangements must be in place for ongoing first aid training and adequate medical supplies to be available.

7.11. Where its discretion is engaged the licensing authority may attach conditions to licences to promote the Public Safety Objective. These conditions will be based on the applicant’s operating schedule and/or drawn from the model pool of conditions relating to this objective.

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8. The Prevention of Public Nuisance

8.1. The licensing authority will have regard to the likely effect of the exercise of its licensing function, and all it can do to prevent public nuisance.

8.2. The licensing authority accepts that different people may have differing levels of tolerance to the unavoidable ordinary activity involved in the provision of entertainment or refreshment. The licensing authority also acknowledges the role that a vibrant and varied entertainment scene can have in promoting tourism, leisure opportunities, and on the local economy.

8.3. The licensing authority will however, look carefully at the impact of licensed premises and events with regards to potential noise and disturbance to nearby local residents or businesses. It is also recognised that the later the entertainment takes place, the greater will be the need to take steps to ensure that activities do not cause unreasonable disturbance.

8.4. Applicants are therefore expected to consider such factors as noise insulation, noise attenuation measures, the positioning of amplification equipment etc. Advice on such issues can be obtained from the licensing authority's Community Protection Officers. The licensing authority considers that prevention is better than the cure and it may be possible to design measures for minimising disturbance and therefore reduce complaints about noise pollution.

8.5. Applicants will also be expected to address the issue of encouraging orderly conduct of customers leaving their premises. Properly trained door and other staff can assist in this and may be required by a condition of a licence. Appropriate announcements or reminder notices may also be of assistance. The establishment of good working relationships with transport operators can also often assist in encouraging clientele to leave their premises in an orderly manner.

8.6. The licensing authority strongly recommends that operators establish good communication links with the Police to ensure that where difficult situations develop inside premises and are likely to cause disturbances outside, that preventative action can be taken before the problem arises.

8.7. Where its discretion is engaged the licensing authority will seek to balance the rights of local residents and others with those wishing to provide entertainment or other activities. Conditions will be attached and, where necessary, tailored to address public nuisance issues that may arise in particular premises.

8.8. In determining licence applications where relevant representations have been received, the licensing authority will consider the adequacy of measures proposed to deal with the potential for undue disturbance, public nuisance and / or anti-social behaviour having regard to all the circumstances of the application (including the combinations of licensable

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activities). The licensing authority will particularly consider the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the applicant to prevent noise and vibration escaping both from the premises and from external sources under the control of the licensee. Such noise sources may include:

- Amplified and non-amplified levels;
- Singing and speech;
- Disposal to waste and bottle bins;
- Plant and machinery;
- Food preparation, the cleaning of premises and equipment;

8.9. Measures to combat such noise / vibration sources may include the installation / adoption of soundproofing, air conditioning, to allow windows to be kept closed, sound limitation devices, cooling down periods with reduced music levels at the end of the night and adopting hours of operation appropriate to the activities in question and the location.

8.10. The licensing authority will expect applicants and licence holders to have due regard to the following:

- The use of gardens, play areas, car parks, access roads, other open-air areas and temporary structures.
- The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the applicant to prevent disturbance by customers arriving or leaving the premises, including the consideration of the cumulative effect of this might have in areas with other licensed premises nearby. This will be of greater importance between 11 pm and 7 am than at other times of the day.
- The steps taken or proposed by the applicant to prevent queuing (either by pedestrian or vehicles). If some queuing is inevitable then they should be formed away from neighbouring premises or be otherwise managed to prevent disturbance or obstruction, for example, making provision for queuing inside the premises;
- The steps taken or proposed by the applicant to ensure staff leave the premises quietly;
- The arrangements made or proposed for parking by patrons and the effect of parking by patrons on local residents including the slamming of vehicle doors, vehicle horns, vehicle stereos, noise from engines idling, and vehicle exhaust fumes;
- The arrangements for liaising with providers of public transport during the proposed hours of opening (including taxis and private hire vehicle operators);
- Whether the licensed taxi or private hire vehicles serving patrons are likely to disturb local residents and the measures proposed by the applicant to prevent disturbance from this source;
- The installation of any special measures where licensed premises are or are proposed to be located near sensitive premises such as nursing homes, hospitals, hospices or places of worship;

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- The suitability of delivery and collection areas and the times, frequency and method of operation, to the extent that these facilities are in the control of the licensee;
- The location of external lighting (including security lighting that is installed inappropriately) and the siting and operation of internal or external illuminated displays or illuminated advertising;
- Whether the premises would lead to increased refuse storage or disposal problems, including additional litter (e.g. fly posters, illegal placards, food waste and food packaging, cans, bottles, advertising 'flyers') in the vicinity of the premises and the measures proposed by the applicant to control this;
- The steps taken to prevent the release of odours passing to neighbouring premises.

8.11. Where the considerations apply to late-night refreshment premises, they shall only be taken to apply to their operation between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am when a premises licence would be required.

8.12. Applicants are advised to seek guidance from a suitably competent noise consultant.

8.13. Where its discretion is engaged the licensing authority may attach conditions to licences to prevent public nuisance. These conditions will be based on the applicant's operating schedule and drawn from the model pool of conditions relating to this objective.

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9. The Protection of Children from Harm

9.1. General

- The Licensing Authority will carry out its responsibilities so as to promote the licensing objective of protection of children from harm. In doing so it will take into account representations made by the Children's Safeguarding Board on each application.

- The Authority is committed to preventing and tackling all forms of Child Exploitation, including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). Rotherham's Children Safeguarding Board can give support, advice and training for premise operators and staff. Operators are encouraged to engage with the Safeguarding Board to include appropriate conditions and provide the necessary training to staff, covering how to deal with child protection, or perceived problems relating to children in or around the premises.

- It is recommended that licence holders are always aware of potential Child Exploitation and report this if they see something that does not look correct. This can be done through making contact with the police, or the Authority's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Further information on Child Exploitation awareness is available from both the Police and Licensing Authority's Licensing Services.

- Licences will be sought from a wide variety of premises including theatres, cinemas, restaurants, concert halls, cafes, late night takeaways, pubs, bars and nightclubs. It is not possible for a licensing policy to anticipate every situation where children are at risk. The Licensing Authority will not therefore impose general conditions that apply to all premises, but will consider how the licensing objectives can be best promoted in each particular case.

- The Authority have regard to the ambition for Rotherham to be a child-friendly borough, creating a great place to grow up in; where children, young people and their families have fun and enjoy living, learning and working. The licensing policy is just one tool which can be used to influence this and can ensure that all licensed activities within the borough sufficiently take the needs of young people into account.

- The Licensing Authority will not seek to limit the access of children to licensed premises unless it is necessary to protect children from harm.

- The following areas would give rise to particular concern in respect of children:

    - Where entertainment or services of an adult or sexual nature are commonly provided;

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- Where there have been convictions of members of the current staff at the premises for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for underage drinking.
- Where there has been an association with drug taking or dealing.
- Where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises (but not, for example, the simple presence of a small number of cash prize gaming machines or of bingo).

- Conditions will not be imposed that require the admission of children. This will remain a matter for the discretion of the licensee.

- The range of options available to limit the access of children to licensed premises that may be imposed by the Licensing Authority include:

  - Limitations on the hours where children may be present;
  - Age limitations (below 18);
  - Limitations or exclusions when certain activities are taking place;
  - Limitations on the parts of premises to which children might be given access;
  - Requirements for an accompanying adult;
  - In exceptional cases, exclusion of people under the age of 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.

9.2. **Children and Cinemas**

- Licensees will be expected to prevent children from viewing films that are unsuitable because of the age classification of the film that has been imposed by the British Board of Film Classification or other film classification board approved by the licensing authority. Children will not be permitted to view un-certificated films.

9.3. **Children and Public Entertainment**

- The Licensing Authority will expect that where a significant number of unaccompanied children will be present during a public entertainment event, the licensee will ensure that an adequate number of adult staff are present to control the access, egress and safety in and around the premises. The licensee should take into account the number of children to be present, the type of entertainment, the age of the children, the characteristics of the premises and any other relevant factor.

9.4. **Proof of Age Cards**

- The Licensing Authority supports the adoption of proof of age cards as a means of preventing underage drinking. It recommends that any premises licensed to sell alcohol adopts a policy of requiring proof of age from any person where there is any doubt as to whether they are over 18. The

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authority would suggest as best practice, that proof of age could be in the form of a passport or photographic driving licence.

- The Licensing Authority supports the 'Portman Group Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging and Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks.' It will seek to ensure that premises licensed for the sale of alcohol comply with the code.

9.5. **Staffing Levels**

- Where any regulated entertainment is taking place, when that entertainment is provided wholly or mainly for children, the number of attendants to assist persons entering or leaving the premises (excluding the licensee and/or the premises supervisor) must be stated in the operating schedule and must be of a level to ensure the safety of those attending the premises. Numbers of attendants required is stated in the Guidance as 1 per area occupied by the children + 1 per exit. In addition the licensing authority would normally expect a minimum ratio of 1 attendant to 30 children or part thereof.

- The licensing authority may attach conditions to licences to protect children from harm, where its discretion has been engaged. These conditions will be based on the applicant's operating scheme and / or drawn from the model pool of conditions relating to this objective.

9.6. **Staff Training**

- The licensing authority is particularly mindful of the prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation and the grooming of children. There are apparent links between these activities and licensed premises.

- As a result, the licensing authority would expect all staff working or present in licensed premises to be aware of the basic principles of child protection and to be able to identify and appropriately respond to any risks to children on or around licensed premises. There is an expectation that licence holders / applicants will make their staff available for appropriate training where this is required, and co-operate with any voluntary schemes promoted by the local authority to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

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10. Public Health Considerations

10.1. National Context

- The Licensing Authority recognises harms associated with public health, particularly relating to public safety and protection of children from harm.

- Harms associated with excessive alcohol consumption, obesity and poor diet can impact on individuals, families and wider society, and it is imperative to an effective Statement of Licensing Policy that public health considerations are at the core of the approach taken.

- It is essential that relevant Public Health advice, data and agendas, are considered as part of licensing applications to ensure that these are informed and relevant to the local and national picture.

- The Licensing Authority will have regard to the impacts of licensing decisions on Public Health and will actively use Public Health data when making licensing decisions, such as the Public Health Alcohol Toolkit.

- Reducing harmful drinking is one of seven priority areas for Public Health England where improvement is being sought. Alcohol misuse is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health and disability among 15-49 year olds in the UK, and the fifth biggest risk factor across all ages. Alcohol is considered a causal factor in more than 60 medical conditions.

- Alcohol-related harm is determined by the volume of alcohol consumed and the frequency of drinking occasions. In January 2016, the Chief Medical Officer issued revised guidance on alcohol consumption which states that in order to keep a low level of risk of alcohol related harm, adults should not regularly drink in excess of 14 units of alcohol a week.

10.2. Local Context

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11. Special Events in the Open Air or in Temporary Structures

11.1. The success of open air events, or those in temporary structures, depends on the quality, levels of safety, and consideration for the rights of people who live or work in the vicinity as well as the standard of facilities for those coming to enjoy the event.

11.2. It is essential that a comprehensive event management plan is developed well in advance of any planned event. General guidance on planning such events is available to organisers from the various agencies, and it may be appropriate for the event to be considered by the Rotherham Event Safety Advisory Group (RESAG). The licensing authority would expect the applicant / licence holder to fully engage with RESAG and take into account advice / guidance that is provided by the group.

11.3. In particular, the following issues should normally be addressed:

- A detailed risk assessment identifying all inherent risks concerned with the event and the precautions that will be put in place to address these.
- A contingency plan to deal with any emergency situations that may arise during the event.
- A central location for all safety and insurance certificates and other documents relevant to the promotion of the event and equipment used, so that they can be readily produced if required by an authorised officer.
- Ticketing arrangements and estimation of maximum number of visitors to the event. Appropriate levels of trained stewards and security staff will also to be considered.
- Detailed planning of sanitary conveniences, first aid provision, temporary structures, temporary road closures, parking arrangements and any banners or signs to be used.
- At an early stage there should be liaison and discussion with local residents on how to minimise disturbance and disruption to them.
- Positive proposals for ensuring the access, safety and comfort of people with disabilities who may wish to enjoy the event.
- Arrangements for reuniting children who may have become separated from their guardians.
- Properly trained security staff should be used who have been trained and registered in accordance with the Securities Industries Act.
- Ensure first aid and or medical provision meet minimum requirements laid down in the HSE Guide to Health and Safety and welfare at music and similar events.

11.4. Applicants for premises licences are expected to state in their Operating Schedule the precise nature of all entertainment proposed to take place, and to have carried out risk assessments for each entertainment type.

12. Integrating strategies

The Licensing Authority will seek to achieve integration with the strategies set out below and will consult with the appropriate organisations to achieve this.

12.1. Public Health

- The Licensing Authority recognises the key role that Public Health delivers in respect of Licensing Objectives and in particular those relating to public safety and protection of children from harm in relation to issues relating to alcohol.

- Public Health has a critical role in providing advice and data in respect of Licensing Objectives, providing essential information upon which to ensure that considerations of harms are enshrined within the approach the Council takes to licensable activities.

- In considering decisions and the delivery of the Statement of Licensing Policy, the Licensing Authority will consider Public Health objectives, advice and data.

12.2. Safer Rotherham Partnership

- The Licensing Authority recognises its responsibility to address issues relating to crime and disorder and is committed to working together, with other partners, to make Rotherham a safe and attractive borough.

- In making decisions, the Licensing Authority will consider the objectives of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, especially relating to:

  - Reducing the opportunities for crime to occur
  - Tackling disorder and anti-social behaviour
  - Reducing the fear of crime
  - Combating the use of drugs

12.3. Planning

- Applications under the Licensing Act 2003 will be considered separately from other regimes such as planning and building control. This is in order to avoid duplication and inefficiency. Applications for premises licences for permanent commercial premises should normally be from businesses with the appropriate planning consent for the property concerned. However, applications for licences may be made to the Licensing Authority before relevant planning permission has been sought or granted by the planning authority.

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- The planning and licensing regimes involve consideration of different matters. For example, licensing takes into account the four licensing objectives:

  - The prevention of crime and disorder
  - Public safety
  - The prevention of public nuisance
  - The protection of children from harm

- Whereas planning considers a range of issues such as:

  - Public nuisance
  - Loss of privacy
  - Highway safety
  - Design
  - Nature conservation
  - Adequacy of parking
  - Amenity
  - Layout and Density
  - Sustainability

- Where a planning condition restricts usage of a premise to certain hours, and if these hours differ from those permitted on a premises licence, then the premise owner must comply with the more restrictive of the two sets of hours.

12.4. **Culture and Tourism**

- The Council is working to develop and promote Rotherham as a good place to live and work, which means more jobs, a vibrant cultural sector and good quality green spaces.

- It is supporting the economic growth and the regeneration of the borough through work with partners to deliver a joined-up culture, sport and tourism offer alongside adopting both the Town Centre Masterplan and the Local Plan.

- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which was ratified by the UK in 1976 recognises the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and requires that active steps are taken to develop cultural activity and ensure that everyone can participate in the cultural life of the community.

- The strategy in relation to culture and tourism encompasses arts, heritage, museums, parks and green spaces, neighbourhood facilities, markets, festivals and public events, media, libraries and literature, sport, play, faith and worship, tourism, restaurants and bars and creative industries.

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- This licensing policy will operate in the spirit of the Council's approach to improving the borough's culture and tourism offer and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In doing so, it will seek to maintain a balance between regulation and supporting cultural activity. It will strive to maintain a balance between the need to 'manage' any detrimental impacts of an activity in a community with the many benefits cultural activity brings to communities, in developing personal aspiration and potential, building cohesive communities, providing opportunities for young people, contributing to economic growth and regeneration and the development of sustainable communities.

- In order to maintain this balance the Licensing Authority will:

  - monitor the impact of licensing on the provision of regulated cultural activities and entertainment, such as live music, theatre, dance and festivals
  - create a dialogue with the cultural sector about the impact of the licensing policy and work with our partners to balance different interests
  - seek to ensure that conditions attached to licences do not deter live music, festivals, theatre, sporting events etc. by imposing unnecessary restrictions
  - seek to ensure that conditions attached to licences do not deter new or small scale groups/ activities in communities by imposing conditions which will lead to a cost disproportionate to the size of the event
  - Seek to create an environment which minimises nuisance and anti-social behaviour connected to cultural activity and events but without undermining our commitment to increase access to cultural participation as a fundamental human right.

12.5. **Building Control**

- The Building Regulation process is a separate system to the licensing regime but complementary in terms of some shared objectives.

- Where a licence is applied for, or exists, and any Building Regulated work is carried out, either as a material alteration, change of use or new build to a licensed premises, the owner / licensee should ensure that before opening to the public, Building Regulations consent has been granted in full and that completion certificates have been issued.

- Two separate and distinct certificates are issued on a commercial or work place premises. The first confirms compliance with Building Regulations in general and the second confirms compliance in terms of fire precautions, including means of escape in case of fire. A copy of this second certificate is sent to the Fire Service, which triggers their responsibilities under the Work Place Regulations and enforcement of risk assessments.

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12.6. **Promotion of Equality**

- In developing this strategy, the Licensing Authority has recognised its responsibility under the Equality Act 2010, to consider the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity between different groups and foster good relations between different groups.

- There is no one size fits all approach to making a venue inclusive, and each operator will need to make an assessment of its own practices and policies. However, the following are common and best practice examples that could be adopted:

  - Inclusive and transparent policies (for example admittance policies may clearly stipulate adherence to a dress code and refusal if someone presents as intoxicated; however they must not prevent admittance based on perceived attractiveness, size, or against any of the protected characteristics).
  - Robust complaints procedures that make it easy for customers who feel they have been discriminated against to raise their concerns and understand how this will be investigated or managed.
  - Accessible venue layouts that make venues welcoming.
  - Comprehensive training on equality and inclusion for all staff. It is important that any training is regularly refreshed.

- The Licensing Authority also recognises that this policy should promote equality in a wider sense and has therefore assessed the potential impact on disadvantaged groups in general.

- The following actions, which have been identified as being necessary to promote equality, and within the scope of the Act and supporting guidance, will be implemented by the Licensing Authority:

  - The Licensing Policy and associated documents will be available on the internet, and in other formats upon request.
  - The licensing objective of protecting children from harm will be promoted.
  - Support will be offered to licence applicants, licence holders and potential objectors who are socially excluded.
  - Account will be taken of the effect of specific applications on community cohesion, including the need to balance the benefits of cultural and community activities with limited local disturbance.
  - Action will be taken to endeavour to ensure the safety of vulnerable people in licensed premises.
  - Action will be taken to ensure that all applications, particularly those for disadvantaged groups, are dealt with fairly.

- The Licensing Authority is aware that there may be particular sensitivities of certain buildings, for example religious buildings, to certain licensable activities taking place in close proximity. Where this proximity has an impact on the promotion of one of the licensing objectives this is a matter for the Licensing Authority. Where the impact does not affect the promotion of the licensing objectives, there may be other control mechanisms, such as the planning system, that could be applicable.

12.7. **Disabled Access**

- The guidance supporting the Act advises that conditions relating to disabled access should not be attached to licences, as this would duplicate existing statutory requirements. The Licensing Authority therefore takes this opportunity to remind operators of premises of their duties under the Equality Act 2010.

12.8. **Transport**

- Rotherham's Transport Strategy is set out in the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (SYLTP).

- The SYLTP policies seek to ensure that alternatives to the use of the private car are available; these alternatives include walking, cycling and public transport (bus, rail and taxi). They are operated in conjunction with land use policies to seek to ensure that development takes place in locations where these alternatives can be best provided; the Town Centre is naturally one of these locations, particularly with regard to public transport.

- A high level of bus services is provided commercially between the hours of 7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday. Lower levels of services are provided up to 11pm and on Sundays, and the transport plan will continue to seek ways of improving the provision of bus services at these times and later at night to assist in getting people away from the Town Centre quickly, safely and efficiently.

- Licensed vehicles provide a useful role in transporting people, particularly at times when bus services are not well provided. Taxi ranks are provided where demand is identified, and include both 24 hour ranks and ones which operate only at night. The Council's Transport Strategy will continue to seek to ensure that the demand for rank provision is satisfied and that their locations are amended as demand alters, subject to competing demands for use of kerbside space.

12.9. **Environmental Best Practice**

- It is important for premises licence holders to consider the current and future impact on our environment and the ways in which the environmental impact can be minimised.

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- Licensed premises can make up a significant part of the local economy, and they can make just as much of a contribution to creating a cleaner and greener Borough as any other part, by not only meeting their regulatory duties, but by following best practice including:

  - Minimising waste and following the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle.

    Minimising waste, especially of single use, non-recyclable materials, is an important step to reducing the environmental impact of licensed premises. It can also help a business to become more efficient as well as demonstrating its commitment to its customers that it is a sustainable business. In October 2020 it became illegal, with some exceptions, to sell or supply single use plastics such as straws or drink stirrers. You can still supply and sell single-use straws and drink stirrers made from other materials or reusable alternatives.

    There are other ways that licensed premises can minimise waste, such as:

    - Using online menus instead of printed versions, or where menus and promotional materials are printed, ensuring they are on recycled materials and are not single use
    - Allowing members of the public to refill water bottles to reduce plastic bottle waste.
    - Improving recycling rates across all aspects of your business, forward facing and back office.
    - Training staff on sustainability best practice.
    - Reviewing options for reused and upcycled furnishings and fittings.

  - Improving energy efficiency in heating, cooling and use of power.

    Increasing energy efficiency across the sector will be key to achieving carbon neutrality. Many venues will also benefit financially from improving energy efficiency (e.g. 15–20% of a pub's operating costs lies in heating, and converting to LED lighting can save £2,000 per year). There are a number of ways that licensed venues can improve energy efficiency and tackle the climate emergency, including:

    - Procuring energy efficient equipment including in kitchens or bar areas. Ensuring lighting is turned off when not in use and is as efficient as possible where used.
    - Minimising the use of outdoor heaters and using energy efficient ones where necessary; this also helps to avoid fume emissions which cause a nuisance and contribute to air pollution.
    - Closing doors during the colder months to keep heat in.

- Reducing the traffic on our roads as a result of business use e.g. freight and servicing.

  We know that road transport contributes to NOx pollution in the Borough and tackling poor air quality caused by road traffic is a priority for the Council. Licensed venues increase traffic on the Borough's roads through deliveries from suppliers and providing takeaways. Both of these can also cause considerable noise nuisance for residents and are often reasons that new licences are objected to. Licensed venues can help address the environmental impact of road traffic by:

  - Developing and implementing bespoke delivery and servicing plans that minimise traffic.
  - Consolidating suppliers and procuring locally.
  - Minimising waste and waste collections.
  - Avoiding personal deliveries to venues.
  - Shifting to low emission vehicles and using courier services that encourage drivers to use vehicles that are less likely to cause noise or air quality nuisances.
  - Making provision to encourage sustainable transport options.

12.10. **Women's Safety**

The Council and its partners are committed to tackling violence against women and girls. It's all about taking practical steps together to make the Borough at night safer for women. Everyone should feel empowered to play their part in creating positive change.

Business are encouraged to promote Women's Safety and make simple commitments such as:

- Nominate a champion in your organisation who actively promotes women's safety.
- Demonstrate to staff and customers that your organisation takes women's safety at night seriously, for example through a communications campaign.
- Do what you can to ensure that customers and staff know what to do if they experience harassment when working, going out or travelling.
- Encourage reporting by victims and bystanders as part of your communications campaign.
- Train staff to ensure that all women who report are believed.
- Train staff to ensure that all reports are recorded and responded to.
- Design your public spaces and workplaces to make them safer for women at night.

Please contact the Council for further information on Women's Safety.

13. Duplication

13.1. The authority will avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes (e.g. the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974) insofar as attaching conditions to premises licences and club premises certificates.

13.2. Conditions will only be attached where they are necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. If matters are already provided for in other legislation they cannot be considered necessary in the context of licensing law.

13.3. As has been referred to elsewhere in this policy, licensing law is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from the licensed premises and, therefore, beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or authorisation concerned.

13.4. Nonetheless, it is a key aspect of such control and licensing law will always be part of a holistic approach to the management of the evening and night-time economy in Rotherham.

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14. Standardised Conditions

14.1. The Licensing Authority will only attach to premises licences, and club premises certificates, those conditions that are tailored to the individual style and characteristics of the premises and the events concerned, and where they are necessary for the achievement of one or more of the four licensing objectives.

14.2. **Model Conditions**

- To aid administration a pool of model conditions is attached to this statement (but does not form part of it). The authority may draw appropriate and proportionate conditions from this pool to cover particular circumstances. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list and other specific conditions may be appropriate.

- The model conditions will be informed through consultation. There are elements of the model conditions, which are indicated, that will be entirely dependent upon the findings of the consultation.

- The pool of model conditions is attached as Appendix A to this policy.

14.3. **Mandatory Conditions**

- A number of conditions are mandatory and are required to be applied to licences.

- Mandatory conditions are provided by the 2003 Act, amended by the Licensing Act 2003 (Mandatory Licensing Conditions) (Amendment) Order 2014 and should be included in every Licence and/or Club Premises Certificate.

- The Mandatory Conditions are attached to this Policy at Appendix B. These need to be adhered to and complied with by the Premises Licence Holder.

- For premises with ON sales the Mandatory Conditions will include the following requirements:

    - The need for a Designated Premises Supervisor to be registered on the Licence.
    - Alcohol needs to be sold or authorised by a Personal Licence Holder.

- Mandatory Conditions also refer to:

    - Permitted price of alcohol
    - Age verification Policy
    - Irresponsible promotions

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- No drinking games (encouraging people to drink too much or within specific time limits).
- Free access to drinking water
- Measures of alcoholic drink
- Exhibition of films
- Door Supervision

- For premises with OFF sales the Mandatory Conditions will include the following requirements:

  - The need for a Designated Premises Supervisor to be registered on the Licence.
  - Alcohol needs to be sold or authorised by a Personal Licence Holder.

- Mandatory Conditions also refer to:

  - Permitted price of alcohol
  - Age verification Policy

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15. Entitlement to work in the UK

15.1. Section 36 of and Schedule 4 to the Immigration Act 2016 (the 2016 Act) amended the 2003 Act and introduced immigration safeguards in respect of licensing applications made in England or Wales on or after 6 April 2017. The intention is to prevent illegal working in premises licensed for the sale of alcohol or late night refreshment.

15.2. The statutory prevention of crime objective in the 2003 Act includes the prevention of immigration crime and the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises. Licensing authorities should work with the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) as well as the police, in respect of these matters.

15.3. The Home Secretary (in practice Home Office Immigration Enforcement) is added to the list of responsible authorities in the licensing regime, which requires Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) to receive premises licence applications (except regulated entertainment only licences), and in some limited circumstances personal licence applications, and permits Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) to make appropriate representations and objections to the grant of a licence.

15.4. Individuals applying for a personal licence and / or a premises licence for the sale of alcohol or late night refreshment must be entitled to work in the UK. This includes applications made by more than one individual applicant. An application made by an individual without the entitlement to work in the UK must be rejected. This applies to applications which include the sale of alcohol and the provisions of late night refreshment, but does not include applications which apply to regulated entertainment only.

15.5. Applicants must provide copies of Identification documents to verify their entitlement to work within the UK. The documents, which may be relied on in support of an application demonstrating an entitlement to work in the UK, are the same for the personal licence (see section 13) shown in Appendix C.

15.6. Individuals applying for a personal licence must be entitled to work in the UK. The Immigration Act 2016 amended the Licensing Act 2003, with effect from April 6 2017. Applications made on or after this date by someone who is not entitled to work in the UK must be rejected.

15.7. Licences must not be issued to people who are illegally present in the UK, who are not permitted to work, or who are permitted to work but are subject to a condition that prohibits them from doing work relating to the carrying on of a licensable activity.

15.8. In order to carry out this duty licensing authorities must be satisfied that an applicant has the right to work in the UK. They require applicants to submit an identification document, to show that they have permission to be in the UK and to undertake work in a licensable activity. Acceptable documents are listed in Appendix C to this policy.

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16. Personal Licences

16.1. The Licensing Authority recognises the important role that personal licence holders have to play in the promotion of the licensing objectives at premises selling alcohol. For this reason personal licence holders are required to have prescribed training and not have relevant convictions that would indicate their unsuitability.

16.2. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 gives licensing authorities the power to revoke or suspend personal licences, with effect from 6 April 2017.

16.3. When a licensing authority has granted a personal licence and becomes aware that the licence holder has been convicted of a relevant offence or foreign offence or been required to pay an immigration penalty, a licensing authority may revoke the licence or suspend it for a period of up to six months. This applies to convictions received and civil immigration penalties which a person has been required to pay at any time before or after the licence was granted, as long as the conviction was received after 6 April 2017, or the requirement to pay the civil penalty arose after 6 April 2017.

16.4. Every sale of alcohol at licensed premises is required to be authorised by a personal licence holder. Because of the importance of their role, the Licensing Authority considers it to be good practice for personal licence holders to have significant operational involvement in the sale of alcohol rather than to undertake a remote, periodic authorisation of other staff. In practical terms this would mean authorisation on at least a daily basis, and to be available on the premises throughout most of the day to deal with circumstances requiring their expertise and authority.

16.5. When applying for a personal licence, the Licensing Authority would expect applicants to produce an up to date Disclosure Barring Service certificate. All applicants would also be expected to make a clear statement as to whether or not they have been convicted outside England and Wales of a relevant offence or an equivalent foreign offence.

16.6. In accordance with the Secretary of State's advice the Licensing Authority will normally refuse applications where the police have issued an objection notice unless there are, in the opinion of the Licensing Authority, exceptional and compelling reasons which justify granting the application.

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17. Temporary Event Notices (TENs)

17.1. Part 5 of the Licensing Act allows licensing activities to be carried out in specified circumstances on a temporary basis, subject to a temporary event notice being served on the Licensing Authority, with a copy to the chief officer of police and Environmental Health services for the area no less than ten working days before the event. The chief officer of police or Environmental Health services may object to the event if satisfied that that any of the four licensing objectives would be undermined.

17.2. “Late” TENs are intended to assist premises users who are required for reasons outside their control to, for example, change the venue for an event at short notice.

17.3. Late TENS can be given at any time as long as the limits specified, within guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, are not exceeded. Late TENs can be given up to five working days but no earlier than nine working days before the event is due to take place and, unless electronically given to the licensing authority, must also be sent by the premises user to the police and Environmental Health Services. A late TEN given less than five days before the date of the event to which it relates will be returned as void and the activities to which it relates will not be authorised.

17.4. The Licensing Authority considers that it is important that the police and Environmental Health services have sufficient time to properly evaluate the likely impact of a temporary event. Where insufficient notice of the event is given this may lead to objections being made that may have been unnecessary if a fuller evaluation had been possible. Equally, if notice of an event is given too far in advance it may be difficult to evaluate because of future uncertainty.

17.5. The Licensing Authority would therefore suggest as best practice that a temporary event notice is served between one and two months ahead of the event taking place.

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18. Enforcement

18.1. The Licensing Authority will carry out its responsibilities for enforcement so as to promote each of the four licensing objectives.

18.2. The Licensing Authority will develop and review enforcement protocols in agreement with the police.

18.3. Enforcement activities will be targeted in terms of risk and so as best to promote the licensing objectives. In addition account will be taken of the general enforcement policy of the licensing authority, which aims to ensure that enforcement is open, fair, reasonable and proportionate.

18.4. Enforcement activities will include operations designed to:

- Ensure compliance with conditions attached to licences, operating schedules, requirements specified in the this Statement of Policy, and the requirements of the Licensing Act itself;
- Protect public safety;
- Prevent nuisance;
- Prevent crime and disorder;
- Protect children from harm;
- Identify unlicensed activities;
- Respond to complaints and representations from relevant individuals and responsible authorities;
- Prevent the sale of alcohol to minors
- Prevent the sale of alcohol to people who are drunk
- Identify the keeping of smuggled goods
- Prevent drug misuse

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19. Live Music, Dancing, Theatre, Circuses and Street Arts

19.1. The Licensing Authority will ensure that when it considers applications for licences for entertainment involving live music, dancing, theatre, circuses and street arts it will act so as to promote the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance.

19.2. The Licensing Authority recognises that there is a need to encourage and promote a broad range of entertainment, particularly those activities identified above, because of the wider cultural benefits to communities. The potential for limited disturbance will therefore be balanced against these wider benefits.

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20. Wholesale of alcohol

20.1. Since 1 April 2017, businesses which sell alcohol (for example, retailers of alcohol and trade buyers) need to ensure that the UK wholesalers that they buy alcohol from have been approved by HMRC under the Alcohol Wholesaler Registration Scheme (AWRS). They will need to check their wholesalers Unique Registration Number (URN) against the HMRC online database. This is an ongoing obligation and if a business is found to have bought alcohol from an unapproved wholesaler, they may be liable to a penalty or could even face criminal prosecution and their alcohol stock may be seized. Any trader who buys alcohol from a wholesaler for onward sale to the general public (known as a 'trade buyer') does not need to register unless they sell alcohol to other businesses.

20.2. Examples of trade buyers would be pubs, clubs, restaurants, cafes, retailers and hotels. However, they will need to check that the wholesaler they purchase alcohol from is registered with HMRC. Further information may be found at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-alcohol-wholesalerregistration-scheme-awrs

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21. Delegation of Functions

21.1. The following matters will be determined by either the Licensing Committee or one of its sub-committees:

- Application for a personal licence where there are relevant unspent convictions;
- The review of a premises licence or club premises certificate;
- Decision to object when the local authority is the consultee and not the relevant authority considering the application;
- Determination of a police objection to a temporary event notice.

21.2. The following matters will be determined by either the Licensing Committee or one of its sub-committees where a relevant representation has been made:

- Application for a personal licence;
- Application for a premises licence or club premises certificate;
- Application for a provisional statement;
- Application for variation to a premises licence or club premises certificate;
- Application to vary a designated premises supervisor
- Application for transfer of a premises licence
- Application for interim authority
- Determination of a temporary event notice.

21.3. The Licensing Manager will determine all other matters.

21.4. Variations to premises licences or club premises certificates that could not impact adversely on the licensing objectives are subject to a simplified ‘minor variations’ process. There is clear guidance as to what constitutes a “minor variation” contained on the Government’s website.

21.5. Councillors are now considered as “interested parties” and can make representations on any application as such, even if they do not live in the vicinity, or may represent persons living or working in the vicinity of the premises in question.

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22. Period of Validity & Review

22.1. This statement of licensing policy will come into force on XXXX 2025 and be valid until XXXX 2030. The policy will then be reviewed and reissued for a period of 5 years.

22.2. The policy will be kept under review during the period of validity and if necessary amendments made.

22.3. Before a new policy is adopted or amendments made to the existing one the Licensing Authority will undertake consultation in accordance with Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.

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Appendix 2

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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: Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	**Service area: Community Safety and Street Scene**
Lead person: Alan Pogorzelec	**Contact: Alan Pogorzelec**
Is this a: [X] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires the Council to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy which sets out the principles it proposes to apply in exercising functions under the Act. The Statement of Licensing Policy must be reviewed and republished at five year intervals. The current Statement of Licensing Policy was published in 2020, and therefore is now due for the five year review.

Appendix 2

The Council's Licensing Service have carried out informal consultation with partners, local licence holders and members of the public to identify any areas within the current policy that would benefit from development. This feedback has been used to formulate an ambitious draft policy that is considered to strike an appropriate balance between the need to promote a thriving licensed trade within the Borough whilst ensuring that any negative impacts of licensable activity are kept to an absolute minimum.

The draft policy is presented to Cabinet for review and approval prior to the commencement of a period of statutory consultation. A further report will be presented to Cabinet after the consultation has concluded for approval of the final Statement of Licensing Policy 2025.

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? *(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)*		X
Could the proposal affect service users? *(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)*		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*		X

Appendix 2

Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*		X

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

This assessment has been conducted solely in relation to the decision that Cabinet are being asked to make (i.e. to commence consultation on the revised Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Policy).

There has already been informal consultation with key stakeholders, and there will be a further period of statutory consultation that will Consultation with the those that are affected by the policy.

The policy provides guidance to those making an application, and aims to ensure consistency and transparency with regard to the application and decision making processes. The policy does not directly affect the provision of services by the Council, the licensing function is a statutory function that must be exercised in accordance with requirements set out in the Licensing Act 2003 and the Equality Act 2010.

However, the policy provides clear guidance to applicants and licence holders with regard to the expectations that the Council has with regard to the way in which licensed premises operate. Although not legally binding, the policy encourages the adoption of best practice with regard to equality and diversity – it is therefore expected that the impact of the policy on equality and diversity matters will be a positive one.

It is considered that the policy itself will have no impact on any person with a protected characteristic, human rights, the workforce or employment practices and therefore it not necessary undertake a Part B assessment.

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?**

Appendix 2

• **Key findings**	
• **Actions**	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Alan Pogorzelec	Licensing Manager	30/01/25
Diane Kraus	Principal Licensing Officer	30/01/25

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	30/1/25
Report title and date	Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy
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 – 17th March 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	3/2/25

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	**Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.**	**Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts**	**Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out**
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

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

Consultation will be conducted in a manner which minimises impact on the environment (i.e. electronic / email communication and online completion of the consultation documents rather than the use of hard copy / paper).

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

The decision to which this assessment relates involves Cabinet giving approval for the commencement of consultation on the revised Licensing Act 2003 Policy. This assessment has been completed on the basis of this decision and therefore no impact is expected with regard to CO2 emissions and climate change. However, it is recognised that the policy itself may have an on this area as it makes reference to the adoption of environmental best practice, energy efficiency and waste management. All of these impacts are considered to be positive in nature and therefore the impact on emissions and climate change is expected to be a positive one. The completion of this assessment has ensured that climate / emissions impact has been considered as part of the development of the draft policy.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: **(Name, title, and service area/directorate).**	Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager, Community Safety and Street Scene (Regeneration and Environment)
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]	