



Council

Wednesday 17 July 2024
2.00 p.m.

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council



WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FACILITIES

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

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

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

Contact:-

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

Date of Publication:-

9 July 2024

COUNCIL

Wednesday 17 July 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

THE MAYOR (Councillor Sheila Cowen)
DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Rukhsana Haleem)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sharon Kemp OBE)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

BAUM-DIXON, Timothy J.
BLACKHAM, John M.
TARMEY, Drew S.

ASTON AND TODWICK

ALLEN, Sarah A.
BACON, Joshua

AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST

PITCHLEY, Lyndsay
TAYLOR, Robert P.

BOSTON CASTLE

ALAM, Saghir
HUSSAIN, Ashiq
YASSEEN, Taiba K.

BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD

DUNCAN, Elizabeth J.
REYNOLDS, Gregory

BRINSWORTH

CARTER, Adam J.
CARTER, Charlotte R.

DALTON AND THRYBERGH

BENNETT-SYLVESTER, Michael D.P.
RYALLS, Jodie

DINNINGTON

CLARKE, Amanda M.
CASTLEDINE-DACK, Sophie
HALL, Julia

GREASBROUGH

BERESFORD, Linda J.
ELLIOTT, Robert W.

HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST

BALL, Simon A.
STABLES, Lynda J.

HOOBER

BRENT, Rajmund E.
LELLIOTT, Denise
WILLIAMS, John

KEPPEL

CURRIE, Simon
FOSTER, Carole
GARNETT, Gillian S.

KILNHURST AND SWINTON (EAST)

CUSWORTH, Victoria
HARPER, Nigel

MALTBY EAST

SUTTON, Donna E.
TINSLEY, Adam J.

RAWMARSH EAST

HUGHES, Rachel E.M.
SHEPPARD, David

RAWMARSH WEST

BAKER-ROGERS, Joanna
STEELE, Brian

ROTHER VALE

ADAIR, Terry
BAGGALEY, Jamie

ROTHERHAM EAST

AHMED, Angham S.T.
HALEEM, Rukhsana B.
RASHID, Haroon

ROTHERHAM WEST

JONES, Ian P.
KEENAN, Eve
MCKIERNAN, Cameron D.P.

SITWELL

BOWER, Michael A.
FISHER, David F.
THORP, Paul S.

SWINTON ROCKINGHAM

MONK, Gina
READ, Christopher

THURCROFT & WICKERSLEY

COLLINGHAM, Zachary A.
COLLINGHAM, Thomas R.

WALES

BECK, Dominic E.
HAVARD, Marnie A.

WATH

COWEN, Sheila A.
JACKSON, David R.

WICKERSLEY NORTH

KNIGHT, Stuart
MARSHALL, Lynda
MAULT, James J.

Council Meeting Agenda

Time and Date:-

Wednesday 17 July 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

Venue:-

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

1. Announcements

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

2. Apologies for Absence

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

3. Minutes of the previous Council Meetings (Pages 7 - 78)

To receive the record of proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 17 and 22 May 2024 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

4. Petitions (Pages 79 - 83)

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

5. Declarations of Interest

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

6. Public Questions

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

7. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Mayor, to consider excluding the press and public from the meeting in relation to any items of urgent business on the grounds that private information is likely to be divulged.

8. Leader of the Council's Statement

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

9. Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting (Pages 85 - 97)

To note receipt of the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 10 June, 2024.

10. Notice of Motion - Grass Cutting and Green Spaces (Pages 99 - 100)

To be moved by Councillor Baum Dixon and seconded by Councillor Z Collingham.

11. Audit Committee (Pages 101 - 108)

To note receipt of the minutes of the Audit Committee.

12. Health and Wellbeing Board (Pages 109 - 126)

To note receipt of the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

13. Licensing Board Sub-Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee (Pages 127 - 134)

To note receipt of the minutes of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee.

14. Planning Board (Pages 135 - 140)

To note receipt of the minutes of the Planning Board.

15. Standards and Ethics Committee (Pages 141 - 142)

To note receipt of the minutes of the Standards and Ethics Committee.

16. Staffing Committee (Pages 143 - 144)

To note receipt of the minutes of the Staffing Committee.

17. Members' Questions to Designated Spokespersons

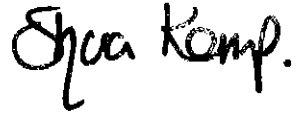
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council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

18. Members' Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairpersons

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

19. Urgent Items

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Kemp." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SHARON KEMP OBE,
Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on
11 September 2024 at 2.00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING
17th May, 2024

Present:- Councillor Robert Taylor (in the Chair); Councillors Cowen, Ahmed, Alam, Allen, Bacon, Baggaley, Baker-Rogers, Baum-Dixon, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Beresford, Blackham, Bower, Brent, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Clarke, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Currie, Cusworth, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Foster, Garnett, Haleem, Hall, N Harper, Havard, Hughes, Hussain, Jackson, Jones, Keenan, Knight, Marshall, Mault, McKiernan, Monk, Pitchley, Rashid, Read, Reynolds, Ryalls, Sheppard, Stables, Steele, Sutton, Tarmey, Tinsley, Williams and Yasseen.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Two nominations for the role of Chair had been received.

It was moved by Councillor Steele and seconded by Councillor Jackson:

That Councillor Cowen be elected Chair of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing (2024/25) Municipal Year and that she/he be entitled to the style of Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was then moved by Councillor Baum-Dixon and seconded by Councillor Z. Collingham:

That Councillor T. Collingham be elected Chair of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing (2024/25) Municipal Year and that he be entitled to the style of Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The second motion, that Councillor T. Collingham be elected Chair, was debated first and on being put to a vote, the motion was lost.

The original motion, that Councillor Cowen be elected Chair, was then debated and on being put to a vote was carried unanimously.

Resolved:

That Councillor Sheila Cowen be elected Chairman of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing (2024/25) Municipal Year and that she be entitled to the style of Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Mover: Councillor Steele

Seconded: Councillor Jackson

COUNCIL MEETING - 17/05/24

Councillor Cowen thereupon made and subscribed the statutory declaration of acceptance of office. (Councillor Cowen assumed the Chair)

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR (COUNCILLOR ROBERT TAYLOR)

Resolved:

That the Council tender its sincere thanks to Councillor Robert Taylor for the excellent manner in which he has carried out all his duties as Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham. And that the best thanks of this Council be recorded for the kind and admirable way in which Mrs Tracy Taylor performed the duties of Mayoress.

Mover: Councillor Pitchley

Seconder: Councillor Keenan

3. PRESENTATION OF THE PAST MAYOR'S PENDANTS

The Mayor asked the Council to join her in offering her sincere thanks to Councillor Robert Taylor for the excellent manner in which he had carried out all of his duties as Mayor and formally presented him and the Mayoress with their past Mayor's pendants.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Two nominations for the role of Vice-Chair had been received.

It was moved by Councillor Read and seconded by Councillor Cusworth:

That Councillor Haleem be elected Vice-Chair of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing (2024/25) Municipal Year and that she be entitled to the style of Deputy Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was then moved by Councillor Z. Collingham and seconded by Councillor Baum-Dixon:

That Councillor Tinsley be elected Vice-Chair of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing (2024/25) Municipal Year and that he be entitled to the style of Deputy Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The second motion, that Councillor Tinsley be elected Vice-Chair, was debated first and on being put to a vote, the motion was lost.

The original motion, that Councillor Haleem be elected Vice-Chair, was then debated and on being put to a vote was carried unanimously.

Resolved:

That Councillor Rukhsana Haleem be elected Vice-Chair of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing (2024/25) Municipal Year and that she be entitled to the style of Deputy Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Adair, Ball, A Carter, Lelliott and Thorp.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

7. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CADETS

The Mayor formally announced the names of the Mayor's Cadets for the Municipal Year 2024/25 to the Council:

Representing the Royal Air Force Air Cadets was:

- Corporal Alfie Vernon.

Representing the Army Cadets was:

- Lance Corporal Rose-Ann Molloy-Parton.

Representing the Sea Cadets was:

- Able Cadet Poppy Coleman.

The Mayor invited Cadet Vernon, Cadet Molloy-Parton and Cadet Riley Coleman on behalf of Cadet Poppy Coleman (who unfortunately could not attend due to exams) forward to receive their Mayor's Cadet badges and certificates.

8. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

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COUNCIL MEETING
22nd May, 2024

Present:- Councillor Cowen (in the Chair); Councillors Haleem, Adair, Ahmed, Alam, Allen, Bacon, Baker-Rogers, Baum-Dixon, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Beresford, Blackham, Bower, Brent, A. Carter, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Clarke, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Currie, Cusworth, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Foster, Garnett, Hall, N Harper, Havard, Hughes, Hussain, Jackson, Jones, Keenan, Knight, Lelliott, Marshall, Mault, McKiernan, Monk, Rashid, Read, Reynolds, Ryalls, Sheppard, Stables, Steele, Sutton, Taylor, Thorp, Tinsley, Williams and Yasseen.

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9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had been proud to host the annual Mayor's Parade and Civic Service on 18 May as the newly elected Mayor of Rotherham. She had also attended the Royal Garden Party on 21st May. The Mayor was looking forward to her term of office and would provide a fuller engagement overview at the next meeting.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Baggaley, Ball, Pitchley and Tarmey.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28th February, 2024, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Allen

12. PETITIONS

Consideration was given to the report which confirmed the receipt of two petitions that had been received since the last Council meeting. The first was in opposition to the proposed Racecourse Road Speed Humps in Swinton, submitted by Mr. Lewis Mills. This had received 101 valid signatures. The second was in support of the proposed Racecourse Road Speed Humps in Swinton, submitted by Mr. Anthony Johnson. This had received 140 valid signatures.

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the lead petitioner, or a representative on behalf of the lead petitioner, could speak at the Council meeting for up to five minutes. Mr. Mills was unable to attend and had not appointed a representative. As such, his petition was referred directly to

the Interim Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment for a response.

Mr. Johnson was also unable to attend but Mr. Fowler attended and read a speech on behalf of Mr. Johnson. Following the speech the petition was referred to the Interim Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment for a response.

Resolved:

1. That the petitions be received, and the contents noted.
2. That each lead petitioner receive a written response from the Interim Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, by 6th June, 2024.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

14. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following public questions had been received:

1. From Mr. Richard Green:

How many contracts does RMBC have with YPO for the purchase of gas supplies and if it is only a single contract, how is the supply split between business and domestic usage in terms of cost?

Mr Green was unable to attend the meeting and a written response would be provided.

2. From Ms. Nida Khan:

As we are all aware time is running out we have no clarity on what is happening with the planning Permission.

What does RMBC started putting in place if the planning application is not successful? Where will be the new site for the burials for the Muslim community?

Ms. Khan was unable to attend the meeting and a written response would be provided.

3. From Ms. Shazia Yousaf:

What is the Council doing about the issues raised by Dignity recently that the extension at Herringthorpe Cemetery cannot go through due to being unable to satisfy the EA following borehole testing?

Ms. Yousaf was unable to attend the meeting and a written response would be provided.

4. From Mr. Adeel Hussain:

Why is the Council intentionally causing the closure of thriving local businesses on Westgate by unnecessarily extending disruptive cycling and hazardous roadworks that received no support from businesses or residents and will impact business detrimentally?

Councillor Taylor thanked Mr. Hussain for his question and for sharing his concern about the new cycle route on Westgate and Sheffield Road. Councillor Taylor stated that he understood that changes to local infrastructure could be challenging, and that feedback was appreciated. It was explained that similar schemes were causing the same sort of disruption across the country because of the built up environment.

It was worth starting with why infrastructure schemes like this were built. First and foremost, it was not simply about the cycle lanes. The scheme had introduced safer places to cross the road, wider pavements and traffic calming to slow down vehicles which were increasingly required as Sheffield Road became a more residential area, and ahead of potentially hundreds more new homes along the route in the coming years. The scheme also included a significant amount of road resurfacing and filling potholes, from the Town Centre, all the way to Magna. Cycling of course promoted healthier lifestyles and was more environmentally friendly. But more broadly, it was about providing people with choices about how to travel into the town centre – both for current users and future generations.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Hussain stated that on Westgate, most evening trade businesses were owned by members of the BAME community. He asked how the Council expected restaurants and food businesses who had been majorly disrupted for three weeks in the peak business hours to survive? He also asked why the businesses were not consulted? Mr. Hussain stated that it was clear that Royal Mail had been accommodated throughout the roadworks and their staff operate between the hours of 5am and 6pm. The intended road closures were to be between 7pm and 5am. Throughout the duration of the roadworks, the businesses on Westgate had not had any support from the Council.

In response, Councillor Taylor stated that there had been a substantial consultation before the project and during the project and that feedback from that process had been considered. For example, there had been a retention of parking spaces, proposed changes to the roadway system were not implemented and the pavement material had been improved and extended. Benches and planters had also been included. These changes were all as a direct result of the feedback that had been received.

It was recognised that the construction phase had caused disruption, but Councillor Taylor was pleased to inform Mr Hussain that the construction-related activities were now very nearly complete. Final surfacing was planned for the end of June, which will be the final task before completion. Businesses were being updated on progress on a rolling basis

5. From Mr. M. Y. Ashraf:

This Council has been repeatedly asked to repeal the contentious IHRA definition of antisemitism, which has been contested by 104 civil society organisations due to the danger it poses to freedoms of speech. Will this Council pass a motion to repeal this controversial definition?

The Leader thanked Mr Ashraf for his question and confirmed that the Council were not considering passing a motion at the moment. It had been one of the asks that had been put to the Council as part of the petition submitted in February 2024 and that was now being considered by the Council's scrutiny members. There was no intention at the minute to withdraw support for that particular definition. The Leader also stated that Mr. Ashraf had commented that people had asked for the definition to be withdrawn. The Leader explained that the people had also asked for it to be introduced. It was the mainstream definition that was used by the British Government and by mainstream political parties. It was accepted that this was not without its critics but, at a time when the Jewish community in Rotherham and across the rest of the country were feeling under fire, it made sense to remain consistent, remain in the mainstream with a definition that worked. The Leader was not aware of any instances where that had prevented people from expressing legitimate views.

In his supplementary, Mr. Ashraf stated that there had been persecution at Sitwell School. In the meetings with OSMB regarding the petition, Mr. Ashraf stated that it became apparent that there was a difference between the legal advice being given to the Council and the true capacity of the Council to take certain steps within the boundaries of the law. The campaign group had been repeatedly given the blanket statement of "it is illegal" in regard to taking certain actions, even though there was case law and a precedent which would suggest that Councils were able to take certain steps, even if they are purely symbolic. Mr. Ashraf stated that as a resident of Rotherham, it was important that the Council was transparent with local communities about what actions it would and would not take with legitimate reasons to explain why. Mr. Ashraf asked the Leader and Cabinet to investigate the concerning discrepancy so that residents were not simply given a blanket statement of "it is illegal" when asking the Council to take certain steps?

The Leader stated that he was happy to receive any representations regarding the concerns raised by Mr. Ashraf. In relation to the petition, there would be a report from the working group to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and that would be considered in public with the opportunity for further scrutiny and questions. It would then proceed to

COUNCIL MEETING - 22/05/24

Cabinet. This would all be a very public process before a final decision was reached.

6. From Ms. Wendy Bader:

At one of the previous Council meetings, the leader and members of this Cabinet - such as Councillor Alam - expressed deep sympathies for the Palestinian people and the work that the residents of Rotherham have been doing to express solidarity with the Palestinian people. To support local efforts, will this council pass a motion to raise the Palestinian flag?"

In response to the question, the Leader explained that there was no motion to that effect for the Council to consider at the moment, but that particular ask was part of the petition. OSMB members would be expressing views about whether that would be an appropriate thing for the Council to do as part of their work on the petition.

In her supplementary, Ms. Bader explained that the Palestinian petition, that had received over 4000 signatures from Rotherham residents had been discussed with community member and the OSMB. OSMB had created a list of recommendations based on the petition. Ms Bader stated that at the previous full Council meeting, the Leader promised to take action to ensure that the demand of the community petition were dealt with as expediently as possible. The question was therefore, would the Leader and the Cabinet commit to addressing the OSMB recommendation from 5th June meeting at the next full Council meeting?

The Leader explained that, as a matter of process, it would not be for full Council to receive those recommendations at the next meeting. It was for Cabinet Members to receive those and act within the agreed timetable. That would be done as quickly as possible. The Scrutiny meeting had not yet taken place, so the Leader did not know for certain what the recommendations were.

7. From Ms. Aiysha Rahim:

Residents have written to the Council and Cllr Yasseen about safeguarding risks and increased crime in the Moorgate due to Carlton Park Hotel and we have received no response. Residents asked Cllr Yasseen to organise a community meeting and we have been told that no Council Officer is going to be in attendance to provide information. Please tell us why?

In response to the question, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working explained that the Council took these matters very seriously and encouraged residents to report any incidents to the Police or the Council's community protection team. He reassured ward members and residents that officers were working hard collectively to try and resolve the concerns raised.

With regards to Monday night's meeting, the Council had processes in place to support ward councillors who organise public meetings. Unfortunately in this instance no council staff were available to attend at short notice and the Councillor preferred to proceed with the advertised date and time rather than reschedule. Officers were looking to discuss the ongoing response with all locally elected members prior to engaging more widely with the community.

In her supplementary, Ms. Rahim explained that she was a mother of four children and lived in very close proximity to the Carlton Park Hotel. She attended the meeting on Monday evening. For the first time in all the years that she had lived in her house, Ms. Rahim was terrified for the safety of her family due to the incidents she had witnessed and what other people had witnessed. She stated that it was shameful that nobody in the Council Chamber, apart from Councillor Yasseen and another Councillor from a different ward, had attended the meeting. Ms. Rahim stated that there was enough notice for that meeting for 130 residents to give up three hours on a Monday evening to attend. A number of those residents were present at the Council meeting. There had been violent crime, burglaries, trespassing on private property, prostitution, sex in public, urinating in public, begging, open drug use. These were just some of the things that were raised at the meeting. Ms. Rahim stated that she was present at the Council Meeting because no one had had the courage to come to the Monday meeting and listen to the residents. Residents had raised issues and concerns with the MP and Leader going back 12 months. An email had been sent in April 2024 to Council Officers, Members, the Leader etc and no response had been received.

Ms. Rahim stated that the borough was supposed to be a child-friendly borough and the Council had said that the safeguarding of children in Rotherham was one of its highest priorities. Ms. Rahim wanted to know, as a resident who was very concerned about what was happening in the area and as somebody who had seen the changes since, for whatever reason, the Council chose to house these people in Carlton Park Hotel, as somebody who had children that were terrified, why neither residents nor the local schools, the nursery, the college, the hospital, local Members, were consulted before the decision was taken to house people in Carlton Park Hotel?

Councillor Sheppard thanked Ms. Rahim for her question and referred her to his earlier response regarding the short notice of the meeting. He did give assurances that in future, with the right notice, he as Cabinet Member and officers would attend public meetings with the residents to address any ongoing problems. The homelessness team were very much aware of the issues that were ongoing and were working proactively, both with the management of the hotel and the individuals concerned.

8. From Mr. John Strawinski:

Council Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy says they will end use of hotels. What plans and timescales can we expect?

Mr. Strawinski was unable to attend the meeting and a written response would be provided.

9. From Mrs. Elizabeth Strawinski:

Why has it taken this action to raise the profile of this matter - what steps were in place to monitor the effect of the current situation on the local community and what actions were identified and in progress?

Mrs. Strawinski was unable to attend the meeting and a written response would be provided.

10. From Mrs. Michele Whyley Skellum:

What assurance will we have that this issue will be prioritised and a multi - agency plan of action implemented?

Mrs. Skellum was unable to attend the meeting and a written response would be provided.

11. From Mr. Martin Skellum:

Have Rotherham Council failed its duty of care to individuals they have placed in The Carlton Park Hotel with no apparent social support or supervision. Not just these individuals but the community in general. With no consultation whatsoever they placed people with severe social problems between a School and a College endangering the children and young people that attend there.

Mr. Skellum was unable to attend the meeting and a written response would be provided.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no matters requiring the exclusion of the press or public.

16. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Resolved: That in accordance with the requirements detailed in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Councillor Read be appointed as Executive Leader of the Council for the period 2024-2028.

Mover: Councillor Sheppard

Seconder: Councillor Monk

17. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader started his statement by thanking his colleagues for their support as the new four year term of office started. He stated that the Council was a team with the Opposition being part of that team, providing the challenge that was needed. The Leader believed the Council was on the right track.

The Leader congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their recent appointments. He also offered his congratulations to all new Members of the Council, from all parties and all parts of the borough. There were 21 new Councillors and a further 3 who were returning after a period away. The Leader stated that anyone who stood for election, whatever their views or party, had put their head above the parapet and that should be respected. In an age where politicians of all stripes were reviled and open to abuse, their commitment to public service should be respected along with the personal sacrifices that everyone in the room had made. The Leader stated that this was more important than ever because some candidates had accepted, if not actively encouraged, campaigns and personal slurs against their opponents and those had gone well beyond the usual boundaries of robust democratic debate, factual claims and political differences. The Leader stated that must stop now, before the well of democratic engagement was poisoned irreconcilably and before someone was hurt in Rotherham in the way they were in Sheffield and other parts of the country during the campaign.

The Leader said that competitive elections were a good thing. All Members were only there because the public chose to send them, and Members had to continue to earn their trust. The Leader welcomed the fact that the Labour Group was elected on a clear mandate based on the detailed plans set out.

The Leader explained that these were increasingly difficult and dark times for Councils everywhere. More and more teetered on the brink of financial disaster, a risk that the Council had been desperate to avoid. The number of children in poverty continued to rise, homelessness was higher in the UK than in any comparable western country. Waits in the health service were longer than they had been for a long time. The Leader also reported that in the news on the day of the meeting, the Police were being advised to make fewer arrests due to prisons overflowing. The consequence of those things landed more heavily on the Council Member's shoulders than they did for any official in Whitehall or Minister in Parliament because this was the Council Member's community. The role of Members had to be to continue to secure a home that residents could be proud of and a platform on which they could stand and fulfil their ambitions.

The Leader then confirmed his Cabinet as follows:

COUNCIL MEETING - 22/05/24

- Leader – Councillor Read
- Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Neighbourhood Working – Councillor Sheppard
- Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health – Councillor Baker-Rogers
- Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor Cusworth
- Cabinet Member for Finance and Safe and Clean Communities – Councillor Alam
- Cabinet Member for Housing – Councillor Allen
- Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy – Councillor Taylor

The Leader stated that by working together right across the Chamber, they would fulfil their commitments to invest in roads and public spaces, the high streets and communities, to build a more inclusive economy where one and a half thousand people would be helped back into work or training and build hundreds more warm, safe and affordable council homes. They would crack down on litter and flytipping and give each child in Rotherham the best possible start in life, including through the baby packs programme.

In concluding his statement, the Leader stated that, before the politics began and the casework overloaded Members inboxes and social media bile poured in, it was important for Members to take a moment and remember that they made it to represent their community and that was a remarkable thing that they were doing.

The following questions were asked by Members and answered by the Leader:

1. Councillor Z. Collingham asked the Leader to join him in an expression of thanks to the Returning Officer and to the Electoral Services and wider team who put in long hours in the local election to make it happen and to make it happen very well? Councillor Z Collingham also stated that the results of the election contained many examples of people putting their trust in those who were deeply rooted in their communities, including an increased number of independents. He asked the Leader if he would, given there were perhaps a few people in his group who did not expect to get elected or had intended to retire, give Member some reassurance that the majority group, being tasked as it was with governance of the realm, would be stable, engaged and active in the four years ahead?

The Leader responded by giving his enormous thanks to all the people that worked on the election, including the significant number of people from outside the Council. His thanks went to all the people involved as none of the Members could be in the Council Chamber legitimately without that work. In response to the second

question, the Leader stated that there were a number of people around the room who knew what it was like to be elected without necessarily expecting that in advance and the consequences of that over the period subsequent. The Leader committed to providing stable, engaged and active leadership.

2. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester echoed Councillor Z. Collingham's comments regarding the running of the election, but specifically referenced the issue of information regarding the Voter ID that was required, and he stated that the team did a good job with the resources they had. However, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that he came across people who were not turned away from polling stations but were not going to go and vote in the first place because they believed that they did not have the correct ID. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester said they had seen what the underclass could be like when it was concentrated, for example with the queues outside pawnbrokers, but this was something that was not seen. He asked the Leader if he would be willing to lobby the Local Government Association for a proper investigation into the number of people that had basically lost the right to vote? Councillor Bennett-Sylvester felt that many more people would have lost the right to vote than had ever been prosecuted for electoral fraud. He also asked the Leader to press the case for the reversal of the voter suppression methods that had been introduced over the past years, such as Voter ID and individual registration?

In response to Councillor Bennett-Sylvester, the Leader stated that it was a very interesting idea. The LGA position on voter identification had been quite strong but the Leader stated that they would be willing to undertake some lobbying on that account and see what can be done. If a new Government was elected in the coming months, there would be an opportunity to review that legislation.

3. Councillor Reynolds also thanked those involved for the running of a successful election. He then addressed the Leader and stated that Rotherham did not consult, it presented. What that meant was that it does a presentation and said this is what you are getting and from then on, it is a done deal. There was no consultation where opinions were actually sought, and views taken on board before the decisions were made. Councillor Reynolds asked why a question from a member of the public had not been answered earlier in the meeting when good people had turned up in bad weather to ask the question and they were dismissed by the Mayor as "you've had your answer" and they had not, and they feel cheated and short-changed because the question had not been answered. Councillor Reynolds stated that this was an important point. He asked the Leader if in future he would answer the questions as they were asked?

In response to Councillor Reynolds, the Leader stated that he fundamentally disagreed with the proposition in the way he had set it out in terms of consultation. The Leader explained that he had personally spent hours and days in playing fields and sports halls and Council buildings talking to the public and engaging with them in open ended conversations. The Leader stated the Council absolutely took the feedback on board. It was natural that a stronger and more pronounced response would be provided when there was a specific proposal on the table for people to look at and take a view on whether that was the right thing or the wrong thing. However, in providing leadership, there was a responsibility to put those things on table in the first place and that would continue. The Leader stated that he heard the concerns from residents earlier and that would be taken on board going forward and they did want to ease the problems that the community was facing. Members would always try to answer questions as best as they possibly could but there was a responsibility in leadership to bring forward proposals to make decisions and to make those decision in the best way possible.

18. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

Resolved: That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 18th March, 2024 be received.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Sheppard

19. REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER - BOROUGH ELECTION RESULTS

Consideration was given to the report submitted by the Returning Officer which detailed the results of the Borough Council Elections that took place on Thursday 2 May 2024.

In moving the report Councillor Alam noted his thanks to the Returning Officer, the Elections Team and all of the staff who had ensured the smooth running of the election process. In seconding the report, Councillor Sheppard echoed Councillor Alam's comments and noted the incredible logistical achievement that had been undertaken by the electoral services team.

Resolved: - That the report be noted.

Mover:- Councillor Alam

Seconder:- Councillor Sheppard

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

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the membership of Political Groups on the Council, the political balance and the entitlement to seats on, and the proposed appointments to Committees, Boards and Panels.

It was noted that Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 placed a duty on local authorities to set out the principles to be followed when allocating seats to political groups and for these principles to be followed when determining such allocation following formal notification of the establishment of political groups in operation on the Council. It was noted further that there was a requirement on local authorities to annually review the entitlement of the political groups to seats on the committees of the council.

The report stated that the allocation of seats must follow 2 principles:

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

The report stated that there were three political groups in operation on the Council:

Labour

Leader – Councillor Read
Deputy Leader – Councillor Sheppard
(33 Members)

Conservative

Leader – Councillor Z. Collingham
Deputy Leader – Councillor Bacon
(13 Members)

Liberal Democrat

Leader – Councillor Adam Carter
(3 Members)

It was noted that there were 144 seats available on Committees, Boards and Panels, and under the calculations, the following were entitled to:

Political Group	Seat Entitlement
Labour	81
Conservative	32
Liberal Democrat	7
Non-Aligned	24
Total	144

Resolved:

1. That the entitlement of the membership of Council be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees (as per the table at 3.2 and 4.2).
2. That approval be given to the appointment of Members to committees, boards and panels, and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as detailed in the Mayor's Letter:

Cabinet – 7L

Leader – Councillor Read

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Neighbourhood Working – Councillor Sheppard

Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health – Councillor Baker-Rogers

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor Cusworth

Cabinet Member for Finance and Safe and Clean Communities – Councillor Alam

Cabinet Member for Housing – Councillor Allen

Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy – Councillor Taylor

Audit Committee - 3L, 1C, 1N-A

Councillor Marshall (Chair)

Councillor Baggaley (Vice Chair)

Councillor McKiernan

Councillor Blackham

Councillor Elliott

Licensing Board – 12L, 5C, 1LD, 3N-A

Councillor Hughes (Chair)

Councillor Beresford (Vice Chair)

Councillor Adair

Councillor Brent

Councillor Foster

Councillor Garnett

Councillor Harper

Councillor Lelliott

Councillor Monk

Councillor Pitchley

Councillor Steele
Councillor Sutton
Councillor Bacon
Councillor Collingham, T.
Councillor Collingham, Z.
Councillor Reynolds
Councillor Stables
Liberal Democrat Group - Vacancy
Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Councillor Bower
Councillor Jones

Licensing Committee – 8L, 3C, 1LD & 3N-A

Councillor Hughes (Chair)
Councillor Beresford (Vice Chair)

Councillor Garnett
Councillor Harper
Councillor Lelliott
Councillor Monk
Councillor Pitchley
Councillor Steele
Councillor Bacon
Councillor Collingham, T.
Councillor Stables
Liberal Democrat Group - Vacancy
Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Councillor Bower
Councillor Jones

Planning Board – 8L, 3C, 1LD, 3N-A

Councillor Williams (Chair)
Councillor Mault (Vice Chair)
Councillor Adair
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Baker-Rogers
Councillor Cowen
Councillor Keenan
Councillor Knight
Councillor Castledine-Dack
Councillor Fisher
Councillor Thorp
Councillor Tarmey
Councillor Currie
Councillor Elliott
Councillor Hussain

COUNCIL MEETING - 22/05/24

Staffing Committee – 3L, 1C, 1NA

Councillor Alam (Chair)

Councillor Read (Vice Chair)

1 x appropriate Cabinet Member as determined by the matter to be considered

Councillor Collingham, Z.

Councillor Jones

Standards and Ethics Committee – 5L, 2C, 1NA

Councillor Monk (Chair)

Councillor Clarke (Vice Chair)

Councillor Hughes

Councillor Jackson

Councillor Keenan

Councillor Collingham, T.

Councillor Hall

Councillor Beck

Parish Councillor Alan Buckley

Parish Councillor Monica Carroll

Parish Council Representative Vacancy

Independent Members:

Mrs. Adela Bingham

Ms. Kate Penney

Mr. Peter Edler

Vacancy x 2

Independent Persons:

Mr. Phil Beavers

Mr. David Roper-Newman

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 7L, 3C, 1LD, 1NA

Councillor Steele (Chair)

Councillor Bacon (Vice Chair)

Councillor Baggaley

Councillor Keenan

Councillor Knight

Councillor Marshall

Councillor McKiernan

Councillor Pitchley

Councillor Blackham

Councillor Tinsley

Councillor Carter. A.

Councillor Yasseen

Health Select Commission – 10L, 4C, 1LD, 3NA

Councillor Keenan (Chair)
Councillor Yasseen (Vice Chair)
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Duncan
Councillor Garnett
Councillor Haleem
Councillor Lelliott
Councillor Rashid
Labour Group - Vacancy
Labour Group - Vacancy
Labour Group - Vacancy
Councillor Baum-Dixon
Councillor Hall
Councillor Reynolds
Councillor Thorp
Councillor Tarmey
Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Councillor Havard

Improving Lives Select Commission – 10L, 4C, 1LD, 3NA

Councillor Pitchley (Chair)
Councillor Knight (Vice Chair)
Councillor Baggaley
Councillor Brent
Councillor Foster
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Monk
Councillor Sutton
Labour Group - Vacancy
Councillor Blackham
Councillor Collingham, T.
Councillor Fisher
Councillor Reynolds
Liberal Democrat Group - Vacancy
Councillor Bower
Councillor Elliott
Councillor Ryalls

COUNCIL MEETING - 22/05/24

Improving Places Select Commission – 10L, 4C, 1LD, 3NA

Councillor McKiernan (Chair)
Councillor Tinsley (Vice Chair)
Councillor Adair
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Baggaley
Councillor Beresford
Councillor Cowen
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Mault
Councillor Rashid
Councillor Williams
Councillor Castledine-Dack
Councillor Stables
Councillor Thorp
Councillor Carter, C.
Councillor Beck
Councillor Havard
Councillor Jones

Introductory Tenancy Review Panel – 2L 1C, 1NA

Chair and Vice Chair to be drawn from members of the Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission or Improving Places Scrutiny Commission
Councillor Sutton
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Tinsley
Councillor Ryalls

Joint Consultative Committee – 3L, 1C, 1NA

Councillor Alam (Chair) - L
Councillor Sheppard (Vice Chair) - L
Councillor Steele x L
Councillor Collingham, Z.
Councillor Bennett-Sylvester

Health and Wellbeing Board – 2L

Councillor Baker-Rogers (Chair)
Councillor Cusworth

3. That approval be given to the appointment of Members to joint committees, as detailed in the Mayor's Letter:

Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board 1L

Councillor Read
Councillor Sheppard (Sub L)

Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board Rotational Member 1L

Councillor Taylor

Sheffield City Region Audit, Standards and Risk Committee 1L

Councillor Marshall

Councillor Baggaley - Substitute

Sheffield City Region Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1L, 1C

Councillor Steele

Councillor McKiernan - Substitute

Councillor Bacon

Councillor Baum-Dixon - Substitute

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority 2L

Councillor McKiernan

Councillor Knight

South Yorkshire Pension Authority – RMBC Vice-Chair for 24/25 1L & 1C

Councillor Sutton (s41 responsibilities)

Councillor Fisher

South Yorkshire Pension Board –1L

Councillor Beresford

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner 1L, 1C

Councillor Harper

Councillor Baum-Dixon

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation Joint Committee 1L

Councillor Baker-Rogers

Labour Group – Vacancy (Substitute)

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconded: Councillor Sheppard

21. AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

Mover: Councillor Marshall
Rogers

Seconded: Councillor Baker-

22. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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

Mover: Councillor Baker-Rogers

Seconded: Councillor Cusworth

COUNCIL MEETING - 22/05/24

23. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE AND LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

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

Mover: Councillor Hughes

Seconded: Councillor Beresford

24. PLANNING BOARD

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

Mover: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor Mault

25. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

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

Mover: Councillor Monk

Seconded: Councillor Clarke

26. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There were no questions to consider.

27. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

31 questions had been submitted:

1. Councillor Bacon asked: Can the Leader of the Council confirm which council cabinet member had overall responsibility for the Towns and Villages fund, its timetable, and general oversight during the 2021/24 term?

Councillor Allen responded and explained that she was providing the response as she had been the Cabinet Member with overall responsibility for the Towns and Villages Fund. She explained that the question had been answered by officers a number of weeks ago and the answer had not changed since then. The answer had been that the Cabinet report of January 2022 identified responsibility for the programme as being with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy with input from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working. From 2023, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working took responsibility for the programme, once it was clear that the programme of work was focused on delivery schemes for neighbourhoods. Councillor Allen confirmed that the Towns and Villages Project for her and Councillor Bacon's ward of

Aston and Todwick had been included on the agenda for their first ward meeting. Appropriate officers had been invited.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bacon explained that he had wanted his question to be answered by the Leader of the Council and, going forward, he believed that members of the leading group should be respectful of who members of the opposition want to answer their question. He did thank Councillor Allen for this response which he stated confirmed what was known to be true. In light of this, Councillor Bacon asked why the Labour Party Group had spread misinformation to the contrary, during the local elections in Aston and Todwick. He asked that, given that a current Labour Councillor who was in the Chamber had admitted to him that the Labour leaflets on this during the election were quote “distant from the truth,” would the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Labour Group now ensure that his group apologises to the people of Aston and Todwick for spreading this misinformation which eroded trust in democracy, was a disgrace and went back to what was said earlier in the meeting about truths in elections? Would the Leader apologise?

Councillor Allen confirmed that she and Councillor Bacon had talked at the election count and had discussed the leaflets that had been distributed. What had not been discussed were the untruths that were in the documents distributed by the Conservative MP. Councillor Allen stated that she personally objected to being called bizarre but had not made an issue of it as, for her, that was part of the political campaign process.

2. Councillor Ball: What would be the impact to local schools if Labour's proposals to remove VAT relief to independent schools was put in place?

As Councillor Ball was not present to ask his question, a written response would be provided.

3. Councillor Yasseen: Does the Leader of the Council share my view that the proposed plans to build houses on Herringthorpe Playing Fields, a much loved and cherished recreational green space, should be withdrawn given the widespread rejection by Rotherham residents and me as the long-standing ward Councillor?

The Leader started by saying the no one was proposing to build house on Herringthorpe Playing Fields. There was a proposal to build council homes on a site adjacent to Herringthorpe Playing Fields. That site had previously been built on and the rubble from the building that was recently demolished on that site was still visible. The site was allocated for housing in the Local Plan which was agreed through the Chamber and Councillor Yasseen had the opportunity to take part in that process. The Leader understood some of the concerns that had been expressed by residents and agreed that they should be working

together to try and find a solution that was acceptable. Access to the playing fields through the site was an important part of that.

The Leader also stated that when there were people coming to the Chamber because of the homelessness pressures in the borough being so great that the Council was struggling for hotel places, let alone temporary accommodation, to be actively campaigning against council housing, affordable council housing, was a real worrying question. The Leader stated that he was in favour of building council homes that people needed across the borough in places that were allocated for housing.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen stated that she had fully supported the building of 600 homes by the Council which were mostly in Boston Castle. She stated however that very little of that was going where the issues were in terms of housing. It was not actually for social housing in the way described by the Leader, and this was misinformation. With regards to her support for the Local Plan, Councillor Yasseen explained that she had received lots of legal advice about what could and could not be changed prior to her becoming a Councillor for Boston Castle. She had been told that nothing could be changed in the Local Plan. In her tenure as a Councillor, there had never been a proposal to trigger the right to build on the site in question. Councillor Yasseen was holding a sign that said "Save Our Herringthorpe Playing Fields" and she asked the Leader or relevant Cabinet Member to attend a meeting with the Friends of Herringthorpe Playing Fields as they would not allow houses to be built on it.

In his response, the Leader stated that Councillor Yasseen had been a Member of the Council when the Local Plan had been agreed. It had taken a long time to get it agreed. The site had had buildings on previously and, unlike the sign suggested, there were no plans to build on the big grassy areas of Herringthorpe Playing Fields. The Cabinet Member for Housing had already agreed on more than one occasion to attend a meeting with the Friends of Herringthorpe Playing Fields. That did not mean that an agreement would necessarily be reached regarding the proposal.

4. Does the Leader of the Council think that using Carlton Park Hotel in place of adequate social housing without any consultation with or involvement of local residents, Oakwood School, Thomas Rotherham College or me as the ward Councillor, is acceptable given the potential for serious safeguarding risks?

The Leader stated that the Council had a legal and moral obligation to house people who were homeless, especially at a time when homelessness in the country was higher than it had ever been. The Leader was deeply regretful that he lived in a time when there was simply not enough temporary accommodation, including some hotel

places elsewhere, to house the number of people who need those services. As Councillor Yasseen knew, the Council had made a commitment to bring to an end rough sleeping in the borough and the Leader confirmed that he took that very seriously. The Leader stated that he did not think it was helpful at a time when each of those people received support as an individual, received an allocated worker, for people to be making comments which could be seen to generalise or stigmatise people who were homeless in the borough. The Leader wished the Council did not have to put people in Carlton Park Hotel and he was hopeful that over the weeks ahead, the situation would be that the numbers reduce or come down to zero altogether. He was absolutely conscientious and aware of the concern and strength of feeling that had been made by the residents but, in the end, the Council also had a moral and legal obligation to those people who needed a roof over their head because the only other alternative was to put them out onto the streets.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen stated that she was not there to debate the Housing Strategy and would stick to what she had seen from residents, business owners, the school and various other representatives. Councillor Yasseen explained that she was taken aback by the response to the public question in which it was explained that the Council did not have enough time to represent itself to explain decisions that had been made to house people, some of them extremely vulnerable, in this way. Councillor Yasseen asked the Leader whether it was appropriate, with two and a half thousand people under the age of 18 nearby? She had received one email, then more emails, then had attended the meeting on Monday with over 130 residents. Councillor Yasseen stated that community, responding and being accountable was at the heart of the Neighbourhood Strategy and therefore trust should be built with residents. She asked the Leader whether it would have been a good decision to send officers to the meeting to represent how decisions got made and the situation could be moved forward. Councillor Yasseen stated that everyone got the same amount of notice. It was an emergency, and the Leader did not class it as one.

The Leader stated that he had nothing to add to what was stated earlier. Advice had been provided regarding the best way of ensuring that officers be able to attend the meeting. There was no problem in principle with officers speaking to a group of residents at a meeting and the Leader was happy to ensure that that would happen if further discussions needed to take place. If the request to attend the meeting had been received a week prior, there would have been no issue but that is not what happened.

5. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Would you please give an update on the building of a new café at Thrybergh Country Park with an estimated opening date?

Councillor Sheppard explained that what had been seen at Thrybergh and Rother Valley as the tendering process was being completed were the same sorts of cost pressures affecting the schemes right across the country. Since the Levelling Up Funds were allocated, construction prices had risen sharply, way beyond the inflation rates broadcast, and continued to do so. The Council were currently looking at what could be done to best deliver on the kinds of schemes that were agreed to and would engage with Councillor Bennett-Sylvester as soon as possible on what that looks like.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that there had been some discussions and frustration regarding the scaling back of places at Thrybergh Country Park, especially regarding the loss of the new car park and new pedestrian access. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked Councillor Sheppard for his word that with the café, there would be no scaling back on the quality as the potential of a commercial unit was something that would really help the park and also help the borough wider.

Councillor Sheppard stated that he could not make commitments whilst the tendering process was still underway. What he could confirm was that work was underway with the next two phases for the pathways around the park from the Council budget. The Council would continue to do their best for Thrybergh Country Park and all the other parks across the borough to ensure they have the facilities that make it a pleasant day out for families to enjoy.

6. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Can you please advise members on the situation regards the redevelopment of 3-7 Corporation Street and your proposed next steps in renewing the site?

Councillor Taylor explained that 3-7 Corporation Street was now in Council ownership and the demolition and clearance work was now on site. The blight on the town centre would soon be cleared.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that the plan was for this to be a mixed use development with residential and retail. He was concerned that some of the plans for town centre living were still too small in scale and often achieved by quite large incentive towards developers. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked whether or not part of the problem was that an uneven market had been created regarding residential properties within the town by releasing too much greenfield land where developers would sooner develop rather than go to the town centre. Was this something that was being considered and was there an imbalance in the market regarding where the Council could and could not attract developers?

Councillor Taylor explained that he had only been in his post as Cabinet Member for a couple of days and as such could not provide detail on that question. He did confirm that a tendering exercise had

taken place and contractors were being looked into, but no contract had been agreed as yet. What the Council did want to do was compliment the building of the Forge Island complex and create a positive environment.

7. Councillor Yasseen: As an Independent Councillor for Boston Castle, I prioritise ensuring the Council genuinely consults and involves residents and businesses in decisions affecting our communities. Are you willing to support this approach, or do you prefer maintaining the current superficial engagement?

Councillor Sheppard stated that he believed, from his experience within his ward and within his role as a Cabinet Member, that the Council did genuinely consult and involve residents, partners and businesses wherever they could to get better results.

Councillor Yasseen stated that she had been so concerned over the last couple of years about the lack of community consultation. Examples included the bicycle lanes in Boston Castle which were imposed as a route, issues concerning the cemeteries and Carlton Park Hotel. Councillor Yasseen stated that these had been done without appropriate consultation or responding to what local people were saying. She stated that she was so concerned that she asked OSMB to do a spotlight review and there were a number of recommendations within that report. Councillor Yasseen asked how the report and its findings, which reflected her concerns and the concerns of some of the residents that had attended the Council meeting, would be brought forward as there were concerns about the lack of involvement and community consultation on the very issues that had a detrimental impact on their lives.

Councillor Sheppard stated that he could not prejudge what OSMB would say but confirmed that he would respond when the recommendations came through. Councillor Sheppard stated that he was committed to working with residents to move forward and ensure everyone was kept informed. It was important to make sure that everyone understood the issues and hopefully support schemes moving forward.

8. Councillor Tinsley: Now planning has been granted on land near Highfield Park Maltby. Has the Council entered into any conversations about potentially buying properties, for Council Homes?

Councillor Allen explained that the Planning Application for Land at the North of Tickhill Road (Highfield Park) was for Outline Planning permission only. The application was subject to a further 'reserved matters' application which would determine the final number of homes and in turn the number of Affordable Homes to be delivered on the site. Once the numbers were confirmed, the Council, along with other

Registered Providers (RPs) would have an opportunity to bid for the Affordable Housing provision on the site.

In his supplementary Councillor Tinsley stated there were some environmental concerns regarding the land at and around Highfield Park. However, his supplementary question related to Council Housing. He stated that Doncaster Council were buying existing housing stock and asked if that was an avenue Rotherham Council would explore to increase Council Housing within the borough?

Councillor Allen explained the Acquisitions Policy allowed the Council to look at purchasing homes from developers across the borough, so yes.

9. Councillor Tinsley: Can the Leader update the Council over any actions taken since the motion on Little London Maltby were heard?

The Leader explained that a number of actions were underway including the removal of the accumulation of waste and the mound to the front of the properties and over half of the privately rented properties had now been inspected and improvements carried out by the Landlords to address areas identified as requiring action. A survey of residents to identify key crime and community safety concerns had also been completed.

In terms of purchasing the derelict buildings or potentially purchasing the derelict buildings, the Leader explained that, as part of the correct legal procedure, the Council had been out to tender for some consultants to help set out an options appraisal to be in place. It was being finalised as to who that would be and there would be further engagement with residents and ward members subsequently as part of the process.

10. Councillor Tinsley: Does the Council create a substance called CLO (compost like output) at the shared household residual waste facility?

Councillor Alam explained that the Council had produced different variants of compost like products from different streams and contracts. The garden waste went to a facility in Bradford for windrowing, where it was treated over 10-12 weeks and then went to the farming market as compost. The organic waste from the Pink Lidded Bins, went through Manvers and was used for land restoration after being mixed and treated in the Anaerobic Digestion part of the facility. The non-organic materials were sent to Ferrybridge.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley raised concerns regarding the biomass which went toward reclamation. In Maltby, the compost like material had toothbrushes in it amongst other things and it was not a well regulated material by the Environment Agency. He asked the Cabinet Member if he would be open to visiting the facility?

Councillor Alam confirmed he would be open to visiting the facility.

11. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Over the past 3 weeks Dalton Parish Council have been struggling to access legal advice with regards to a Traveller camp on Magna Park. Can you please review the possibility of parish councils being able to purchase legal services from RMBC to help assist with such instances?

Councillor Alam stated that it was understood that the unauthorised encampment was on private land and therefore the Parish Council were advised to seek independent legal advice. He confirmed that he would ask Legal Services to contact the Parish in relation to options for purchasing legal advice. There were a range of options that could be suggested including joining a framework which maybe more financially beneficial.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester paid tribute to the clerks at Dalton Parish Council, Mrs Holsey and Mrs Chico, for the work they had done over the past few weeks and Council Officers, Richard Bramhall and Neil Archer who had done all they could within their powers. Thanks was also given to Inspector Fretwell. Addressing Councillor Alam, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that the difficulties faced by those named had been enormous. The Parish Council was small and poorly financed and did not have the same powers as big private businesses or the Council. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked that a wider discussion take place, probably with the Deputy Leader, Neighbourhoods and Parish Councils to make sure everyone was aware of what they could and could not do and to make sure the maximum resources were used to help in difficult situations.

12. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Can we get this out of the way ahead of the service review. Can you please state absolutely that all council tenants will have the choice not to have Rothercare if they do not feel they require it?

Councillor Baker-Rogers explained that the Labour Group set out in their manifesto a commitment to a new programme of assistive technologies to enable people to live in their home for longer, and that residents who did not use the Rothercare system in their own home will no longer have to pay for it. Proposals to implement that commitment would be brought forward to Cabinet later in 2024.

13. Councillor Currie: Thank you to the positive response to my supplementary question on Automated Road crossing and the review of the criteria ,please could I ask formally for Roughwood and Rescope schools to be reconsidered for an automated crossing in light of this review?

Councillor Taylor was pleased to inform the Chamber that the assessment criteria for pedestrian crossings had recently been revised to better address the needs and safety of all road users. These updated criteria were designed to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of pedestrian crossing requests, considering factors such as traffic volume, pedestrian footfall, nearby amenities, and overall safety. In light of these revisions, Cabinet and Officers were happy to take requests under consideration – but of course there is a finite budget and many requests.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Currie asked that when the Forward Plan and the Place-Based Investment Plan were next to be reviewed, could all schools, without existing crossings, in super output areas, with an index of multiple deprivation, automatically be assessed for road crossings, irrespective of whether there was a school crossing patrol? Then, after all those schools had been assessed, move on to the other schools outside these areas of Indices of Multiple Deprivation?

Councillor Taylor confirmed that all considerations would be taken into account.

14. Councillor Currie: Please could you tell me the budget allocation to 20mph zoning in Rotherham?

Councillor Taylor explained that there was no specific budget allocated for the implementation of 20mph zones within the Council's Transportation Capital Programme. However, through the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety scheme programme, a number of Members had put forward such schemes for implementation and he advised Councillor Currie to do the same.

In his supplementary, Councillor Currie asked if some of the £4.6 million Levelling Up Fund money that had been gifted to the improvements of the stables at Wentworth Woodhouse, be used to invest in the infrastructure that improves everyday life around the estate. This included 20 mile per hour zoning at schools, traffic bottlenecks at the junction of Brook Hill, Upper Wortley Road and Lodge Lane, and the traffic flow through Thorpe Hesley at Thorpe Street and Wentworth Road to make traffic safer and more accessible to local residents? This was so that when all the extra welcome visitors to Wentworth Woodhouse arrived, all the issues would have been addressed and implemented.

Councillor Taylor explained that the money had already been designated for a specific purpose and therefore it would not be reallocated. In future, bids would be invited for various pots of money for road safety schemes and Councillor Taylor encouraged Councillor Currie to apply for those and make representations to the relevant departments.

15. Councillor C. Carter: Parking improvements outside Brinsworth shops were due to be completed before Easter. What is the cause of the delay and when will works be completed?

Councillor Sheppard explained that the scheme at Brinsworth had been the most complex project within the Towns and Villages Fund, dealing with seven different landowners in order to deliver the project. Legal agreements were completed on 9 February 2024, after nearly 18 months of negotiations with landowners.

Since that time, two routes to market had been explored, with a contractor appointed to deliver the scheme. As the first route to market was not successful, a second route was utilised which extended the tender process, delaying the delivery of the scheme by approximately six weeks. However, an initial meeting had now taken place with the contractor, and it was anticipated that works will begin in June 2024.

Ward Councillors had been involved closely with the project and had received regular updates regarding the complexity of the scheme through Ward Briefings, which would continue until the project was completed.

Councillor C. Carter explained that the changes were long awaited by residents and were being looked forward to. She explained that they did feel let down as they had acted in good faith in communicating the plans with residents that had been confirmed but not adhered to. Councillor C. Carter also stated that there had been very little communication and updates from Council Officers. She asked for reassurance that Ward Councillors would be kept informed of any further progress and changes as that progressed over the next month?

Councillor Sheppard agreed and stated that Officers would continue to liaise and keep Ward Councillors informed.

16. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Please take us through the reasons for reducing the number of roads members can nominate for resurfacing in their wards from three to one?

Councillor Taylor explained that the new Capital investment by the Council of £16.8m over four years, to maintain the improvement in the condition of the Unclassified (estate roads) Network and repair footways, would again allow all Councillors to nominate a road in their Wards that they would like to be included on this year's Highway Repair Programme.

This offer was consistent with previous years when the service had contacted the ward and asked for two or three roads to be nominated. For 2024/25 each Councillor was to be contacted – therefore adding up to the same.

However Members were informed that they should not feel constrained to providing just one road. If improvements were required, Members should contact highways.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that one of the problems with any council services was that those who shouted loudest got. He asked if it would be possible to provide information regarding not just Ward level but Super Output Area level, a percentage of roads that could be resurfaced but have been done, just to ensure that all neighbourhoods had equal access and there was no potential bias. Could that information be provided?

Councillor Taylor agreed to provide a written response.

17. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Until such time that a solution can be found for the congestion in Dalton can the removal of the bus lane opposite Lidl be considered to increase capacity and ease the choke points at the junctions of Doncaster Road with Oldgate Lane and Magna Lane?

Councillor Taylor explained that bus lanes were an important part of the Council's long-term strategy to reduce dependency on the car. By prioritising public transport it encouraged more residents to use the bus.

The bus lane on the approach to Mushroom Roundabout was a vital component of the x78 strategic bus route providing a reliable service to a large number of commuters daily between Sheffield, Meadowhall, Rotherham and Doncaster. The bus lane ensured that buses could keep to their schedules even at peak times.

Removing dedicated bus lanes, and other similar measures, often lead to induced traffic. This meant that any relief in congestion was typically short-lived, as more drivers chose to use the expanded road, eventually leading to a return of congestion levels or even worse traffic conditions.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that it was all well and good in theory but if the bus was sat for 20 minutes in traffic on Oldgate Lane or further down Doncaster Road for five minutes to access the bus lane, it was not very good. At the moment no solutions had been provided regarding the choke points. There was ever increasing traffic due to developments at Ravenfield, Wickersley and other areas. The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority had looked at a scheme to reduce congestion on the Mushroom Roundabout which unfortunately failed because of the infrastructure. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if, over the next four years, a commitment could be made to specifically look at reducing congestion in the area and to lobbying SYMCA for any potential funds

or help as the conditions were getting to a point where the lives of people in Dalton were being severely impacted by congestion?

Councillor Taylor stated that Government policy strongly supported the retention and expansion of bus lanes as part of a broader commitment to sustainable transportation. National guidelines emphasised the importance of reducing car use, cutting emissions, and investing in reliable public transport infrastructure. Removing the bus lane would be contrary to these policies and put at risk the allocation of future funding for such measures. Councillor Taylor also confirmed that he was willing to discuss any ideas put to him in his new role of Cabinet Member.

18. Councillor Z. Collingham: Having gained just one seat in the Borough elections, what do the Labour Group plan to change about their offer to the public?

The Leader responded by stating that yes, the Labour Group gained one seat and would have liked to have gained some more but the Conservative Group lost a third of the Members who were elected in 2021 so he would not be taking lesson from the Conservative Group in term of electoral success. A detailed plan had been set out about what the Labour Group wanted to do on behalf of the people of the borough. That was the deal that had been made with the people of the borough and the Labour Group would deliver on those pledge and build that trust as part of the process.

In his supplementary, Councillor Z Collingham stated that the Labour Group would essentially not be changing much about the offer to the public and just carry on with the same. The fact that the Conservative Group were there at all was a testament to their success and to Rotherham Labour's unique failure. He stated that many years ago Labour had 58 seats, that then reduced to 50 and then 34. The Labour Group were struggling to make any movement from that. The Conservative Party was the natural opposition in Rotherham and that was no longer the new normal. There was also an increased number of independents and that said a change to the offer was needed and not everyone was as happy as they used to be. Councillor Z Collingham's question was how could the Leader conclude that Rotherham Labour was not going backwards?

The Leader explained that when he arrived in the Chamber in 2011, there was 12 Conservative Councillors and they had now made it all the way to 13; congratulations on such a huge percentage increase in the amount of seats. The Leader also stated that the amount of money that the Conservative Party was spending in Rother Valley in order to hold on to that seat had to be astronomical and some of the Members would be aware of how much that was and where that money came from. The Leader stated that he would not read a huge amount into that in terms of the electoral outcome. He was glad that people had

put their faith in the Labour Group to continue leading the Council. They would do that to the best of their ability. There would be a General Election later in the year and the Leader would wait to see what the outcome of that would be. In concluding, the Leader stated that he believed that a lot of the Conservative Group's success was as a result of a significant amount of dubious money pouring into the borough and filling their campaign coffers.

19. Councillor Z. Collingham: How can a Council that takes three years to introduce simple parking restrictions and makes promises, only to break them, expect to be trusted by residents?

Councillor Taylor explained that it was unfortunately not uncommon for schemes to take longer than expected and for the Council and Councillors to then get blamed. However, implementing parking restriction was a complex process. Waiting restrictions, such as single or double yellow lines, were subject to the processing of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which is the legal framework and process that allows parking restrictions to be legally enforceable. The process of creating a new, or even amending, an existing order was complex. It could take several months to complete an order as they required many stages of public and statutory consultation. If objections to the TRO are received, this can then prolong the process. It also relied upon the government, legal processes, those working in the legal processes etc. Councillor Taylor confirmed that the proposals were taking place as quickly as possible within the set framework.

In his supplementary, Councillor Collingham stated that it was understood that there were process involved but it was not good enough for something like a Traffic Regulation Order, which was a 12 month process, to take three years. In this case, there was full engagement from Ward Members and community and there was no reason why it should take three years other than the internal delivery mechanisms of the Council. Councillor Collingham asked the Cabinet Member if he understood that there had to be a point where it was said, legalities aside, that it has taken too long and that it is not good enough and it needs to be done better? Everything there was poor communication or poor implementation, it just lead more people to think the Council was rubbish and those people stop reporting, stop engaging and stop believing that Council can help them. He asked what Councillor Taylor would do in his role to try and change that and do better?

Before answering the supplementary, it was confirmed that this question was in relation to New Orchard Lane, Thurstoft. Councillor Taylor read out the timeline that had been provided by officers in relation to that scheme: This TRO was raised informally in November 2022, some 18 months ago. Within this timescale, the Council also received a planning application for a local development, which also proposed a number of waiting restrictions.

This added an element of complication as the TRO for the waiting restrictions related to local development received several objections. To take a holistic approach, given the nature of those objections, it was prudent to consider both TROs together given their close proximity. This ultimately added time to the process but a more thorough outcome. On conclusion, all objections were duly considered and reported through the Council's Officer Delegated Decision process.

The date for implementation of the markings on site was given as the 16 May 2024, and coincided with the date on which the Traffic Regulation Order was officially sealed. Information obtained from the lining contractor indicates that markings were installed around the junction of New Orchard Lane and Kingsforth Road on the 16 May 2024. Due to weather conditions, the lining was not able to be completed. The team returned on 20 May and completed all but 5m of lining, owing to the presence of a parked vehicle. The team would continue to complete the remaining 5m as soon as possible.

20. Councillor Ball: What is the current funding gap for this year after having such a low council tax increase last financial year?

As Councillor Ball was not present to ask his question, a written response would be provided.

21. Councillor Ball: How much interest has this council earned from lending money out to the likes of Birmingham Council and Goldman Sachs over a 14 year period?

As Councillor Ball was not present to ask his question, a written response would be provided.

22. Councillor A. Carter: Given the accidents and speeding traffic on the section of Bawtry Road between Tinsley and Brinsworth Lane, will the council consider again the speed limit on the road, to reduce this to 30mph as residents and I have long called for?

Councillor Taylor stated that the Council took matters of speeding very seriously in accordance with their statutory Road Safety duty and continually undertook studies into road traffic collisions and took steps to reduce and prevent them. Based on these investigations, and within the resources available, a list of schemes was compiled, with funding directed towards locations that had the potential to produce the greatest reductions in accident severity and casualty numbers. The level of intervention measures across the borough was dependent on the funding allocation from central government.

In the case of Bawtry Road, Brinsworth, a road safety scheme was implemented in 2019. This scheme included the introduction of red

central hatching, improved signage and enhancements to pedestrian crossing facilities including a light controlled pedestrian crossing.

Regarding speed limits, these were set in accordance with standards established by the Department for Transport to ensure they were appropriate for the nature of the road.

In his supplementary question, Councillor A Carter stated that that sounded like a no, and he asked the Cabinet Member to confirm that.

Councillor Taylor explained that he would never say no and would always welcome debate and discussion.

Currently, the majority of motorists were traveling at speeds of 38.4 mph or below, which was influenced by the nature of the road, such as its wide layout and properties set back from the highway. To effectively change driver behaviour and reduce speeds, a fundamental redesign of the road would be necessary. This redesign would ensure any reduced speed limit was effective, complied with, and ultimately safer. Due to the significant costs involved, the Council were currently unable to make these alterations. However, they could conduct a review of the road conditions and existing traffic patterns to determine if any feasible improvements could be made.

23. Councillor A. Carter: Historically ward capital budgets and community leadership funds can be accessed for the whole 4 year term at the start of the term of office (i.e. 25/26, 26/27, 27/28 funds can be used as soon as needed). Can the cabinet member confirm this is still the case this term?

Councillor Sheppard explained that ward budgets were approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2024/25, so the revenue and capital budgets were in place for the next twelve months. Outside of an election year then any underspend on both the Community Leadership Fund (CLF) and the ward capital budgets can be carried forward.

However 4 years' worth of budget was not available and never had been.

Councillor A Carter asked, given the difficulties that had been experienced with lots of the Towns and Villages Schemes in getting quite big projects done within a three year period, would it not be sensible to enable ward members and communities to facilitate a bringing forward of funding so that the big schemes could move forward and be delivered in the four year cycle?

Councillor Sheppard explained that there were different schemes that could be utilised for such schemes. The ward capital budgets were for small to medium sized schemes. The larger Towns and Villages fund

and its successor would look at bigger projects. It was a case of putting them all together. However, the ward and community budgets had to be set in line with the Council's Budget setting process.

24. Councillor Tarmey: We recently received the request for member input on estate road resurfacing plans. Does the administration have any plans to seek member input into pavement/footway resurfacing as many pavements in Anston and Woodsetts are in very poor condition?

As Councillor Tarmey was not present to ask his question, a written response would be provided.

25. Councillor Tarmey: Residents in Anston have complained to me about the poor state of play equipment in Greenlands Park. What plans does the administration have to ensure rolling replacement of deteriorating equipment in RMBC owned parks this financial year?

As Councillor Tarmey was not present to ask his question, a written response would be provided.

26. Councillor A. Carter: Almost a year has passed since a resident complained about the lack of consultation on roof repairs on their leasehold property from the council, without any resolution. With a threatened bill of around £10,000 to that resident, does the cabinet member agree with me that this is wrong and should be resolved quickly?

Councillor Allen asked Councillor Carter to convey her personal apologies to the resident for the regrettable situation. However, this case had taken much longer than anticipated to resolve because specialist external legal advice was required to determine the most appropriate way to proceed on the matter. This information had recently been received and a decision is due to be communicated to residents imminently.

Councillor A Carter stated that he appreciated the response and looked forward to seeing the decision. He noted that the consultation process to undertake what were significant roof repairs on a house that the Council had the freehold on had been too long and he believed that the legal position was clear, that if they Council had not proceeded correctly, only £250 would be paid.

27. Councillor Jones: In 2023 OSMB agreed that the report to them from officers updating the current situation about Grange Landfill (Droppingwell tip) should be received annually, the last time this was done was February 2023, can you explain why there has been no update at OSMB this year?

Councillor Steele explained that in January 2022 OSMB resolved that:-

- That further update reports on the Grange Landfill site be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as and when there is a substantial change in the situation regarding the operation of the site or to any related issue.
- Updates will be provided in line with this and we expect this next to be when there are updates in relation to the outcomes in relation to footpaths, planning enforcement and the legal advice in relation to the call for evidence.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Jones stated that the same agreement was that if there were any significant changes in position, this would also be brought back to OSMB. Councillor Jones suggested that two Planning Inspectorate inquiries, a legal challenge around the classification of Phase 1 being contaminated and two access challenges to the Council's position which could end up in a legal challenge would constitute significant. He asked why this was not being reported?

Councillor Steele explained that he had only been appointed as Chair of OSMB at the current meeting but would provide assurances that he would speak with all the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Commissions as part of setting the work programme and if it was felt that more work was required on this matter, that work would be done. Councillor Steele would not make that decisions as an individual but with the other Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

28. Councillor Jones: In 2018 the Residents of Kimberworth filled claims around footpath claims over the land that has now been closed off by Grange Landfill LTD, last year the council was refused an inquiry due to the seal not being properly served. Can you give an update on where we are with this?

Councillor Alam explained that since the Planning Inspectorate changed their position, the Council had re-issued the Footpath Order, and this matter was currently with the Planning Inspectorate's Office who would deal with the Planning Inquiry through a hearing. The Council were currently awaiting a date and chasing to ensure that this was done as quickly as possible.

Councillor Jones stated that that might come as a surprise to the Planning Inspectorate. The footpath claim has taken over four years to get to the final stage and mired in administrative errors i.e., the seal, which caused the Council to re-serve the claim this year, including a further consultation period which should have concluded in January 2024. According to the government guidance on their website, the procedure should take 42 days. Yet, when speaking with the Planning Inspectorate in the week prior, Councillor Jones stated that they had

not received any paperwork from Rotherham Council for the inquiry to move forward. Councillor Jones asked Councillor Alam why this was?

Councillor Alam explained that he would take the question to the legal team and provide a written response.

29. Councillor A Carter: A resident has contacted me with their frustrations about the lack of planning enforcement regarding the MTL site in Brinsworth. Can the council please outline the current position regarding this?

Councillor Taylor explained that when planning permission was granted, conditions were imposed restricting construction hours, as well as hours of use and of deliveries to mtl's new building once it becomes operational. However, the existing building which mtl occupied did not have any such restrictions on its use. The Council's planning enforcement team had received numerous alleged breaches of these conditions and had investigated all of the complaints to date including liaising directly with mtl. Part of the challenge was identifying which vehicles were going to which site, and whether the planning conditions applied in respect of those vehicles. As Councillor Carter was aware, the Council could not prevent vehicles travelling along Grange Lane as it was a public highway or to the existing site which did not have any restrictive conditions imposed upon it. Mtl had assured the enforcement team that the only breach of the construction hours condition was when a concrete mixing lorry turned up late due to batching plant issues and unfortunately with concrete there was a need to complete the pour to avoid abortive / defective works. As far as Councillor Taylor was aware there had not been any other specific breaches of the condition imposed on the planning permission.

Councillor Carter asked what the outcome had been from the proven breach and what could be done to stop future breaches?

Councillor Taylor explained that the breach had been a one-off, it had not been a pattern of breaches and the Council would only pursue enforcement action when it was expedient to do so. From the evidence that had been gathered to date, there was not enough to justify formal enforcement action.

30. Councillor A Carter: Having been told that moving traffic enforcement will now not take place on Wood Lane, would the council consider a trial of opening Wood Lane to traffic during non-peak times?

Councillor Taylor explained that, following the completion of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the A630 Parkway Widening scheme, the Council had gathered significant data on traffic patterns and volumes in the area, including Wood Lane. The findings indicated that, even with the A630 scheme complete, opening Wood Lane to all vehicle traffic would lead to a substantial increase in movements.

Specifically, the projections showed an additional 400 vehicles passing through Brinsworth Centre during peak times, effectively doubling the current traffic levels. Of particular concern was the impact on Brinsworth Lane, where approximately 300 additional vehicles would pass by the Junior School in the inter-peak period. Given these findings, there was no intention to open the road to traffic at this time. The Council's primary concern was the safety and well-being of residents.

Councillor A Carter stated that it was disappointing to hear that a trial would not be considered. He had wanted the trial to take place between 7pm and 7am. He asked again if a trial could be considered and if not, when would it be reviewed again?

Councillor Taylor explained that residents safety was the main priority. Given the figures provided, it would not be wise to conduct a trial at this point. Further, any trial would also require a discussion with Sheffield City Council as Wood Lane connected across the administrative boundary. It was therefore not a decision the Council could take unilaterally.

31. Councillor Jones: In December 2023 you blocked a motion instructing officers not to allow access to public land to allow the reinstatement of BH5 can you please give us an update on what the councils current position is?

Councillor Read explained that the Council's position remained the same in that whilst it had the ability to monitor any potential groundwater pollution, it would take that opportunity. Subsequently, the Environment Agency had told the Council that they were asserting their legal rights to ensure that that took place, and the Council did not have an option about it. The Leader explained the EA had sent the Council a letter that simultaneously stated that and gave a background document that said the exact opposite. What the Leader had said more recently was that he wanted the Council to pursue every legal avenue to address the woeful service that the Environment Agency had given to the people of Rotherham. The Council were going through a process of taking legal advice and the Leader would provide an update once consideration of that advice had taken place.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Jones stated that he had had a telephone conversation with the officer that had now been tasked with overseeing Grange Landfill due to an error on their part to publish their complaints assessment report in December and March of 2024, a legal requirement. The Officer had explained that little had changed on-site but reaffirmed that BH 5 needed to be reinstated with the Council's permission or an alternative site needed to be approved under a new permitting application. Failure to do so and accept any waste on site would be an immediate breach of that permit. The Officer went on to say that the re-permitting process was now backlogged,

possibly into years. Councillor Jones asked the Leader if he would now guarantee that the Council would not give any access permission to reinstate BH 5? If not, why not if in their words, it is not a legal ability for them to force it on the Council?

The Leader explained that he could not comment on a telephone conversation that Councillor Jones had with someone unknown to him. The Council would continue to follow the legal process to establish the Council's rights. The fundamental position remained as it had always been and that was that it wanted to stop tipping from taking place on the site. If it could stop the borehole, and if, in turn it stopped tipping from taking place, then that would be done. The position at the moment was that the Council were not able to do that.

28. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

24th May 2024

Mr Richard Green

Dear Mr Green

Question at Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question you submitted to the Council meeting on 22nd May 2024, which I have set out below along with my response:

How many contracts does RMBC have with YPO for the purchase of gas supplies and if it is only a single contract, how is the supply split between business and domestic usage in terms of cost?

I can advise that the Council does not have a direct contract for the supply or purchase of Gas with YPO. The Council does access the YPO framework for energy/utilities and through this currently has awarded a contract to Corona for the supply of gas.

In 2023/24 the total cost of supply was £7.65m, comprised of:

- Non - operational (schools, academies etc) £5.02m
- Operational properties (Council Portfolio) £1.39m
- District heating comprises of £1.24m

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities

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**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working**

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

30th May 2024

Ms Nida Khan

Dear Ms Khan

Question to Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

As we are all aware time is running out and we have no clarity on what is happening with the planning permission. What does RMBC start putting in place if the planning application is not successful? Where will the new site be for the burials for the Muslim community?

I can advise that an update from Dignity regarding the planning application was shared on 30th April by email with the quarterly meeting minutes. Dignity have informed the Council through their Operational Plan that there is burial space for 6 Years and 6 Months for lined graves, 4 years and 4 months for earthen graves and 3 years 3 months for children and baby graves in the Muslim burial section.

We recognise the importance of this for the Community and the Council are engaging with Dignity robustly to ensure that they discharge their responsibility to ensure that facilities are available to all of our communities.

We will ensure that we continue to communicate this through the regular meetings that we have. The next meeting is on July 25th, and we will ask Dignity to update publicly at this stage. In the meantime, the Council is pressing Dignity to ensure that there is a clear plan and that this is ready to be shared.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working

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**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working**

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

30th May 2024

Ms Shazia Yousaf

Dear Ms Yousaf

Question to Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

What is the Council doing about the issues raised by Dignity recently that the extension at Herringthorpe Cemetery cannot go through due to being unable to satisfy the EA following borehole testing?

The Council recognises the importance of this issue and as the Leader has previously said, we will ensure that provision is made. That means continuing to hold Dignity to account to deliver on their contract, and I am assured that the concerns you express are being raised at the most senior level with the contractor.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working

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Councillor Sarah Allen – Cabinet Member for Housing

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24th May 2024

Mr John Strawinski

Dear Mr Strawinski

Question to Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question your raised to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

Council Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy says they will end use of hotels. What plans and timescales can we expect?

The Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-2026 aims to end the routine use of hotels as temporary accommodation by March 2025. I should say though that the demand for emergency and temporary accommodation has increased over the last year. These pressures are not unique to Rotherham and are being felt regionally and nationally. All Councils are receiving unprecedented demand from households losing their homes.

To give you an idea of the pressure on services, in Rotherham there were 175 households living in all types of temporary accommodation at the end of March, which is a 25% increase from the previous year.

In line with the strategy we agreed, the Council is doing everything it can to minimise the use of emergency accommodation including hotels. Over the past 3 years, the Council has increased its portfolio of self-contained temporary accommodation

properties from 64 units to 115 and a further 13 additional properties ring-fenced for homeless people who have experienced domestic violence.

The Housing service recently secured funding to add 16 properties to the Council's in-house temporary accommodation portfolio, and in March's budget we agreed funding for a new service to provide additional support to those living in emergency accommodation, to assist with moving on to more settled accommodation.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Allen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Sarah Allen – Cabinet Member for Housing

Riverside House

Main Street

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Tel: (01709) 255821

Email: sarah.allen@rotherham.gov.uk

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Our ref

SA/LH

Please Contact

Councillor Sarah Allen

Direct Line

01709 255821

24th May 2024

Mrs Elizabeth Strawinski

Dear Mrs Strawinski

Question to Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question your raised to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

Why has it taken this action to raise the profile of this matter - what steps were in place to monitor the effect of the current situation on the local community and what actions were identified and in progress?

The Council has legal responsibilities to place homeless households in emergency accommodation, including in hotels, when no other accommodation is available. Officers maintain regular communications with hotel management including through visits. Every homeless household placed in emergency accommodation has an allocated Resettlement and Support Officer who works with them to resolve their situation and make referrals to support agencies where additional support needs are identified. Any reported issues are followed up and in cases where occupancy agreements are breached the Council reserves the right to end duties to accommodate.

More widely, Council Officers and Police Officers meet regularly with ward members to review and discuss challenges in local areas. Any increases in crime or anti-social behaviour are highlighted and joint work is established to try and address issues.

- The Council takes these matters very seriously and encourages residents to report any incidents to the police or the Council's community protection team. A range of actions have been identified and progressed including:
- Regular close working with the Hotel management
- Ensuring any breaches of occupancy agreements are dealt with
- Drafting of Code of Conduct for residents
- Increased officer presence at the hotel including management room checks
- Increased patrols
- Monitoring of community impact and tensions
- Redeployment of CCTV
- Engagement with all ward Councillors and Complainants
- A letter drop to all residents in the surrounding area to encourage direct reporting

I should add that if residents are struggling to make reports for any reason, or are not receiving a timely response, I would want to hear about that directly and I'm happy to receive any information you may have in relation to this.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Allen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Sarah Allen – Cabinet Member for Housing

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Councillor Sarah Allen

Direct Line

01709 255821

24th May 2024

Mrs Michele J Whyley Skellum

Dear Mrs Whyley Skellum

Question to Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question your raised to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

What assurance will we have that this issue will be prioritised and a multi - agency plan of action implemented?

I can provide assurance that this is a priority area for the Council, and working with all of our partners, ward Councillors and stakeholders, including the hotel, we will continue to tackle the issues identified. We do take these matters very seriously and encourages residents to report any incidents to the police or the Council's community protection team.

A number of actions are now being undertaken, which primarily focus on addressing any criminal or anti-social behaviour.

The Council has legal responsibilities to place homeless households in emergency accommodation, including in hotels, when no other accommodation is available. Officers maintain regular communications with hotel management including through visits. Any reported issues are followed up and in cases where occupancy agreements are breached the Council reserves the right to end duties to accommodate.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sarah Allen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Sarah Allen – Cabinet Member for Housing

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Please Contact

Councillor Sarah Allen

Direct Line

01709 255821

24th May 2024

Mr Martin Skellum

Dear Mr Skellum

Question to Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question your raised to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

Have Rotherham Council failed its duty of care to individuals they have placed in The Carlton Park Hotel with no apparent social support or supervision. Not just these individuals but the community in general. With no consultation whatsoever they placed people with severe social problems between a School and a College endangering the children and young people that attend there.

I can advise that families and single people will be placed in hotels or bed and breakfasts when there are no other options available. The Council is fulfilling its legal duty to people who are made homeless in this way. The Council is committed to move families and single people out of hotels or bed and breakfast at the earliest opportunity, unfortunately this is slowed by the availability of affordable accommodation.

Risk assessments take place on an individual basis – each individual placed at the hotel had a dedicated worker and support in place. As a number of incidents have been reported the risks of the number of placements has been reviewed and the number of placements is being reduced as soon as possible. The council is working

with the Police to address the incidents reported and to reduce the risks of future occurrences.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Allen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

Riverside House
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S60 1AE
Tel: (01709) 822700
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CR/LH	(01709) 822700	22770	Councillor Chris Read

5th June 2024

Joanna Killian
Chief Executive
Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
Westminster
London
SW1P 3HZ

Dear Joanna

Voter ID

I am writing to you to ask that the LGA work with other interested parties to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the impact of the requirements for Voter ID on participation and in particular the impact in areas of deprivation and those areas with greater numbers of people who have a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act 2010.

What is clear from the information available in Rotherham alone is that the numbers of those disenfranchised in just the local elections far exceeds the numbers of allegations of electoral fraud let alone any actual fraud. Many Councillors believe that the legislation is clearly disproportionate in its effects. It has effectively imposed a system where people are presumed guilty of attempting to fraudulently vote and so required to prove their innocence through the use of identification.

An understanding of the numbers of those disenfranchised nationally and then a comparison with the figures for electoral fraud cases would allow a greater understanding, based on the evidence, of whether the changes in the law are disproportionate in their impact on the vulnerable and disproportionate to the issues that they purported to address.

I look forward to your reply which I will share with other Councillors here at Rotherham.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

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Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Riverside House

Main Street

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Our ref

VC/LH

Please Contact

Councillor Victoria Cusworth

Direct Line

07824895314

31st May 2024

Councillor Simon Ball

Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for your question to Council as follows:

What would be the impact to local schools if Labour's proposals to remove VAT relief to independent schools was put in place?

Labour's plan to fund an additional 6,500 teachers across the country would help to cut class sizes and improve the education received by children right across the country, including here in Rotherham. A pro-rata distribution of those additional teachers would stand to see hundreds of local children benefit directly.

On the other hand, there are no independent schools in the borough, with only a very small number of Rotherham children attending independent schools elsewhere, so the impact in that regard would be minimal.

Labour's plans to improve our education system after 14 years of Tory failure by ending single word Ofsted judgements and bringing in report cards with annual checks on safeguarding and attendance, inspecting multi-academy trusts as well as schools themselves - and recruiting more than 6,500 additional teachers, would help to give all of Rotherham's children the educational opportunities that they deserve.

Yours sincerely

**Cllr Victoria Cusworth****Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services****Labour and Co-op | Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward****Peer Mentor and Member Peer | Local Government Association Labour Group**

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Councillor Robert Taylor – Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy

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E-mail: robert.taylor@rotherham.gov.uk

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Please Contact:

Cllr Robert Taylor

20th June 2024

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester

Elected Member

Via email: michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Council Meeting – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for your supplementary question to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below:

One of the problems with any council services was that those who shouted loudest got. He asked if it would be possible to provide information regarding not just Ward level but Super Output Area level, a percentage of roads that could be resurfaced but have been done, just to ensure that all neighbourhoods had equal access and there was no potential bias. Could that information be provided?

The service does not hold the information in relation to roads resurfacing at super output level. Resurfacing of roads in its widest sense is based on condition, which is without bias. In relation to ward member nominations, officers are seeking guidance from members who know their areas well however any suggestions still need to be compliant in terms of the condition of the road, which drives any subsequent resurfacing.

Our Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP)

[Highway Asset Management Plan November 2023.docx \(live.com\)](#) sets out how we manage the condition of the highway network and the criteria for identifying potential schemes. It is based on the principles set out in the Highway Infrastructure

Asset Management Guidance (issued May 2013) and the Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP), both commissioned by the Department for Transport (DfT) was published.

Roads are identified for repair using condition information obtained from condition surveys carried out annually. Each year 25% of the unclassified network is manually inspected and the condition recorded. So, the whole of the unclassified network is visually inspected over a 4-year cycle.

The whole of the classified network is (condition) scanned by a purpose-built vehicle in one direction every year. The following year it is scanned in the opposite direction, completing the full condition information for the whole of this network.

Additionally, following the award of additional Capital funding investment to maintain the condition of the Unclassified Network (estate type roads), the Highways Asset team have made a request to all Ward members asking them to submit suggestions for sites that they would like to see repaired. It is our intention to include one site per Ward member into the Indicative Highway Repair programme.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Robert Taylor
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy

**Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe
and Clean Communities**

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SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

24th May 2024

Councillor Simon Ball

Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question you submitted to the Council meeting on 22nd May 2024, which I have set out below along with my response:

What is the current funding gap for this year after having such a low council tax increase last financial year?

I can advise that the Council has a balanced Budget for 2024/25 as approved at Cabinet and Council in February 2024.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE

Boston Castle Ward

Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities

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Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities

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SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

24th May 2024

Councillor Simon Ball
Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question you submitted to the Council meeting on 22nd May 2024, which I have set out below along with my response:

How much interest has this council earned from lending money out to the likes of Birmingham Council and Goldman Sachs over a 14-year period?

I can advise that in 2022/23 the level of interest earned was £3.156m. In 2021/22 this figure was £171k.

The level of income earned from this type of investment is shown within the Council's annual published accounts, specifically at Note 26, which is published on the Council's website dating back to 2009/10.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities

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Councillor Robert Taylor – Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy

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RT/LH

Direct Line:

(01709) 822700

Please Contact:

Cllr Robert Taylor

24th May 2024

Cllr Drew Tarmey

Elected Member

Via email: drew.tarmey@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Tarmey

Council Meeting – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for your question to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

We recently received the request for member input on estate road resurfacing plans. Does the administration have any plans to seek member input into pavement/footway resurfacing as many pavements in Anston and Woodsetts are in very poor condition?

I can advise that Ward Members can contact the Council's Highway Service to raise issues with the condition of a footway in their area and the team will carry out an inspection on the adopted footways to ensure they are safe for all users. The Highways Service will contact Local Councillors to make them aware of any proposed footway repairs in their area prior to delivery and any footways requiring improvement will be included on the Forward Programme for consideration with other sites in similar condition.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Robert Taylor

Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy

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**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working**

Riverside House
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Rotherham
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E-mail: cldr david.sheppard@rotherham.gov.uk

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

30th May 2024

Cllr Drew Tarmey
Elected Member

Via email: drew.tarmey@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Tarmey

Question to Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

Residents in Anston have complained to me about the poor state of play equipment in Greenlands Park. What plans does the administration have to ensure rolling replacement of deteriorating equipment in RMBC owned parks this financial year?

During the Council's budget setting process for 2021/22, a two-year programme of play area improvements was agreed to improve play areas in at least 13 play locations across the borough, with a total investment of £100k. This programme enhanced 23 play areas.

As part of the two-year play area improvement programme, Greenlands Park saw the replacement of 2 pieces of play equipment and a multi play unit totalling £12,875.

To ensure play areas remain accessible and enjoyable for the community, the Council has committed to a further 3-year investment from 2024/25 for the Children's Playgrounds Programme totalling £919k. This includes:

- The creation of new play facilities at Rother Valley Country Park
- The creation of new play facilities at Thrybergh Country Park
- Complete refurbishments and modernisation of six existing playgrounds across the Borough (sites to be agreed).

In addition, the service will continue to work with Ward Members and local developers to implement further play area improvements via Section 106, ward budgets and Community Infrastructure Levy.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working

Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities

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SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

6th June 2024

Councillor Ian Jones
Elected Member

Via email: ian.jones@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Jones

Question at Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Further to your question raised at Council, I am writing to follow up on your supplementary question as I said I would liaise with the Legal Department.

In your question you asked for an update, and I provided the explanation provided by Legal Services in relation to this matter. I explained that the Footpath Order had been re-issued and that we were awaiting a date from the Planning Inspectorate.

I was somewhat confused by your follow up on this matter and I believe that we were talking at cross purposes. As I said, the Footpath Order has been re-issued. The Council has provided the sealed plan and Notice to the Planning Inspectorate on 12th January and the advert and certificate of posting on 16th January.

In relation to the Planning Inspectorate the Department has been in contact with them in order to ascertain the earliest possible date that can be provided to the Council to ensure that this is heard. As promised, I followed up with the Department and have ensured that the full documentation has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

[Redacted]

I am very keen to ensure that the Council renews the working relationship with those in the community who share the objective that is set out in the Council motion in relation to the Tip. I would be grateful for your involvement in facilitating this and in any suggestions that you have for enabling this.

[Redacted]

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 17 July 2024

Report Title

Petitions

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Samantha Mullarkey, Governance Advisor
01709 247916 or samantha.mullarkey@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides Members with a list of all petitions received by Rotherham MBC since the last Council meeting held on 22 May 2024 and details which petitions will be presented by members of the public at this Council meeting.

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

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Council receive the petition listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report and the lead petitioner or their representative be entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.
3. That the relevant Strategic Director be required to respond to the lead petitioner, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Wednesday 31 July 2024.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

PetitionsPetitions

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council refreshed its Petition Scheme in May 2019, following its introduction in 2010 after legislative changes requiring local authorities to respond to petitions. Whilst the Localism Act 2011 repealed that statutory requirement, the Council has maintained its commitment to responding to issues raised by local people and communities in respect of matters within the Council's remit.
- 1.2 The current Petition Scheme sets thresholds for various routes that petitions can take through the decision-making process:-
- Up to 20 signatures – not accepted as a petition.
 - 20 to 599 signatures – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and response by relevant Strategic Director.
 - 600 to 1,999 signatures – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and referral to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for review of the issues, followed by response by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board setting out their findings and recommendations.
 - 2,000 signatures and above – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner followed by a 15-minute debate of the petition by the Council.
- 1.3 This report is submitted for information to detail the number of petitions received since the previous Council meeting held on 22 May 2024 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision-making processes.

2. Key Issues

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

Subject	Number of Valid Signatures	Lead Petitioners	Directorate
Removal of Mayor's Picture	27 (valid) 1 (not valid)	Councillor Simon Ball	Assistant Chief Executive

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

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

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 This report is submitted for information in order to detail the petition received by the Council since the previous Council meeting held on 22 May 2024. There are no consultation issues directly associated with this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Under the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme, this petition will not be debated. It will be sent to the Assistant Chief Executive to provide a written response.
- 5.2 The Assistant Chief Executive is required to provide a written response to each lead petitioner within 10 working days of the meeting. Responses are therefore due by Wednesday 31 July 2024.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

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

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

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

11. Implications for Ward Priorities

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

12. Implications for Partners

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

13. **Risks and Mitigation**

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

14. **Accountable Officers**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Report Author Samantha Mullarkey, Governance Advisor
01709 247916 or samantha.mullarkey@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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THE CABINET
10th June, 2024

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sheppard and Taylor.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to record.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A number of members of the public attended the meeting and asked the following questions:-

(1) Mr. Stubbs, a member of the Boston Castle Moorgate Residents Association, expressed his disappointment following the questions at the Council Meeting on the 22nd May, 2024 where it was suggested a meeting be arranged with local residents following the raising of their concerns and the number of questions unanswered.

A letter from the Chief Executive indicated a meeting would be arranged by the 7th June, 2024, but nothing had yet been confirmed.

In response the Chief Executive confirmed she had written to Councillor Yasseen, Ward Member. The Chief Executive advised that any such meeting would be subject to further consideration in light of the calling of a General Election.

A meeting would be arranged as quickly as possible following consultation with the Monitoring Officer and details provided in the next few days.

In a supplementary question Mr. Stubbs explained it had been three weeks since the meeting of full Council. Residents were experiencing problems on a day-to-day basis and believed the Council was simply stalling. A residents' meeting attended by over a hundred and twenty people was arranged on the 20th May, but neither Councillor Sheppard nor anyone accountable attended this public meeting.

The Chief Executive reiterated the need to take advice given the restrictions on holding meetings during the period leading up to a General Election, but confirmed when a meeting was arranged senior officers would be in attendance and updates on actions to date would be provided.

(2) Councillor Yasseen referred to the situation with the Carlton Park Hotel and the recent residents' meeting which was held on the 20th May, 2024. From this meeting a priority list of queries was produced by residents, but the main issue of concern was did the Council have a legal contract in place with the owners of the Carlton Park and if so when did it commence and when would it end.

The Assistant Director for Housing confirmed there was no actual contract as such with the hotel and rooms were paid for on a nightly basis much like any other booking.

In a supplementary question Councillor Yasseen, therefore, asked how could the Council ensure priority for individuals and ensure the hotel was meeting specific need. It was difficult to understand how the hotel played a role in emergency housing when it continued to take regular bookings.

The Assistant Director for Housing explained the Carlton Park was just a provider for emergency accommodation and the wrap around support for individuals was provided by the Council. Those placed in emergency accommodation in a hotel had a designated support worker and were referred into commissioned support services.

Households placed at the hotel were subject to an occupancy agreement. In the event that occupancy agreements were breached then, if appropriate, the Council could bring a duty to accommodate to an end.

(3) Mr. Azam reiterated his current and previous concerns about Herringthorpe's Muslim Burial Ground and provided background information about the planning application to extend submitted in October, 2022. Little progress had been made and despite responses from statutory consultees it would appear Dignity believed it no longer viable to pursue the application. He, therefore, asked what was the Council's stance on this application and what was now happening with the land.

The Monitoring Officer pointed out the planning application was for Dignity to address. A meeting had been arranged with Dignity's Chief Executive, but this had to be rearranged to hopefully later this week where an update would be provided.

The Liaison Meeting was due to meet on the 25th July and a full update from both the Council and Dignity would be provided.

In a supplementary question Mr. Azam expressed his frustration with this long running issue and sought assurances that whichever Cabinet Member Bereavement Services came under would give their commitment moving forward. Visits had been made to the Muslim Section of the graveyard and an invitation was also extended to the Cabinet Member.

The Leader confirmed Bereavement Services was under the portfolio of Councillor Sheppard, who was also the Deputy Leader and he would, indeed, pass on the invitation.

(4) Mr. Hussain shared information he had received from Councillor Sheppard which indicated there was enough space in the Muslim Section at Herringthorpe Graveyard for six years and six months based on the figures he had received.

Having walked around the area there was only enough space for around sixty-five graves. Based on burial figures over the last five years, there was barely only two years space left. The calculations from Councillor Sheppard obviously differed and he provided details of the burials to date for this year alone.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed the data had been provided by Dignity and Glendale and formed part of their operational plan. Mr. Hassan was invited to provide further information and this would be taken forward with Dignity and Glendale and reviewed.

The Leader pointed out that the spacing concerns could be pointed out to Councillor Sheppard when a visit was arranged.

In a supplementary question Mr. Hussain explained he was in receipt of correspondence from Dignity dated 7th June, 2024, setting out figures for burials over the last three years, which direct conflicted with the information Councillor Sheppard had. He asked if someone could look into this.

The Leader invited Mr. Hussain to provide details of the information he was in receipt of and for this to be raised in the Liaison Meeting to ensure the correct figures were shared with everyone.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18th March, 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

5. HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT FLEXIBLE PURCHASING SYSTEM (FPS) PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to the submitted report which provided an update on the Housing Related Support Pathway and the implementation of the Flexible Purchasing System to support one pathway for Housing Related Support in Rotherham.

Housing Related Support Services were non-statutory services that supported people experiencing homelessness, (or are at risk of becoming homeless), to live independently in the community. It was designed to support the Council's efforts to alleviate and prevent homelessness.

This report, therefore, provided an update on actions taken to produce an agreed overarching service specification, co-designed with the market. It also described how this had been used to appoint experienced and skilled providers to the Flexible Purchasing System, which were able to support anyone at risk of homelessness, in a person-centred way.

The Flexible Purchasing System also allowed for timely access to the market, in the form of good quality and contractually compliant providers, to maximise future short-term grant funding opportunities which may become available in the future.

The re-commissioned Housing Related Support services have been developed alongside the market, and structured into the new pathway which created a single route into Housing Related Support, through the Council's Housing Service. To award the contracts for the re-designed services, further competitions have been undertaken with the providers appointed to the Flexible Purchasing System.

The services would support people who were able to live independently, but due to a range of factors, required additional support to build the skills and resources to manage their own home. The service would provide accommodation in the short-term, and work in a multi-agency way to develop plans for 'move on' and enable people to live independently in their own home.

The service would offer a pathway to move on accommodation, enabling people to explore different housing options and developing a plan of how to get there.

As the current contracts become live from 1st July 2024, this would be continually monitored. This change was supported by a clear communications plan, led by the providers and supported by the Council.

Efforts were already showing positive results and the Cabinet Member was looking forward to collaborating with providers and partners to ensure Council housing related support service were developed.

Cabinet welcomed the opportunities to ease the pressures and concerns on homelessness accommodation and whilst it was still early days the strategy would support those individuals who were at risk, to prevent them from becoming homeless and provide help that could be tailored to their needs.

Cabinet Members were committed to working together across directorates to ensure the outcomes could be delivered across various aspects of services.

The Assistant Director of Strategic Commissioning pointed out the number of providers provided positive assurance and significant value for those homeless or at risk. The Pathway provided the assurance and due diligence and the revised specification was fit for purpose for current need.

Resolved:- (1) That the update on the establishment of the Flexible Purchasing System for Housing Related Support Services as agreed by Cabinet in October 2022 be noted.

(2) That the success of the work undertaken to date with the establishment of the Flexible Purchasing System and subsequent procurement and contract award activity be noted.

(3) That a review take place after the first three years of the Flexible Purchasing System, to establish that it remains fit for purpose, with recommendations brought to Cabinet in early 2027.

6. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the submitted report which detailed how in order to support the future delivery of SEND services in Rotherham it was proposed to refresh the Rotherham SEND Strategy, vision and future priorities.

The report described in detail the changing regulatory expectations and current service position since the implementation of the previous SEND Strategy in 2019 and the conclusion of the Written Statement of Action following SEND Local Area Inspection in 2021.

The report also articulated a clear rationale for developing a new strategy.

The SEND Strategy had been co-produced with key stakeholders including children and young people and parents/ carers. Plans were in place to start a conversation with the wider population, this would include further conversation with parents, carers, children, and young people about how best they could be supported to achieve the co-produced vision and outcomes.

Consultation events delivered with the Young Voices Group and Rotherham, Parent Carer Forum would enable young people, parent carers, leaders and front-line practitioners from health, education and care services including the private and voluntary sector, schools, and settings, to come together.

The events would provide an opportunity to identify areas of strength when it came to experience of SEND and co-production, as well as suggestions for further development of the Strategy.

It was important that a refreshed vision and co-produced strategy for SEND services in the Borough was developed to reflect the changing environment and the current priorities for children, young people, parent/carers and families in Rotherham. A period of consultation and further engagement would support this.

Co-production workshops and engagement with young people had highlighted the need for the new Rotherham SEND Strategy to be written in a format that enabled the children and young people to see how it would impact their lives. The outcome of the co-produced development was reflected in the language used to in the seven outcome statements:-

1. I have a voice, and this is listened to and respected.
2. I am as healthy as possible.
3. I feel safe.
4. I have help and support in a way that suits me.
5. I have adults in my life who are supported to help me.
6. I am supported to be as independent as possible and have a purposeful life.
7. I belong and feel valued.

Evidence from Rotherham Borough data had identified three areas that continued to have a significant impact on the health, well-being and educational access for Rotherham children and young people. It was proposed they will become the focus of priorities within the SEND Strategy and would be referred to as commitments.

The co-produced outcomes framework would enable children, young people, and families to understand the proposed impact of actions and how this would be measured.

The final Strategy following consultation would be brought back to scrutiny for consideration.

Cabinet noted the growing area of demand for services nationally and the impact on education in meeting complex needs compounded by the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. The pressure on families and children was immense, but only by understanding and addressing some of the issues could local authorities make a difference.

The Cabinet recognised the work “My Life and My Rights” and applauded the recognition and ambition within the SEND Strategy in Rotherham and suggested this be shared with other authorities.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process and full support was given to the recommendations, subject to the further recommendations on the following point below:-

- Length of the consultation process with many organisations and partners including the Parent/Carer Forum.
- Inclusion of a glossary to explain the data and information sources within the strategy would be beneficial and provide greater clarity.
- Noting the percentage of children with sleep issues rises in children with special needs particularly children on the autism spectrum and children looked after and it was felt that the work being done regarding Sleep Pathways should be scrutinised further.

Cabinet was happy to accept the additional recommendations and noted the work already taking place about Sleep Pathways, but welcomed the opportunity for this to be considered further by the Health Select Commission.

Resolved:- (1) That the consultation on the refreshed Rotherham SEND Strategy that had been co-produced with partners across the Borough be approved.

(2) That the refreshed SEND Strategy be presented back to Cabinet in late 2024 for formal approval prior to implementation.

(3) That a glossary be included within the report/strategy going forward to explain the data and information sources used.

(4) That an item regarding the work being done regarding Sleep Pathways be referred to the Health Select Commission for future consideration.

7. SEND JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR ROTHERHAM 2024 - 2027

Consideration was given to the report submitted which sought approval of the Rotherham SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy (2024 – 2027)

This Strategy underpinned the shared vision and principles for joint commissioning to achieve commitment to improving the outcomes and life chances of the children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

By adopting the Strategy, the Council would emphasise the recognition that all children and young people have individual strengths and needs and that services and provision need to be differentiated.

The SEND Code of Practice 2014 determined how local partners should work together to jointly commission services to meet local needs and support better outcomes. Joint commissioning was the process of meeting needs and improving outcomes through joint planning, agreeing and monitoring services across agencies.

The proposed Strategy, therefore, met the legislative, policy and regulatory requirement to describe how the Local Authority and its partner commissioning bodies engaged in joint commissioning arrangements and reflected the priorities defined in the draft outcomes framework.

Delivering our aspiration targets for young people.

Further information was provided on coherent joint working along the neuro development pathways and the resources being invested to meet the needs.

Resolved:- That the Rotherham SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy (2024 – 2027) be approved.

8. FINANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the submitted report which provided an update on a number of financial matters and provided as an interim update following the approval of the Budget and Council Tax 2024/25 report by Council on 28 February 2024 and in advance of the Financial Outturn 2023/24 report and May Financial Monitoring 2024/25 report to be submitted to Cabinet in July 2024.

This report also provided an update on the Council's administration of the Local Council Tax Support Top Up payments, Household Support Fund 2023/24 and proposals for 2024/25 along with several Capital Programme variations.

The financial monitoring final outturn position reflected an overspend of £0.1m for the financial year 2023/24. The core directorates services had a final overspend of £8.8m. The directorate overspend was partially offset by the £5m corporate budget risk contingency held within Central Services approved within the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2023/24. Taken with savings delivered from the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, the final underspend in Central Services was £8.7m, which reduced the Council's overall outturn to a £0.1m overspend. This was an improvement of £1.1m from the December Financial Monitoring reported to February Cabinet as service areas delivered savings ahead of year-end, improvements in income were recognised and the Council generated further savings in Treasury Management.

The Council had also been allocated a total of £2.489m from the Household Support Fund for the period of April to September 2024. From experience of previous allocations of this fund, it was proposed that the Council would support a wide range of low-income households and was not limited to those in receipt of benefits. There was flexibility within the fund to identify which vulnerable households were in most need of support and apply discretion when identifying eligibility.

Cabinet Members welcomed the Council's financial position and the ability to manage the pressures whilst ensuring analysis was undertaken to fully understand what services were doing to bringing down cost and stopping the risks increasing.

The main pressures were looked after children placement costs and home to school transport as well as homelessness. Work to reduce placement pressures was ongoing.

The options for use of Household Support Fund have been assessed to meet the criteria of the grant funding streams and aligned with the other actions being taken by the Council to support people in need.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process and full support was given to the recommendations. However, discussion had taken place on:-

- The overspend in the Children and Young People's Service directorate, noting that this related to the Looked after Children (LAC) placement mix within the borough however work was ongoing in this area.
- Improvement in the treasury outturn position specifically relating to the PWLB borrowing.
- Levelling Up Fund allocated to the Sheffield Road Cycleway project, which was to support public realm uplift.
- Clarification on the payments for the Commissioner Support to Nottingham City Council.

The Cabinet welcomed the support to the budget process and the methods for reducing costs and a mix of savings; some of which were short term and some more permanent.

Resolved:- (1) That the update on the revenue budget financial outturn 2023/24 be noted.

(2) That the Council's progress on the delivery of the Local Council Tax Support Top Up payment 2024/25 be noted.

(3) That the Council's delivery of the Household Support Fund 2023/24 be noted.

(4) That provisional allocations of the Household Support Fund Grant 2024/25 of £2.489m be approved as detailed in Section 2.5 of this report.

(5) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, to determine revised and final allocations for the Household Support Grant to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of Household Support Fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the approved provisional allocations.

(6) That the capital budget variations as detailed in Section 2.6 of the report be approved.

9. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FOR ROTHERHAM CROSSROADS - CARING FOR CARERS, THE FUN HUB NURSERY AND RNN GROUP

Consideration was given to the submitted report which detailed a number of applications for the award of Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Rotherham Crossroads – Caring for Carers, The Fun Hub Nursery and RNN Group.

Details on each application were provided.

These requests were in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy (approved by Cabinet on 12th December 2016).

Resolved:- (1) That the application for Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Rotherham Crossroads – Caring for Carers be approved.

(2) That the application for Discretionary Business Rate Relief for The Fun Hub Nursery be refused.

(3) That the application for Discretionary Business Rate Relief for RNN Group be refused.

10. REVIEW OF THE HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY

Consideration was given to the submitted report which sought approval to commence a full review of the Council's Housing Allocation Policy with a view to the Council adopting a brand-new Policy during 2025 which reflected changed circumstances. The overarching aim of the review was to ensure the Council's Policy responded to demand and helped those in greatest housing need.

The consultation and engagement to establish the views and needs of people, including engagement with a range of stakeholders would be conducted throughout 2024 and early 2025.

Views from the consultation would be fed into the new Policy with an updated further report submitted in Summer 2025 detailing the findings of the consultation and a proposed refreshed policy.

Cabinet Members noted the scale and profile of housing need in Rotherham had changed significantly since 2014, whilst the Council was continuing its commitment to housing growth, the number of available social housing lettings had reduced overall across the sector. From 1980, when the Right to Buy was introduced, the Council had sold approximately 17,700 homes whilst the waiting list for Council tenants had continue to rise.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposal to commence a full review of the Council's Housing Allocation Policy be approved.

(2) That the proposed approach to undertaking the review be noted.

(3) That the new Policy be presented to Cabinet in due course for consideration and subsequent recommendation to Council for approval.

11. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - NATURE RECOVERY

Consideration was given to the submitted report which outlined the outcomes and recommendations of the spotlight review into nature recovery undertaken by members of the Improving Places Select Commission. The report had already been submitted to and considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 13 March 2024 and the Improving Places Select Commission on 19 March 2024.

The review was prompted by Council's declaration of a nature crisis at its meeting of 25 May 2022, with a request that a review be held into how the Council could support improvements to ensure a more natural environment was enhanced. The report, therefore, set out in detail the outcomes.

Resolved:- (1) That the report and the following recommendations be received:-

1. Consider what resources are required to enable RMBC to lead on the Nature Emergency and co-ordinate its response to the Environment Act 2021, including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Enhanced Biodiversity Net Gain, and other statutory reporting.

2. In line with the RMBC Nature Crisis Motion (and the mandatory Enhanced Biodiversity Duty), consider how RMBC's response to the nature crisis can be implemented, reported, and resourced (taking note of the response to climate action).
3. Consideration be given to the expansion of the Councillors' role as nature champions. This to include:-
 - a. How member stewardship of natural assets and geodiversity can be enhanced.
 - b. How nature recovery and climate action can be built into ward plans.
 - c. The involvement in overview and scrutiny in future monitoring and steering of this work.
 - d. Support through the Member Development Programme to ensure Members are equipped with appropriate skills and knowledge to undertake this activity.
4. Contribute to the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (including appropriate resourcing), detailing Rotherham's involvement in meeting South Yorkshire national and global targets of "30 x 30" as required by the Environment Act 2021.
5. Consider and plan for how the RMBC estate including all green and blue infrastructure such as allotments, cemeteries, parks and sports fields, amenity spaces, communal gardens, railway and highway verges, field margins and hedgerows, rights of way and access routes, woodlands and nature reserves canals, rivers and other water dependent habitats, can contribute to biodiversity strategies and targets, demonstrating compliance with the Council's obligations for the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty (taking external advice where necessary).
6. Prioritise Local Wildlife Sites and Woodlands - especially those in RMBC ownership to contribute to these targets, with a coordinated 'one council' programme to increase their positive conservation management with resourced management, monitoring and reporting.
7. Continue and expand the positive work already underway including tree planting, meadow management, changes in verge management, community engagement etc (as stated in the RMBC Nature Crisis motion).
8. Utilise appropriate evidence and information from the forthcoming Rotherham State of Nature report, alongside the forthcoming SYLNRS, and the agreed priority species lists, to set local species recovery targets and work plans, and ensure sufficient resources are secured to embed this approach in long term management opportunities.

9. Continue to apply robust planning policies and other policy tools to contribute to nature's recovery across the Borough, noting that Local Planning Authorities must have regard to the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy once published.

10. Plan to work towards zero non-essential use of pesticides and zero glyphosate by the Council.

11. Work with communities to support expansion of household composting, and supporting the development of nature rich gardens, including through awareness raising of the waste hierarchy and minimising the use of new and scarce resources and the associated impacts on the natural environment that these issues have; substantive resourcing and engagement plans will be essential.

12. Work with partners, stakeholders, Town and Parish Councils, communities, schools and residents on the above where appropriate.

13. That consideration be given to how the process for the adoption of community wildlife sites be streamlined.

(2) That Cabinet formally consider its response to the above recommendations within two months of receipt, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

12. 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.

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NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 17/07/24
	Mover: Councillor Baum-Dixon
	Seconded: Councillor Z Collingham
	Title of Motion: Grass Cutting and Green Spaces

Summary/Background:

The cutting of grass and maintenance of verges and public open spaces is a fundamental service provided by the Council.

Neglected and overgrown verges are a risk to public safety, obstructing motorists, limiting access for the disabled and reducing the scope for active travel.

Aside from designated parks, our community green spaces and common lands are vital public amenities. They provide areas for communities to walk dogs, to gather for picnics and games and to participate in informal sport and exercise, helping reduce social exclusion and tackle loneliness. Those attached to Local Authority and sheltered housing enhance the wellbeing of our most vulnerable residents, while well-kept cemeteries and memorials are vital in treating lost loved ones with dignity.

Effective maintenance of these areas is a public good, inspiring residents to take pride in their communities and improving the desirability of Rotherham, encouraging tourists to visit and businesses to invest. By contrast, poor maintenance risks public safety, takes away public amenities and encourages fly-tipping. It is hugely corrosive to the reputation of the Council and the good name of Rotherham Borough.

The Council is concerned that :

In 2024, there have been widespread and systemic issues in the delivery of this service, leading to complaints, concerns and frustrations that need to be taken seriously.

Certain areas have been deliberately disregarded from the outset and given over to rewilding projects. Whilst the benefits of rewilding are appreciated, the lack of local consultation or communication undermines public support and gives an appearance of an excuse for neglect.

Areas that remain to be cut are too often not being. Village focal points are left to deteriorate and public spaces become unusable. When maintenance is eventually

carried out, there are instances where it is incomplete or inadequate, with grass uncut around important signage and cuttings left behind, killing the grass beneath.

These are failures of the most basic kind that should not be accepted as satisfactory.

There has been no proactive communication with elected members or Neighbourhoods about the issues in the service, or any actions being taken to address them. This is poor partnership working and undermines residents' confidence in the Council's ability to plan and deliver the services they pay for.

We want to live in a Borough we are proud to call home and recognise the importance of maintaining our public spaces.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Acknowledge that the current situation is unacceptable.
2. Request that all Cabinet Members cascade the importance of proactive communication of service wide issues to Neighbourhoods and elected members.
3. Request that the Council's Cabinet consider additional capital funding if required to resolve issues identified in the service.
4. Request that the Improving Places Select Commission urgently considers:
 - a. A comprehensive public consultation on the maintenance of public areas across the borough.
 - b. A protocol for public consultation before rewilding areas.
 - c. A review of the effectiveness of zonal working and maintenance.
 - d. Equipment needs within the service.
 - e. Training needs within the service.
 - f. Premises, in particular issues with storing equipment undermining service delivery.
 - g. Sickness days lost per FTE within the service and opportunities to reduce this over time.
 - h. Engagement with landowners, parish and town councils, and statutory bodies to improve the coordination and cost-effectiveness of green space maintenance.
 - i. A review of any unclaimed land or land with unknown ownership to identify the owners and ensure effective maintenance.
 - j. Opportunities to engage community assistance in specific projects or empowering volunteers to participate in the maintenance of their local green spaces.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
25th June, 2024

Present:- Councillor Marshall (in the Chair); Councillors Baggaley, Blackham, Elliott, McKiernan and Michael Olugbenga-Babalola (Independent Person).

Thilina De Zoysa (Grant Thornton, External Auditor) was also present.

An apology for absence was received from Alison Hutchinson (Independent Person).

1. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute No. 5 (Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Strategic Risk Register Appendix) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH MARCH, 2024

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 12th March, 2024.

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

5. RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE PRESENTATION - ADULT CARE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director Children and Young People's Services, presented a report providing details of the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate.

The Directorate level Risk Register currently had 21 risks items listed reflecting the significant scale and scope of the Directorate of which one was also included on the Corporate Risk Register:-

- Public Health ACPH-R7 and SLT7 – To provide an effective co-ordinated multi-agency response to a future pandemic

10 new risks had been added to the register since it was last presented to Committee in June 2023 (Minute No. 104 refers) with one risk having now been closed.

Managing risk within the Directorate was subject to a 5-step approach – identify, evaluate, management, monitor, review and report with a robust risk management process in place to ensure appropriate governance and assurance was in place across all service areas of the Directorate. A scheduled programme of reviewing and updating Service and Directorate-level risk registers across the Directorate was led by risk leads for each Service and co-ordinated by a Service Improvement and Governance officer.

Risk registers were in place for each Service area to document their Service level risks which were formally monitored and reviewed at Senior Management Team meetings on a minimum monthly basis. The Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) had scrutiny and oversight of Service and Directorate-level risk registers with monthly briefings where risks were reviewed and, where necessary, could be escalated to the next strategic level for inclusion on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register.

All Directorate Managers (M2 and above) were required to undertake mandatory risk management training. A number of staff from across the Directorate had also completed the accredited Institute of Risk Management training during the current year.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- ACHPH-R14 There were a number of challenges around the workforce. There was a national shortage of those that wanted to work in the care sector particularly on the front line as well as Social Workers. Evaluation of salaries was undertaken to ensure the Authority was an attractive proposition for potential employees, the holding of job fayres and simplification of the recruitment process
- Suggestion that an estimate should be included with the cost column because of the challenges of maintaining a sufficient and skilled workforce

Ian was thanked for his attendance.

Resolved:- That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

(Appendix 1 was considered in the absence of the press and public in accordance with Paragraph 3 of the Act (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information/financial information))

6. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2023/24 AND EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS UPDATE

Thilina De Zoysa, Engagement Senior Manager, Grant Thornton, presented the 2023/24 External Audit Plan. Against a backdrop of ongoing audit reporting delays and backlogs, only 5 local government accounts had been signed by the September deadline. It was pleasing to note that such audit delays had not been an occurrence at Rotherham. The 2022/23 audit was closed in March 2024 one of the few such Councils to do so in the first quarter of the year. Grant Thornton anticipated this performance would continue for the 2023-24 accounts and would continue to work closely and effectively with senior management and the Audit Committee.

The report covered the key issues both for the national and local contexts.

The areas of significant risk were the same as in previous years, centring around management over-ride of controls, closing valuation of land and buildings and valuation of the net pension fund balance. Materiality was calculated on a similar principle as previous years but if items went above those thresholds they would be considered separately within the audit.

The planning work for the 2023/24 audit had commenced in March 2024 and continued into April. The final accounts work would begin in July and continue into the autumn.

Audit fees were set by PSAA as part of their national procurement exercise. Grant Thornton had been awarded the contract with effect from 2018/19 and was successful in the re-tendering exercise conducted in 2023. The scale fee set out in the PSAA contract for the 2023/24 audit was £383,874.

Due to the backlogs an assurance was once again given by Grant Thornton that Rotherham's audit would be completed by late November/early December 2024. Grant Thornton had been very realistic about their targets and discussed it with the Authority's Finance Team. It was an experienced external audit team who knew Rotherham's systems and had worked on the Rotherham audit previously.

Resolved:- That the update and the audit plan be noted.

7. PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24

Consideration was given to a report presented by Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance, which introduced the draft Statement of Accounts, which had been published on the Council's website by the deadline of 31st May, 2024. The Council was now into the public inspection phase, which would then follow on to the external audit phase of the process. It was proposed that the final accounts would be produced by the end of September 2024. However, Grant Thornton had indicated that, due to capacity constraints, it was likely to be late November or early December for the completion of the audit of the accounts.

The Statement of Accounts included 4 appendices, the first was the narrative report, which was a more user-friendly summation of the Council's financial position, which covered the key areas of the accounts. Appendix 4 showed the Council's response to enquiries from Grant Thornton with regard to issues that informed their audit risk assessment. The areas covered included fraud, laws and regulations and accounting estimates.

The accounts had been produced in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The new standard for lease accounting, IFRS 16, was originally due to be implemented in 2021/22 but after consultation this has been delayed until 1st April 2024. Narrative has been included in the 2023/24 accounts noting the expected impact of IFRS 16 on the 2024/25 accounts

Discussion took place with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Covid had become a much more limited reason for pressure during 2023/24 and was not expected to be seen during 2024/25. There would still be the odd reference in the accounts until the Covid grants had been fully utilised
- The costs involved in the exit packages included some redundancies but the majority were early retirements, sickness etc.

Resolved: That the draft unaudited 2023/24 Statement of Accounts be noted.

8. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Consideration was given to the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the 2023/24 financial year as presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit. This was published alongside the Council's Statement of Accounts on 31st May, 2024. The paper briefly set out the process that was followed to construct this AGS.

It was clarified that the process followed for constructing the 2023/24 AGS involved each Strategic Director overseeing a self-assessment of governance within their Directorates. This information was reviewed, and

the Strategic Directors added their own Statement of Assurance based on the information arising from their review of current and previous governance issues. The Corporate Governance Group then reviewed those statements and produced the AGS. The AGS was then reviewed by the Strategic Director Finance and Customer Services, the Monitoring Officer, The Chief Executive and the Leader.

The AGS included a framework of governance arrangements and how it related to the CIPFA guidance. It included how it was monitored and the assurances it received along with an update on matters referred to in the AGS for 2022/23. It also contained a statement from the Leader and Chief Executive.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Should any of the actions contained within the document change, the document would be updated and submitted to the Committee
- Health and Safety Executive – Internal Audit had carried out an audit last year, as requested by the Service, to look into the issues identified. A further audit had been carried out and a Substantial Assurance opinion received. The follow-up audit and the recommended actions was completed before the intended prosecution date
- There was no provision in the financial statements but was referred to in the accounts as a contingency liability in the narrative
- The newly established Housing Regulatory Assurance Board received detailed information with regard to compliance. There were new regulatory requirements for housing landlords involving a visit during a 4 year cycle to ensure the standards required were being met and to prepare the Authority for the level of inspection and scrutiny. A whole programme approach had been set up to ensure the Authority was clear what those compliance issues were that it would be asked about and judged against, and that there was an action plan in place. The action plan was to ensure that the work carried out met satisfactory/regulatory requirements. Progress was benchmarked and currently was good but there was still room for improvement

Resolved: That the draft 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement be noted.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST FEBRUARY TO 30TH APRIL 2024

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which provided a summary of Internal Audit work completed during 1st February to 30th April, 2024, and the key issues that had arisen therefrom.

The current position of the plan provided sufficient coverage for the Head of Internal Audit to provide their annual opinion at the end of the year. The plan attached as part of the report showed the position at the end of April 2024. The plan was updated following discussions with DLT colleagues to ensure it remained relevant and was focused on current risks. In the year to date the Service had delivered 1019 days of productive work against a plan total of 996 days.

Internal Audit provides an opinion on the control environment for all systems or services which were subject to audit review. The report detailed the audit opinions and a brief summary of all audit work concluded in the last quarter. 12 audits had been finalised since the last Audit Committee, 11 of which had received either Reasonable or Substantial Assurance and one Partial Assurance. A further 6 reports had now been finalised.

Internal Audit's performance against a number of indicators was also summarised in Appendix C.

The Relevant Internal Audit Standard Setters (RIASS) had agreed to use the new Global Internal Audit Standards as the basis for internal auditing for the UK Public Sector and had asked the UK Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards Advisory Board (IASAB) to carry out a review of the new standards with a view to identifying and producing any sector specific interpretations or other material needed to make them suitable for UK Public Sector use. The IASAB planned to issue consultation material by September 2024 with a consultation period of at least 8 weeks. Subject to approval by the RIASS, the final material for application in the UK Public Sector and guidance on transition would be issued later in 2024 to allow sufficient time for preparation for implementation.

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken since the last Audit Committee, 1st February to 30th April, 2024, and the key issues that have arisen from it be noted.

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

10. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which summarised the work undertaken by the Internal Audit Department. Based upon the Internal Audit work undertaken and taking into account other internal and external assurance processes, it had been possible to complete an assessment of the Council's overall control environment. In the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit, the Council had overall an adequate and effective framework of governance, risk management and control during 2023-24. This opinion and the contents of the report fed into the Annual Governance Statement.

The report included:-

- Legislative requirements and Professional Standards
- The Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the control framework, risk management and governance
- Resources and audit coverage during the year
- Summary of audit work undertaken during 2023-24, including both planned and responsive / investigatory work
- Summary of other evidence taken into account for control environment opinion
- Summary of audit opinions and recommendations made
- Internal Audit performance indicators

Audits were carried out in all areas of the Council during the year with the overall level of control found in audits to be good. 90% of audits resulted in a Substantial or Reasonable Assurance opinion, including 44% with Substantial Assurance. During 2023-24, 91 recommendations were made to improve the internal control, risk management and governance arrangements across the Council. Of these, 3 were in the highest category (red). There were also 5 Partial Assurance audit opinions in the year.

A comparison with the previous year showed that assurance levels were at similar levels. In 2022-23, 87% of audits resulted in a Substantial or Reasonable opinion, including 53% with Substantial Assurance. During 2022-23, 107 recommendations were made of which 9 were in the highest category (red). There were 5 Partial Assurance audit opinions in the year and one No Assurance.

48 audits final reports had been issued with a further 7 audit reviews having been completed at year end with the reports in draft form. Expertise was brought in to complete ICT audits on the Authority's behalf with 2 completed and one ongoing

Resolved:- (1) That the work undertaken during the 2023-24 financial year and the key issues that had arisen therefrom be noted.

(2) That the overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control within the Council be noted.

11. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee for July 2024 to June 2025. The plan showed how the agenda items related to the objectives of the Committee. It was presented for review and amendment as necessary.

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 25/06/24

Resolved: That the Audit Committee forward work plan, as now submitted, be approved.

12. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business for consideration.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD 26th June, 2024

Present:-

Councillor Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health In the Chair
Ben Anderson	Director of Public Health
Andrew Bramidge	Interim Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment
Jo Brown	Assistant Chief Executive, RMBC (representing Sharon Kemp)
Nicola Curley	Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services
Councillor Cusworth	Cabinet Member, Children and Young People's Services
Chris Edwards	Executive Place Director, NHS SYICB
Kym Gleeson	Manager, Healthwatch Rotherham
Jason Page	Medical Director, Rotherham Place Board
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director, Adults, Housing and Public Health
Andrew Turvey	Rotherham Foundation Trust (representing Richard Jenkins)

Report Presenter:-

Denise Littlewood	Public Health, RMBC
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Also Present:-

Sunday Alonge	Policy Officer, RMBC
Helen Dobson	Chief Nurse, Rotherham Foundation Trust
Katy Lewis	Carers Strategy Manager
Lorna Quinn	Public Health Intelligence, RMBC
Dawn Mitchell	Governance Advisor, RMBC

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Castledine-Dack, Shafiq Hussain (VAR), Toby Lewis (RDaSH) and Claire Smith (Rotherham ICB).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no members of the public and press present at the meeting.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Resolved:- That an update be provided to the next meeting on the recent meeting of the Integrated Care Partnership.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th March, 2024, be approved as a true record.

Arising from Minute No. 86 (Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment), it was noted that, when compared with other areas in South Yorkshire, Rotherham had a similar situation in terms of opening hours compared to its neighbours and there had not been a significant reduction in the opening hours.

It was clarified that there was no other area in South Yorkshire that opened beyond 9.00 p.m. Rotherham was in line with the rest of its South Yorkshire neighbours.

Arising from Minute No. 88 (Physical Activity/Moving Rotherham Board), the Chair requested further information regarding the Sport England Place Expansion Programme.

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, undertook to forward further information. He explained that a number of places had received funding over the last 4-5 years to fund physical activity. The Expansion Fund was Sport England taking that model out to a number of areas of which Rotherham was one. A bid was currently being worked up.

The Chair felt that the list of activities submitted to the last meeting was not as full and comprehensive as it could be and requested that it be added to when submitted again.

5. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Lorna Quinn, Public Health, gave the following presentation summarising the key findings of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA):-

People

- The population of Rotherham was 268,400 (2022 mid-year 30th June) estimate of population) with an age structure that was slightly older than the national average
- The Rotherham population had increased steadily by approximately 1,000 per year from an estimated 259,400 in 2013 to 268,400 in 2022 (+3.5%)
- Rotherham ranked as the 35th most deprived upper tier local authority in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 out of a total of 151 authorities
- 59 Rotherham neighbourhoods (Lower Super Output Areas or LSOAs) ranked among the 20% most deprived in England and 36 LSOAs were in the top 10% most deprived

Life Expectancy

- Life expectancy at birth for males in Rotherham 2020-22 was 77.1 years; significantly lower than the England value of 78.9 years
- Life expectancy at birth for women in Rotherham 2020-22 was 80.2 years; significantly lower than the England rate of 82.8 years

Healthy Life Expectancy

- The healthy life expectancy at birth 2018-2020 in Rotherham was 58.7 years for a male, significantly lower than the England average of 63.1
- The healthy life expectancy at birth 2018-2020 in Rotherham was 56.5 years for a female, significantly lower than the England average of 63.9

Health Behaviours

- The Rotherham Drug and Alcohol Service has been supporting more people with substance and alcohol use; the number of new presentations to treatment for adults increased from 784 in 2021/22 to 959 in 2022/23; the number of new presentations to treatment for children aged under 18 increased from 27 in 2021/22 to 36 in 2022/23
- There had been a significant increase in the percentage of physically active adults in Rotherham from 54.9% in 2018 to 64.4% in 2021. Despite this, health conditions which were associated with having a lower risk in physically active adults (such as CHD, Stroke and Hypertension) all had significantly higher rates in Rotherham than Yorkshire and the Humber and England
- Smoking prevalence in Rotherham resumed its steady decline in 2022 after a spike in 2021 and was currently at 14% of adults smoking compared with 12.7% across England. Quit rates in Rotherham had nearly doubled from 1,580 in 2018 to 3,155 in 2022
- Prevalence of depression in Rotherham had increased between 2013 and 2022 from 9.85% to 17.3% with the gap between England and Rotherham growing to 4 percentage points
- Both the Gonorrhoea and Syphilis diagnostic rates in Rotherham rose significantly between 2020 and 2022. The Gonorrhoea diagnostic rate remained better (lower) than the England average (94 compared to 146 per 100,000 population) whilst the Syphilis diagnostic rate was worse (higher) than the England average (16.5 compared to 15.4 per 100,000 population)
- Around 1 in 4 (24.4%) children aged 4-5 years were categorised as overweight or obese for the 2021/22 to 2022/23 period, however, this was 2 in 5 (40.2%) for children aged 10-11 years for the same period. For adults almost 3 in 4 (71.9%) were categorised as overweight or obese in 2021/22

Community and Neighbourhoods

- Interactive Ward profiles were available on the JSNA which detailed data available for the 25 Rotherham Wards

Environment

- The percentage of mortality attributable to particular pollution for Rotherham 2021 was 5.3%. It was important to understand that long term exposure to air pollution was not thought to be the sole cause of deaths. Rather it was considered to be a contributory factor. Given that much of the impact that air pollution had on mortality was linked

- with cardiovascular deaths, it was considered that it made a contribution to some of perhaps even all cardiovascular deaths
- In 2023 Borough-wide Nitrogen Dioxide recordings were lower than in 2019 for every month of the year
 - In Rotherham local area greenhouse gas emissions increased by 1.1% from 2020 to 2021 driven by a 4.1% increase in emissions from transport
 - The risk of flooding from surface water was included in the Rotherham JSNA for the first time this year complementing a previous contribution on the risk of flooding from rivers. By comparing the number of residential addresses in areas of flood risk with the distribution of relative deprivation within Rotherham, it had been shown that people living in more deprived areas were over-represented amongst the population at risk of flooding, for all flood risk categories, likelihoods and hazard ratings included in the study
 - Land surface temperatures, tree canopy cover and minimum near-surface air temperatures during heat periods were combined in a single 'heat exposure' indicator in the Rotherham JSNA for the first time this year. Areas indicated as being more exposed to heat were concentrated in Rotherham Town Centre or were nearby conurbation of Sheffield e.g. parts of Brinsworth, Catcliffe and Waverley
 - The 2021 Census indicated that the private rented sector accounted for 15.3% of Rotherham households – a 2.3% point increase from 2011
 - In 2022 16.6% of Rotherham households were living in fuel poverty
 - Road traffic collision occurrences were increasing since a decrease in 2020 with collisions resulting in death or serious injury showing a slight decrease since 2016
 - Transport demand was increasing since Covid-19 but had not yet reached pre-Covid levels.
 - The proportion of travel undertaken by car appeared to have increased

Socio-economic

- Between October 2022-September 2023 43,600 residents aged 16-64 were economically inactive in Rotherham. 5,800 (13.4%) of these wanted a job
- 13,200 Rotherham residents were experiencing long term sickness between October 2022-September 2023. The recent release of January-December 2023 data showed that this had increased to 16,100
- In January 2024 Rotherham's JSA/UC claimant count (as a proportion of residents aged 16-64) was 4.3%. Although this was lower than the count in January 2021 (6.9%) it had still not returned to the pre-Covid level of 3.6% seen in January 2020
- The percentage of eligible 2 year olds in Rotherham taking up an early education place continued to rise with 89% taking up a place in the 2022/23 academic year. Take-up of early education had a

positive impact on outcomes for children and was a priority for the local authority

- Using data from the 2024 Spring School Census, 4.6% of Rotherham school pupils had a reported Education, Health and Care Plan, 0.8% higher than Rotherham's statistical neighbours (3.8%) and slightly above the national average (4.2%). Speech and language and social, emotional and mental health needs remained the highest identified primary need across all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Data on the rate of children who had been referred to Social Care (per 10,000 children in each area) and were on a Child Protection Plan, showed a continued safe and steady decline. Low Child Protection rates were good. Rotherham had seen a reduction from a peak in 2017 of 114.3 to 70 at the end of March 2023
- Data on the rate of young people aged 10-17 years (per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 in each area) who entered the Youth Justice system and consequently re-offended showed a decline from the previous reported year (11) and was lower than all comparators
- Children Centre engagement rates increased between 2015/16 and 2019/20 from 63% to 75%, however, due to Covid-19 restrictions they fell to 69% in 2021/22 but had now increased to 73% in 2022/23
- Currently there were over 3,700 individuals in Rotherham who were accessing Adult Social Care. Approximately 47% of these were aged 75 years or older and around 57% were female. The primary support reason for more than half of users was for 'physical support'
- The 2021 Census showed that over 23,000 people, around 10% of the population, provided some amount of unpaid care. 12,785 people, around 5%, provided over 35 hours of unpaid care per week. Central areas of Rotherham, among some of the more deprived areas of the Borough, had the highest proportion of claimants of Carers Allowance and Disability-related benefits
- Inclusion health was a new profile for the JSNA and covered a range of groups that experienced health inequalities including people in contact with the Criminal Justice system, vulnerable migrants and refugees and people experiencing homelessness. For the 2022/23 financial year there were 1,236 Rotherham households assessed as being owed a prevention or relief duty for homelessness (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2023). Of this 428 households were assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days with a homelessness prevention duty being owed as a result

Discussion ensued with the following points raised/clarified:-

- The JSNA had one full annual refresh and quarterly reviews
- Support provided to the voluntary sector on how to access the JSNA and used in the submission of funding bids. Annual session also with Neighbourhood Area Co-ordinators to inform the Ward plans

- The Drug and Alcohol Service was undertaking a big piece of work and increasing treatment/finding those who were not in treatment but needed treatment. There were very few under 18's injecting drug users – they were more Cannabis users. More detail on the under 18's presenting for treatment would be sought
- Raise awareness of the JNSA and use it for the purpose of commissioning services/engagement work
- Any comparisons across South Yorkshire would be beneficial
- There was a lot of work taking place under the Food Strategy and Physical Activity Strategy with regard to child obesity. The work of Sport England and the Place Expansion funding would be really important around the physical infrastructure for children to play
- A lot of work had taken place on the Active Travel infrastructure. It was important that the parents felt confident that their children could go out and use cycle pathways etc.
- The issue of decrease in women's life expectancy was hugely complex; some of it would be down to the pandemic and some would be as a consequence of the cost of living crisis. Life expectancy was increasing in most parts of society but declining in the most deprived part of society and was a national picture

Lorna and the team were thanked for the work that went into producing the JSNA.

Resolved:- That the report and presentation be noted.

6. HEALTH PROTECTION ASSURANCE

Denise Littlewood, Public Health, gave the following presentation on Health Protection Assurance:-

The report considered the following key domains of Health Protection

- Communicable disease control and environmental hazards
- Immunisation and screening
- Health care associated infections and antimicrobial resistance
- Emergency planning and response

Specialist Local Response

- Local response to national Measles outbreak
- An outbreak of Legionella in a social housing complex
- Increase in cases of Syphilis and Gonorrhea in South Yorkshire
- Increase in complex cases of TB cases including a South Yorkshire cluster
- Increase in cases of Whooping Cough (Pertussis) locally and nationally
- Large numbers of gastro-intestinal outbreaks in early years, schools and residential care settings

Screening

- Priorities within the breast, bowel and cervical cancer screening programmes included increasing uptake and collaborative work with programme providers and partners to improve uptake of screening for patients with a learning disability
- Cervical screening figures below target due to poor uptake in 25-49 year olds. Work ongoing to understand barriers particularly in individuals who had never accessed screening
- Breast screening figures below target. Change in appointment model and uptake was now increasing

Immunisation

- Seasonal Flu. Rotherham had seen a slight decrease amongst all the eligible cohorts. The reasons for the decline were not yet clear but the downward trend was reflected regionally and nationally. Work would be undertaken to try and understand the reasons behind the decline and inform planning for 2024/25
- The adult vaccination programme had seen a significant change within the Shingles programme (those turning 65 from 1st September 2023 becoming eligible), change of vaccine and schedule (from one dose to 2 doses) and extension to all patients over 50 years of age who were immunosuppressed. The priority for Rotherham had been to ensure all providers were aware of the change and the programme was fully and safely implemented
- For maternal Pertussis, the priority had been to implement the offer and delivery of the vaccine by the maternity provider (along with Flu and Covid vaccines)
- For adolescent (school-aged) immunisations, the priorities had been the procurement and mobilisation of a new contract (commenced 1st September 2023), work to restore uptake to pre-pandemic levels, implement the new HPV schedule (reduced to one dose) and reduce the gap between schools within the highest and lowest uptake. Although showing recovery, all adolescent vaccination programmes remained below the pre-pandemic levels, a trend which was reflected nationally
- Childhood Immunisations. A key focus had been and continued to be on MMR dose one by 2 years of age, achieving and maintaining coverage of above 90% (minimum threshold) with the aim of achieving 95% (optimal threshold)

Health Protection Focus

Preparedness was the key

- Refresh Outbreak Plan
- Refresh Mass Treatment Plan
- Adverse Weather Plans
- All involved work with Emergency Planning and Environmental Health

Upcoming Priorities

- Ensure preparation for future Health Protection events was key
- Ensuring Health Protection roles and responsibilities across Rotherham Place were understood to ensure a Rapid Response to an incident was possible
- To ensure that Rotherham had a competent surveillance system for managing communicable diseases working alongside UKHSA. This work would also continue to focus on new and emerging concerns
- To maintain effective prevention, incident and outbreak response including treatment programmes for all communicable diseases of local concern. Work would continue to explore options to address Rotherham's deficit in terms of community IPC

Priorities

- To ensure further work was carried out to ensure Health Protection work programme were embedded in local systems to support reducing health inequalities
- Tackling Tuberculosis through improving awareness to increase screening and treatment targeting underserved populations. Undertaking work to understand the latent TB population in Rotherham
- To continue to optimise the role of Rotherham Council in increasing uptake of vaccination and screening in areas of deprivation and under-represented groups. Working with partners to ensure a system response
- Reducing the impact of adverse weather on health ensuring Rotherham was prepared for adverse weather events
- Continue to improve links with the Sexual Health Strategy Group to increase assurance with regard to sexually transmitted diseases
- To ensure a consistent approach for action to address Anti-Microbial Resistance working with partners to provide assurance

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- In most local authorities there was an Infection Control Team that dealt with it at a very local level providing that support and responding to incidents. However, that was not the case in Rotherham. The UKHSA provided a lot of support for Rotherham's schools and care home facilities but that did not provide the very local input and was something the Authority was trying to address
- It was really important that schools and care homes were responsible for their own infection control and the UKHSA would come in and lead on the responsibilities but it was the middle ground that was missing in Rotherham e.g. pro-active support to make sure schools/care homes had the skills and systems in place
- The Covid recovery updates were still supplied to schools and Head Teachers forums which enabled conversations about some of the things cropping up but there was not the capacity on the ground to support schools where they had been taking place with Housing

Services around infectious diseases and how they impacted on housing allocations, but probably more work to be done. Regulatory compliance checks were extremely important

- Work took place alongside NHS England, who was responsible for the screening and immunisation programme, to increase uptake amongst those people with learning disabilities who had difficulties accessing services. There was increased contact with the individuals to book their appointment and to make them aware that the screening programmes were there
- The health care associated infections data had only been pulled together very recently and work had started with the Foundation Trust to understand them at a local level. The Rotherham threshold was much lower from those across South Yorkshire and understanding why was quite difficult. Work would take place on comparing with the other South Yorkshire
- The next stage would be to test the master treatment plan in the next few months. The outbreak plan was tested in a number of ways

Helen Dobson, TRFT, reported that the Trust received comparison data for the whole North-East and Derbyshire area and would be able to share that information. For 2023/24, it showed that Rotherham was not an outlier for all 6 themes/infections and under the threshold compared to others. The issue of trajectory, especially for *Clostridioides Difficile*, was a historical position. The Trust had had a very low incident of infection so was set a very low trajectory. It was already known that the 2024/25 numbers, because there had been high incidences of control and may well continue with the trend seen, however, that was in line with what was being seen nationally.

Resolved:- (1) That the presentation and the assurance functions of Rotherham Council's Health Protection Committee and the reviews performance of health and wellbeing be noted.

(2) That the 2024/25 work programme priorities be supported.

(3) That an update be submitted in 6 months as to the uptake of the screening programmes by those individuals classified as having learning disabilities.

(4) That future update reports include the testing of the plans that had been carried out.

7. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, presented the Health and Wellbeing Board's annual report with the aid of the following presentation:-

Context

- Life expectancy at birth for both men and women in Rotherham continued to be significantly lower than the England average (77.1 years vs 78.9 years for men and 80.2 years vs 82.8 years for women)
- The difference in healthy life expectancy at birth was particularly stark with a 7.4 year gap for Rotherham women compared with the national average (2018-2020) (56.5 years vs 63.9 years) and a 4.4 year gap for men (58.7 years vs 63.1 years)
- On the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Rotherham ranked as the 35th most deprived upper tier local authority in England out of a total of 151 authorities
- The key drivers of deprivation in Rotherham remained Health and Disability, Education and Skills and Employment (as were in 2015)
- Of 45,800 residents (aged 16-64) who were economically inactive, 35.2% were due to long term sickness compared to 27.2% nationally

Achieving the conditions for a healthy life continues to be a concern

- The estimated number of alcohol dependent in Rotherham was higher than the national average. In 2021/22 there were 619 per 100,000 admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions (narrow definition) significantly worse than the national average of 494 per 100,000
- Approximately 14% of Rotherham adults (around 29,600 people) were smokers in 2022 compared to 12.7 nationally
- In 2021/22 71.9% of adults in Rotherham were classified overweight or obese compared to 66.5% regionally and 63.8% nationally. Child obesity rates were also higher than national average – in 2022/23 22.2% of reception age children were overweight or obese compared to 21.3% nationally and 41.1% of Year 6 children were overweight or obese compared to 36.6% nationally

Mental Health and Wellbeing were also a concern

- In Primary Care in Rotherham 2022/23 the recorded prevalence of depression (aged 18+) was 17.3% a total of 36,892 persons. This was higher than the England value of 13.2% and had been increasing in Rotherham since 2013/14
- Data from 2018/19 showed 12% of Rotherham residents reported a long term mental health problem which was significantly higher than the England value of 9.9%

Environmental Factors impacting Health in Rotherham included

- Particulate pollution – in 2022 the percentage of mortality attributable to particular pollution for Rotherham was 5.2% (England 5.8%)
- Lower than average use of the natural environment – 69% of residents in Rotherham indicated they used the natural environment for health and exercise purposes compared to 82% for England (2017)

Delivery the Strategy

Aim 1: All children get the best start in life and go on to achieve their full potential

- An independent travel training (ITT) offer had been created to support children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities
- A new post-14 specialist campus opened in September 2023 providing 50 school places. This meant more children and young people could access high quality educational provision in the local area
- Rotherham's Family Hubs and Best Start in Life – the Council received £3.4M in Government funding to help deliver Family Hubs and the Best Start in Life programme locally
- Winter Healthy Holdings 2023 – the Holiday Activity and Food Programme for children aged 2-11 years eligible for free school meals and other supports

Aim 2: All Rotherham people enjoy the best possible mental health and wellbeing and have a good quality of life

- Strategic communications to promote better mental health and suicide prevention social media messages promoting Rotherhive and Five Ways to Wellbeing were scheduled at least once every 4 weeks as part of the Council's overall communications plan
- A renewed strategic approach to physical activity through the Moving Rotherham Partnership focussing on active champions, active environments, active communities and active communications. £100,000 secured to support additional community activities in Rotherham schools
- Suicide and self-harm awareness training delivered to practitioners across the partnership and members of the public
- A new diagnostic centre opened at Badsley Moor Lane providing an out-patient respiratory and sleep physiology service

Aim 3: All Rotherham people live well for longer

- Increased funding has allowed the expansion of tobacco control measures including the establishment of a Local Enhanced Stop Smoking Service
- The Council, in collaboration with partners, ensure that support was in place for carers
- A local Drug and Alcohol Related Death review process was established
- A Changing Places facility had been installed in the gardens of Wentworth Woodhouse designed specifically to help disabled visitors and individuals with complex care needs
- Voluntary Action Rotherham facilitated the development of a Rotherham Recovery Community to deliver local recovery activities

Aim 4: All Rotherham people live in healthy, safe and resilient communities

- Tackling Community Safety – the Safer Rotherham Partnership was the Borough's Community Safety Partnership based around 4 key priorities: protecting vulnerable children and adults, building safer and stronger communities, protecting people from violence and tackling organised crime
- Rotherham marked Holocaust Memorial Day by holding an event on 25th January 2024
- Championing events supporting equality and inclusion. Throughout 2023 the Council and local partner organisations had actively informed and involved local residents including under-represented groups in opportunities for participation

Looking Ahead

The Health and Wellbeing Board over the next year will:

- Undertake a refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to launch from April 2025
- Continue to work with Board sponsors to monitor delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Continue to develop our relationships within the new South Yorkshire Integrated Care System and ensure each of our aims was aligned with the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy
- Continue to focus on reducing health inequalities between our most and least deprived communities
- Influence other bodies and stakeholders including those with a role in addressing the wider determinants of health to embed health equity in all policies

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Currently 9 young people had taken part in the Independent Travel Training. It was a long process to support the young people to travel independently and for their parents to feel confident. The programme would continue to be built upon
- There was no proposal to have a similar service to the Tobacco Control Service for vaping
- Tobacco is a serious problem in Rotherham, but vaping is less serious
- It would be useful to have information on the effect vaping had on health

Resolved:- That the achievements made across the four Strategy Aims in the past year be noted.

8. AIM 3 UPDATE

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive, gave an update on Aim 3 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy with the aid of the following powerpoint presentation:-

Aim 3: All Rotherham people live well for longer

- Aim 3 has 3 priority areas
- Ensure support was in place for carers
- Support local people to lead healthy lifestyles including reducing the health burden from tobacco, obesity and drugs and alcohol

Priority 1: Ensure support is in place for carers

- Increase the flexible support options available for unpaid carers to sustain them in their caring role
 - Needs assessment completed via co-production exercise in 2023. This identified a need for a flexible break option for carers
 - It also identified a gap in tailored information and support for young adult carers in particular
 - The outcomes from the Unpaid Carers' Health and Wellbeing Small Grants Programme were currently being collated and would further contribute to the needs and gap analysis
 - Development of the unpaid carers' offer was underway which would inform the options appraisal and any future commissioning requirements
 - Research/benchmarking other local authority unpaid carers offer taking place
 - ADASS Carers Leads Network and national carers bodies were utilised to identify good practice
- Develop and streamline the advice and information available for unpaid carers in line with the Care Act 2014, Care and Support statutory guidance and for NHS Standard for Creating Health Content
 - Co-production work had been undertaken with carers leads from the South Yorkshire region to complete an expression of interest for funding (as a consortium) from the DHSC's Accelerated Reform Fund (ARF) to develop an app for unpaid carers
 - Funding of circa £500,000 received which would fund development of the app and a resource for each local authority to aid further co-production and progress the project
 - Rotherham Council to lead the commissioning of a developer on behalf of the consortium
 - An outline project plan was in place which would be fully developed over the new few weeks by the consortium members

Priority 2: Support local people to lead healthy lifestyles

- Develop the healthy lifestyles prevention offer/pathway
 - Communications and engagement prevention campaign 'Say Yes' and its 6 themes of alcohol, cancer, diabetes, loneliness, breastfeeding and self-care during Winter – work to date had predominantly focussed on promoting the resource DrinkCoach and pages on RotherHive focussed on smoking, eating well and moving more

- The promotion of DrinkCoach had included partnership work with Rotherham United to promote the app at match days and collaborations with GP practices to promote the app via direct text messages
 - The work to promote RotherHive had led to over 45,000 page visits with engagement rising during key engagement weeks/months such as Stoptober and Mental Health Awareness Week
 - Building from focus groups with both professionals and communities, work had also started to develop a loneliness campaign in support of delivery of the local Loneliness Action Plan
 - Action to review the current Service specification for Social Prescribing and recommissioning of the Service had been completed. The Service specification had been developed and embedded as part of the new Rotherham Social Prescribing Contract for 2024-27. VAR were the successful bidder
 - Integrated Social Prescribing Service had been procured. Sheffield Hallam University contacted to review pathways across Place to Support Development model and funding now in place for this. Activity would take place over the summer to develop a project plan which had a primary focus on developing a Framework Grant Process for the local voluntary and community sector to apply to deliver services in Rotherham. Agreements to be in place by 1st April 2025
- Strengthen understanding of health behaviours and health inequalities
 - Engage local people in target areas to inform a proposal around self-management and holistic support for people living with physical health conditions and poor mental wellbeing
 - Focused on identifying priority areas of action for people living with Long Term Conditions and poor mental health and wellbeing. Survey undertaken in Maltby/Wickersley and Rother Valley South Primary Care Networks. Over 50% of people responded to the survey (over 1,221 respondents) which had provided rich data insights
 - The engagement work had so far fed findings into several projects including a chronic pain workshop, transformation workstreams, prioritisation and planning within PCNs and the Mental Health Needs Assessment. Qualitative analysis was nearing completion
 - Explore options to co-ordinate community engagement activities around health at Place and develop approach to share findings
 - ICB engagement leads and partners across South Yorkshire Integrated Care System including VCSE, NHS South Yorkshire, local authorities, providers and Healthwatch were coming together to build a digital library of all the patient, public and community insights gathered
 - ICB engagement leads were currently in the designing and testing phase of a shared Insights' Bank and were gathering reports for this stage of the process. Over 30 reports (with each report having

- several insights) already collected on Insights and were working with partners to gather more
 - The Insights Bank would be up and running by Autumn 2024 to both upload and share documents to the library as well as search for and download materials that others had shared
 - Over time, the Insights Bank could be used to identify trends and patterns
- Ensure effective partnership working on key strategic projects
- Ensure partners were engaged in implementation of Drug and Alcohol Related Death (DARD)
 - First DARD Panel date held 29th February, 2024, with attendance including Police, Housing partners, RDaSH, Public Health and We are With You. Dates set for the quarterly meetings for the remainder of 2024 to review Coroner confirmed drug or alcohol related deaths
 - Terms of reference, processes of logging and reporting findings were being established

Issues to Address/Next Steps

- No milestones under Aim 3 were rated as 'off-track'
- Further stakeholder engagement required to ensure that the 'Say Yes' campaign was widely adopted across the partnership
- Progression of the new grant process for Social Prescribing and integrated pathways work to ensure successful providers could be awarded agreements commencing from 1st April 2025
- Progression of the face-to-face engagement work to feed back and develop on the initial findings for people living with Long Term Conditions (LTCs) and poor mental health and wellbeing

It was noted that a "lessons learnt" would be drawn up from the successful consultation (over 50% response rate) and fed through to all partners and South Yorkshire's Insight Bank to ensure that all the good practice was captured and the model for future engagement.

As part of the funding arrangement from the DHSC's Accelerated Reform Fund to develop an App for unpaid carers, there were national resources to provide support to local authorities for engagement, co-production and marketing the App.

A big piece of work for the forthcoming year, linked with the Memorandum of Understanding, was to work closely with Children and Young People's Services to identify young carers. There was the wider issue of non-identification of young carers at a young age so that agencies were aware of them when transitioning to adults. The consultation had showed that there was a gap in the advice/information/young carers as the digital platform was heavily relied upon. Work was now taking place to try and link that up and improve the website in conjunction with young carers.

Resolved:- That the presentation be noted.

9. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair presented the Board's terms of reference for its annual report.

The report detailed:

- The role of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Responsibilities
- Expectations of the Health and Wellbeing Board Member
- Membership
- Governance
- Quorum
- Meeting arrangements
- Engaging with the public and providers

It was noted that the next formal review was due in May 2025.

Further details were provided of the governance arrangements and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board and Board Sponsors for Health and Wellbeing Strategy Aims.

The MoU detailed the role of sponsors as follows:

- To have strategic oversight and ownership of their respective aim, this includes:
 - Monitoring progress against aims and removing blockages
 - Providing strategic steer and identifying opportunities to develop their aim, including action to reduce health inequalities and actions that support integration of delivery
- To be champions for their aim within the Board and Board activities
- To be champions for health and wellbeing priorities in their organisations

Reference was also made to the 5 members of the Board who sat on the ICB Partnership one of whom was former Councillor Roche. It was proposed that Councillor Baker-Rogers take up that vacancy and the membership be reaffirmed.

Resolved: (1) That the refreshed Terms of Reference be approved.

(2) That the next formal review takes place in May 2025.

(3) That the Health and Wellbeing Board representatives to the ICB Partnership be affirmed as Councillor Baker-Rogers, Ian Spicer, Jason Page, K. Davis and Richard Jenkins.

10. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, presented the update on the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy Action Plan as at June, 2024.

The current Health and Wellbeing Strategy would end in 2025. All projects were on track with the majority of the action plan “green”. Work would now move to development of the new Strategy.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

11. ITEMS ESCALATED FROM PLACE BOARD

Jason Page reported on the possible collective action by GPs.

The BMA were currently balloting GPs with regard to potential collective action as from 1st August, 2024. They were being asked if they were prepared to undertake one or more examples of collective action which included 16 measures doctors may wish to implement including seeing a maximum of 25 patients a day (GPs often saw 70), pull out of data sharing agreements or offer face-to-face appointments.

Collective action was not the same as strike action but it could see GPs prioritising their patients’ and practices’ needs over local NHS system wants.

27 out of Rotherham’s 28 practices were part of the partnership model and would each vote individually.

Resolved:- That the Chair be kept informed of the outcome of the ballot.

12. BETTER CARE FUND

(a) The Board received for information the BCF Year End Template report that had been submitted to NHS England with regard to the performance of Rotherham’s Better Care Fund, Improved Better Care Fund, Disabled Facilities Grant and Discharge Fund in 2023/24.

The overall delivery of the Better Care Fund continued to have a positive impact and improved joint working between health and social care in Rotherham.

The information contained within the BCF submission included:-

- Section 75 Agreement
- Confirmation of National Conditions
- BCF Metrics
- Income and Expenditure
- Year End Feedback

It was noted that the documentation had been approved by the Better Care Fund Executive Group on 20th May, 2024 (approved on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board) and had been submitted to NHS England on 23rd May, 2024.

(b) The Board received for information the BCF Planning Template including capacity and demand for intermediate care for 2024-25. The planning template was in line with the Addendum to the 2023-25 Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Requirements.

It set out the 2 core objectives of the BCF over the 2 years:-

- To enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- To provide the right care in the right place at the right time

It was noted that the documentation had been approved by the Better Care Fund Executive Group on 20th May, 2024 (approved on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board) and submitted to NHS England on 10th June, 2024.

13. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS

The minutes of the Rotherham Place Board held on 21st February and 17th April, 2024, were submitted for information and noted.

14. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD ICB BUSINESS

The minutes of the meeting of the Rotherham Place Board ICB Business held on 21st February and 17th April, 2024, were submitted for information and noted.

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Wednesday, 25th September, 2024, commencing at 9.00 a.m.

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
28th May, 2024**

Present:- Councillor Monk (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester and Jones.

**APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.34 OF THE
LICENSING ACT 2003) FOR THE VARIATION OF THE PREMISES
LICENCE ISSUED TO TBO LIMITED IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES
KNOWN AS YELLOW BROOM SITUATED AT UNIT 2 AEON COURT,
108 MAIN STREET, BRAMLEY, ROTHERHAM. S66 2SE**

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003) by TBO Limited for the variation of the Premises Licence currently in force in respect of Yellow Broom, Unit 2 AEON Court, 108 Main Street, Bramley, Rotherham S66 2SE.

The applicant was seeking:-

- to extend the latest hour for the sale of alcohol by one hour on each of the days Monday to Thursday from 9.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.
- extend the latest hour for the sale of alcohol on New Year's Eve until 1.00 a.m. on the day following
- allow the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises on every day of the week

It was noted that the application also requested to extend the latest hour to 10.30 p.m. on Bank Holiday Mondays, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day when they fell on a Monday to Thursday. However, a 10.30 p.m. finish would automatically apply on these dates if the application was granted.

Mr. Simmonite, business owner, Emilie Waller (Supervisor) and Nicola Waller (Manager) were present at the hearing.

Consultation on the application had been carried out in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council procedure. During the consultation period one objection had been received from a local resident citing concerns around the definition of "specialist craft beer" and a possible increase in the risk of anti-social behaviour.

Detail of the representation had been provided to the applicant, TBO Limited. Mr. Simmonite had responded to the representation on behalf of the company. However, conciliation had failed to lead to the withdrawal of the representation. The Licence holder had offered, should the application be successful, that the following condition be added:-

- the purchase of alcohol for off-site consumption be limited to 'specialist craft beer'

The resident who had made the representations to the application had been invited to attend the hearing but had not attended. The Panel took into account the issues raised by the local resident.

No representations had been made by the Responsible Authorities.

In response to questions, the applicant provided the following information:-

- Yellow Broom was a niche offer with the ethos of bringing the community together
- There were very experienced staff working at the business
- The business model was based on feedback from customers and Bramley community
- There had been no anti-social behaviour issues associated with or emanating from the premises
- The feedback from customers had been the extra hour into New Year's Day morning was needed and be in line with other establishments in the area
- The establishment sold specialised craft beer
- Currently patrons could drink outside on the patio until 9.30 p.m.
- The landlord had been very clear with regard to the management of the public space
- It was not anticipated that members of the public would buy alcohol for consumption off the premises in large quantities due to the cost of the specialist beers

The Sub-Committee considered the application for the variation of the Premises Licence and the representations made specifically in the light of the following Licensing objectives (as defined in the 2003 Act):-

- The prevention of crime and disorder.
- Public safety licensing objectives.
- The prevention of public nuisance.

Resolved:- That the application for the variation of the Premises Licence, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, in respect of Yellow Broom situated at Unit 2, AEON Court, 108 Main Street, Bramley, Rotherham, be granted as follows:-

(1) Extension of the latest hour for the sale of alcohol by one hour as follows:-

Monday to Thursday from 9.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

(2) Extension of the latest hour for the sale of alcohol on New Year's Even until 1.00 a.m. on the day following (New Year's Day).

(3) Allow the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises on every day of the week.

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LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
10th June, 2024

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors T. Collingham, Garnett, Jones and Monk.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

3. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to applications for the grant/review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Mr. J.S. and Mr. M.R.

Mr. J.S. was in attendance at the hearing.

A request had been received from Mr. M.R. for his case to be adjourned due to the unavailability of his Trade Union representation.

Resolved:- (1) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence for Mr. J.S. be refused.

(2) That consideration of the application for the review of a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. M.R. be adjourned until the meeting to be held on 22nd July, 2024.

Councillor Jones left the meeting at this point and did not take part in any discussion on the following item.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION PERMITS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Licensing Manager concerning the following applications for the grant of promoters' permits to carry out house-to-house collections:-

Organisation	Area	Date
Alzheimer's Research UK	Whole of the Borough	1 st May, 2024-30 th April, 2025
Woodgreen The Pets Charity	Whole of the Borough	15 th April-31 st December, 2024
Ukraine Appeal	Whole of the Borough	30 th May, 2024-29 th May, 2025
Stroke Organisation	Whole of the Borough	1 st June, 2024-1 st June, 2025 or 1 st July, 2024-1 st July, 2025

It was noted that the application submitted by Clothes Collection Ltd., on behalf of Alzheimer's Research UK, had been withdrawn due to them having been granted a national exemption.

Resolved:- (1) That, in accordance with the provisions of the House to House Collections Act 1939, the application submitted by Gilcore, on behalf of Woodgreen The Pets Charity, be granted.

(2) That the application submitted by Recycle Proline Ltd., on behalf of the Ukraine Appeal, be deferred pending clarification of the percentage of the proceeds paid to the charity.

(3) That the application submitted by Smile Fundraising, on behalf of the Stroke Organisation, be deferred pending receipt of the required information as stated on the application form.

LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
17th June, 2024

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester, T. Collingham, Steele and Sutton.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

7. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to applications for the grant/review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Messrs. A.T., S.M., Z.H. and S.M.M.

Messrs. A.T., S.M., Z.H. and S.M.M. were in attendance at the meeting and were questioned by the Sub-Committee.

Resolved:- (1) That consideration of the applications for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver licences in respect of Messrs. A.T. and S.M.M. be adjourned until the meeting to be held on 22nd July, 2024 and interpreters be arranged accordingly.

(2) That the application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. S.M. be approved, but that he also be issued with a strong written warning.

(3) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence for Mr. Z.H. be refused.

8. DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR A HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION PERMIT

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Licensing Manager concerning an application for the grant of a promoter's permit to carry out house to house collections by UK Clothing Caravan Ltd. on behalf of Children with Cancer UK in the wards of Aston and Todwick, Boston

LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE - 17/06/24

Castle, Rotherham West, Rawmarsh West and Thurgroft and Wickersley South from 17th June, 2024 to 16th June, 2025.

Resolved:- That, in accordance with the provisions of the House to House Collections Act 1939, the application submitted by UK Clothing Caravan Ltd., on behalf of Children with Cancer UK, be granted.

PLANNING BOARD
6th June, 2024

Present:- Councillor Williams (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Castledine-Dack, Currie, Elliott, Knight, Mault and Thorp.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Adair, Baker-Rogers, Cowen, Fisher, Hussain, Keenan and Tarmey.

The webcast of the Planning Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

1. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

2. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25TH APRIL, 2024

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 25th April, 2024, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

5. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no deferments or site visits requested.

6. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposal now considered, the requisite notice be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the applications below:-

PLANNING BOARD - 06/06/24

- Erection of 1 No. residential dwelling including associated amended access at land adjacent No. 5 Swinston Hill Gardens, Dinnington for Exel Developments (RB2023/1325)

Mr. P. Kelly (Applicant)
Mr. M. Lander (Objector)

- Erection of detached dwelling with detached garden room to rear at land adjacent 133 Swinston Hill Road, Dinnington for Exel Developments (RB2023/1328)

Mr. P. Kelly (Applicant)
Mr. M. Lander (Objector)

- Use of land as extension to public house with erection of covered seating area to side and variation of condition 5 of RB2003/1577 to allow open seating area to the front at Ravenfield Arms, 30 Hollings Lane, Ravenfield for Ravenfield Arms (RB2023/1386)

Mr. R. Kelly (Applicant)
A statement from Mr. and Mrs. Waters (Objectors) was read out at the meeting.

- Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of two storey side extension and creation of balcony to rear. Amendment to previous application RB2022-0883 (Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of two storey side extension and creation of balcony to rear) at 83 Wickersley Road, Broom for Mr. and Mrs. Hussain (RB2024/0042)

Mr. Hussain (Applicant)
Mr. M. Risdale (Objector)

- Reserved matters application (details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout & scale) for extension to school and ten parking bays (reserved by outline RB2022/1076) at Waverley School, Waverley Walk, Waverley for Rotherham MBC (RB2024/0366)

Ms. R. Graham, Waverley Community Council
(Supporter)

- (2) That applications RB20231325 and RB2023/0366 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That application RB2023/1328 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to an amendment to Condition No. 3 to include further wording to ensure the provision of the adoptable highway on Swinston Hill Gardens prior to the commencement of development.

(4) That application RB2023/1386 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report, subject to an amendment to Condition No. 1 to include the words “No additional areas of external seating shall be formed” and the inclusion of an amended plan following an update at the meeting.

(5) That application RB2024/0042 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to amendments to conditions to ensure the window in the garage was not only obscure glazed, but unopenable and for the installation of screening panels at both ends of the cantilever balcony.

7. UPDATES

There were no updates to report other than a couple of suggestions to support the smooth running of the meeting moving forward in relation to lighting and microphones.

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PLANNING BOARD
27th June, 2024

Present:- Councillor Williams (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Castledine-Dack, Currie, Elliott, Fisher, Hussain, Knight, Mault, Tarmey and Thorp.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Adair, Baker-Rogers, Cowen and Keenan.

The webcast of the Planning Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

9. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6TH JUNE, 2024

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 6th June, 2024, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

12. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no deferments or site visits requested.

13. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the applications below:-

- Retrospective change of use to Haulage Yard (Use Class B8) including siting of storage containers, perimeter fencing and CCTV at land at Grange Lane, Brinsworth (RB2024/0248)

Mr. B. Smith (Objector)

Anon (Objector)

- Application to vary Conditions 2 and 3 (Approved Plans, Plots 6 to 8 faced in stonework & render) imposed by RB2022/0931 at 9 Laughton Road, Dinnington for Church View Croft Developments Ltd. (RB2024/0449)

Mr. A. Dodwell (Applicant)

A statement from Mr. and Mrs. Warnes (Objectors) was read out at the meeting.

(2) That applications RB2024/0248 and RB2024/0449 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

14. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
13th June, 2024

Present:- Councillor Monk (in the Chair); Councillors T. Collingham, Clarke, Hall, along with Parish Councillors Mr. A. Buckley and Mrs. M. Carroll and also Independent Member Mr. P. Edler.

Also in attendance was Mr. P. Beavers, Independent Person.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beck, Hughes and Keenan, Independent Members Mrs. A. Bingham and Mrs. K. Penney and Mr. D. Roper-Newman, Independent Person.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute Nos. 4 and 5 (Whistleblowing Policy and Complaints) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7TH MARCH, 2024

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th March, 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

4. A REVIEW OF CONCERNS RAISED PURSUANT TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report and appendix presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, which provided an overview of the Whistleblowing cases which have been received over the past year.

Particular reference was made to the appendix to the report which set out clearly the description of the concerns received and action taken.

Resolved:- That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters be noted.

5. REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, detailing the progress with the handling of complaints relating to breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Town and Parish Councillors. The report listed the current cases of complaint and the action being taken in respect of each one.

Reference was made to each related case and recommended outcomes/actions identified were highlighted.

Discussion ensued on the level of support afforded to complainants and subject members and how best this could be facilitated if it was deemed appropriate. Further research would be undertaken to determine how best those involved could be signposted to support services.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business requiring the Committee's consideration.

STAFFING COMMITTEE
10th June, 2024

Present:- Councillor Alam (in the Chair); Councillors Z. Collingham, Jones and Read.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sheppard.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH FEBRUARY, 2024

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February, 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

4. RECRUITMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Consideration was given to the report submitted which outlined in detail proposals to appoint to the vacant position of Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment. As the role was the strategic lead for the directorate, an interim had been appointed to cover duties for a six-month period.

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules and Code of Conduct, the Staffing Committee were asked to agree plans to immediately begin the selection process, led by the Senior Officer Appointments Panel.

Based on a three-month notice period for prospective applicants it was suggested the position be advertised as soon as possible.

There were no anticipated changes to the terms and conditions of the position and it would be advertised at the current rate.

The Committee sought clarification on the process and expected timeframe of appointment.

Resolved:- That the request to fill the vacant post of Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment and refer the process to the Senior Appointments Panel to make the appointment be approved.

STAFFING COMMITTEE - 10/06/24

5. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business requiring the Committee's consideration.