

**COUNCIL MEETING  
16th May, 2025**

Present:- Councillor Sheila Cowen (in the Chair); Councillors Ismail, Adair, Ahmed, Allen, Bacon, Baggaley, Baker-Rogers, Baum-Dixon, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Beresford, Blackham, Bower, Brent, Clarke, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Currie, Cusworth, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Foster, Garnett, Harper, Hughes, Hussain, Jackson, Jones, Keenan, Marshall, McKiernan, Monk, Pitchley, Rashid, Read, Reynolds, Steele, Sutton, Tarmey, Taylor, 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**

Resolved: That Councillor Rukhsana Ismail be elected Chairman of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing 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 Read

Second: Councillor Cusworth

Councillor Ismail thereupon made and subscribed the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

(Councillor Ismail assumed the Chair)

**2. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR (COUNCILLOR SHEILA COWEN)**

Resolved: That the Council tender its sincere thanks to Councillor Sheila Cowen for the excellent manner in which she has carried out all her 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 Councillor Rajmund Brent performed the duties of Mayor's Consort.

Mover: Councillor Steele

Second: Councillor Jackson

**3. PRESENTATION OF THE PAST MAYOR'S PENDANTS**

The Mayor asked the Council to join her in offering her sincere thanks to Councillor Sheila Cowen for the excellent manner in which she had carried out all of her duties as Mayor and formally presented her and her Consort with their past Mayor's pendants.

**4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Resolved: That Councillor Haroon Rashid be elected Vice-Chairman of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing 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 Steele

Seconded: Councillor Ahmed

**5. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Alam, Ball, A. Carter, C. Carter, Hall, Havard, Lelliott, Mault, Sheppard and Thorp.

**6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest to record.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CADETS**

The Mayor formally announced the names of the Mayor's Cadets for the Municipal Year 2025/26 to the Council:

Representing the Royal Air Force Air Cadets was:  
Sergeant George Newey

Representing the Army Cadets was:  
Corporal Nicolas Wisniewski

Representing the Sea Cadets was:  
Ordinary Cadet Henry David Aubeeluck

The Mayor invited Sergeant Newey and Ordinary Cadet Aubeeluck forward to receive their Mayor's Cadet badges and certificates. Corporal Wisniewski could not attend due to exams.

**8. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items to consider.