

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time:- Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 1.30 p.m.

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

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

Co-opted Members:- Mrs. K. Bacon and Mrs. M. Jacques.

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

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

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 February 2025 (Pages 3 - 10)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 February 2025 as a true and correct record of the proceedings and to be signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

4. Questions from members of the public and the press

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

6. Tenants Scrutiny Panel Review - Supporting New Tenants (Pages 11 - 56)

To consider the report which provides a summary of the findings of the review into how the Council supports new tenants and if this is improving sustainability of tenancies along with the associated action plan.

7. Climate Emergency Annual Report 2025 (Pages 57 - 135)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

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

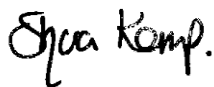
8. Improving Places Select Commission - Work Programme 2024 - 2025 (Pages 136 - 137)

To consider and endorse the outline schedule of scrutiny work for the 2024 - 2025 municipal year.

9. Urgent Business

To consider any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

**The next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission
will be held on Tuesday 10 June 2025
commencing at 1.30 p.m.
in Rotherham Town Hall.**



SHARON KEMP OBE,
Chief Executive.

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 11 February 2025

Present:- Councillor McKiernan (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Beck, Beresford, C. Carter, Jackson, Jones, Mault, Rashid, Stables, Thorp, Tinsley and Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ahmed, Baggaley, Cowen and Havard.

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

42. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2024

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th December, 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

44. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chair advised that there were no members of the public or representatives of media organisations present at the meeting and there were no questions in respect of matters on the agenda.

45. 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 or public from the meeting.

46. OVERVIEW OF THE PORTFOLIO OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SAFE AND CLEAN COMMUNITIES

The Chair welcomed Councillor Saghir Alam, Cabinet Member for Finance and Safe and Clean Communities to the meeting.

Councillor Alam shared details of his Cabinet portfolio which ensured residents and employees were treated fairly and with dignity.

The portfolio also had an overview of the proper and efficient working of the Council and its processes, and with key elements of the Community Safety agenda and led on key Waste and Street Scene Services that were integral to the quality of life of residents.

Councillor Alam confirmed he also led on the ambition to secure

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“Excellent” accreditation under the Equality Framework for Local Government. Specific responsibilities included:-

- All matters relating to Waste Management, collection and recycling, including engagement with the BDR Waste Partnership.
- Street Scene, Street Cleansing, Litter & Fly Tipping.
- Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- To lead on Emergency Planning issues.
- To lead on day to day working of financial activity (including Revenues and Benefits), and to support the Leader in development of the Budget and Capital Strategy.
- Human resources strategies, policies and procedures.
- To lead on ICT, particularly on new ways of working and Digital Inclusion.
- To lead on Internal Audit and Risk Management.
- To lead on Health, Safety and Equalities at Work.
- Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategies.
- Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership.
- All matters relating to the Channel Duty.
- All matters relating to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (including “Protect” and “Prepare”).
- All matters relating to the deployment of portable CCTV.
- Overall responsibility for Enforcement policy and performance (including Community Protection, Environmental Health, food hygiene and the joint agreement with Doncaster MBC).
- To lead on all matters relating to Legal Services.

The Commission welcomed the opportunity to consider the content of the portfolio in detail and in doing so sought clarification on the term “channel duty”, recruitment and retention of Legal staff and costs associated with hiring locums, the biggest challenges facing Emergency Planning and whether there were any particularly “at risk” areas within the Borough associated with extremism.

Councillor Alam appreciated the opportunity to respond to questions and confirmed that “channel duty” related to where concerns were expressed and referrals were made about children in an educational setting and the need for them to receive the correct level of support with regards to Prevent.

In terms of recruitment and retention of Legal staff and the desire to keep costs to a minimum, plans were already established within the Legal teams for training and development of Para Legal officers and on the job training. There was a shortage of Legal staff within Local Government and Rotherham was taking action to help plug those gaps. There were occasions where specialised Locums were required, but every effort was being made to keep this to a minimum.

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Emergency Planning was facing some difficulties in the recruitment of volunteers in the event of an incident. Naturally with staff turnover there were some changes, but more volunteers were required to be on call.

In terms of Rotherham's risk of counter terrorism, there was the protest incident last year, but in general Rotherham had no identified high risk hot spots unlike other areas.

Resolved:- That the detail provided by the Cabinet Member be welcomed and the contents noted.

47. ROTHERHAM GATEWAY (MAINLINE AND TRAM TRAIN) STATION

Consideration was given to a presentation on Rotherham's Gateway (Mainline and Tram Train) Station.

The Chair issued a welcome to Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member, Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning, Regeneration and Transport, Lucy Mitchell, Regeneration Manager - Investment Zone and Leisure Economy and Nat Porter, Interim Head of Transportation Infrastructure Service.

The Cabinet Member introduced the presentation pointing out that in the last forty years the rail connection to Rotherham had been poor. This needed to be addressed if there were to be any serious aspirations for growth and prosperity within the borough.

This Gateway Project would not only provide a new mainline station, but a host of other transport and economic growth solutions. This was a serious undertaking and there were many hurdles to overcome before the plans became a reality. However, there was determination to make this happen and most importantly with the support of the Regional Mayor and the Government.

Simon Moss was invited to give his presentation which highlighted:-

- What Rotherham's Gateway Station was.
- Key Outcomes for the Station.
- Local Context for the Station.
- Project Background.
- Five Current Workstreams:-
 - ❖ Land Acquisition.
 - ❖ Mainline Station and Tram Train Stop Outline Business Case.
 - ❖ Masterplan.
 - ❖ Business Centre Feasibility Study.
 - ❖ Effingham Street Active Travel Feasibility Study completed.
- Station Design.

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- Phase 1: Station Opening 2030/31.
- Indicative Timeline & Next Steps to Delivery.
- Waverley Station.

The Chair thanked officers for their informative presentation and invited any questions.

A discussion and answer session ensued and information was shared on:-

The station was an exciting and innovative economic growth project for Rotherham and the support provided by officers was applauded. It was confirmed that approaches had been made to a number of rail operators and there was interest in various considerations with invitations onto the Steering Group. One operator also sat on the Board and involved in plans for the station's development.

Questions were also raised around the project if funding was secured, when construction would start, the timeframe and what kind of disruption would local residents face.

Representatives confirmed that indicative timeframes were available, but with any major construction there would be some disruption for those that lived in and around the area. The extent of what this would involve still remained uncertain.

Selection of the location between the two train lines and the anticipated delivery of Bassingthorpe Farm was acknowledged, but further information was sought on whether any realistic consideration had been given as to how people would get into the centre of Rotherham from the station with the constraints of bridges, the canal and river in between. Was it an expectation that in arriving at the station passengers would continue on the tram into Rotherham Central or catch public transport.

Representatives pointed out the importance of the Bassingthorpe Farm development on the station business case, but all considerations formed part of the masterplan work which was ongoing. However, Effingham Street was to be the main corridor and improvements and challenges were currently being looked at. The Tram train was only one stop from Rotherham Central giving a quick and easy access link to the town centre.

Whilst consideration would need to be given to abnormal loads it was far too early to consider a more complete level of detail. Officers were aware of bridges and this would be incorporated into the construction phase plan with detail reflective within the business case.

In questioning officers it was pointed out that access was only available where the two bridges were. No abnormal loads could be accessed via Parkgate. The plans were welcomed, but some attention needed to be

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given to the detail fairly quickly.

Representatives confirmed access was available from Greasbrough via a non-bridge route. This would be considered in due course.

Further questioning continued with reference made to Effingham Street into the town centre and whether this formed part of the full business case or was separate.

Representatives confirmed the Effingham Street Corridor was a separate consideration and would form part of wider programme of measures. Funding was focused around the station itself and the land immediately surrounding. All other considerations would be subject to other funding arrangements.

The plans were welcomed, but clarification as sought on the map that had been provided and the rail network. Would anyone travelling to London be able to travel direct from Rotherham or would the connection remain as via Doncaster.

Representatives confirmed the route to London would remain the best via Doncaster. However, journey times from the new Rotherham Station would improve journey times to Leeds, York and Birmingham.

Representatives confirmed that discussions on routes were ongoing, but there were more opportunities that would need to be procured with operators.

During the course of further questioning it was pointed out that historically Rotherham was served by Masbrough Station which was a much more capable of receiving high speed rail with four platform links. Due to the distance from the town centre rail services moved to Rotherham Central. Had consideration been given to utilising again the prime facilities at Masbrough rather than the site earmarked at Parkgate. Masbrough Station would help regenerate the town centre and had Bassingthorpe Farm on its southern end making it closer than Parkgate. What proof was available to confirm the site at Parkgate would improve regeneration in the town centre and be more commercially viable in terms of land purchase.

Representatives confirmed a significant piece of work had been undertaken as part of the strategic outline business case to look at various options for siting of the station. Masbrough had been one of the options and discussions had taken place about future locations, how they could accommodate live and overhead wires without changing structures.

Discussion ensued on overhead structures on Coronation Bridge, the hub station, old goods line and the length of the train platforms. Constraints did exist in this area in achieving a vertical line under the bridges.

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Whilst this was a positive move there remained some concern about the Parkgate location and how its location served communities in the southern part of the borough, like Maltby who were missing out. It would appear Maltby had been discounted at an early stage due to the junction at Hellaby being heavily burdened. There were no public bus service connecting to Parkgate. It was disappointing that no consideration had been given to economic growth, population. A rail transport network would have been excellent.

Representatives again pointed out that this was due to the competitive nature of funding for the station. Business cases were difficult to generate and identify benefits which was why consideration had been given to the central area of Rotherham and how this linked with the existing infrastructure shown on the map on the Sheffield/Rotherham corridor. Connectivity further away from the large urban area was more difficult, but it remained the aim to improve the functionality of the Tram train in the borough.

Maltby did benefit from the X1 bus services and the wider choices for onward connections within the town centre. It was pointed out that this project looked at opportunities for stations on existing mainline and all constraints/options were taken into consideration.

In terms of location choice careful consideration had also been given to accessibility and catchment, areas connected and the communities that would be served.

Further questions were asked about funding for the outline business case and how likely would funding be secured for the station, land acquisition and if there was a financial impact or risk to the Council. It was noted the Effingham Street Corridor would form part of a separate business case, but would this be funded by the Council and how would this link in with the Forge Island Masterplan.

Representatives confirmed funding would be in three stages. Funding for the outline had been secured and spent. The second stage was for the business case. A separate bid had been made to Government in conversation with regional partners. Dialogue was ongoing with the DfT with regards to funding in the fullness of time and they were well versed with the rail and growth benefits.

Acquisitions would be funded by the Towns Programme and officers were confident there would be no exposure of the Council to undue risk.

Other funding streams would need to be identified for the Effingham Street Corridor. Forge Island had now established strong links with the town centre and the Tram train was key along with Rotherham Central outside Forge Island.

It was highlighted that this project had been identified as one of the top

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two for the projects in South Yorkshire - the other being airport on the Sheffield to Rotherham economic corridor. SYMCA had submitted a bid to Government and Rotherham's mainline station had been identified as number one project in that submission and be of value to the region.

Further information was sought on indicative costs and it was pointed out the outline business case reflected network rail cost plans and risk factors with contingencies built in. This was around £100 million for the station and the Tram train on top. The full business case delved into the design and costs should be significantly pulled back at construction stage.

A full assessment of benefits to costs ratio was a fundamental part of the business case and the benefits did outweigh the costs. It was suggested the Benefit to Cost Ratio be confirmed following the meeting.

Further question ensued about what transport improvements were there to connect the AMP at Waverley.

It was pointed out that Waverley had been successful. The AMP was a challenge connecting to the wider public transport network so the aspiration for a new station was an early addition and officers were keen to address and achieve the connectivity that Waverley could provide. Ward Members would be kept informed of any progress and work was ongoing with SYMCA to get an outline business case submitted.

It was noted that dialogue was ongoing with the Rotherham Town Board for potential freight traffic. Freight was not one of the main drivers for the project and would need to be considered by operators for freight delivery.

Further questions were asked about the land purchases and if this was at cost to the taxpayer. It was pointed out that there would be no cost to the taxpayer. Currently the land was occupied by a number of units which the business property team were reviewing. Potentially these properties could become a potential income stream.

On there being no further questions the Chair thanked officers for their very informative presentation and responses.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the presentation be received and the contents noted.

(2) That the Benefit to Cost Ratio be confirmed.

(3) That the Full business case include consideration of the likely impacts of construction and be presented to IPSC when available.

48. IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION - WORK PROGRAMME 2024 - 2025

The Governance Manager introduced the work programme report and

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highlighted activity to date which included:-

- Members of the School Road Safety Working Group meeting on 28th January and scoping the review. Officers have been asked to carry out some research ahead of the next meeting in early March.
- Clarification was being sought from officers if members of Improving Places still had the opportunity to scrutinise the Housing Allocations Policy.
- Nature Recovery Strategy - South Yorkshire Mayor Combined Authority – this item was due to be considered at the March meeting, however this would need to be deferred to a future meeting.
- For members to consider an off agenda briefing to view progress in the Towns and Villages Fund and an update to the Our Places Fund.

When questioned it was confirmed that the Grounds Maintenance Review sat within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and representatives from Improving Places were included. The scoping meeting had taken place and plans were in the early stage of convening the first meeting.

Resolved:- That the update on the Work Programme be received and the activity noted.

49. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Commission's consideration.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 18 March 2025

Report Title

Tenants Scrutiny Panel Review – Supporting New Tenants

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Sandra Wardle, Housing Options Service Manager,
Sandra.wardle@rotheham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected.

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Tenant Scrutiny Panel has completed a review of how the Council supports new tenants and if this is improving sustainability of tenancies. A report detailing the Panel's findings, together with recommendations for service improvement is attached as Appendix 1.

This report provides Improving Places Select Commission with a summary of the findings of the review and the associated action plan (Appendix 2) to support delivery of the recommendations.

Recommendations

That Improving Places Select Commission:

1. Note the outcome of the Tenant Scrutiny Review, the actions proposed to deal with each recommendation and progress to date.
2. That a further report detailing progress is presented to Improving Places Select Commission in 12 months' time.

List of Appendices Included

- **Appendix 1** Tenants Scrutiny Panel Review - Investigation into how the Council supports new tenants.
- **Appendix 2** Tenants Scrutiny Review Action Plan.
- **Appendix 3** Initial Equalities Screening Assessment

Background Papers

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

1. Background

- 1.1 Tenant Scrutiny Panel reviews have provided an ongoing opportunity for customers to work pro-actively with the Council, to look at various aspects of landlord service delivery, from a customer perspective and to develop recommendations and actions for service improvement
- 1.2 In March 2024 the way the Council supports new tenants was selected by the Tenant Scrutiny Panel for review.
- 1.3 The Tenants Scrutiny Panel identified that there were areas where some improvements could be made following discussions with officers and new tenants. The review looked at several stages of the allocation process and how new tenants are supported:
 - Processes prior to an allocation of a Council tenancy including pre tenancy training, and income and expenditure checks.
 - Allocation of Council accommodation.
 - Furnished Home Scheme.
 - Post-allocation support from the Area Housing Teams.
- 1.4 The review focussed on the support offered by the Council to new tenants with a view to improving the sustainability of tenancies.
- 1.5 The Panel set out the methodology for the review, which is summarised below:
 - Review the customer journey to become a Rotherham Council tenant, including accessing the service, time taken, and the different services involved.
 - Ascertain whether the publicity around the service is available to all tenants, including hard to reach groups.
 - Use mystery shopping and other methods to explore service access routes.
 - Consider the current service policy in terms of accessibility for tenants.
 - Benchmark against other housing providers to identify any learning and good practice from their systems and policies.
- 1.6 In taking forward the review, Tenant Scrutiny Panel members interviewed new tenants and representatives of the relevant services. This included senior managers from the Council's Housing Service.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Panel developed nine recommendations to improve support to new tenants of Council owned properties and these are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Good progress has already been made against the recommendations, which demonstrates the value the Council places upon the Tenant Scrutiny Review

framework and ensures that the customers voice is clearly heard in how we shape, deliver and continually improve services.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Progress in delivering the actions from the Tenant Scrutiny Review are detailed within the action plan at Appendix 2.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The action plan, associated with this report, Appendix 2, will be monitored by Tenant Scrutiny Panel members at monthly meetings, which are attended by Council officers, Rotherfed and tenant representatives.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Council's Housing Service along with the nominated lead officers in the action plan have responsibility for implementing the findings of the review and delivering the associated action plan within the designated timescales.

5.2 The Tenant Scrutiny Panel will receive regular updates on progress against the recommendations and actions

5.3 A further report will be presented to the Improving Places Select Commission in 12 months' time, detailing progress on delivering the action plan.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are potential procurement implications arising from the recommendations regarding virtual viewings; either procuring a contract for virtual viewings and/or delivering an in-house service, as detailed in the action plan.

6.2 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report. The majority of the proposed activity will be funded from within existing recourses. A review of the virtual viewings of properties in 2025 may result in more staff time being required to offer in-person viewings. The potential resource requirements of this will be considered during the review.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no substantive legal issues arising from the content of this report.

7.2 Implementation of the recommendations will support the Council's commitment to meeting statutory and regulatory requirements arising from the Social Housing Regulator customer standards, in particular the Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Improving how we support new tenants will positively benefit engagement with children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 We will actively engage under-represented groups and use our customer data to ensure services and communications are accessible and meet the diverse needs of our tenants and neighbourhoods by contributing to the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy 2022-25 through the following

- Understanding, listening, and engaging across all communities.
- Delivering fair, inclusive, and accessible services.
- Empowering people to engage and challenge discrimination and to promote good community relations.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Climate change poses a significant threat to environments, individuals, communities, and economies on local, national, and international scales. In recognition of this the Council has aimed to be net carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030, and for Rotherham as a whole to achieve the same position by 2040.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Council has a contract in place with Rother Fed (local Tenant Federation provider) to support the delivery of the work undertaken by the Tenant Scrutiny Panel, as part of the Council's Tenant Engagement Framework.

12.2 The Council will continue to seek out best practice and consider how to continually improve scrutiny and engagement with tenants through its Exemplar Accreditation and membership of national tenant participation advisory service, TPAS.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The key risk is the failure to engage with the Tenant Scrutiny Panel in Rotherfed and inability to deliver against the recommendations in the action plan. This will be mitigated by ongoing monitoring, scrutiny and evaluation of the recommendations by the Improving Places Select Commission and the Housing Options Management Team

14. Accountable Officers

James Clark, Assistant Director of Housing

Report Author: Sandra Wardle , Advice & Assessment Team Manager
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This report is published on the Council's [website](#)

ROTHERHAM FEDERATION TENANT SCRUTINY



**Rotherham
Tenant Scrutiny**

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT:



For presentation to Rotherham Metropolitan
Borough Council

April 2024

Rotherham Federation



This is a summary of the eighth report of the Rotherham Federation Tenant Scrutiny panel resulting from an investigation into how Rotherham Council supports new tenants and if this is improving sustainability of tenancies.

This topic was chosen as part of a three-stage investigation into the voids processes used by Rotherham Council. This area of work had previously been highlighted by both tenants and council officers as having potential for some improvement.

The following summary includes the findings of the investigation, the recommendations made by the panel, and the evidence leading to these conclusions being drawn. A more detailed explanation of the investigation and findings can be found in the full report (please ask for a copy if required).

Terms of Reference

Aim: To investigate how Rotherham Council supports new tenants and if this is improving the sustainability of tenancies

Objectives:

To:

- ✓ Review the target time for re-letting void properties
- ✓ Consider whether the support provided for tenants during the re-let period is suitable and is leading to more sustainable tenancies, including:
 - tenancy ready workshops,
 - affordability,
 - virtual viewings,
 - furnish scheme and decoration allowances
- ✓ Benchmark against other housing providers as regards their void policies and procedures
- ✓ Review the communications around void policies and services

Scope

- ☒ Phase Two of the voids investigation will avoid the areas to be covered by Phase One and Three i.e. lettable standard; downsizing.
- ☒ The voids investigation phases will also not consider the allocations policy.

Methodology:

The investigation included:

- A survey of new tenants
- Benchmarking with other housing providers
- Interviewing Council officers
- Meetings of the Tenant Scrutiny panel.

KEY FINDINGS

The panel has prioritised its recommendations in order of importance. The supporting evidence for each recommendation is listed:

Recommendation A: Affordability meeting information

Provide a document after the affordability meeting with finance colleagues with all the calculations and key information, including how people can make arrangements to pay their rent.

The Evidence:

- Affordability interviews were seen as really valuable and compared well to other housing providers, supporting the sustainability of tenancies. It is good that the meeting is offered to all new tenants, and to previous tenants who have had issues with paying their rent.
- It was also reassuring that 64% of the survey respondents attending the meeting with the Financial Inclusion Team found it to be useful.
- However one survey respondent commented: *'They should include a piece of paper with all the costs on it so you can peruse it at your own leisure instead of having it all force fed inside 15 minutes and then forgetting it all because of information overload.'*
- It was also concerning that four survey respondents said that they were still unsure on how to physically pay their rent.
- It was felt that the interview may sometimes be seen as 'information overload' and a reminder afterwards of the discussion would be useful.

Full report pages 23-26

Recommendation B: Key choices description

Manage new tenant expectations by providing additional information on the key choices website, including:

- That the property is unfurnished and is likely to need decoration
- A plan of the layout and room sizes (rather than a list of dimensions)

The Evidence:

- 44% of respondents were disappointed with their new home. The main reasons for people giving negative responses were the state of decoration and poor wall/floor surfaces.
- Some of the comments from the new tenant survey were:
 - *'It looked fine on video. When I signed for the keys, it was the worst mistake I'd ever made.'*

- *'I love the house etc. however the state of the walls and garden has been left in is shocking.'*
- *'The video doesn't give you a full image of how much work you really need to do when you move in.'*

➤ Another person said: *'There really should be a grace period to allow for decorating, had to pay rent up front even though the house was not habitable until 20 days later when it was finally decorated due to full time work commitments.'*

➤ Relating to room sizes, there were comments made:

- It felt brighter and bigger than the video.
- The little bedroom was very small.
- Much more spacious in person.

➤ Panel members felt that when viewing the videos and reading descriptions on Key Choices, it was not clear how much space there was in each room for furniture, and how the home was laid out. It was also the experience of some members that they had been surprised by the room sizes and layout when they had moved to a new home themselves.

➤ Panel members felt that the expectations of new tenants could be managed better if the state of decoration, the need for furniture, and the layout of rooms was also provided on the Key Choices description.

Full report pages 13-16 and 36-37

Recommendation C: Virtual viewings re-evaluation

Following expiry of the current contract, plan to re-evaluate the policy of minimising in-person viewings and potentially offering them to ALL new tenants by:

- Carrying out a wider survey of tenants to ask if they would prefer virtual or in-person viewings.
- Costing out if virtual viewings make substantial savings when considering the cost of the video contract.

The Evidence:

➤ Officers reported that very few people request an in-person viewing, but also that this option is not advertised.

➤ The panel was unable to consider the savings made by the service through restricting access to in-person viewings, as opposed to the cost of the video contract, due to the contract being out to tender during the investigation.

➤ The survey of tenants moving to new homes found that 71% of all viewings took place via video. From these, 74% of people who had viewed online would have preferred an in-person viewing.

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| <p>➤ Comments from the new tenant survey included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The video doesn't give you a full image of how much work you really need to do when you move in. • The video didn't show the extremely shoddy work that had been done. • The outside wasn't that great, there wasn't much of the garden included in the video. |
| <p>➤ This was also confirmed in the comments made by three of the respondents to the previous investigation survey, who said that a face-to-face viewing would have improved their experience of moving home.</p> |
| <p>➤ It was noted that officers had said that very few people requested in-person viewings, but the panel had received information from people who had tried and their request had been denied.</p> |
| <p>➤ It was interesting that all other housing providers who gave a response were themselves offering 100% of their viewings in person.</p> |
| <p>➤ There was also some concern that officers were telling people that they should visit the area before deciding whether to sign, but that the time to visit was restricted by the sign-up deadline.</p> |
| <p>➤ The panel felt disappointed that very few viewings took place in-person and that in-person viewings were not offered to more new tenants.</p> |
| <p>Full report pages 17 - 22</p> |

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| <p>Recommendation D: Viewings for vulnerable new tenants</p> <p>➤ Improve the application form to provide more support to vulnerable new tenants by including questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whether the applicant needs to request an in-person viewing due to physical and /or mental health needs. ○ If the prospective new tenant needs their support worker to view the property with them. <p>➤ Allow more than 48 hours' notice for the viewing if needed to ensure that their support worker is available to attend.</p> |
| <p>The Evidence:</p> <p>➤ It was estimated by officers that approximately 20% of all viewings are in-person. This would be if the person had a physical disability, mobility issues, or a visual impairment.</p> <p>➤ The Housing Application form includes a question about whether support is needed during the application process, including the viewing, and a section on 'any special requirements' where people can add any disabilities that they may have.</p> |

- Panel members were of the opinion that the 'special requirements' part of the application form would not always make it clear to people that they could be offered an in-person viewing.
- They also thought that some people with Mental Health needs may not have the confidence to ask for an in-person viewing.
- The panel was also concerned that new tenants were being allowed only 48 hours to make a decision on whether they wanted to accept the new home offer; but this would put pressure on them if they wanted to arrange for a specific person to view the property with them.

Full report pages 16 - 22

Recommendation E: Welcome pack

Provide a welcome pack for new tenants that is handed out at sign up. The pack should include information such as neighbourhood / community activities, how to report a repair, and advice about damp and mould. It should also give details specific to that home such as how to work the boiler, location of the stop tap, and days for bin collections.

The Evidence:

- It was noted by the panel that there is no information given to new tenants on moving day other than meter readings, arrangements for gas uncapping, and a plaster disclaimer.
- The panel also confirmed with officers that there is not an information pack at this time for new tenants moving in, giving further details of their new home and neighbourhood.
- One of the survey respondents said: '*... Also the Neighbourhood Centre has helped me settle into the area and make new friendships.*'

The Berneslai website has an 'Information for new tenants' section, which includes very clear advice on:

- moving in what to expect;
- moving checklist;
- rent (including how to pay it);
- insurance;
- gas and electricity;
- repairs;
- safety;
- your estate;
- bins etc.

- Wolverhampton include advice on damp and mould in their tenancy videos '*Are you ready*'.

- It was noted that reporting repairs is discussed at the welcome visit (4-8 weeks after moving in) but probably should be from the first day of a new tenancy.
- The panel discussed the things that would be important to know when moving into a new home and agreed that for safety they would like to know about damp and mould, how to work the boiler, and the location of the stop tap. They would also like to know other local information about bin collection days and neighbourhood community activities to help them to settle in better. Having some advice on how to report a repair would help new tenants to feel less stressed if they need to do so.
- On the whole, the panel thought that a welcome pack for new tenants would really help people to settle in more easily and potentially aid sustainability by encouraging involvement in their new community.

Full report pages 14-16, 34, 37 and 46

Recommendation F: Welcome visit feedback

Make sure that feedback from the welcome visits on what could have been better for the tenant is collated and shared with the voids team on a regular basis.

The Evidence:

- Panel members were pleased that welcome visits take place around 4-8 weeks after moving in, for 90% of new tenants. They were also happy that the visits focussed on making sure that new tenants are settling in and are happy with their new home, as well as answering any queries/ offer support.
- The details from welcome visits are entered onto a database, but it was unclear how the service analyses this data for any recurring themes including any issues with new tenant support.
- The panel felt that it was important that welcome visit feedback is used to highlight trends in new tenant concerns that may lead to tenancies failing e.g. not accessing local community support.

Full report pages 33-36

Recommendation G: Clarity around the Furniture scheme

- Provide more clarity around the scheme by addition of up-to date information in the leaflets and on the website, including:
 - The current prices.
 - Confirmation that the furniture package isn't a life-time commitment (participants can switch/ hand back at any time).
 - How the furniture package can be paid for from housing benefit.
- Work with learning disability organisations to let them know about the furniture scheme and the benefits.

The Evidence:

- Panel members were pleased that Rotherham have a Furnished Homes scheme which helps new tenants and hopefully supports more sustainable tenancies.
- The panel was surprised that only 35% of new tenants that had not previously lived in a Rotherham Council home were taking advantage of the furniture scheme. Panel discussion thought that this may be due to lack of clarity around the scheme.
- It was concerning that only 35% of eligible tenants responding to the survey said that they had received the leaflet advertising the scheme. (However the vast majority of people not receiving the information said that they wouldn't have joined the scheme).
- The survey also found that only half of those people receiving the leaflet thought that it made sense to them.
- It was also worrying that one person thought that the furniture scheme meant paying for a lifetime with no chance to 'opt-out' when circumstances changed.
- The panel became aware that the furniture package can be paid for through housing benefits; however this is not advertised in the leaflet or explained fully in pre-tenancy discussions.
- There was also a view that the leaflet should contain more information on the carpets scheme and should include a separate insert or a link to the Council website to be able to see current prices.
- One panel member was aware that learning disability organisations are discouraging people from signing up to the furniture scheme and instead encouraging people to buy the items second-hand. Further information on the scheme may help these organisations to explain it to new tenants.

Full report pages 29-33

Recommendation H: Furniture scheme extension

Proactively extend and publicise the furniture scheme to other tenants (not just new tenants) including people who are struggling to buy new furniture and those who would like to move in first before deciding what they need/ can afford.

The Evidence:

- Not many panel members had heard about the furniture scheme prior to this investigation.
- A panel discussion further to finding that only 35% of new eligible tenants were signing up to the furniture scheme focussed on the timing of the information. It was concluded that this may be due to lack of clarity around the scheme, but may also be due to people not feeling ready to commit to a package until they had moved in and decided what furniture they wanted and could afford.
- There was also a view that, to sustain tenancies further down the line, the furniture package should be offered to long-standing tenants as well; personal circumstances may have changed or furniture/equipment may have broken leading to financial stress and a need for some support from this scheme.

[Full report pages 29-33](#)

Recommendation I: Measuring sustainability

Ensure that the length and sustainability of tenancies is monitored and reported such as measuring how many tenants remain in their new homes for 12 months.

The Evidence:

- It wasn't made clear to the panel how Rotherham Council measures the sustainability of tenancies. The only mention was that monitoring was in place for tenancies ended by the council i.e. evictions.
- The vast majority of survey respondents (86%) intended to stay in their new home indefinitely. It would be interesting to know how many achieve this and the reasons for leaving if not.
- Two of the housing providers responding to the benchmarking exercise reported that they record the length of tenancies to help with monitoring sustainability; St Leger monitor what proportion of tenancies are still sustained 6 months after their support has ended; and Waverley Homes record the number of tenancies lasting for more than 12 months.

- The panel appreciated that there are a variety of reasons for failed tenancies and that it is difficult to offer sufficient support to prevent them from failing in some situations. However, it would be useful to measure the length of new tenancies to allow for review and ideas for enhancing new tenant support further.

Full report pages 39-40

The full report includes further detail of each recommendation and the related evidence, incorporating 'Panel Views' sections for ease of reading.

Suggested improvements

The following suggestions were considered to be important further considerations for officers:

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | <p>Support workers Make sure that vulnerable applicants can have involvement from the same support worker throughout the process. (Page 22)</p> |
| 2. | <p>Viewings analysis Analyse whether there is a link between people staying longer in their new home when they have viewed in—person as opposed to virtually, taking into account other factors. (Page 22)</p> |
| 3. | <p>A Place of Your Own training Consider whether further information should be added to the 'A Place Of Your Own' modules such as fire safety, preventing damp and mould, and getting involved. (Page 23)</p> |
| 4. | <p>Furniture scheme Consider extending the scheme to include vacuum cleaners, irons and ironing boards. (Page 23)</p> |

Report produced by:



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07931 471131

On behalf of:



Rotherham Federation

Appendix 2 - Tenant Scrutiny Review

| Progress/indicator RAG status | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| | Work is significantly behind schedule and no progress has been made, and/or Progress has been made but the timescale has not been achieved |
| | Progress is being made, progress is good, and the action is likely to be achieved within timescale. Or the action has been completed but evidence is required to demonstrate achievement |
| | The action has been completed and there is a record of evidence to support its completion. |

| Recommendation and action (in priority order) | Lead Officer | Update | Target Date | RAG Status | Further Information |
|--|--------------|--|----------------|------------|---------------------|
| <p>Recommendation A: Affordability meeting information:</p> <p>Provide a document after the affordability meeting with income team colleagues with all the calculations and key information, including how people can decide to pay their rent.</p> | Jackie Cobb | <p>During the Pre-Tenancy appointment an income and expenditure check is completed through Policy in Practice and a document is now provided to the customer which shows the affordability.</p> <p>A discussion takes place between the officer and the prospective tenant re payment of rent and their preferred method, and this is also recorded on the income and expenditure check.</p> <p>If the customer requests to pay by direct debit this is also recorded and when sign up takes place a direct debit form is sent to Keychoices</p> | September 2024 | Completed | |

Appendix 2 - Tenant Scrutiny Review

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| <p>Recommendation B: Key choices description:</p> <p>Manage new tenant expectations by providing additional information on the key choice's website, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explaining that the property is unfurnished and is likely to need decoration • A plan of the layout and room sizes (rather than a list of dimensions) | Carol Wordsworth | A summary Guide of the Housing Allocation Policy and has developed and now online. guide-to-the-housing-allocation-policy (rotherham.gov.uk) | October 2024 | Completed | |
| | Carol Wordsworth | Frequently Asked Questions regarding the property have now been developed and are issued at the pre-tenancy interviews and is available on the website. These will be reviewed regularly. | October 2024 | Completed | |
| | Carol Wordsworth | A pre-tenancy checklist has been developed to include a question regarding decoration; therefore, applicants are advised that the property is likely to need decoration. Information regarding the furnished scheme is also provided. | October 2024 | Completed | Properties are currently advertised with room sizes, unfortunately the housing management system does not facilitate additional plans or room layouts. However, we acknowledge that this is a good suggestion, and we will explore the possibility in the future upgrades. |
| | Dean Borrill / Carol Wordsworth | A Lettable Standard has been developed by Housing Property Services and available online. Look for a council home – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council | October 2024 | Completed | |

Appendix 2 - Tenant Scrutiny Review

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| | | This is being shared at the pre-tenancy interview so that applicants are aware of Rotherham's Lettable Standard and know what to expect | | | |
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| <p>Recommendation C. Virtual viewings re-evaluation:</p> <p>Following expiry of the current contract, plan to re-evaluate the policy of minimising in-person viewings and potentially offering them to ALL new tenants by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out a wider survey of tenants to ask if they would prefer virtual or in-person viewings. • Costing out if virtual viewings make substantial savings when considering the cost of the video contract. | <p>Sandra Wardle</p> | <p>A cost analysis was completed in 2022, which showed that virtual viewings was the most cost effective in terms of staff time and mileage.</p> <p>A meeting was held with the virtual video supplier in August 2024 to review the process and on-going monthly meetings have been arranged.</p> <p>The quality of videos provided is being monitored.</p> <p>A further analysis is to be completed to detail options of procuring a contract for virtual viewings or delivering an in-house service.</p> <p>We acknowledge that in person viewing is a better customer experience and will evaluate our virtual viewings approach taking into account tenant feedback.</p> <p>Information and the outcome of this work will be shared with IPSC.</p> | <p>April 2025</p> | <p>On Target</p> | |
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| <p>Recommendation D. Viewings for vulnerable new tenants:</p> <p>Improve the application form to provide more support to vulnerable new tenants by including questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the applicant needs to request an in-person viewing due to physical and /or mental health needs. • If the prospective new tenant needs their support worker to view the property with them. • Allow more than 48 hours' notice for the viewing if needed to ensure that their support worker is available to attend. | <p>Carol Wordsworth / Sandra Wardle</p> | <p>The new housing Allocation Policy has been drafted and will include a definition of vulnerable.</p> <p>A 12-week consultation on the proposed policy, including 22 proposed changes commenced on 13th January 2025 ending Sunday 6th April 2025</p> <p>The pre-tenancy checklist will be updated to include a section on vulnerability.</p> | <p>September 2025</p> | <p>On Target</p> | |
| | | <p>Applicants who apply for medical priority have their case assessed at medical assessment panel. The decision takes into account vulnerability and includes if an in-person viewing is required with either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing Occupational Therapist - Learning Disability & Autism Housing Officer <p>Within Housing Options there are 3 Housing Occupational Therapists, and a dedicated Learning Disability and Autism Housing Officer who will accompany the tenant on viewings.</p> <p>The Learning Disability and Autism Housing Officer was originally part-time, and this increased to full-time</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>Complete</p> | <p>The viewing process is flexible, to allow more time, and viewing will be arranged around the availability of the tenant a support worker.</p> <p>Properties will be held up to 1 week when the customer is on holiday</p> |

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| | | to enable more support to be provided to applicants with a Learning Disability or Autism. | | | |
| | | The Medical Assessment process will be reviewed as part of the Allocation Policy Review. | September 2025 | On Target | |
| <p>Recommendation E. Welcome pack:</p> <p>Provide a welcome pack for new tenants that is handed out at sign up. The pack should include information such as neighbourhood / community activities, how to report a repair, and advice about damp and mould. It should also give details specific to that home such as how to work the boiler, location of the stop tap, and days for bin collections.</p> | Carol Wordsworth | <p>All the information provided when signing for a new tenancy has been reviewed.</p> <p>A new Welcome Pack is being developed to consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenancy agreement - Rotherham Council Tenancy Agreement – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council • A Guide to your Home - Guide to Your Home – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council • Lettable standard (complete) • Sign-up information relating to individual properties (so this won't be online) • Generic information / leaflets - such as damp & | March 2025 | On Target | The team are liaising with customer Services, Design and Digital Services and the Welcome Pack will be launched by the end February 2025. |

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| | | <p>mould, fire action leaflet, contents insurance, district heating guide (if applicable) etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A customer satisfaction survey has been developed and launched mid-February 2025 | | | |
| <p>Recommendation F. Welcome visit feedback:</p> <p>Make sure that feedback from the welcome visits on what could have been better for the tenant is collated and shared with the voids team on a regular basis.</p> | <p>Luke Chamoun</p> | <p>A new digital form for Welcome Visit is being developed. The responses to questions 4, "Are there any issues with your property?" and 5, "if yes, what are the issues" can be reported on following implementation.</p> <p>Issue that are feedback on the Welcome Visit will always be shared with the Voids team.</p> | <p>August 2025</p> | <p>On Target</p> | |
| <p>Recommendation G. Clarity around the Furniture scheme</p> <p>Provide more clarity around the scheme by addition of up-to date information in the leaflets and on the website, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current prices. Confirmation that the furniture package isn't a | <p>Phil Hamilton</p> | <p>The Furnished Homes webpage is up to date and offers clarity on the scheme, packages that are available and confirms the minimum weekly charge price.</p> <p>Get help to furnish your council home – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</p> | <p>April 2025</p> | <p>On Target</p> | |

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| <p>life-time commitment (participants can switch/ hand back at any time).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the furniture package can be paid for from housing benefit. • Work with learning disability organisations to let them know about the furniture scheme and the benefits. | | <p>There is also a word document available for tenants with current price list and item details.</p> <p>The website explains that when tenants sign up to the scheme this is for the duration of the tenancy. However, if an applicant’s financial circumstances change, there are options to downgrade or upgrade the furniture package and the weekly charge will be adjusted accordingly. If a change of package is not viable, then tenants can request to be removed from the scheme.</p> <p>If a tenant joins the scheme, a weekly charge will be applied to their rent, which is dependent on the furniture package chosen.</p> <p>The charge is added to the rent account and will show as a service charge on the account.</p> <p>The furnished charge start date will begin on delivery of items/flooring and will be confirmed and entered onto the tenancy agreement at the point of sign up.</p> <p>If the applicant is in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit,</p> | | | |
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| | | <p>some or all the furnished charge may be covered and will require the applicant to update DWP when signing the tenancy agreement.</p> <p>The charge includes any repairs, maintenance, and replacements to all flooring and furnished items caused by natural wear and tear. Any damages caused by misuse or accidental could result in recharges being raised.</p> <p>Key Choices team employs a learning and disabilities officer who will promote the scheme to individual tenants and signpost for further information as needed to disability organisations.</p> <p>The service has started work on updating the leaflets to promote the service, including details of packages available, images of available items, prices and information on the scheme. The leaflet will be completed by April 25.</p> | | | |
| <p>Recommendation H. Furniture scheme extension:</p> <p>Proactively extend and publicise the furniture scheme to other tenants (not just new tenants) including people who are struggling to buy new</p> | <p>Phil Hamilton</p> | <p>The scheme is aimed at low-income households and offering the essential items for new tenants with immediacy reduces the likelihood of new tenants experiencing furniture poverty. The scheme does allow for current Council tenants who are at</p> | | <p>Complete</p> | <p>We acknowledge that this is a good suggestion but unfortunately it is not feasible to introduce items like irons/vacuum cleaners as this would lead to increased costs and workloads. The team</p> |

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| <p>furniture and those who would like to move in first before deciding what they need/ can afford.</p> <p>Could the furniture package offer would be extended to include irons, ironing boards and vacuum cleaners.</p> | | <p>risk of losing their tenancy the opportunity to join the scheme.</p> <p>As of 23/01/2025 there are 5582 furnished homes in the scheme.</p> <p>The furnished scheme is available to new tenants who sign up to an RMBC tenancy within the first six week of the tenancy commencement date.</p> <p>There is an option for tenants to purchase refurbished furniture for a one-off cost, instead of opting into the scheme. These items are cleaned, function and PAT tested were applicable to bring them to an 'as new' standard.</p> | | | <p>are not trained in repairing these items, and, as the scheme currently refurbishes items for re-use, these items would not be deemed safe for re-use so this would create an increased costs for replacements and disposal.</p> |
| | Phil Hamilton | Furnished Homes Policy to be developed and this will include the eligibility criteria. | October 2025 | On Target | |
| | Phil Hamilton | The Council is working in partnership with a recycling centre to offer a starter pack of white goods free of charge to tenants who are struggling financially. A | 31/01/2025 | Complete | |

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| | | meeting was held on 9th December to agree on a process for referrals. This is now in place | | | |
| <p>Recommendation I. Measuring sustainability:</p> <p>Ensure that the length and sustainability of tenancies is monitored and reported such as measuring how many tenants remain in their new homes for 12 months.</p> | Luke Chamoun | <p>There is an existing system report that allows us to measure tenancy sustainability. We can monitor and report how many tenants remain in their homes for 12 months.</p> <p>Monitoring of this measure is now reported to the Council's Performance and Business Intelligence Service on a monthly scorecard. Performance will also be included in the quarterly Performance and Quality report.</p> | Ongoing | Complete | . |

Appendix 3

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

| 1. Title | |
|--|---|
| Title: Scrutiny Panel Review – Supporting New Tenants | |
| Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | Service area: Housing Options |
| Lead person: Sandra Wardle | Contact: Sandra.wardle@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Is this a: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |
| If other, please specify | |

| 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening |
|---|
| This is a screening of the Tenant Scrutiny Panel review of how the Council supports new tenants and if this is improving sustainability of tenancies. |

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The Tenant Scrutiny Review has highlighted positive additional ways to support new tenants. We accept that there are areas where some improvements could be made following discussions with officers and new tenants.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination. We do recognise that any suggested changes to service delivery may affect a circa of 7000 applicants on the housing register, some of which have protected characteristics.

- **Key findings**

The system used for new tenancies collates customer data and information. We can therefore demonstrate a transparent approach to making decisions on who is eligible for new tenancies. We can also make any reasonable adjustments in relation to the services offered for new tenants, for example offering support from the Learning and Disabilities Officer.

- **Actions**

The review of the Virtual Viewings will ensure that there is engagement with new and existing tenants including under-represented groups. Tenant feedback will be analysed to ensure a consistency of service across all tenants.

Housing Options will continue to engage with, and seek the opinions of, tenants before agreeing and publishing of the Furnished Homes Policy. As part of the policy development the Council will ensure the needs of applicants are at the heart of the process through public consultation.

Additionally, we will undertake a review of best practice, updated guidance and equivalent policies of other local authorities who deliver furnished homes. Understanding the demographics of the customer group will need to be better understood to help to identify any key factors to consider in the development of the Policy and associated communication of the new policy. Data, information and analysis will be from a range of local sources and any identified needs will be addressed in the Policy.

Sustainability of tenure will be monitored in Housing Quality, Improvement and Performance Board meetings to identify trends in terminations, either from a specific group of tenants, or reasons.

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

Date to complete your Equality Analysis: N/A

Lead person for your Equality Analysis
(Include name and job title): N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name | Job title | Date |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Sandra Wardle | Housing Options Service Manager | 31/01/2025 |
| Sandra Tolley | Head of Housing Options | 31/01/2025 |

6. Publishing

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

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

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Date screening completed | 31/01/2024 |
| Report title and date | Tenants Scrutiny Panel Review – Supporting New Tenants. IPSC 18 th March 2025 |
| If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication | |
| Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk | 31/1/2025 |

Tenants Scrutiny Panel Review Supporting New Tenants

Improving Places Select Commission
18 March 2025

Sandra Wardle
Housing Options Service Manager

The Tenant Scrutiny Panel

The remit – To consider various aspects of landlord service delivery, from a customer perspective and to develop recommendations and actions for service improvement.

In March 2024, the way the Council supports new tenants was selected by the Tenant Scrutiny Panel for review.

Considered stages of the allocation process and how new tenants are supported, mainly around:

- The processes prior to an allocation of a Council tenancy including pre tenancy training, and income and expenditure checks.
- Allocation of Council accommodation.
- Furnished Home Scheme.
- Post-allocation support from the Area Housing Teams.

The methodology for the review

- Reviewed the customer journey to become a Rotherham Council tenant,
- Ascertained whether the publicity around the service is available to all tenants, including hard to reach groups.
- Used mystery shopping and other methods to explore service access routes.
- Benchmarked against other housing providers to identify any learning and good practice from their systems and policies.
- Interviewed new tenants and representatives of the relevant services and senior managers from the Council's Housing Service.

Nine Recommendations

(Progress in the Action Plan in Appendix 2)

Recommendations

- (A) Affordability meeting** - Provide a document to the customer after the affordability meeting with income team colleagues with all the calculations and key information, including how people can decide to pay their rent.

Progress

- An income and expenditure check is completed via Policy and Practice and the applicant is now provided with a document which shows the affordability. The preferred method of rent payment is recorded.
- If the customer requests to pay by direct debit this is recorded and when sign up takes place a direct debit form is provided for signature by Key Choices

COMPLETE

Progress

Recommendations

(B) Keychoices description - Manage new tenant's expectations by providing additional information on the Keychoices website:

- That the property is unfurnished and likely to need decorating
- A plan of the layout and room sizes (rather than a list of dimensions)

Progress

- Issue Frequently Asked Question at pre-tenancy interviews.
- The pre tenancy checklist includes a question re decoration, so applicants are advised that the property is likely to need decorating
- The Lettable Standard has been developed and is available online
- Properties are advertised with room sizes, we acknowledge this is a good suggestion however the housing management system does not facilitate additional plans or room layouts. We will explore the possibility in future upgrades.

COMPLETE

Progress

Recommendations

(C) Virtual viewings re-evaluation

Following expiry of the current contract, plan to re-evaluate the policy of minimising in-person viewings and potentially offering them to ALL new tenants

Progress

- We acknowledge that in person viewings is a better customer experience we will evaluate our virtual viewing approach considering tenant feedback, this will be shared with IPSC.
- We will carry out a wider survey of tenants to ask if they prefer in person or virtual viewings
- Costing out if virtual viewings make substantial savings when considering the cost of the video contract.

On Target – April 2025

Progress

Recommendations

(D) Viewing for Vulnerable tenants

Improve the application form to provide more support to vulnerable tenants by including questions such as:

- Whether the applicant needs to request an in person viewing due to physical or mental health needs
- If they need their support worker to view with them
- Allow more than 48 hours' notice for the viewing if needed to ensure that their support worker is available to attend.

Progress

- Within Housing Options there are 3 Housing OTs and a dedicated Learning and Disability Housing Officer
- Applicants who receive medical priority, includes a recommendation for an in person viewing with the OT or Learning and Disability Housing Officer. A support worker can also attend.
- The viewing process is flexible, and viewing will be arranged around the availability of the tenant a support worker. Properties will be held up to 1 week when the customer is on holiday

COMPLETE

Progress

Recommendations

(E) Welcome Pack

Provide a welcome pack for new tenants at sign up. The pack should include information such as neighbourhood/community's activities, how to report a repair and advice on damp and mould, how to work the boiler, location of the stop tap, and days for bin collections.

Progress

- The information has been reviewed and a new welcome pack developed. This has been developed into a pdf. Will be launched end of February 2025.
- A customer satisfaction survey is now in place.

On Target - March 2025

Progress

Recommendations

(F) Welcome Visit Feedback

- Make sure that feedback from the welcome visits on what could have been better for the tenant is collated and shared with the voids team on a regular basis.

Progress

- A new digital form for Welcome Visit is being developed. This asks, “Are there any issues with your property?” and “if yes, what are the issues”
- Issues that are fed back on the welcome visit will always be shared with the void team.

On Target - August 2025

Progress

Recommendations

(G Provide clarity around the Furnished Scheme)

- Provide more clarity around the scheme by addition of up-to date information on current prices, confirmation that it isn't a lifetime commitment and how the pack can be paid for from housing benefits

Progress

- The Furnished Homes webpage is now up to date and offers clarity on the scheme, packages that are available and confirms the minimum charge. The website explains that the package is for the duration of the tenancy but if the tenant's financial circumstances change there are options to downgrade and the weekly charge will be adjusted.
- The charge includes any repairs and replacements to all items caused by wear and tear, any damages due to misuse are rechargeable

COMPLETE

Progress

Recommendations

(H) Furniture scheme extension

- Proactively extend and publicise the furniture scheme to other tenants (not just new tenants) including people who are struggling to buy new furniture.
- Could the scheme be extended to include small electric items such as irons, vacuum cleaners.

Progress

- The scheme does allow for current tenants to join the scheme if they are at risk of losing their tenancy.
- The Council is working in partnership with a recycling centre to offer a starter pack of white goods free of charge to tenants who are struggling financially.
- We acknowledge that it is a good suggestion to introduce items like irons/vacuum cleaners but unfortunately it is not feasible to introduce these items as it would increase costs and workloads. The team are not trained in repairing these items, and, as the scheme currently refurbishes items for re-use, these items would not be deemed safe for re-use so this would create an increased costs for replacements and disposal.
- The Furnished Homes Policy is to be developed, and this will include edibility criteria

Progress

Recommendations

(I) Measuring Sustainability

- Ensure that the length and sustainability of tenancies is monitored and reported such as measuring how many tenants remain in their new homes for 12 months.

Progress

- There is an existing system report that allows us to measure suitability. We can monitor and report how many tenants remain in their homes for 12 months. Monitoring of this measure is now reported to the Council's Performance and Business Intelligence Service each month via scorecard
- Performance will also be included in the quarterly performance and quality report. It is produced by the performance team and is published on the website.

COMPLETE



Questions?



Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 10 February 2025

Report Title

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2025

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

On 30 October 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and set out its action plan covering the following seven policy themes of Monitoring and Measurement; Energy; Housing; Transport; Waste; Built and Natural Environment; and Influence and Engagement. A theme covering Adaptation was subsequently added to the action plan to recognise the work to prepare for climate impacts and mitigate those already being felt throughout the Borough.

At its meeting on 23 March 2020, Cabinet resolved to establish the targets of:

- The Council's carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
- Borough-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)

A Climate Emergency Action Plan was established, and this report outlines progress towards the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan reported for the 2024/2025 period. Also included is a summary of climate change data, for greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations April 2020 – March 2024 and across the Borough of Rotherham, 2005 – 2022. Local area emissions data are published two years in arrears by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

This report covers the eight policy themes detailed above and in addition includes a summary of the Council's progress on nature recovery action. A forward plan for 2025/26 is also proposed.

Recommendations

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

List of Appendices Included

| | |
|------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | Climate Change Progress Report 2024/25 |
| Appendix 2 | Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 |
| Appendix 3 | Climate Change Data Summary |
| Appendix 4 | Initial Equality Impact Screening Assessment |
| Appendix 5 | Carbon Impact Assessment |

Background Papers

- [Rotherham Council \(2020\). Responding to the Climate Emergency. Cabinet 23 March 2020:](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2021\). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 22nd March 2021:](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2022\). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 25th April 2022:](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2022\) Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23. Cabinet 17th October 2022.](#)
- [Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission 25th October 2022.](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2023\) Climate Emergency Annual Report 20th March 2023](#)
- [Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission, Tuesday 19 September 2023, 1.30 p.m. - Rotherham Council](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2023\) Council Building Decarbonisation Programme Cabinet Report - Monday 18 September 2023](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2023\) Rotherham Council Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Expansion. Cabinet 16th October 2023](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2024\) Cabinets Response to the Improving Places Scrutiny Review - Nature Recovery Monday 16 September 2024](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2024\) Section 19 Report for Storm Babet, Improving Places Select Commission, Tuesday 22 October 2024.](#)
- [South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority \(2024\) Net Zero Update. Audit, Standards and Risk Committee. Tuesday 26 November 2024.](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2023\) Transport CO2 emissions in Rotherham](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2024\) Waste Collections Policy. Cabinet 16th December 2024](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2025

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency on 30th October 2019 and since then has committed to driving down carbon emissions with a view to achieving the following targets:
- The Council's carbon emissions to be net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
 - Borough-wide carbon emissions to be net zero by 2040 (NZ40)
- 1.2 The Council also declared a Nature Crisis for Rotherham on 25th May 2022. It is recognised that the decline in nature is intrinsically linked with the climate emergency, and this is reflected within the action plan detailed in Appendix 2.
- 1.3 This report details progress to date and presents a proposed Action Plan for 2025/26.
- 1.4 On the 10 January 2025, the World Meteorological Organisation announced that 2024 was the warmest year on record, with the past ten years being the warmest on record. Average global temperatures exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for the first time, though long term warming measured over decades remains below 1.5°C. Global Green House Gas emissions are also at a record high. This does not mean that the targets set within the 2015 Paris Agreement cannot be reached as annual average temperatures fluctuate, but this continued upward trend highlights the urgent need for action on carbon emissions.
- 1.5 The Met Office has also recently produced smaller resolution climate scenarios to support adaptation activities at a local level.
- ### 1.6 National Policy Background
- 1.7 On 12 November 2024 at COP29 in Azerbaijan, the UK Prime Minister announced an increase in ambition in relation to its net zero target, including reducing emissions by 81% on 1990 levels by 2035. This target is aligned with the UK's sixth carbon budget and with the recommendation of the Climate Change Committee aiming to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The announcement aims to reduce emissions by investment in UK based renewable energy and investment in green jobs.
- 1.8 A number of other policy changes have emerged since the previous annual report. Including a lifting of the ban on onshore wind in England and the launching of Great British Energy backed by £8.3 billion which aims to speed up delivery of renewable energy. Funding has also been allocated to invest in carbon capture to deal with residual emissions. The establishment of Great British Energy may present future opportunities for the Borough should further investment in renewables become available.

Regional Background

1.9 The Council continues to work closely with its regional counterparts. The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and its member authorities are developing plans for future activities to provide a clear evidence base for regional action. Opportunities have been recognised in the region surrounding clean growth, retrofitting homes, industrial decarbonisation, and transport. Developing a clean, green economy is a particular priority and the Mayor has recently set up SY Energy, which is a partnership board bringing together key local stakeholders to work on tackling the challenges which may be preventing investment in the region.

1.10 The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission has also released an updated Climate Action Plan for the region. This action plan acts as a framework for delivery and focusses on four main pillars including: climate adaptation, rapid emissions reduction, nature restoration and ensuring a just transition. These pillars are then focused on seven outcomes which have been the basis for the recommendations for monitoring included within this report.

2. Progress Report

2.1 A full progress report and action plan for 2025/2026 is detailed within Appendix 1 and 2. Key progress is highlighted below with respect to the specific themes of:

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

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

2.3 Outcomes

2.4 Feedback in February 2023 from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) recommended that in future the programme consider focussing on outcomes. This report therefore considers the desired outcomes of the overall climate change programme and provides a number of key performance indicators that can be better monitored moving forward. It also presents measurables which are designed to demonstrate progress against the key outcomes and targets associated with this workstream. These are included alongside a data overview in

section 2.5 which is presented for transparency purposes. This approach will also support future decision making to enable the impact of actions to be better prioritised based on importance and impact.

2.5 Monitoring and measurement

2.6 The Council annually monitors its operational carbon footprint as well as Borough-wide emissions using data available from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. The data below aims to present a more outcome focussed approach as described above.

2.7 The Council's ambitious net zero by 2030 target for its operational emissions aims to demonstrate leadership whilst also reducing its impact on the environment. The performance measures outlined below in relation to this target are aimed at decarbonising the Council's scope 1 and 2 emissions, plus business travel. These emissions form the Council's direct influence.

2.8

| Net Zero by 2030 Performance Measures | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----|--------|
| KPI | UoM | Reporting Year | | | | DoT | RAG |
| | | 20/21 | 21/22 | 22/23 | 23/24 | | |
| Natural Gas and Biomass Heating | tCO ₂ e | 1,741 | 1,818 | 1,766 | 1,694 | ↑ | Yellow |
| Fuel Use in Corporate Fleet Vehicles, Plant and Tools | tCO ₂ e | 2,531 | 2,522 | 2,504 | 2,446 | ↑ | Yellow |
| On Site Diesel Generation | tCO ₂ e | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | ↑ | Green |
| Fugitive Emissions of F-Gases | tCO ₂ e | 138 | 138 | 138 | 90 | ↔ | Grey |
| Electricity Use in Buildings | tCO ₂ e | 2,077 | 1,930 | 1,810 | 1,945 | ↓ | Red |
| Street Lighting | tCO ₂ e | 1,530 | 1,384 | 1,267 | 1,356 | ↓ | Red |
| Business Mileage/Transport | tCO ₂ e | 221 | 273 | 384 | 396 | ↓ | Red |
| TOTAL NZ30 Emissions | tCO₂e | 8,242 | 8,068 | 7,869 | 7,927 | ↓ | Red |
| Annual Percentage Change* | % | | -2.1 | -2.5 | 0.73 | ↓ | Red |
| Cumulative Percentage Change† | % | | -2.1 | -4.5 | -3.8 | ↓ | Red |

* Change in total, annual NZ30 emissions compared with the previous year.

† Change in emissions since 2020/21. The NZ30 target was adopted in March 2020.

2.9 Emissions from the Council's buildings have increased since 22/23. This is a result of a 7% increase in the carbon intensity of the National Grid electricity during this period, and a gradual return to the office post COVID. The impacts of the Council's energy efficiency measures have therefore been relatively small. The challenges experienced are detailed below in section 2.16.

2.10 Performance against the Council's commitment to support the transition of the Borough to net zero by 2040 target is not as easily measured. Data provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero is provided 2 years behind.

| Net Zero by 2040 Performance Measures | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-----|------------------|
| KPI | UoM | Reporting Year | | | | DoT | 2024 Status RAG* |
| | | 20/21 | 21/22 | 22/23 | 23/24 | | |
| Total Borough Emissions [†] | ktCO ₂ e·yr ⁻¹ | 1,522 | 1,514 | 1,425 | - | ↑ | |
| Percentage change against 2005 baseline [†] | % | -44.9 | -45.2 | -48.4 | - | ↑ | |
| Percentage fossil fuels in local energy mix [†] | % | 80.8 | 80.3 | 79.7 | - | ↑ | |
| Local renewable generating capacity [†] | MW | 90.6 | 92.9 | 94.2 | 96.4 | ↑ | |
| Dwellings within 3 miles of RMBC EVI | % | - | - | - | 90% | ↔ | |
| Council homes rated EPC band C or above | % | - | 46.5 [‡] | 50.9 | 53.9 | ↑ | |
| Household recycling rate | % | 43.3 | 45.0 | 44.5 | - | ↔ | |
| Household recycling contamination rate | % | 7.70 | 6.70 | 6.40 | - | ↑ | |
| Residual Waste per household | kg·yr ⁻¹ | 507 | 495 | 473 | - | ↑ | |
| <p>Performance DoT (Direction of Travel) Key: ↑ Improving, ↓ Declining, ↔ Uncertain/No Change</p> <p>* Status RAG scores reflect climate change targets and committed actions e.g., a KPI related to EVI (electric vehicle charging infrastructure) is rated green because the Council's target for 95% of dwellings to be within 3 miles of its EVI network by 2025 is very likely to be met: see section 2.25, below.</p> <p>† NZ40 Emissions and local area energy statistics are reported by calendar year. Calendar years are aligned with the Council's municipal year reporting periods according to which comprises the greater part of each e.g., 2020 NZ40 emissions appear under 2020/21 in the table above.</p> <p>‡ 46.5% figure correct as of October 2021.</p> <p>With regards to household waste data, the Council is broadly average when compared across all local authorities but when compared with similar Council's improvements can be made.</p> | | | | | | | |

2.11

The above performance measures aim to track the following key outcomes:

- Progress towards a net zero Borough by 2040
- An increase in access to publicly available EV charge points, supporting the transition to a cleaner transport system.
- Healthier, warmer social homes
- Improved recycling and waste management

- 2.12 Measurement of change relating to net zero 2040 emissions requires work to understand better which emissions are within the Council's influence and how this can be monitored. The table above presents the available data from existing monitoring regimes and Strategies, such as the Rotherham Public EV Charging Strategy which already exists. Further data is available within Appendix 3 which highlights work already done to interrogate available datasets and understand the Borough's existing emissions status. It is expected that this area of monitoring will develop over time.
- 2.13 In addition, a number of actions proposed within the 25/26 action plan provide opportunities for monitoring and in particular the development of a Net Zero 40 Strategy covering the wider Borough will identify further outcomes for delivery in future years.
- 2.14 As explained in section 1.10 the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan has seven themes focussed not just on carbon emissions and energy but also on nature recovery, adaptation and ensuring a just transition for communities. It is recognised that the Council does not yet have metrics available to assess all components identified in the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan, though all elements are addressed in some way as part of the qualitative actions proposed in Appendix 2.
- 2.15 Further detail is available in Appendix 3.
- 2.16 **Energy**
- 2.17 The Council has developed a detailed route map to net zero which includes a Heat Decarbonisation Plan covering all relevant components of the Council's corporate estate that need to be decarbonised prior to 2030. Unfortunately, progress against this plan has been met with a number of financial and technological challenges throughout the 2024/25 period.
- 2.18 In 2023, the Council submitted a bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Phase 3c scheme to fund works to five council buildings which were planned for decarbonisation during 2024. Unfortunately, this application was not successful, and the Council was therefore unable to progress with the works. In addition, emergency replacement of gas boilers during this time has meant that some of the originally approved buildings will no longer be eligible for the Phase 4 scheme. Alternative sources of funding are being reviewed for these sites, but the Council has since submitted another bid to the PSDS4 scheme to decarbonise three additional buildings.
- 2.19 The Council also has an ongoing project to decarbonise five Town Centre buildings including the Town Hall, Civic Theatre, Riverside House, Clifton Park Museum and the Orchard Centre. The heating systems within these buildings are challenging to decarbonise due to

their age, the sites' electrical capacity, and the space available for plant. The Council was successful in being awarded government funding to upgrade these buildings in readiness for a heat network which aligned at the time with grant funding received by a private sector company to construct a heat network covering the town centre.

- 2.20 The private sector project to construct the heat network has experienced significant unexpected delays linked with the confirmation of the heat source for the heat network. As the heat network does not currently have a confirmed heat source, and the design of works is heavily linked with the incoming temperature of the heat, the technical specification for these buildings cannot be drawn up. This has meant that the Council has been unable to draw down the full extent of the funding to meet grant deadlines as the measures cannot be designed. Salix, the fund administrator on behalf of the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero has confirmed that any funding spent to date will not be clawed back as it was spent in good faith. Future applications to PSDS for this project are also possible, subject to the usual application processes. This project is therefore on hold until approximately 2026/27 to enable the private sector project to progress. However, LED lighting upgrades have been completed on the relevant properties as part of this scheme.
- 2.21 The Council continues to administer the ECO 4 FLEX scheme which increases the number of residents eligible for the installation of energy efficiency measures to their property. Between April and November 2024, 313 properties have been approved for installation.
- 2.22 The Community Energy Officer has also undertaken 13 engagement events in communities across the Borough, with several more planned throughout the winter period. During these sessions residents were signposted to relevant grant funding and to other organisations which support residents in fuel poverty or with poorly insulated homes.
- 2.23 **Transport**
- 2.24 The fleet replacement programme is scheduled to continue until March 2026. To date, there have been no new electric vehicles added to the Council's fleet which presents a delay against the originally agreed plan. A separate paper will be brought to Cabinet with proposals for next steps in this programme. A number of internal policy changes will be required to deal with a change in processes necessary for implementing the 64 EVs approved. This includes management of vehicles currently kept at officers' homes overnight and ensuring processes are implemented for charging.
- 2.25 Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is a biofuel which can result in up to 90% reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions when used as a direct replacement to fossil fuels such as diesel. The transition to this fuel is easy to manage as only a small change to vehicles is needed in the form of filter replacements. The Council has been trialling this fuel in ten of its existing ICE vehicles over the last eleven months and has proven to be

successful, saving the Council over 80 tCO_{2e}. The trial has confirmed that HVO is a suitable solution to reduce emissions of the Council's fleet with minimal service disruption, especially for vehicles where Electric Vehicles are not feasible at present. It will not, however, eliminate emissions and does not in and of itself achieve net zero emissions. The change would require additional revenue investment and a paper will be brought forward for consideration with more detail in the future.

- 2.26 Seven (6 sites and 1 reserve) new locations for public electric vehicle charging infrastructure were approved at Cabinet in October 2023, funded through SYMCA and JAQU funding streams. To improve the longevity of these devices, a slight change to the programme was approved via Officer Decision to enable the devices to be ruggedised against vandalism and to include CCTV at each site. These installations are on track for completion by end of March 2025 and are expected to enable the Council to achieve its target of 95% of residents to be within 3miles of a publicly available Council-owned charge point.
- 2.27 Site investigations are currently underway at Drummond Street car park in readiness for procurement. This scheme will deliver a solar PV canopy and EV scheme at Drummond Street designed to create a hub in the Town Centre for use by residents, visitors, and private hire vehicles. This scheme, funded by the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (LEVI), is currently scheduled for completion by end 2025.
- 2.28 The Council has completed active travel infrastructure schemes around the town centre, including on Wellgate, Broom Road and Sheffield Road. These schemes begin to make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle for short journeys but changes in transport mode are slow and have seen little change over the last 20 years. To encourage positive behaviour-change and a modal shift towards more active travel, for those that are able, will require more advocates and additional interventions alongside infrastructure. For example, the Council has recently implemented a pool bike scheme for staff use. These bikes, which include electric bikes, can be borrowed by staff for short journeys between sites. However, it must be recognised that short trips which lend themselves to active travel, those shorter than 6 miles / 10 km, generate only a fifth of carbon emissions associated with car trips to or from Rotherham, and the carbon saving associated with these schemes is forecast to be only 0.004% of Rotherham's territorial transport emissions.
- 2.29 **Housing**
- 2.30 Work to deliver ten net zero ready homes at East Herringthorpe were officially completed early in April 2024. All the homes are supplied with heating and hot water from Air-Source Heat Pumps. These are the first 'no-gas' Council homes to be delivered in Rotherham. They are 'zero carbon ready', this means that as the UK electricity system is decarbonised, they will become operationally net zero. They also have additional energy efficiency measures in the form of integrated solar PV

panels and mechanical ventilation and heat recovery (MVHR). They have also achieved an EPC 'A' rating.

- 2.31 The Council has been unable to deliver the three homes in Thrybergh that were intended as a demonstrator project for zero carbon homes and included in previous versions of this plan. Whilst this zero-carbon aspiration has in part been met through the East Herringthorpe scheme there are additional measures which were planned at Thrybergh, such as battery storage.
- 2.32 The two small sites in Thrybergh were narrow and constrained with challenging ground conditions; the design and planning process limited the number of houses on each site making any possible development unviable and unaffordable to progress.
- 2.33 However, given the positive feedback received on the East Herringthorpe homes, the Council has now included a 'net zero ready' standard within its specifications for all future newbuild Council homes delivered as part of the current Housing Delivery Programme. This is notably in advance of the expected Future Homes Standard which is planned to come into force during 2025. The Council will therefore already be in compliance with this expected new statutory requirement prior to its introduction.
- 2.34 The Council is also actively looking to deliver zero carbon homes through other projects in the Housing Delivery Programme subject to affordability/ viability.
- 2.35 The action to create a plan to decarbonise the Council's social housing stock to EPC band C by 2030 is currently on track for completion by March 2025.
- 2.36 **Waste**
- 2.37 Recycling contamination remains a significant issue for the Council's household waste collections. In the 2023/24 municipal year, the annual average contamination rate for households' paper and card and dry mixed recycling collections were 15.58% and 18.66%, respectively. Meanwhile, about one eighth of material disposed as 'residual' waste could have been recycled or composted in kerbside collections. These twin issues represent on the one hand, a direct cost to the Council from contamination charges paid to its downstream waste treatment contractors; and on the other hand, lost revenue from material which could have been recycled. Proposed changes to the Council's Contamination Policy have been approved for consultation by Cabinet in December 2024.
- 2.38 Following the successful introduction of paper and card recycling, the Council continues to transform its commercial Rotherham Business Waste service, in preparation for Simpler Recycling regulations. From April 2025, all businesses with more than 10 employees must arrange for the separate collection of food waste and dry mixed recycling from their

premises, with similar provisions for schools, hospitals and local authorities. To support local businesses' compliance with the new regulations and deliver local economic, social and environmental value, Rotherham Business Waste will offer separate food waste and dry mixed recycling collections, alongside its existing paper and card recycling service. Since the introduction of paper and card recycling – and the commencement of a new pricing structure in April 2024, to incentivise separate collections – most Rotherham Business Waste customers have retained or increased the size and number of their paper and card bins, while down-sizing their containers for residual waste: a tangible expression of increased recycling, amongst local businesses.

2.39 Environmentally sustainable waste management is not all about recycling: the Council has also seen improved performance at other levels of the 'waste hierarchy'. For example, the Council has partnered with Rotherham Hospice, to signpost potential users of its bulky waste collection service to consider donating items to charity, instead. Meanwhile, the rate at which items are diverted from recycling or disposal at the Council's HWRC's (Household Waste Recycling Centres) to be re-used in the community has more than doubled since the contract was re-let in October 2023. Thousands of pounds' worth of items have been donated for re-sale and to furnish the premises of local charities, while about twenty bicycles per week are sent to be renovated by Yorkshire Bike Shack, a community interest company based in Doncaster. As part of the Council's HWRC contract, pop up re-use shops will attend relevant events throughout the Borough with a successful 'pop-up shop' recently held at the Rotherham Show. There are also plans for the Council's HWRC contractor on behalf of Barnsley and Doncaster Councils to develop a permanent re-use shop in the Borough. This will emulate successes in other local authority areas and to promote further the region's circular economy.

2.40 **Built & Natural Environment**

2.41 The Council's tree planting programme is well established and to date has planted 41,474 trees across the Borough since 2021. The plan to deliver a further 10,000 trees in woodland trees and 500 trees in urban settings is on track to be exceeded by March 2025. Trees naturally sequester carbon from the atmosphere, provide important habitat for wildlife and deliver further ecosystem services, such as mitigating flood risk.

2.42 Officers continue to work alongside representatives from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to contribute to a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. SYMCA are the Lead Authority for this work, but each local authority, including Rotherham, are providing input to ensure that local biodiversity needs are considered. This work is planned to be completed slightly later than the original estimate of March 2025 but as the framework for future action on nature recovery in the region, it is important that this work is representative.

2.43 As part of the 2023 Scrutiny Review of Nature's Recovery in Rotherham, several recommendations have recently been approved at Cabinet in September 2024. These actions have been incorporated into the wider climate change plan for reporting purposes and a steering group set up to manage progress moving forward. This group will support the implementation of the actions identified and enable reporting prior to the statutory deadline of 12 weeks following 1st January 2026.

2.44 **Influence & Engagement**

2.45 The Rotherham Show in September 2024 included for the very first time an eco-village which focussed messaging and cultural activities on the environment, nature and climate change.

2.46 Similarly, the Clifton Park Museum exhibition, Our Habitat Our Home, shines a spotlight on Rotherham's natural history and looks to the future, encouraging visitors to pledge an action to mitigate climate change or to preserve the natural environment. This exhibition will be live until 23rd February 2025.

2.47 Throughout the year, the Neighbourhood's team and Ward Councillors across Rotherham have worked alongside a variety of local and regional partners, including the Green Doctor and the Council's Community Energy team, to host a series of public information events and activities. These events are designed to engage residents and provide valuable advice on how to reduce their environmental impact and save on energy costs.

2.48 The events have covered a wide range of topics to help residents make informed, sustainable choices in their everyday lives. Key themes have included:

- Reducing Energy Use: Practical advice on how to save energy at home, from energy-efficient appliances to simple changes in everyday habits.
- Recycling: Information on how to recycle more effectively, reduce waste, and make the most of local recycling services.
- Tree Planting: Opportunities for residents to get involved in local tree planting projects, improving air quality and boosting biodiversity.
- Composting: Tips on how to start composting at home and reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill.
- Reducing Food Waste: Strategies to minimize food waste, save money, and make the most of your grocery shopping including Food Share initiatives.

2.49 These events have not only provided useful advice but also fostered a sense of community spirit, with residents coming together to share ideas, ask questions, and take positive action towards a more sustainable future.

- 2.50 By collaborating with organisations such as Rotherham Federation, Green Doctor and Rotherham Council's Community Energy team, these public events aim to empower residents with the knowledge and tools to make a real difference, both in their own homes and in the wider community.
- 2.51 **Adaptation**
- 2.52 It is important that the Council continues to reduce its carbon emissions but alongside this mitigation activity it is clear that the Borough is already experiencing more frequent extreme weather conditions as a result of climate change. Climate change adaptation is the process of preparing for and adapting to the impacts that climate change will bring. Part of this work will require an understanding of the vulnerabilities of communities and council services to the risks of climate change such as extreme heat, wildfires, and flooding.
- 2.53 A plan has been created to increase awareness of climate risks within the Council to give heads of service the understanding to manage risks associated with their service to minimise future disruption. The plan is based on overall risk to each service, prioritising those earlier in the programme which may be impacted already in times of heat or flood.
- 2.54 Public Health and Adult Care have been involved in a trial to introduce climate change mitigation and adaptation into service plans. The next phase of this work which includes formalising documentation and training Property and Facilities Services, have been included in the 2025/26 Action Plan.
- 2.55 **Forward Plan**
- 2.56 This section highlights the most notable elements of the proposed 2025/26 forward plan. The full plan is available in Appendix 2.
- 2.57 2025 was highlighted as a key milestone in the Council's original climate declaration, marking five years since Cabinet approved its net zero targets. As such 2025 presents an opportunity to review progress made, considering the challenges experienced and the socioeconomic and political changes observed during this time. It is also an opportunity to reflect on a refined view of the Council's carbon footprint following work to improve this dataset and to consider how these impact upon the Council's ability to reach its targets. It is therefore proposed that a review is carried out and an assessment of the recommended approach to the next five years is undertaken. It is also an opportunity, as the Council moves into its final 5 years to improve governance around this programme to enable more focussed progress.
- 2.58 A number of ongoing actions previously tracked have not been included in this year's forward plan. This is because they have been incorporated into business as usual.

- 2.59 Actions incorporated into business as usual include internal climate change training, single use plastics audits, and engagement with a number of external organisations. Implications for partners are also included within section 12 of this report.
- 2.60 The plan proposed in Appendix 2 prioritises actions for which funding may be available but also can achieve the best carbon emissions reductions. However, given the nature of these recommendations a number of these are subject to Cabinet approval for delivery. It has been highlighted in the action plan where this is the case.
- 2.61 One such project is the action relating to the further roll out of HVO. Due to the nature of this annual report, the full details and implications of this scheme cannot be outlined here and as such will be brought forward to Cabinet for consideration separately.
- 2.62 Similarly, the next phase of the Council's Heat Decarbonisation plan has also been proposed.
- 2.63 Actions to decarbonise fleet and Council buildings will have significant impacts on the Council's net zero by 2030 target and the action plan therefore proposes these as a focus for the Council's ongoing decarbonisation activity.
- 2.64 Action to decarbonise the Borough by 2040 must be based on robust data and meet the needs of residents to ensure a just transition. This will require a greater understanding of the Borough's energy system as well as further engagement to understand how NZ 2040 can be achieved.
- 2.65 Two significant actions in the development of this baseline position have therefore been proposed for 25/26.
- 2.66 The first proposal is to develop a business case for the development of a Local Area Energy Plan (or LAEP). A LAEP would provide a baseline position for the Borough energy demand and likely future needs whilst also providing a costed plan for decarbonisation following a number of different scenarios. The primary benefit of this work is that it will support the Council to identify areas of investment as well as identify issues such as limitations in grid capacity. The work also aligns with SYMCA's ambition for a regional LAEP to enable interconnectedness across each local authority. The business case will identify likely costs, funding opportunities for delivery, stakeholders, risks, and procurement implications. It should be noted that a LAEP itself cannot be delivered within 25/26 as it will require significant pre-work, but if successful a future action may be brought forward for consideration in 2026/27.
- 2.67 Secondly, an action to develop a NZ40 Strategy has been proposed. The outcome of the LAEP will be instrumental in delivering this piece of work, as will community engagement and co-creation. If approved, a plan will be created which will set out how residents can become involved in this work and detail what outputs can be expected and when.

2.68 The proposed NZ40 Strategy also links with another action proposed which details the route to net zero for the Borough's transport emissions. This work is particularly important as transport emissions account for 37% of the Borough's carbon footprint.

2.69 The Council's focus for engagement in 2025/26 will link in with the Children's Capital of Culture programme. Young people involved in this programme have chosen 'The World Beneath Our Feet' as a key theme of the programme, presenting many opportunities throughout the year to raise awareness of climate issues and to engage young people and their families in environmental culture activities.

2.70 All proposed actions including those relating to the Council's EV Strategy, its social housing and waste are outlined in Appendix 2.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

Approves the 2025/26 Climate Change Action Plan in Appendix 2, noting the key achievements and opportunities summarised in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.

3.2 No alternative options are recommended, as it has been agreed that an annual report will be produced to ensure effective monitoring of actions in response to the Climate Emergency. Larger projects and procurements will be submitted for separate consideration.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 This report has been produced in conjunction with Officers representing each key theme of the action plan. Staff not involved with the programme have also been engaged through internal focus groups. The Council has also shared the 2024/25 Action Plan with the Rotherham Youth Cabinet for their review and actions incorporated where feasible.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 This report is an annual report, and it is proposed that an update against the actions is provided to Cabinet in quarter 4 2025/26. Accountability is via the Corporate Sponsor the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment in collaboration with the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

5.2 Individual Directorates remain responsible for the delivery of actions pertaining to their area of authority.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this update report. The work to be undertaken as outlined within the report will be funded within the Council's existing approved revenue and capital budgets. Where additional Council funding is required to deliver the objectives of the Climate Change workstream, this will need to be identified as part of the Council's annual budget setting process or secured through external grant funding.
- 6.2 As projects are developed, it is imperative that Services give appropriate consideration in the development of the specification to climate change. The Council will need to ensure all procurement activity is undertaken in compliance with relevant procurement legislation either the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 (whichever is applicable at the time), as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 set a legally binding target on the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80%, compared to 1990 levels, by 2050. The 80% target was increased to a 100% target in 2019 (the net zero target). Although there are currently no net zero statutory targets for local authorities, many (including the Council as set out in this report), have adopted commitments to reduce Carbon emissions in line with the 2050 net zero target.
- 7.2 The Council's commitment to net zero and the actions towards this as set out in the report are consistent with the Governments Net Zero Strategy and are indicative of the important role local authorities play in achieving net zero.
- 7.3 The Future Homes Standard has not been finalised by the Government but will complement Building Regulations with an aim to improve energy efficiency in newly built homes from 2025 onwards. As stated in the body of the report the Council will need to ensure that the new homes it builds from 2025 comply with the Future Homes Standard.
- 7.4 As referred to and explained in the body of the report, the Government has announced that Simpler Recycling Regulations are to be introduced and will be in force from April 2025 which will require that all businesses over 10 employees must have a compliant recycling service in place.
- 7.5 Again, as referred to in the body of the report, the Council is required to publish a report in relation to its compliance with the "Biodiversity Duty" as required by the Environment Act 2021. This report has to be published within 12 weeks of the end of the reporting period which is the 1 January 2026.

7.6 As this is largely an update report, other than the above there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within the report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications associated with this report. The Climate Change team have engaged with a Human Resources representative to ensure any human resources implications are captured early.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no specific impacts of this report on Children, Young People or Vulnerable Adults, though climate change in general can have a disproportionate impact on these groups.

9.2 The actions relating to children and young people in Appendix 2 have been enhanced to encourage a wider young person engagement.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 As per the Initial Equalities Screening Assessment in Appendix 4 there are no direct implications for equalities and human rights as part of this report due to its administrative nature. However, climate change impacts have the potential to adversely affect certain groups to a greater degree than others. For example, those benefitting from higher incomes will be able to recover from flooding events and increasing food and energy prices through the procurement of 'solutions' whereas those on low incomes may not be able to. Similarly, children and vulnerable adults may also be more susceptible to extreme heat.

10.2 Equality impacts may arise as the programme of works develops and as such consideration of equalities and human rights at the project level should continue throughout development, consultation, and engagement to understand the potential impacts. Equality Screening and if required an assessment will be undertaken before implementation of change or significant programmes of work particularly when planning adaptive measures for Council services or buildings in relation to climate change impacts.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The actions included within this report and its appendices will have a positive impact on emissions.

11.2 A detailed carbon impact assessment is available at Appendix 5.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Council continues to work with a range of partners across the programme. For example, the Council works closely with its neighbouring Local Authorities as well as other bodies such as the South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre. The forward plan of actions pertains primarily to actions the Council will undertake, however where there are specific implications for partners these are highlighted within the action plan in Appendix 2.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The costs associated with the delivery of both net zero programmes are high and as such it is important that these schemes are aligned with national funding schemes where this is appropriate. The decarbonisation plan for the Council's corporate estate is a working document and will need to be flexible to ensure best value for money. Similarly, factors outside of the Council's control, such as the decarbonisation of the National Grid may impact its ability to meet its target or require additional funds to purchase renewable energy when compared with existing budgets.

13.2 The net zero 2030 target is just five years away and such a short timescale also brings risks around on-time delivery. The Council may need to focus on activities which afford the best reduction of carbon emissions to minimise the need to offset emissions by 2030.

14. Accountable Officers

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

| | Named Officer | Date |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Chief Executive | Sharon Kemp OBE | 27/01/25 |
| Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer) | Judith Badger | 23/01/25 |
| Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer) | Phil Horsfield | 23/01/25 |

Report Author: Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager
Louise.preston@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

The action plan below details climate change actions planned during the 2024/2025 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

| OVERARCHING ACTIVITY | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|--------|---------------------|---|
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2024/2025 | TARGET DATE | STATUS | SERVICE AREA | COMMENTS |
| Monitoring and Reporting | Further develop accounting for scope 3 emissions arising from procurement activities. | Ongoing | | Climate Change Team | Emissions from district heat networks which serve Council homes; Home to School Transport; Bereavement Services; so-called 'well-to-tank' emissions from fuels' production, processing and supply chains; and other heating and electricity use, such as in pupil referral units and sheltered housing, are included within scope 3 emissions monitoring for the first time, to present a more complete estimate of services' carbon impact and to identify opportunities to influence local area emissions, to achieve the Council's Net Zero by 2040 climate change target. |
| | Continue to roll out a programme of climate change and single use plastics training and monitor completion. | Ongoing | | Climate Change Team | The Climate Change team has delivered Carbon Literacy training to 41 members of staff to date during 24/25, bringing the total number of people trained to 131. Ten have gone on to apply to become Carbon Literate during 24/25. Following the training, 63% |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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| | | | | <p>of staff said they felt 'very' or 'extremely' motivated to take significant action about climate change.</p> <p>Bespoke training on climate change and sustainability events was delivered to 14 Children's Capital of Culture trainees in October and November 2024.</p> <p>As of October 2024, 700 members of staff have completed an e-learning module on single use plastic, with 88% positive feedback.</p> |
| | Improve carbon impact assessments to include climate change impacts. | March 2025 | | <p>Climate Change Team</p> <p>An updated impact assessment template has been created which asks officers to consider adapting to, as well as mitigating climate change through officer reports' recommendations. For example, will adaptive measures be required in extreme heat scenarios and are buildings constructed in a resilient way.</p> |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| ENERGY | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|--------|--------------|---|
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2024/25 | TARGET DATE | STATUS | SERVICE AREA | COMMENTS |
| Decarbonising Buildings | Continued delivery of schemes covering 5 buildings associated with the PSDS 3b funding | March 2025 | | Energy Team | This project has stalled due to delays in the delivery of a private sector Rotherham-based heat network. The Council has successfully undertaken works to replace LED lighting in all five buildings, but further action has not progressed. However, the Council has agreed with Salix that existing funds spent do not need to be paid back and future applications to PSDS are acceptable. Given the challenging nature of these town centre buildings, a heat network connection remains the primary viable option for heating decarbonisation of these sites. The project is therefore delayed until approximately 2027. |
| | If successful, progress year 1 plans for decarbonisation activity related to the recent PSDS 3c application. | October 2026 | | Energy Team | This action was contingent on a successful PSDS funding application for Council property enabling works, to support the business case: the application was unsuccessful, so the action has not been progressed. A new PSDS funding application was |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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| | | | | | submitted in November 2024, for further funding. |
| Net Zero Modelling | Undertake a full decarbonisation modelling on a selected building to fully demonstrate the process utilising current and emerging technologies. This will allow assessment of indicative impact on costs subject to market changes. This action is carried forward. | March 2026. | | Energy Team | Timescales are to be identified as part of the modelling work. Suitable buildings have been surveyed and a site identified for delivery, to be completed in the 2025/26 municipal year. Proposed building: 115 Middle Lane South. |
| Community Energy Support Scheme | Continue to promote and support the Energy Company Obligation 4 (ECO4) scheme and support residents to reduce energy and cost. | Ongoing whilst funding lasts. | | Energy Team | A total of 13 outreach events in the Borough with a further five planned throughout winter 24/25. 313 ECO Flex residential decarbonisation applications have been signed off for installation between April and end November 2024. On average, each installation saves residents £6,500 on retrofit costs, with a total of approximately £2 million invested in residents' homes during this period from these grants. |
| Renewable Energy | Continued delivery of the proof-of-concept self-generated green electricity scheme to the Rotherham portfolio to enable a reduction in grid supply reliance; installation and operation to be completed in the coming years. | March 2025 | | Energy Team. | The availability of suitable land within the Borough has meant that a wider site search has been required. Site review is therefore still being undertaken and this action is likely to be subject to delays. |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| TRANSPORT | | | | | |
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| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2024/25 | TARGET DATE | STATUS | SERVICE AREA | COMMENTS |
| Promote Electric Vehicle Charging | Continue delivery of LEVI Solar PV canopy and EV project at Drummond Street. | March 2026 | | Energy & Transport Teams | Market engagement for the installation of this project is underway and completion is estimated by the end of 2025. |
| | Continue roll out of EV charging infrastructure in line with the Rotherham Council Electric vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy. Sites will be selected, assessed for initial feasibility and presented for approval as and when funding allows. | Ongoing | | Energy / Transport Teams | Funding secured for further public and residential charging infrastructure and orders placed for delivery of seven sites approved by Cabinet. These are estimated for installation by March 2025. |
| Fleet Transport | Evaluate the success of the HVO vehicle trials and develop the business case for roll out if successful. | March 2025 | | Fleet Transport | A Cabinet report is being prepared by Fleet Services to make the case for further deployment of HVO biodiesel. A seven-month trial of HVO in 10 vehicles delivered a carbon saving of 80 tCO ₂ e. Drivers reported vehicles' smoother running on HVO than on conventional diesel and fewer issues with cold starts. Vehicles involved in the trial have continued to run well on HVO, since the end of the trial period. A paper is currently being drafted for consideration by Cabinet. |
| | Continue to implement the fleet replacement programme as per timeline agreed in March 2023 Cabinet report. | March 2026 | | Fleet Transport | No new electric vehicles have yet been added to the Council's corporate fleet as the first contract |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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| | | | | | lots have been to procure specialist vehicles and road-going plant, for which electric models have not offered an economic alternative. To safeguard the Plan's intended environmental benefits, there may be a need for new policies or standard operating procedures, so that electric vehicles are deployed to Council services effectively. A paper will be presented to Cabinet in March 2025 with an update and proposals for next steps. |
| Transport Planning and Data | Funding options to be explored to facilitate a review of baseline model and allow further analysis and bridging of gaps in data. This action is carried over. | March 2025 | | Transport planning | This is now complete, and funding has been identified for delivery of this work. As such an action will be included in the 25/26 plan for delivery of this work. |
| | Delivery of Sheffield Road cycleways (phases 2 & 3) July 2024. | August 2024 | | Transport Planning | Complete. |
| | Completion of the Rotherham to Maltby bus priority scheme. | August 2024 | | Transport Planning | Complete. |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| HOUSING | | | | | |
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| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2024/25 | TARGET DATE | STATUS | SERVICE AREA | COMMENTS |
| Zero carbon housing | <p>Delivery of 3 zero carbon new build properties in Thrybergh (2x 2 bed houses 1x 1 bed bungalow).</p> <p>This action is to be removed (reasons identified within the comments). This project objective was to help establish an energy efficiency specification for new Council homes to be carbon neutral. (This objective has been met through the East Herringthorpe project delivered)</p> | March 2026 | | Housing | This will not be delivered due to site constraints resulting in excessive costs for a small scheme. For example, the site requires piling, which is uneconomical due to the small number of units to be delivered. |
| | <p>Delivery of 10 net zero ready properties in East Herringthorpe.</p> | March 2025 | | Housing | Officially completed in early April 2024. All homes are supplied with heating and hot water from Air Source Heat Pumps so have no natural gas supply and are 'zero carbon ready'. They also have additional energy efficiency measures in the form of integrated solar PV panels and mechanical ventilation and heat recovery (MVHR) - achieving an EPC band 'A' rating. |
| | <p>Develop delivery plan for achieving Band C for all Council houses by 2030. (This action is carried forward).</p> | March 2025 | | Housing | Project on track to have draft delivery plan ready for consultation by the end of March 2025. |
| | <p>Undertake Review of District Heating Network using funding from HNES.</p> | March 2025 | | Housing | Project on track for completion by the end of March 2025. |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| WASTE | | | | | |
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| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2024/25 | TARGET DATE | STATUS | SERVICE AREA | COMMENTS |
| Waste from Households | Contamination policies to be reviewed to assist in the reduction of contamination. This is a carried over action from 2023/24. | March 2025 | | Waste | Proposed changes to the Council's policy in respect of contaminated recycling were approved by Cabinet in December 2024. |
| | Delivery of a communication campaign to reduce contamination and encourage the reduction of waste including single use plastics. Encourage residents to reduce, repurpose and reuse before recycling in the first instance. | March 2025 | | Waste & Climate Team | Single use plastics were highlighted on the Council's social media channels during Plastic Free July and a new page has been developed on the Council's website, advising households and businesses how to reduce single use plastics. Customer engagement to increase recycling and decrease contamination are a key focus of a wider Environmental Services review: with an efficient and effective Waste Management service, the Council will leverage the greatest possible funding from packaging Extended Producer Responsibility payments. |
| Commercial waste | Commercial delivery of dry mixed recycling (DMR) through the Council's Business Waste Service and increasing paper and card recycling through the new service offer. | March 2025 | | Waste | Separate DMR and food waste collections will be offered to the Council's Rotherham Business Waste customers, to coincide with the commencement of Simpler |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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| | | | | | <p>Recycling regulations. From 1 April 2025, all businesses with more than 10 employees must arrange for the separate collection of recycling and food waste from their premises, with similar provisions for schools, hospitals, and local authorities. Since the introduction of a new pricing schedule in April 2024, most Rotherham Business Waste customers have retained or increased their contracted paper and card recycling capacity, while cutting the size of their residual waste bins: boosting the recycling rate amongst local businesses.</p> |
| <p>Single Use Plastics</p> | <p>Continue to reduce or replace use of single use plastics as identified in the 2023 full Council single use plastic audits.</p> | <p>March 2025</p> | | <p>Council-wide</p> | <p>The Council’s procurement business case document has now been updated to contain guidance on minimising single use plastics as well as greater consideration of other potential climate change impacts.</p> <p>This is accompanied by the continued roll out of training on single use plastics; guidance on the staff intranet; screensavers reminding staff about single use plastics; and messages in the Monday Round-up staff</p> |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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| | | | | | <p>newsletter, particularly during Plastic Free July.</p> <p>There are challenges with monitoring single use plastics within the Council as monitoring is currently taking place via service audits, in which single use plastics are self-reported. However, there is evidence that staff are taking action to reduce single use plastics such as single use coffee sachets and plastic drinks bottles.</p> |
| | <p>Launch external campaign to encourage businesses to go single use plastic free</p> | <p>March 2025</p> | | <p>Climate Team</p> | <p>Messages on single use plastic avoidance were shared with the Rotherham Growth Board during Plastic Free July.</p> <p>Vendors attending the Rotherham Show were issued with guidance on single use plastics.</p> <p>Guidance for businesses on single use plastic reduction has been published on the council's website.</p> <p>A leaflet on single use plastics for businesses has been developed to be promoted to town centre cafes.</p> |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | | | | | |
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| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2024/25 | TARGET DATE | STATUS | SERVICE AREA | COMMENTS |
| Planning | <p>Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy including policies related to climate change. To be informed by the Council's October 2019 climate emergency declaration and May 2022 nature crisis declaration, and taking account of the critical friend review recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh of the 2019 Core Strategy Review • Consultation on a draft revised Core Strategy <p>This action is carried forward from 2023 to 2024</p> | <p>2025 Consultat'n</p> <p>March 2026 Adoption</p> | | Planning | <p>A Core Strategy Partial Update was issued for consultation for six weeks from August to September 2024.</p> <p>The government's NPPF consultation is potentially due to significantly change the Borough's housing target and may mean the Local Plan needs to be further reviewed. This may result in delay past the March 2026 target date.</p> |
| | <p>Keep existing planning SPDs related to climate change under review and revise if necessary.</p> | <p>March 2025</p> | | Planning | <p>Continuously reviewing SPDs in light of new Government guidance and best practice.</p> <p>Officers continue to liaise with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission relating to policy matters.</p> |
| Green spaces | <p>Planting 10,000 new woodland trees and 500 new urban trees.</p> | <p>April 2025</p> | | Green spaces | <p>As of October 2024, the current number of projected trees to be planted in by March 2025 is 11,830 woodland trees and 531 urban trees.</p> |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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| Biodiversity | Develop and report upon the Council's response to the Biodiversity Duty | January 2026 then five yearly | | Regeneration and Environment | An initial audit has been completed and reported to IPSC. A steering group has been created and an action plan for delivery has been developed. Resource requirements are being considered by services. |
| | Identify suitable sites for biodiversity net gain | March 2025 | | Green Spaces | Four potential sites have been identified for habitat banking. These sites' feasibility has been surveyed, with survey results now under review to determine the number of biodiversity credits each site could offer. |
| | Work regionally with SYMCA and the region's local authorities to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. | March 2025 | | Green Spaces | Officers within Planning policy and Green Spaces are working with SYMCA to produce this strategy. Between August and October 2024, SYMCA ran an initial public consultation, which was supported by Council officers. SYMCA are due to produce a draft strategy by January 2025 which will be subject to further consultation and will be taken to Cabinet for consultation. SYMCA are due to produce a second draft by May 2025 which will also be taken to Cabinet. |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| | | | | | SYMCA are therefore due to produce the final strategy by August 2025 which is slightly outside of the original target date of March 2025. |
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| INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT | | | | | |
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2024/25 | TARGET DATE | STATUS | SERVICE AREA | COMMENTS |
| Local & Regional engagement | Continue to engage with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, exploring ways in which the Council can contribute to the regional approach to climate change action. | Ongoing | | Climate Change Team | The Council continues to work with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, engaging in policy and adaptation workshops throughout the year. |
| | Work with the Rotherham Together Partnership to engage locally with voluntary, business and health anchor organisations throughout Rotherham to share knowledge and resources relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives. | Ongoing | | Climate Change Team | This is an ongoing action but the Rotherham Together Partnership climate and nature working group continues to meet bi-monthly and support is provided to members of the business growth board when needed. The Council also attended the Chamber of Commerce’s business event and shared information about the climate and nature charter. RIDO also supports businesses through a UKSPF-funded grant scheme, through which SMEs can apply for a financial contribution towards eligible costs of one or more energy-saving interventions. To date, this has provided 47 SMEs |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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| | | | | | in Rotherham with energy surveys and 34 grants for measures to be installed, which are expected to cut emissions by 251 tCO _{2e} per annum. |
| Children and Young People's Participation | Continue to engage the Youth Cabinet to hear their thoughts on the Council's plan and works in 2024/2025. | Ongoing | | Climate Leads | The Climate Change team has shared the 2025/26 climate change action plan with Rotherham Youth Cabinet for feedback and comments. The Council has also engaged with the Youth Cabinet to promote education opportunities locally. |
| | Involvement of Youth Cabinet in reviewing the climate change action plan. Feedback from cabinet on wider recommendations to be incorporated into workstream plan where feasible. | | | | |
| | Consider climate change and single use plastic issues in the Young Inspectors forward plan, with a specific audit and/or as part of every inspection. | March 2025 | | Children & Young People's Service | Environment and climate change issues now form part of the template for Young Inspectors audits. This is evidenced as part of the recent audit at Clifton Park which recognised the work the museum has been doing to raise awareness on climate action and single use plastics. Children & Young People's Services have also supported the set-up of a climate change group specifically focussed on this topic. |
| Schools Carbon Assessments | Support schools to utilise Keep Britain Tidy's carbon calculator when launched. | Ongoing | | Climate Change Team | The Count Your Carbon calculator has been promoted to schools via the schools' newsletter and further activities to support schools to use |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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| | | | | | <p>the calculator are being developed for Spring 2025, as part of broader work to support schools to develop a Climate Action Plan by September 2025.</p> <p>The Council has also shared climate resources and events through the ROSIS newsletter such as Rewilding Rotherham, the Schools Climate Education South Yorkshire Conference, Children for Change and Green Footballs' Great Save.</p> |
| Communication | Develop a set of key messages for sharing externally including both climate, single use plastics and nature recovery. | March 2025 | | Climate Change Team/ Communication Team | <p>A number of key messages have been shared internally and externally throughout the year including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Day – this was marked with the launch of a Climate Change Champions staff network, for all staff who are interested in climate change to get involved; • Messages around cutting single use plastic, during Plastic Free July; • Inviting residents to contribute to the Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Survey, to |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

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|--|--|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | <p>understand demand for EVI;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing messages focused on available home energy efficiency grants; • Other messages around events such as Clean Air Day, sustainable summer holiday tips and the COP climate change conference. |
| | <p>Involvement in the Rotherham Show to showcase progress made and increase climate and nature awareness.</p> | <p>October 2024</p> | | <p>Climate Change Team/ Events</p> | <p>The Climate Change, Energy and Educational Psychology teams attended the Rotherham Show to highlight the work the Council is doing to tackle climate change; to offer mindfulness nature-themed colouring; answer questions and promote the Council’s home energy efficiency schemes and grants. During the weekend the teams engaged with approximately 400 attendees visiting the tent.</p> <p>The tent was part of a wider Eco Village which was a new area of the Show for 2024, with stalls and performances focused on sustainability.</p> |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| ADAPTATION | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------|--|--|
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2024/25 | TARGET DATE | STATUS | SERVICE AREA | COMMENTS |
| Flood risk | Further development of the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes as per existing reported plan. | Various - as per project plan | | Drainage & Flood Risk Teams | All six priority flood alleviation schemes (FAS) are aiming to be 'shovel-ready' by the end of March 2025. The majority of planning pre-applications have been submitted, most recently for a permanent pumping station at Catcliffe, to discharge surface water into the river Rother when water levels are high: removing the need for the Council's existing, temporary pumping operation. More advanced schemes will be submitted to full planning in 2025, with construction works on Whiston Brook expected to commence within the 2025/26 financial year. |
| Climate adaptation | Continue to develop the Council's response to climate change impact alongside other local authorities participating in the YHCC's Adaptation Work programme. Include a plan for monitoring and evaluating effectiveness. | As per project milestones | | Climate Change Manager & Service Leads | This is a fluid programme of work which utilises UK-level scenario modelling to understand how climate change may affect the Council's services and its delivery. A plan for the roll out of training and risk identification has been created up to 2030 following a trial with Public Health throughout 24/25. Climate mitigation and adaptation have also been |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| | | | | | reflected in the Council's service planning template for the first time. Input from Service managers will be required when incorporating service level risks, challenges and opportunities, to ensure effectiveness. |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|--------|-------------------|---|
| ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE | | | | | |
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2024/25 | TARGET DATE | STATUS | SERVICE AREA | COMMENTS |
| Circular Economy | Encourage circular skills development through Makers spaces and other events e.g., sewing and DIY. | Ongoing | | Libraries Service | <p>This action supports a circular economy by reducing waste and keeping items in use for longer. A number of skills are being encouraged through various activities at libraries including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewing skills: Swinton Library hosts a popular sewing group. The Libraries Service also has six sewing machines available to users which rotate around different libraries. • Electrical skills: Rawmarsh Library hosted a Makers Stories pilot delivered by Sheffield University. • Upcycling: the libraries team regularly uses biodegradable and recycled |

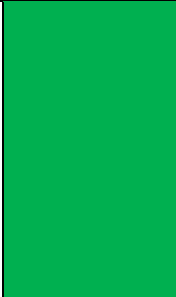
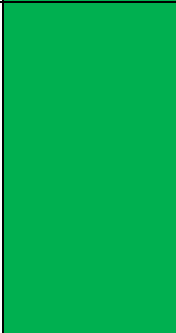
Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | <p>materials in children’s craft activities.</p> <p>A number of stalls in the Eco Village at the Rotherham Show also promoted the circular economy and the reuse of items.</p> |
| <p>Culture, Sport & Tourism</p> | <p>Include environmental themes in programming linking to Rotherham’s natural heritage and landscape, environmental change and its people and artefacts.</p> <p>Consider climate change, single use plastic reduction and nature recovery as themes when developing future exhibitions, shows, engagement programmes and events.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | | <p>Culture, Sport & Tourism</p> | <p>Environmental themes have been central to a number of cultural programmes this year including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roots Rotherham event – a town centre puppet parade themed on nature and the environment. • Clifton Park Museum’s Our Habitats Our Home exhibition, which focuses on the natural history, wildlife and climate change in Rotherham. • The Eco Village at the Rotherham Show featured nature themed performances and workshops by Pif-Paf; Hope the Hedgehog and Reign puppets; Let’s Circus; a sustainable fashion show organised by Achieve Your Goals CIC; and a share and repair workshop by Rivelin Co. |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children’s Capital of Culture programme’s work within the ‘World beneath our Feet’ theme: see below. |
| Children’s Capital of Culture | Develop options for events, performances and activities for climate change as part of Children’s Capital of Culture. | Dec 2025 | | Children’s Capital of Culture Team | <p>A key theme of the Children’s Capital of Culture Programme is the World Beneath Our Feet, which focuses on the environment.</p> <p>Activity to date has included a World Beneath Our Feet drama festival, with five performances taking place in venues around the Borough.</p> <p>The team also created a film for the Our Habitats Our Home exhibition at Clifton Park Museum, highlighting young, local people’s activism on climate issues.</p> |
| Events | Increase awareness of Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Emergency at Events including Rotherham Show | March 2025 | | Events Team | <p>As above, events including Roots Rotherham and the Rotherham Show have focused on climate and nature awareness. This included working with local charities and stallholders sharing information and advice on the climate and biodiversity emergencies.</p> |

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| | <p>Capture the carbon footprint of events through tailored evaluation platforms and work towards off-setting once a baseline has been achieved.</p> | <p>March 2025</p> |  | <p>Events Team</p> | <p>The Events team are using the Trace carbon foot printing tool to capture the carbon footprint of the Rotherham Show. The results are currently being analysed, to build up a picture of the carbon footprint of the show from year to year compared with a robust baseline.</p> |
| | <p>Include sustainable transport information as standard when advertising events.</p> | <p>March 2025</p> |  | <p>Events Team</p> | <p>Information about sustainable travel options (public transport, walking and cycling) is being prioritised before information about car parking.</p> <p>The team is also surveying attendees regarding transport habits to events.</p> |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

The action plan below details climate change actions planned during the 2025/2026 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

| OVERARCHING ACTIVITY | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|--|
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2025/26 | TARGET DATE | SERVICE | COMMENTS |
| Monitoring and Reporting | Continue to develop scope 3 emissions reporting. | Ongoing | Climate | Scope 3 emissions reporting is challenging, as many of the organisations the Council works with do not have the capacity to undertake accurate carbon accounting. |
| | Review progress against the Council's net zero targets. | December 2025 | Climate | 2025 marks five years since Cabinet approved its 2030 operational net zero target and as such presents an opportunity to review progress made considering the challenges experienced and the socioeconomic and political changes observed during this time. It is also an opportunity to reflect on a refined view of the Council's carbon footprint following work to improve this dataset and to consider how these impact upon the Council's ability to reach its target. |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|---|
| | Working with finance, policy and governance teams to improve the pace at which decarbonisation can be achieved through effective governance. | March 2026 | Climate | Consider the approach to enable delivery of decarbonisation at pace such as stronger delegations in place to deliver schemes at pace when required. |
| ENERGY | | | | |
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2025/26 | TARGET DATE | SERVICE | COMMENTS |
| Decarbonising Buildings | <p>Continue to deliver the Council’s Heat Decarbonisation Plan. Sites likely to be included in 2025 activity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115 Middle Lane South • Springwell Gardens • Swinton CSC & Library | March 2027 | Climate | A separate Cabinet paper will be brought forward to approve the forward plan for building decarbonisation. A bid for PSDS 4 has been submitted for these buildings, however, should this be unsuccessful other buildings within the plan may be brought forward in the programme to ensure funding can be leveraged at the right time. PSDS funding depends on the critical criteria of end-of-life boilers and therefore only a small number of remaining buildings qualify. |
| Decarbonising Buildings | Work alongside the private sector to encourage the installation of a heat network within the Town Centre. | March 2027 | Climate | This action relates to the decarbonisation of some of the Council’s more challenging properties but also supports decarbonisation of other organisations throughout Rotherham. |
| | Undertake a full decarbonisation modelling to fully demonstrate the process utilising current and emerging technologies. This will allow a real-life assessment of indicative impact on costs subject to market changes. | March 2026 | Climate | This action is carried forward. Progress to date includes completed site surveys but lack of funding has delayed delivery. The proposed building is 115 Middle Lane South. This site is included within the Council’s PSDS phase 4 application and delivery will be subject to Cabinet approval in March 2025. |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---------|---|
| Community Energy Support Scheme | Continue to promote and support the Energy Company Obligation 4 (ECO4) scheme and support residents to reduce energy and cost. | Ongoing whilst funding lasts. | Climate | |
| Recycling Fund | Trial use of internal Recycling fund sites to install solar PV on two Council owned buildings. | March 2026 | Climate | This is an invest to save scheme utilising existing Capital budget which is then paid back over time through savings on energy bills. This scheme will be focussed upon internal Council buildings and the funding pot will be refilled over time from energy savings to fund additional works. |
| Renewable Energy | Review opportunities for improving uptake of rooftop solar PV throughout the Borough, and if appropriate draw up a business case for any resulting projects that arise from this work. | March 2026 | Climate | Rooftop Solar PV is becoming increasingly accessible and presents an opportunity to provide clean energy whilst reducing energy bills. Delivery is not expected in 25/26 period. |
| Local Area Energy Plan | Creation of a full business case for the procurement and delivery of a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) for Rotherham, including a review of potential external funding opportunities. | March 2026 | Climate | A LAEP is a plan which sets out the change required to transition Rotherham's energy system to net zero and will be instrumental in providing the project pipeline to enable delivery of the Council's Net Zero by 2040 aspiration. Delivery of the plan is not expected within 25/26. |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| TRANSPORT | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------|---|
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2025/26 | TARGET DATE | SERVICE | COMMENTS |
| Promote Electric Vehicle Charging | Identify and bring forward further locations for EV Charging Infrastructure in line with the Council's Public Charging Infrastructure Strategy. | March 2026 | Climate | |
| | Completion of LEVI Drummond Street Scheme | March 2026 | Climate | |
| Fleet Transport | If approved extend the use of HVO biodiesel to the remainder of the Council diesel fleet which are not intended to be replaced by EVs. | As per project timelines | Fleet Services | HVO has been successfully trialled in 10 corporate fleet vehicles since 2023. Since HVO has a greater unit price than conventional diesel, Cabinet approval will be sought to determine the scope of its future use alongside electrification, to decarbonise the Council's vehicle fleet. |
| Transport Planning and Data | Commission work to determine how best to achieve Net Zero emissions from transport in Rotherham by 2040. | March 2026 | Transport Planning | The Council's target year for Net Zero carbon emissions in the Borough of Rotherham is 2040, ten years sooner than the Government's equivalent, national target for the UK's territorial emissions. This presents a significant challenge in the transport sector, not least because an estimated 43% of emissions from road transport are from trips produced outside South Yorkshire. The commissioned study will make recommendations regarding the scope of the Council's NZ40 target as it applies to emissions from transport and will recommend priority actions to cut emissions, minimising cumulative emissions while seeking to deliver other local economic, social and environmental benefits. |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|--------------------|--|
| Transport Planning and Data | Continued development of schemes funded by the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) , including monitoring and evaluation of completed projects. | March 2026 | Transport Planning | All CRSTS projects must contribute to overarching objectives, which include transport decarbonisation and promoting a modal shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling. Continued development of CRSTS schemes in the 2025/26 municipal year is expected to include ongoing consultation. |
| | Embed the use of a new DfT (Department for Transport) carbon emissions appraisal tool to support future scheme design. | March 2026 | Transport Planning | DfT has developed a new tool to support the design of transport schemes, to mitigate their potential 'embodied' carbon impact through options appraisal. While the tool will need to be used for schemes funded by the Department, there is an opportunity to add further value by embedding its use in other schemes' design. |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| HOUSING | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|--|
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2025/26 | TARGET DATE | SERVICE | COMMENTS |
| Zero Carbon Housing | Deliver the EPC Band C programme of works and if successful utilise monies secured via Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3. This should include performance measures to effectively track performance against 2030 target. | 2030 | Housing | The Council has submitted a funding bid to the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund which may be used to fund decarbonisation works on the Council's housing stock. |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| WASTE | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2025/26 | TARGET DATE | SERVICE | COMMENTS |
| Waste from Households | Continue jointly to prepare a South Yorkshire Waste Plan with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield councils. | July 2025 | Planning Policy & Waste | Its is likely that following its creation, further actions to implement, including presentation to Cabinet for consideration, will be required. |
| Business Waste | Continue to develop the Rotherham Business Waste service's paper and card, dry mixed recycling and food waste collections, ensuring compliance with Simpler Recycling regulations across the Council's corporate estate. | March 2026 | Corporate Landlord & Waste | From 1 April 2026 Simpler Recycling will be extended to businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Rotherham Business Waste will support existing and prospective customers to comply with the new regulations, while learning from the deployment of separate collections to its larger customers. To ensure compliance with Recycling and its own Finance and Procurement Procedure Rules, the Council will review which of its sites are existing, internal customers of Rotherham Business Waste, with a view to ensuring all sites use the in-house service, in the first instance. |
| Single Use Plastics | Engage suppliers to address single use plastics in packaging materials. | March 2026 | Climate | Internal action on single use plastic will continue alongside this action. |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|--|
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2025/26 | TARGET DATE | SERVICE | COMMENTS |
| Planning | Depending on the NPPF update, continue with the update to the core strategy with the climate change policy updates or begin the process of developing a new local plan which will give more flexibility to focus on climate change. | March 2026 | Planning | The update to National Policy and increase to Rotherham's housing target will have implications for the update of the core strategy and could cause delays for the delivery of this action. |
| Planning | Keep existing planning SPDs related to climate change under review and revise if necessary. | March 2026 | Planning | This is an ongoing action. |
| Green spaces | Plant 10,000 woodland trees and 500 new urban trees. | April 2026 | Green spaces | |
| Biodiversity | Continue to collaborate with SYMCA and the four local authorities in the production and implementation of the local nature recovery strategy. | March 2026 | Green spaces | |
| Biodiversity | Develop a pricing structure and a process for selling the credits from sites identified for biodiversity net gain. | March 2026 | Green spaces | |
| | Report upon and publish the Council's first report on Biodiversity Duty. | January 2026 | Green spaces | This is a legal requirement in relation to the Council's Biodiversity Duty which must be developed and approved by Cabinet. |
| | Continue to work towards the completion of the 11 actions agreed as part of the 2024 Improving Places Select Committee review of Nature Recovery. | March 2027 | Various | The full actions approved as part of the IPSC review are considered separately though are complimentary to the action on climate change. Each individual action has its own deadline. A robust natural environment is likely to be more resilient to climate impact and better able to absorb any residual carbon emissions emitted. |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| | | | | Background papers are available in the main report. |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|------------------------------------|--|
| INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT | | | | |
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2025/26 | TARGET DATE | SERVICE | COMMENTS |
| Children's Capital of Culture | <p>Continue to deliver a wide range of creative programming under the World Beneath Our Feet theme.</p> <p>To include management of the Place Partnership Fund bid to enable partners' delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grant of £105K to address creative health outcomes, including through engagement with nature • Reduction of carbon emissions through activities that encourage physical activity and use of active transport, including a £105K grant supporting activity delivery around this. | Dec 2025 | Children's Capital of Culture Team | The World Beneath our Feet is a theme chosen by young people as part of the Children's Capital of Culture programme, which is a year-long festival to be delivered throughout Rotherham for and by children and young people during 2025. This theme incorporates nature and climate at its heart and will more than likely provide opportunities for awareness raising in addition to this specific action. |
| Strategy | Work with the Council's partners to co-create a strategy to achieve net zero by 2040. Partners might include those already participating in the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Youth Cabinet, The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and other anchor institutions. | March 2027 | Climate | The Council cannot deliver a net zero Borough alone. This action aims to put understanding, compassion and a just transition at its heart. The LAEP described above will also support this work, hence a 2 year timeline for delivery. This will also allow for public consultation. |
| Supporting local communities | Continue to work with Members to support local communities to develop their action against climate change, | Ongoing | Climate & Neighbourhoods | Four wards have identified priorities relating to the environment including |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| | particularly where Wards have identified climate or nature as a priority. | | | topics such as climate, nature, and better recycling. |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| ADAPTATION | | | | |
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2025/26 | TARGET DATE | SERVICE | COMMENTS |
| Climate Adaptation | <p>Continue delivery of the Council's programme to improve the adaptation of Council services to future climate scenarios.</p> <p>Delivery of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to build on the public health pilot scheme to finalise outputs; Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact review for adult services. Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact review for Property & Facilities services. | March 2026 | Climate | Service input will be required from Public Health and Adult Care and Property & Facilities Services. |
| Climate Adaptation | Further development of the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes as per existing reported plan. | Various - as per project plan | Drainage & Flood Risk Teams | Work managed separately through the Drainage & Flood Risk Teams and reported annually through the Improving Places Selected Commission. Environment Agency Funding for this area is currently under review which may impact upon delivery throughout 25/26. |

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

| ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|---------|----------|
| PRIORITY AREA | KEY ACTIONS 2025/26 | TARGET DATE | SERVICE | COMMENTS |
| Events | Continue developing data capture of events carbon foot printing and building this into agreements and contracts with suppliers. Develop baselines for Roots Rotherham Street Carnival and WOW events. | March 2026 | Events | |
| | Use Roots Street Carnival and other events to promote other council initiatives including tree planting and biodiversity. | March 2026 | Events | |
| | Ask artists and performers we work with to use sustainable practices and materials where feasible – for example reused or recycled materials and avoiding single use plastics. | March 2026 | Events | |
| | Develop the Rotherham Show food and drink offer to promote more smaller local supplies and vendors who offer plant-based meals. | September 2025 | Events | |

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2025: Evidence Base

- 6 December 2024
- Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Net Zero by 2030

Emissions from the Council’s Own Operations

For reporting progress towards the Council’s Net Zero by 2030 (NZ30) climate change target, ‘the Council’s carbon emissions’¹⁷ are taken to comprise ‘scope 1’ and ‘scope 2’ greenhouse gas emissions, plus emissions from official business travel²¹. This is the same scope boundary as applies to central government bodies’ mandatory emissions accounting¹¹.

Scope 1 emissions are from sources directly owned or controlled by the Council, such as its corporate fleet vehicles, back-up diesel generators and mains gas heating and fugitive emissions of fluorinated gases (F-gases), from refrigeration, air conditioning units and heat pumps. Scope 2 emissions are from electricity used for street lighting and in Council buildings but may also be from other forms of purchased energy, such as heat supplied through a heat network connection. Emissions from grey fleet mileage and other business travel are examples of scope 3 emissions.

Emissions are estimated from conversion factors published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero³.

1. NZ30 Emissions.

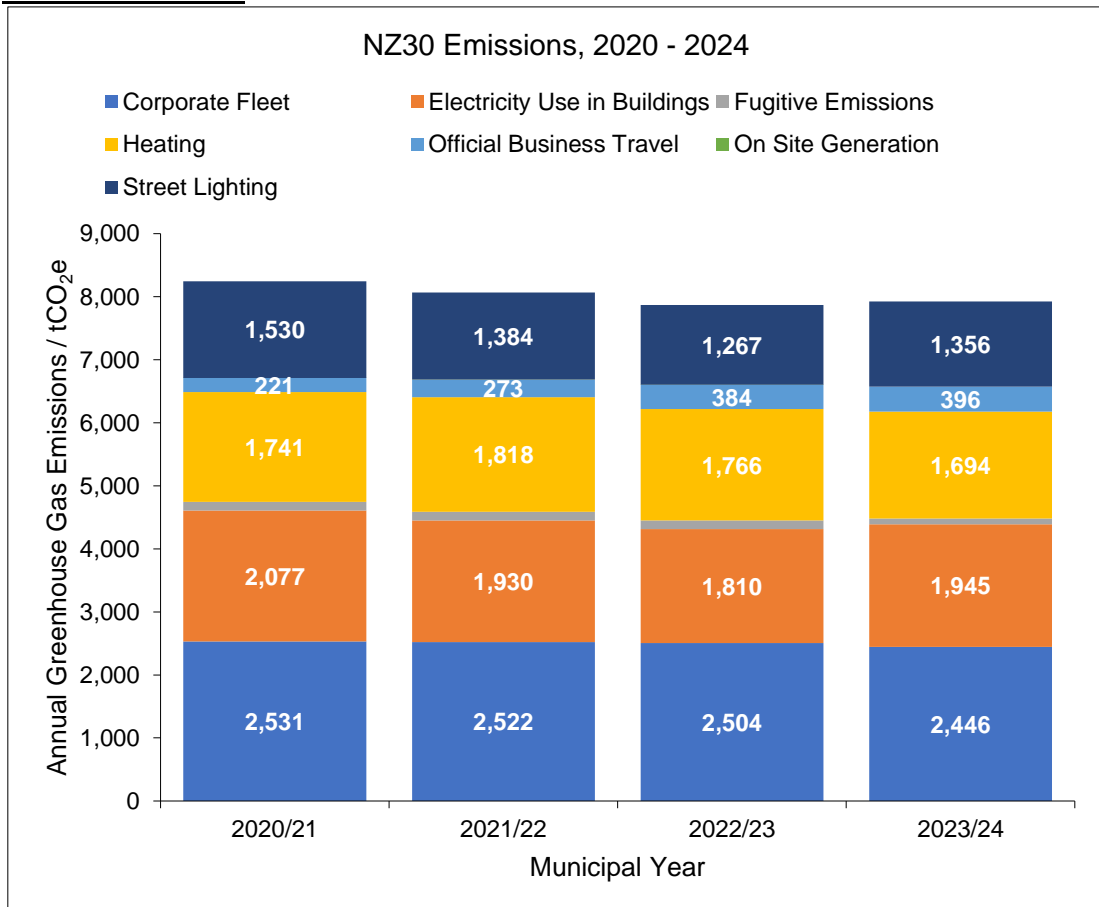


Figure 1. Annual greenhouse gas emissions within scope of the Council's NZ30 climate change target, over a municipal year reporting period. Annual NZ30 emissions have decreased 3.82% since March 2020, when the target was first set. In 2023/24, emissions increased year-on-year for the first time in four years by a little less than 1%, driven by an increase in the carbon factor for UK electricity, to **7,927 tCO_{2e}**.

Corporate Fleet

Greenhouse gas emissions from fuel use in the Council's corporate fleet vehicles have decreased by **3.20%**, year on year. Since the 2022/23 municipal year, emissions from petrol fuelled vehicles, tools and plant have been included within scope of these emissions and estimated retrospectively for previous reporting years, which had included just those emissions arising from the Council's fuelled sites, such as Hellaby Maintenance Depot²¹.

In previous reporting years, a generic conversion factor for diesel, based on the average biofuel blend supplied at forecourts, was used to estimate corporate fleet emissions. In 2023/24, a more accurate emissions factor has been determined, reflecting the B7 blend (7% ME biodiesel, 93% mineral diesel) supplied at the Council's fuelled sites. In figure 1 above, the more accurate conversion factor is applied retrospectively to previous years' data, to present a consistent series.

A 7-month trial of HVO biodiesel in 10 corporate fleet vehicles during the 2023/24 reporting period cut emissions by ca. **80 tCO_{2e}**. Since scope 3 'well-to-tank' emissions are outside the scope of the Council's NZ30 target and carbon dioxide emissions from biofuels are taken to be 'net zero' in conversion factors for reporting, NZ30 emissions per litre of HVO are **98.6%** less than emissions from B7 diesel^{3,21}.

A Fleet Replacement Plan was presented to Cabinet in March 2023, proposing the procurement of 64 battery electric vehicles¹⁹. Notwithstanding the plan's continued delivery, no new electric vehicles have yet been added to the Council's corporate fleet, as the first contract lots have been to procure specialist vehicles and road-going plant, for which electric models have not yet offered an economic alternative.

Heating

Emissions from natural gas and one biomass boiler in the Council's operational estate decreased by **2.4%** year on year, as demand for heating also declined. Heat decarbonisation works at three operational sites in the Climate Change Action Plan for 2025/26 will begin to shift emissions from heating to lower carbon electricity. On the Council's present annual reporting timescales, the carbon saving from these works may not be reported until Quarter 4 of the 2026/27 municipal year.

Fugitive Emissions

Fugitive emissions of fluorinated gases (F-gases) are accidental leaks from plant and equipment such as refrigeration, air conditioning units and heat pumps (RACHP)^{9,11}. Amounts of F-gases released into the atmosphere in such accidental leaks may be small, but their environmental impact is disproportionately great: common refrigerants such as R410a, a blend of two hydrofluorocarbons, have global warming potentials thousands of times greater than carbon dioxide, over an hundred-year period.

In previous reporting years, a screening method⁹ provided the best estimate of emissions then available. This year, data were available from the Council's maintenance contractor to estimate fugitive emissions by a 'material balance' method for the first time: hence the step change from 138 tCO₂e each year, to **90 tCO₂e** in 2023/24. Fugitive emissions' relative importance in the Council's NZ30 emissions inventory may increase in time, as natural gas boilers are replaced by air source heat pumps. Regular inspections, servicing and maintenance can mitigate the risk of accidental leaks from RACHP equipment.

Electricity Use in Buildings

Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity use at the Council's operational sites increased by **8.3%** year on year, driven by an increase in the conversion factor for reporting emissions from UK electricity, from **0.19338**, to **0.20707** kgCO₂e per kWh (**7%**)^{3,21}.

Greenhouse gas conversion factors for electricity are variable between years, reflecting the intermittent output of renewables, the amount of electricity imported through grid interconnectors and ongoing decarbonisation of the UK electricity system. Like other conversion factors, they are also determined in arrears: the emissions factor for the 2023/24 reporting year is derived from the carbon intensity of UK electricity in the 2021 calendar year³.

Greenhouse gas emissions in the 2024/25 reporting year will be calculated from an emissions factor of **0.20705** kgCO₂e per kWh, based on the carbon intensity of the UK electricity system in 2022.

Since the 2024 General Election, Government has brought forward its target to decarbonise the UK electricity system from 2035 to 2030, based on 95% renewable generating capacity by 2030 (with a remaining 5% 'strategic reserve' of natural gas with carbon capture and storage, in the generation mix)¹⁶.

Street Lighting

A 7% increase in the conversion factor for UK electricity is directly reflected in the **7.0%** increase in greenhouse gas emissions from street lighting. There are additional challenges to decarbonise electricity use for street lighting compared with electricity use in buildings, since peak demand for street lighting is oppositely aligned to peak output from solar PV.

Business Travel

Business mileage claims have increased year on year, every year as working patterns have continued to change in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, to **396 tCO₂e** in 2023/24 (**3.9%** increase, year on year).

Other Scope 3 Emissions

Emissions from sources which are not directly owned or controlled by the Council, other than business travel, are outside the scope of the Council's Net Zero by 2030 climate change target^{11,21}. However, the Council has a significant degree of influence over, and responsibility for, its scope 3 emissions, which are a measure of its wider carbon impact. In its report *Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget*, the Climate Change Committee estimated that 2-5% of emissions in their respective areas were within local authorities' direct influence or control, including emissions from councils' procurement, commissioning, and commercial activities². Albeit they are outside the scope of the Council's NZ30 target, scope 3 emissions are a principal 'lever of influence' to cut local area emissions i.e., to achieve Net Zero by 2040.

Carbon dioxide emissions from bioenergy sources such as biomass wood pellets and HVO biodiesel are outside the scope even of scope 3 emissions accounting³. Emissions from these sources were estimated at **1,112 tCO₂e** in 2023/24.

2. Emissions by Scope.

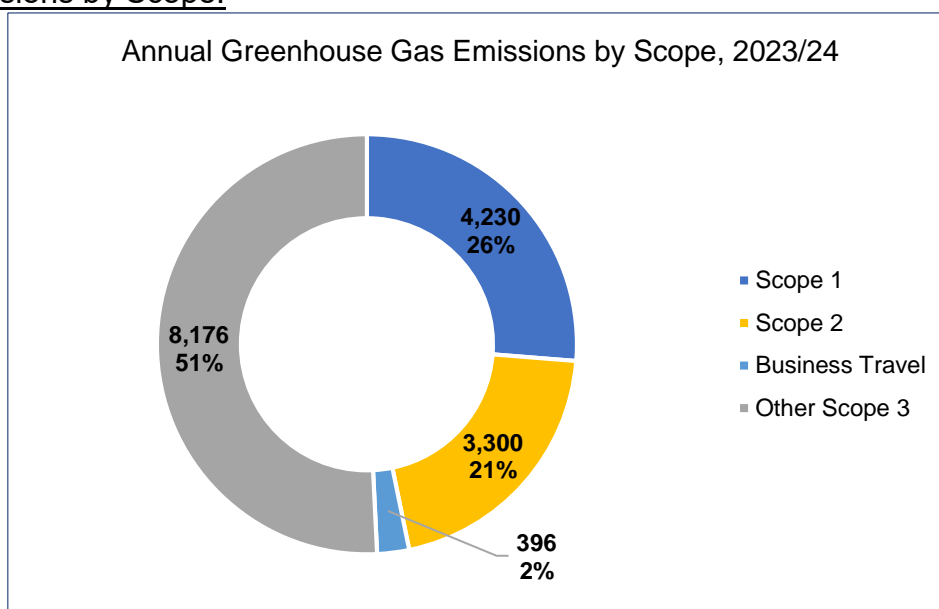


Figure 2. Greenhouse gas emissions within scope of the Council's 'Net Zero by 2030' (NZ30) target comprise scope 1 and scope 2 emissions and emissions from business travel, reflecting the scope of central government departments' mandatory emissions accounting¹¹. In the 2022 calendar year, NZ30 emissions' magnitude was equivalent to just **0.56%** of local area emissions⁸.

In the 2023/24 municipal year, other scope 3 emissions' magnitude was roughly equal to the combined magnitude of scope 1 and scope 2 emissions and emissions from business travel, making up some of the difference between the Council's NZ30 emissions and the minimum **2%** of local area emissions which the Climate Change Committee estimates are within scope of local authorities' direct influence or control².

As the Council has increased its capacity to monitor scope 3 emissions each year since Net Zero targets were adopted, few meaningful comparisons between emissions in successive years are available.

3. Scope 3 Emissions by Source.

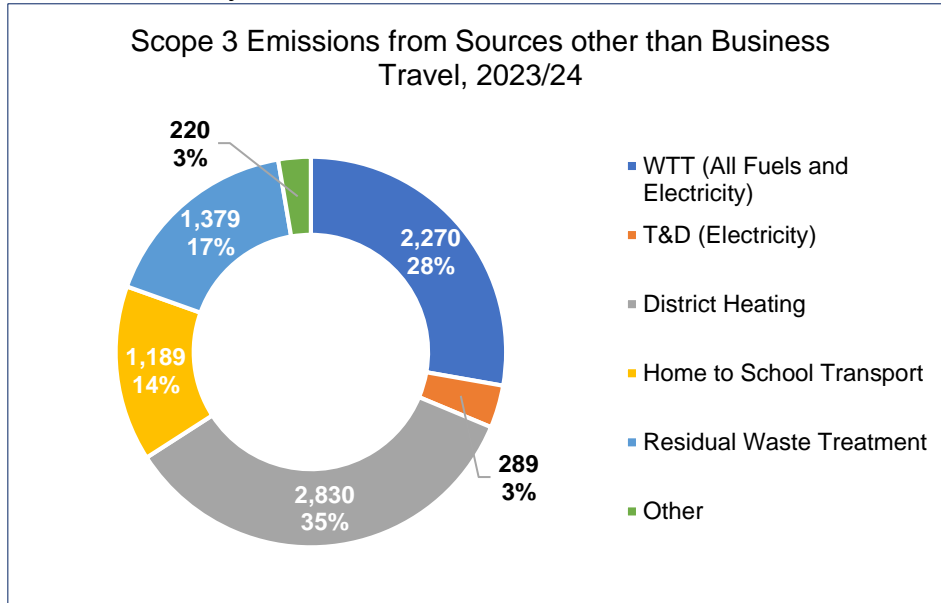


Figure 3. Scope 3 emissions from sources outside the scope of the Council's Net Zero by 2030 target comprised ca. **8,176 tCO₂e** in the 2023/24 municipal year.

WTT indicates so-called 'well-to-tank' emissions, which measure the upstream carbon impact of fuels' processing and supply chains, including sources of bioenergy and the fuel mix used to generate UK electricity. T&D indicates emissions associated with transmission and distribution losses from the UK electricity system. Other emissions include those from water supply and treatment, third party EV charging, bereavement services and other gas and electricity use, such as in pupil referral units and sheltered housing.

Scope 3 conversion factors for waste incineration and recycling only reflect the average emissions from transporting waste to a downstream waste treatment facility³. Since fuel use in the Council's refuse collection vehicles is already reported within scope 1 and less than 1% of all residual waste collected by the Council goes to landfill, using these conversion factors would lead to double-counting. Emissions from residual waste treatment in figure 3 above are reported as scope 3 emissions under the Council's contract with BDR Waste Partnership.

There are 21 existing, combined heat and power district heat networks serving Council homes in Rotherham, of which 18 are fuelled with natural gas, three with biomass in the form of wood pellets.

Some children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities qualify for home to school transport (HST), provided by the Council in its own vehicles or commissioned from external providers. Fuel use in the Council own vehicles is reported under scope 1: scope 3 emissions above are estimated from HST routes served by external providers.

Themes: Responding to the Climate Emergency

Local Area Emissions

UK greenhouse gas emissions as reported in the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory are assigned to local areas in a series of *Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics*, published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero⁸. There is a two-year lag in the preparation of these statistics, such that annual greenhouse gas emissions for the calendar year 2022 were published in June 2024. Emissions are assigned to local areas by a method which varies between sectors e.g., emissions from electricity are assigned by end-user, emissions from transport, by modelled use of road and rail networks. To date, these statistics have been used to monitor emissions within scope of the Council's 'Net Zero by 2040' climate change target, but the Council may wish to investigate alternative or supplementary measures reflecting e.g., the degree of influence the Council has over local area emissions (see figures 5a and 5b, below).

Energy, Transport, Housing and Waste are the four sectors identified by the Climate Change Committee, in which local authorities hold levers to influence greenhouse gas emissions within their respective areas².

4. NZ40 Emissions by Calendar Year, 2005 – 2022.

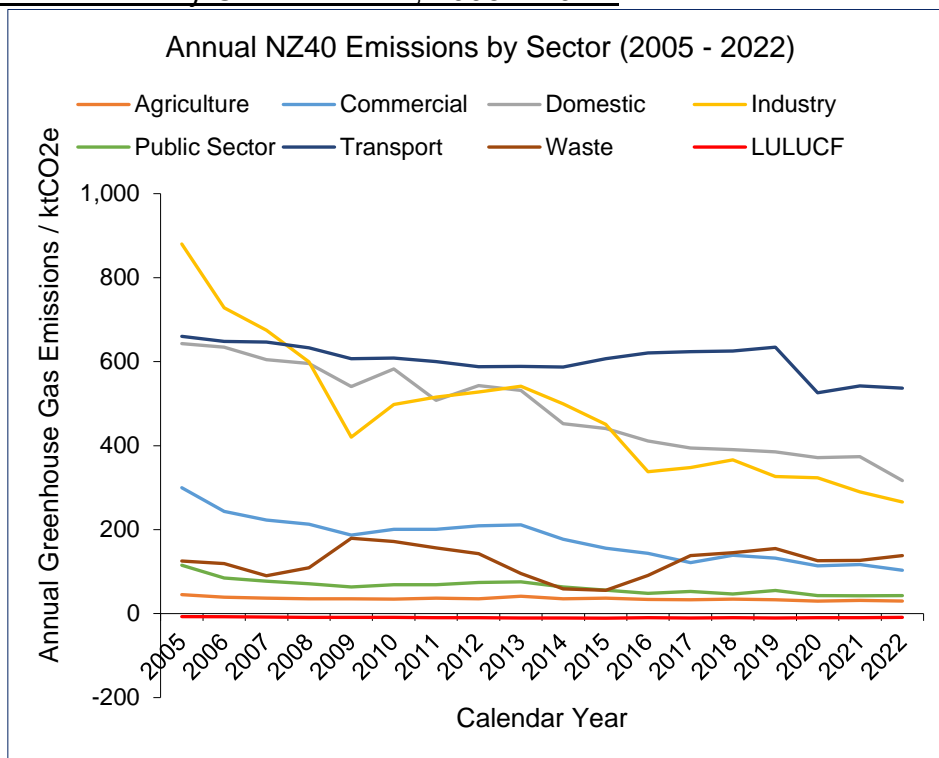


Figure 4a. Local area greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough of Rotherham i.e., emissions within scope of the Council's Net Zero by 2040 climate change target, had decreased **48%** from a 2005 baseline by 2022, the latest year for which *Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics* were available.

Emissions from transport decreased in 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic precipitated social changes and working practices which continue to affect demand for travel. Similarly, though emissions from industry have fallen

consistently over the last twenty years with the phase out of coal from the UK energy mix, their steepest decline was in 2009, as industrial output slowed in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and subsequent recession.

Emissions from the 'LULUCF' (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) sector are net negative, principally because woodland and grassland sequester carbon in soils and living biomass. Between 2005 and 2022, net negative emissions' magnitude was equivalent to ca. 1.25% of 'gross' emissions.

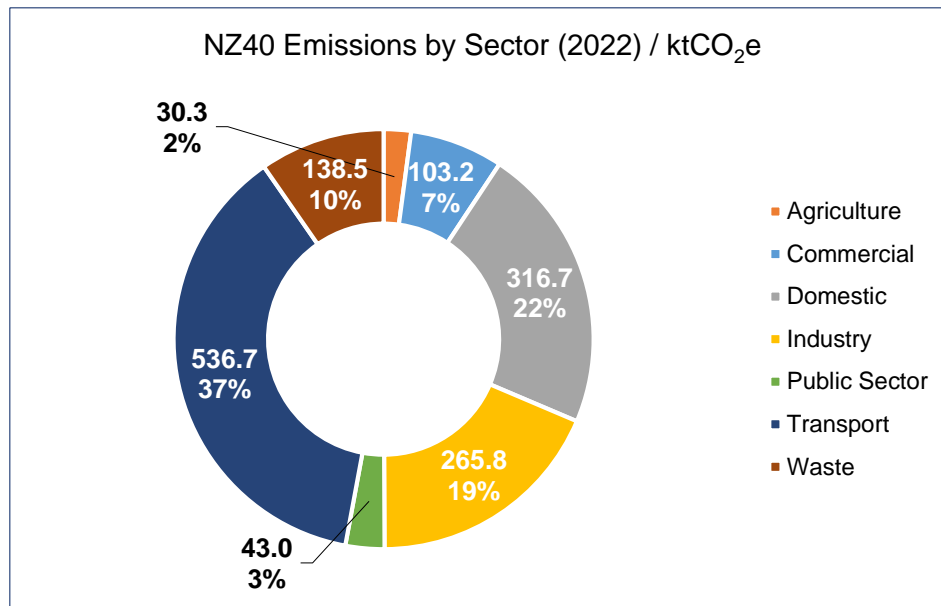


Figure 4b. Transport has remained the single greatest source of emissions in Rotherham since 2008, albeit emissions from natural gas and electricity use by industry, in the commercial and public sectors and in domestic settings could all be identified with the single 'Energy' theme, adopted by the Council in its Climate Change Annual Reports.

Net negative emissions from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry are not represented in Figure 4b, above. Sectors' relative contributions to NZ40 emissions are represented as percentages of total emissions from all non-LULUCF sectors. This measure is not the same as total 'gross' emissions, since it excludes gross emissions from the LULUCF sector (comprising 15.1 ktCO₂e, in 2022⁸).

Just 2% of NZ40 emissions are from agriculture, despite agricultural land comprising 53% of the Borough's area¹⁰. This partly reflects the chosen measure of territorial emissions: according to the *IMPACT Community Carbon Calculator*, emissions from food and diet comprise about 22% of all *consumption-based* emissions in the Borough of Rotherham¹.

5. Local Area Emissions within Scope of the Council's Influence.

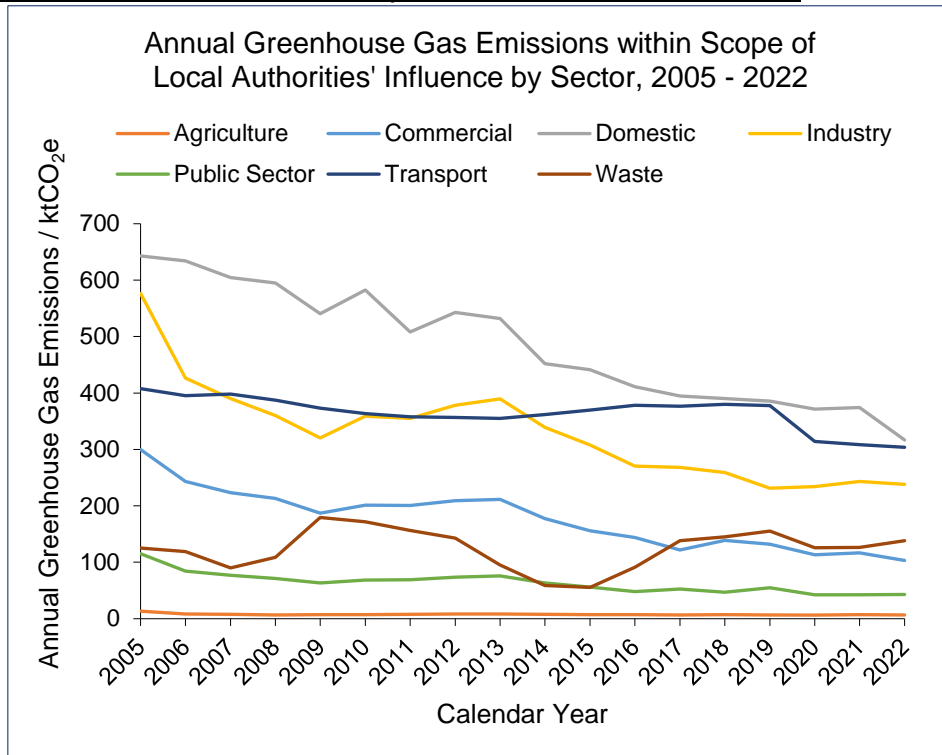


Figure 5a. Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics exclude emissions from large industrial sites, travel on railways and motorways, land use, livestock and soils from the scope of local authorities' influence⁸. This leaves ca. 80% of emissions in the Borough of Rotherham within scope of the Council's influence: more than two times the level proposed by the Climate Change Committee in its report *Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget*².

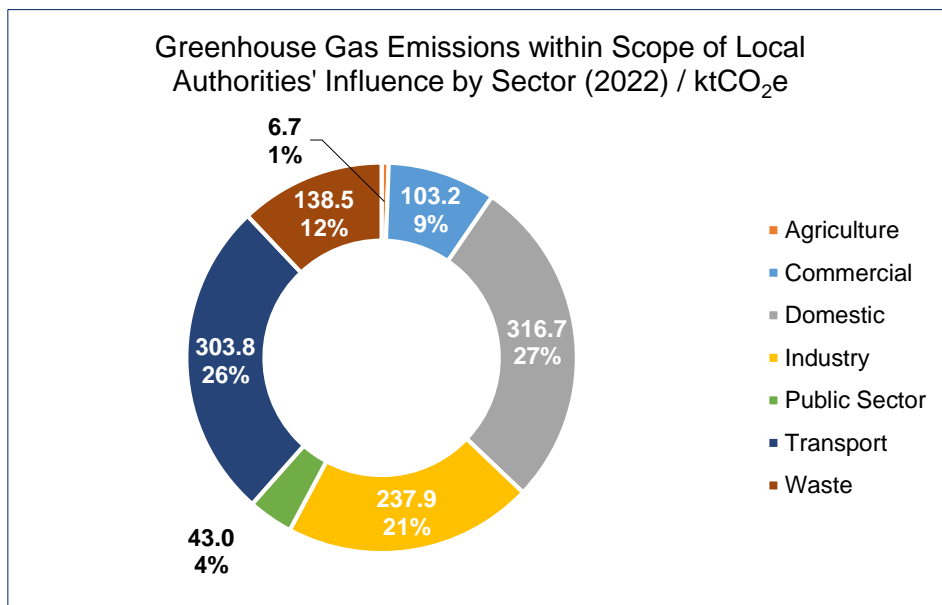


Figure 5b. This discrepancy (between the scope of local authorities' influence, as reckoned by the Climate Change Committee *versus* that implied by Local Authority Emissions Statistics: see figure 5a, above) may be partly explained by the limits of the Council's regulatory and other powers, in sectors where it

nonetheless holds some 'levers of influence'. For example, excluding travel on railways and motorways from the scope of local authorities' influence makes domestic energy use appear the single greatest source of local area emissions; however, the Council can only imperfectly influence those emissions which remain from travel on the local road network, notwithstanding its powers as a local highway authority alongside SYMCA.

6. Carbon Budgets for Rotherham.

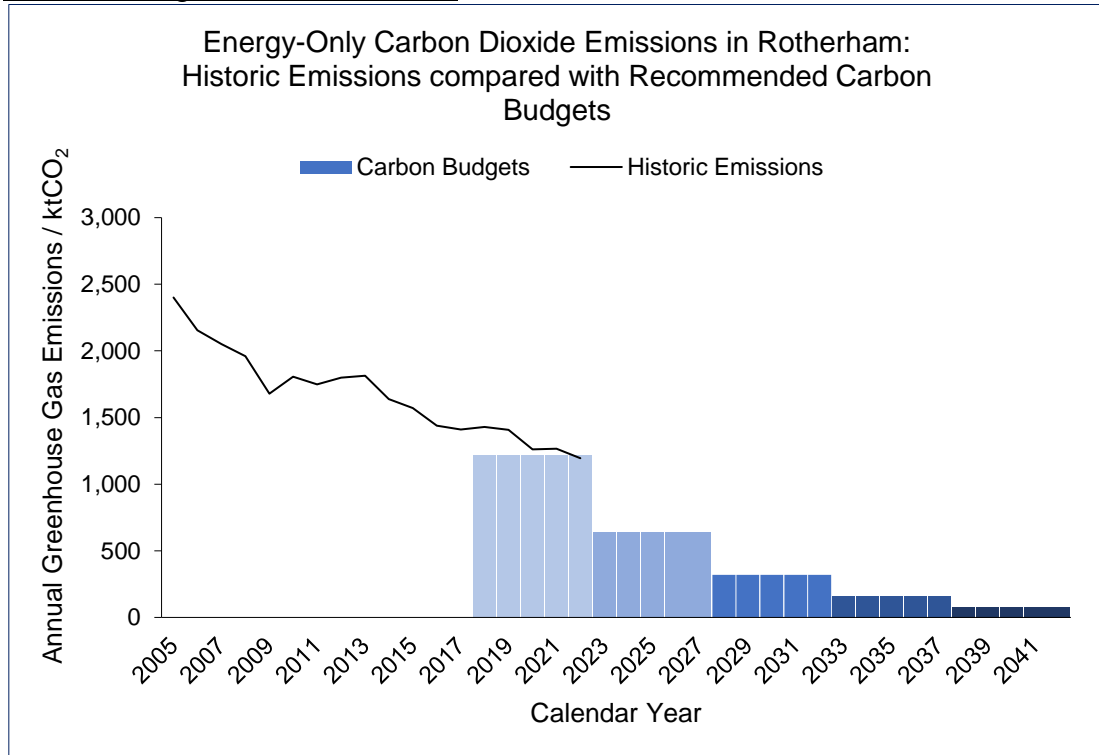


Figure 6. When Cabinet adopted the Policy Statement *Responding to the Climate Emergency*, research published by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research was referenced in setting the Council's Net Zero by 2040 climate change target^{12,17}. To inform climate action by local authorities, the research sought to determine local authority areas' respective, proportionate contributions to mitigating climate change, limiting global average temperature increases to within 2°C of pre-industrial average temperatures (66% confidence)¹².

An output of this research was to recommend five-year carbon budgets. Unlike figures 4a - 5b above, past local area emissions and future carbon budgets in figure 6 are for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from energy use only: CO₂ emissions from soils, methane from landfill etc. are excluded. Annual emissions were within a recommended level in just one of five years in the 2018 - 2022 carbon budget period⁸, implying steeper cuts in future if the Borough is to stay within its total, recommended carbon budget.

Agreeing the Council's own carbon budgets for local area emissions, aligned e.g., with the duration of its corporate plan, would provide interim targets against which to measure the progress of local climate action, with due focus

on the physical reality of atmospheric carbon budgets: the original motivation for local climate action.

Energy

Emissions from energy use are assigned to local authority areas by end-user⁸. Domestic and commercial energy use, energy use by industry and by the public sector principally comprise electricity use and natural gas, albeit some coal remained in Rotherham's energy mix by 2022⁷. Bioenergy and energy from waste have increased their share of local energy supply, from 0.2% in 2005, to 4.2% in 2022⁷.

Local area energy consumption figures for the Borough of Rotherham presented below are prepared from a sub-national statistical release by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero⁷. Domestic energy consumption and the transport sector are included, notwithstanding the separate Transport and Housing themes in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

7. Local Energy Demand.

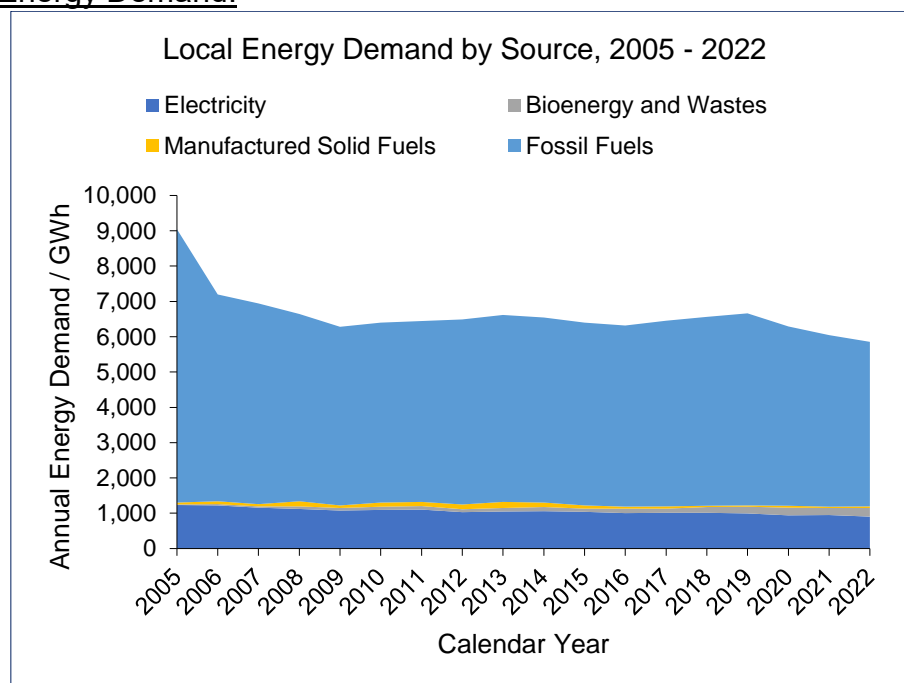


Figure 7a. Local energy demand was broadly unchanged over much of the last two decades, after an early decline. A more recent decline since 2020 has been driven first by decreasing energy use for transport, as social distancing restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic affected demand for travel; then, as demand for travel partly recovered, a cost-of-living crisis precipitated by war in Ukraine, volatile international energy prices and high inflation, which has suppressed domestic energy consumption: see figure 7c, below.

Throughout these changes in local energy demand, the balance between electricity and fossil fuels in the local energy mix has remained almost constant: see figure 7b, below. Much of the cut to local area greenhouse gas emissions since 2005 has been delivered by the phase out of coal generation from the UK electricity system and an early, lasting decline in industrial energy demand.

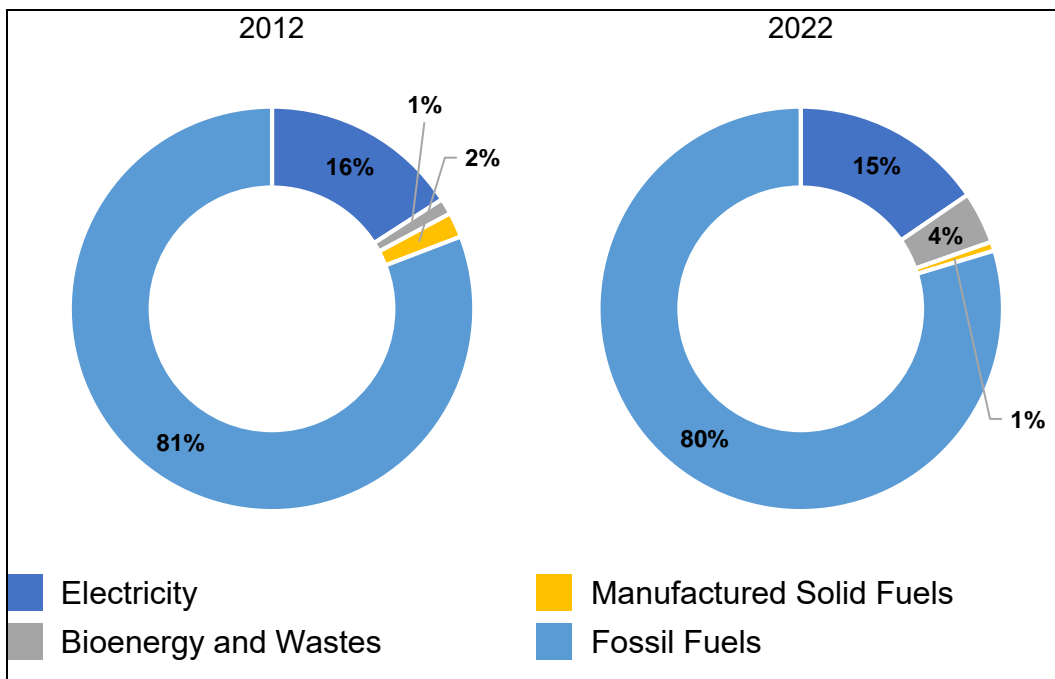


Figure 7b. Fossil fuels’ relative contribution to local energy demand has consistently been *ca.* 80%, over much of the last two decades. Cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough of Rotherham to Net Zero by 2040 will require large-scale electrification of industrial processes, domestic and commercial energy use and transport, decarbonisation of the UK electricity system and increased, local renewable electricity generation.

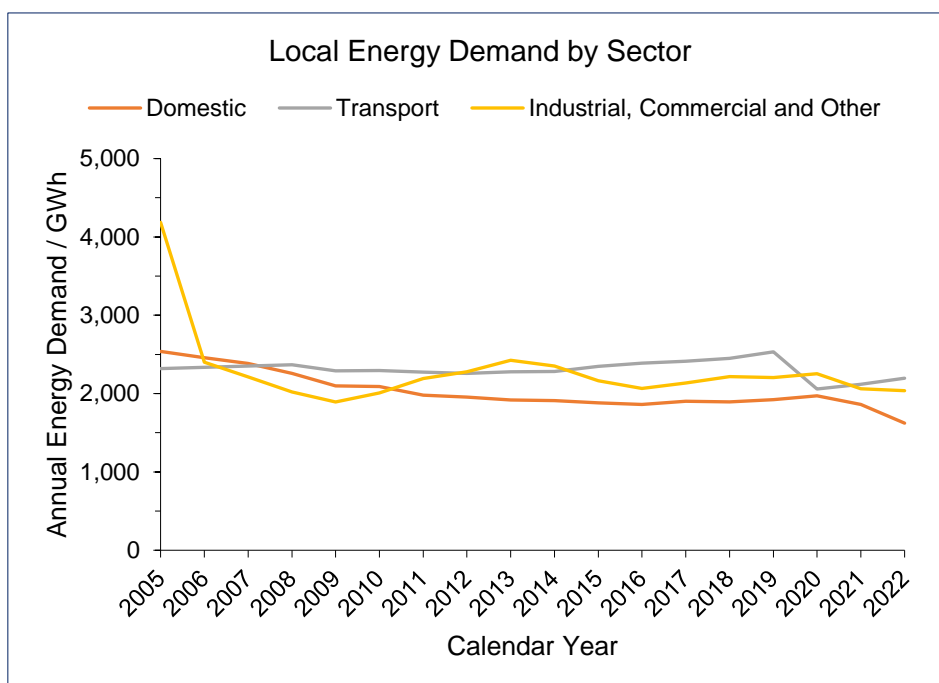


Figure 7c. Annual domestic energy demand was broadly unchanged over much of the last two decades, at 1,981 and 1,973 GWh in 2011 and 2020, respectively: a more recent decline since 2020 was associated with decreasing demand for natural gas, partly in response to pressures on the cost of living.

Energy use followed a similar trend in the transport sector, increasing slightly up to 2019 before a steep decline, as demand was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Energy use for transport had not recovered to its pre-pandemic level by 2022, the last year for which data were available. Other sectors have been more variable, though falling industrial energy demand appears to coincide with actual or narrowly avoided recessions, in the UK economy.

8. Existing and Planned Renewable Energy Infrastructure.

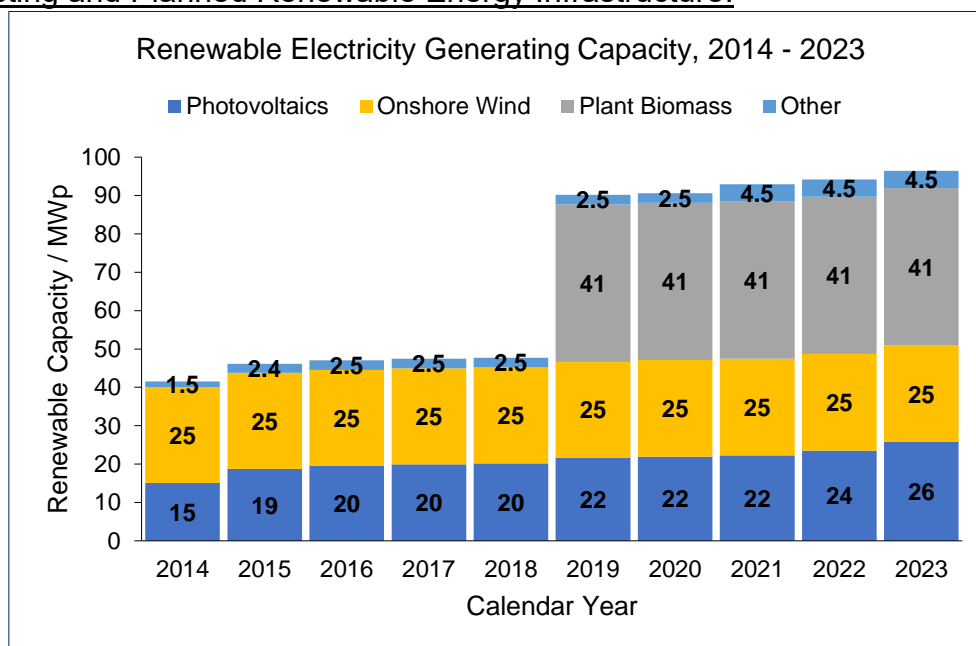


Figure 8. There are three existing onshore wind installations with a capacity greater than 150kW in the Borough of Rotherham, at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, Penny Hill Lane and Loscar Farm, with a combined peak capacity of 25MW^{5,6}. In 2019, the Templeborough Biomass Power Plant came online⁶. ‘Other’ sources of renewable electricity in the Borough include hydropower, landfill gas and anaerobic digestion⁵.

Solar PV capacity has crept up over the last decade, as the number of micro-generation installations has increased from ca. 4,200 in 2014, to ca. 7,000 in 2023⁵. Six additional solar PV installations each with a capacity greater than 150kW are awaiting construction or seeking planning approval, including a proposed 49.9 MW installation at Common Farm, near Dinnington⁶.

There are two operational Battery Energy Storage Systems in the Borough, with a combined capacity of ca. 50MW, which are not included in the above figure⁶.

| Energy Source | Number of Sites | Combined Capacity / MW |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Solar PV | 6 | 53 |
| ‘Advanced Conversion Technology’ | 1 | 23 |
| Battery Energy Storage System | 4 | 76 |
| Total | 11 | 152 |

Table 1. Planned renewable electricity generating capacity: planning applications and sites with planning consent but awaiting construction, in the Borough of Rotherham. Not all sites identified in the Renewable Energy Planning Database⁶ have a stated capacity, hence combined capacities in the table are lower bounds.

During the preparation of this evidence base, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project application was received for a 750MW solar development with associated battery storage, to connect to the National Grid at Brinsworth, in the Borough of Rotherham. Potential sites for solar and associated infrastructure identified in consultation documents are all within the Council's local authority boundary, except for land at Conisbrough Parks, which falls within the Borough of Doncaster. Notwithstanding the outcome of the NSIP application in this case, development on such a scale would increase local renewable generating capacity to more than seven times its existing level.

Transport

9. Emissions by Transport Mode.

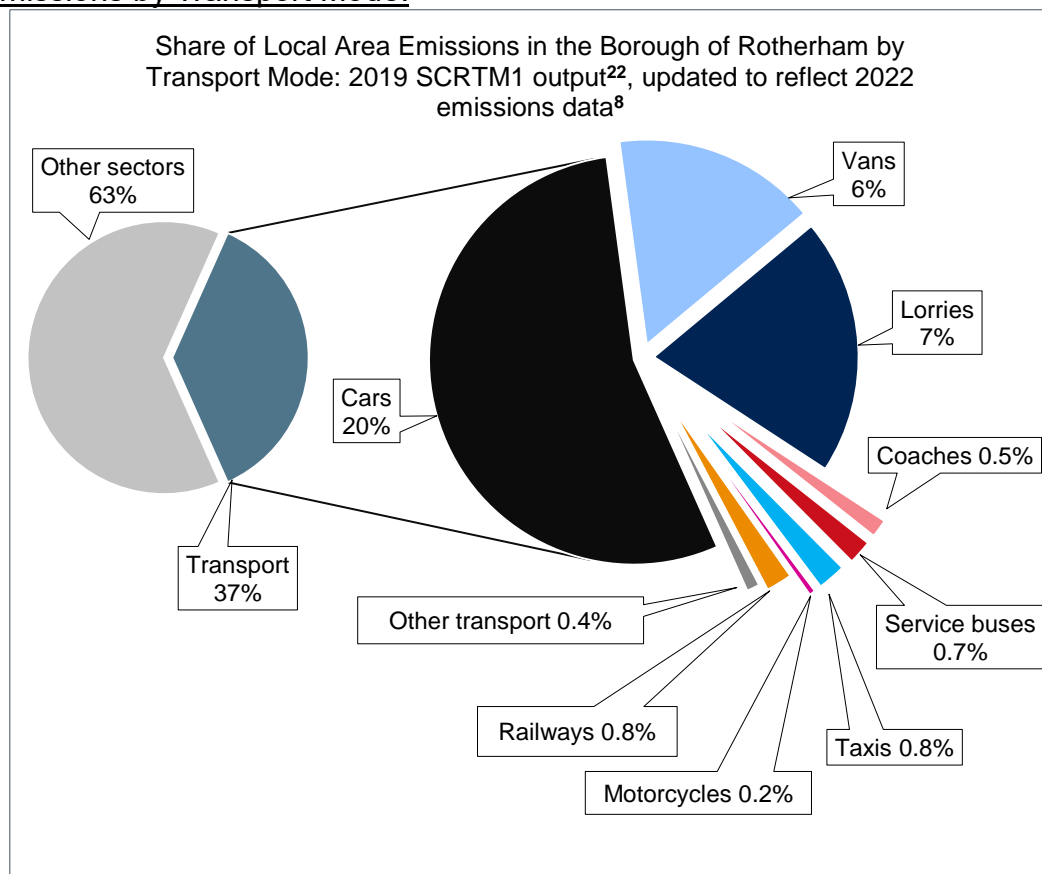
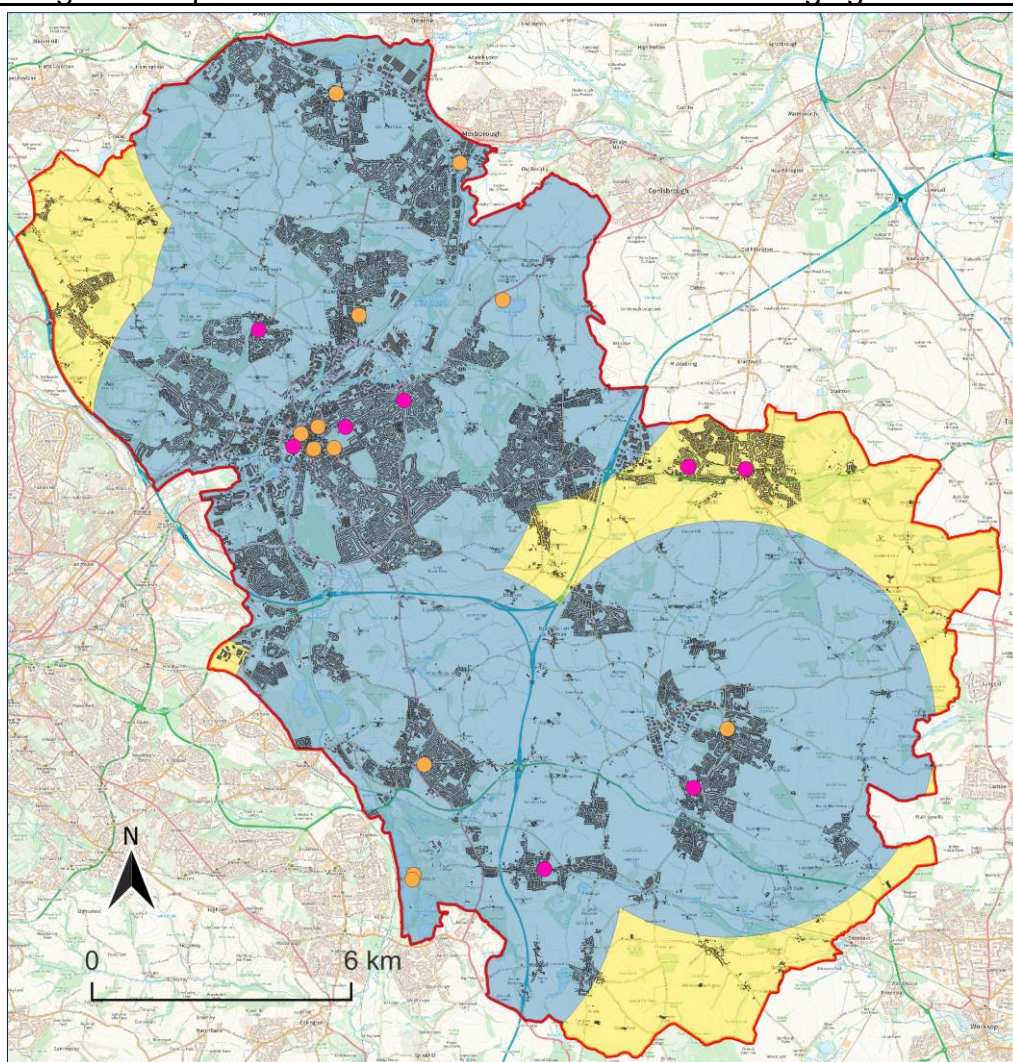


Figure 9. Transport modes' respective contributions to local area emissions in the Borough of Rotherham: an output from the Sheffield City Region Transport Model (SCRTM1)²². Funding has been agreed to develop an updated model, whose procurement is being led by SYMCA. According to SCRTM1, **54%** of all emissions from transport are from car travel: equivalent to **20%** of all emissions in the Borough of Rotherham.

Whereas other local area emissions are assigned by end-user, emissions from transport are assigned to the local road or rail network⁷. This means that a large share of transport emissions in Rotherham is from trips which pass through the Borough²², limiting the Council's ability to influence them.

A further model output from SCRTM1 shows that trips less than 10 km long contribute only **17%** of road transport emissions in the Borough²². Notwithstanding the additional benefits of active travel, a greater carbon saving may be available from trips which could not reasonably be made by bicycle or on foot.

10. Existing and Proposed Extent of Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.



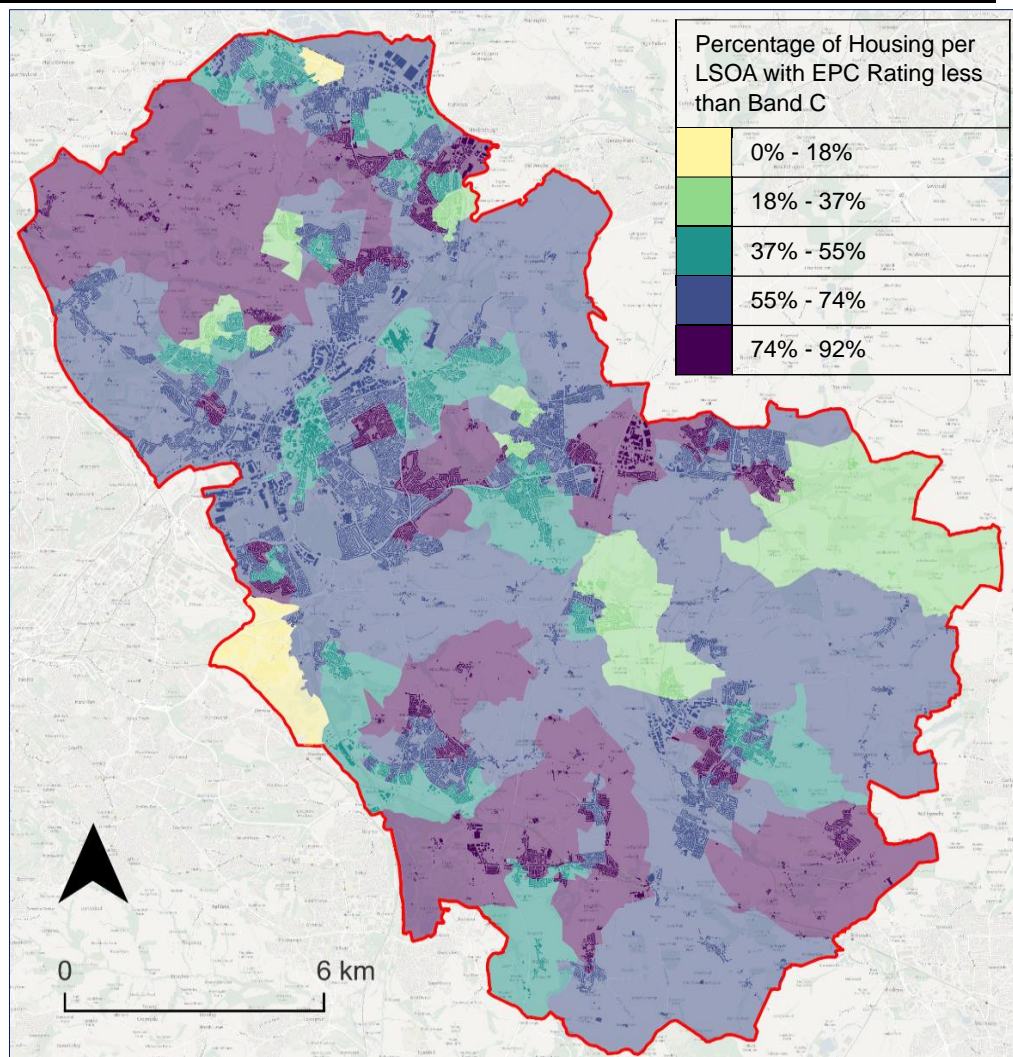
| Map Symbol | Key |
|--|--|
| ● | Existing, Council-owned, public EV charge point. |
| ● | Additional EV charge point location as previously approved ²⁰ . |
| | Area within 3 miles of the Council's existing network. |
| | Additional coverage provided by an extended network. |
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Figure 10. 100% of residences in the Borough of Rotherham would be within 3 miles of a public, Council-owned EV charge point, if additional charge points were commissioned at all locations suggested in a Cabinet report of 16 October 2023²⁰. Actual coverage will be reviewed following the commissioning of the sites above which at the time of writing are on track for delivery by March 25.

Housing

Emissions from domestic energy use are included within scope of the Energy theme, above: the Housing theme instead concerns homes' energy efficiency. The Council is a large social housing provider, with a total stock of nearly 20,000 homes: at the 2021 Census, 16.7% of households in the Borough of Rotherham rented from the Council¹⁴. The Council has additional responsibilities for the condition and supply of housing in the Borough, including the enforcement of minimum energy efficiency standards for private rented homes.

11. EPC Ratings Less Than Band C per LSOA in the Borough of Rotherham.



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Figure 11. Percentage of housing per LSOA in the Borough of Rotherham with an EPC rating less than band C¹⁵. Households with an EPC rating less than band C are compared with the total number of EPC 'lodgements' over a 10-year period up to March 2023, to determine a percentage rate in each LSOA. By this measure, **58.62%** of homes in the Borough have an EPC rating less than band C.

Not all housing in each LSOA has a valid EPC. EPCs are valid for 10 years and are required when a building is constructed, sold or let. EPC bands are determined at the time an EPC assessment is completed: a dwelling's actual energy performance may be affected by any subsequent alterations, most of which do not require a new EPC assessment.

Government has committed to consult on increasing minimum energy efficiency standards for private and social rented homes to EPC band C, by 2030⁴. Energy efficient building fabric is a pre-requisite for cost-effective air source heating, one of the principal alternative technologies available to replace natural gas boilers in domestic settings.

12. Council-Owned Homes.

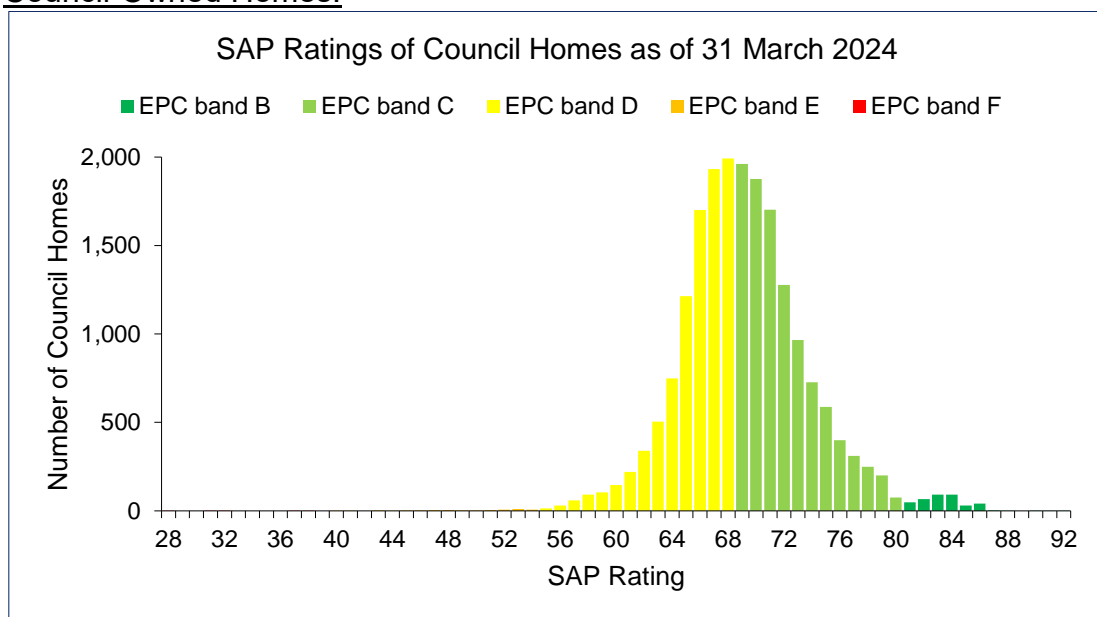


Figure 12. Distribution of Council homes' SAP scores (standard assessment procedure scores, from which EPC bands are determined) grouped by EPC band, as of 31 March 2024. There were too few homes rated less than band D to be viewed clearly in the figure above: 59 were rated EPC band E, 7 were rated band F. **54%** of homes were rated EPC band C or above. The Council is committed to increasing the energy performance of the remaining 46% of its housing stock to at least EPC band C, by 2030.

Energy performance upgrades to Council homes have been delivered under previous Climate Change Action Plans. Retrofitted triple glazing, external doors, insulation and energy efficient boilers had an estimated carbon saving of 1.5 tCO₂e (37%) per household in the first year, in 217 Council homes in The Lanes, East Dene. External wall insulation, loft and cavity insulation and A-

rated windows and doors installed at an additional 130 Council homes in Maltby saved an estimated £400 each from households' energy bills, based on prices in the same year. The Council has applied to the Warm Homes: Local Grant, to fund further retrofit works on Council homes.

Waste

Local area emissions from waste principally comprise emissions of methane, as a component of landfill gas: other emissions from waste are assigned to other sectors e.g., emissions from waste incineration for energy recovery are counted as emissions from electricity generation⁸. Emissions from landfill are assigned to the local area where the waste has been produced, therefore some emissions from landfill sites outside Rotherham are nonetheless assigned to the Borough. Emissions include those from past disposals to landfill, to account for the continuing degradation of organic material. Methane and nitrous oxide emissions from sewage treatment are also assigned to the waste sector⁸.

Since the Council varied its residual waste contract to incentivise diversion from landfill, very little waste collected by the Council has been disposed to landfill¹⁸. There may be few, additional opportunities for the Council to cut NZ40 emissions from waste. Historic landfill sites in Rotherham might not have been capped with compacted clay to such a standard as recommended by current practice, which could mean that fugitive emissions of landfill gas are able to escape from those sites. However, the cost of re-capping any such site would be prohibitively expensive, while all historic landfills in the Borough that were previously operated by the Council already flare landfill gas, to remove its methane fraction by combustion. There may be opportunities to influence producers of waste in the Borough, so that less waste is sent to landfill.

13. Recycling and Contamination

| Municipal Year | Contamination Rate | Recycling Rate | Effective Recycling Rate |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 2015/16 | 7.80% | 40.90% | 37.71% |
| 2016/17 | 7.40% | 42.10% | 38.98% |
| 2017/18 | 5.30% | 43.60% | 41.29% |
| 2018/19 | 1.00% | 44.60% | 44.15% |
| 2019/20 | 5.40% | 45.40% | 42.95% |
| 2020/21 | 7.70% | 43.30% | 39.97% |
| 2021/22 | 6.70% | 45.00% | 41.99% |
| 2022/23 | 6.40% | 44.50% | 41.65% |

Table 2. Household recycling and contamination rates in the Borough of Rotherham, as reported by Oflog (the Office for Local Government) in its Local Authority Data Explorer¹³. An effective recycling rate is also presented, calculated by adjusting the overall recycling rate to account for material presented for recycling which could not be recycled i.e., contamination. Recycling rates have only an indirect bearing on local emissions from waste: their principal carbon impact is from avoided primary material production, albeit recycling processes themselves may be carbon intensive.

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PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

| 1. Title | |
|--|--|
| Title: Climate Emergency Annual Report | |
| Directorate: Regeneration & Environment Finance & Customer Services | Service area: Climate Change |
| Lead person: Louise Preston | Contact: Louise.preston@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Is this a: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function X Other |
| If other, please specify: This is an annual report. | |

| 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening |
|--|
| This report reviews the action against the seven policy themes related to the climate emergency and in addition includes a summary of the Council's progress on nature recovery and adaptation action. A forward plan for 2025/26 is also presented. |

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

This report reviews previous actions and presents new actions for the 2025/26 period. The forward plan has been reviewed and the majority of actions at this stage which could affect residents are to business case level only e.g., the solar scheme. Therefore, there are minimal implications at this stage. A full review of the wider equality and diversity actions will be undertaken as part of the business case.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

| | |
|--|-----|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have you considered equality and diversity? N/A | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key findings N/A | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions N/A | |
| Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis: | N/A |
| Date to complete your Equality Analysis: | N/A |
| Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title): | N/A |

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name | Job title | Date |
|-----------------|--|----------|
| Louise Preston | Climate Change manager | 26/11/24 |
| Kevin Fisher | Assistant Director, Property & Facilities Services | 12/12/24 |
| Andrew Bramidge | Strategic Director, Regeneration & Environment | |

6. Publishing

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

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

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

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| Date screening completed | |
| Report title and date | Climate Emergency Annual Report 2025 |
| If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication | 10 th February 2025 |
| Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk | 02/12/2024 |

| Will the decision/proposal impact... | Impact | If an impact or potential impacts are identified: | | | |
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| | | Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors. | Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole. | Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts | Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out |
| Emissions from non-domestic buildings? | Decrease | Continued delivery of the Heat Decarbonisation Plan, to retrofit buildings in the Council’s operational estate with low carbon heating systems and enabling works, including renewable electricity generating capacity. As per Appendix 2, works in 2025/26 are likely to include 115 Middle Lane South, Springwell Gardens, Swinton CSC and Library. | <p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund grants awarded to SMEs in the Borough, for energy surveys and solar PV installations.</p> <p>Other proposed activity in the 2025-26 action plan which could be expected to reduce emissions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of work alongside the private sector to encourage the installation of a heat network in the town centre. Creation of a full business case to procure and deliver a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). | Delivery of some heat decarbonisation works was delayed by issues with the procurement of low carbon heat network connections at buildings within scope of the Council’s PSDS 3B funding application. To mitigate the impact on prospective carbon savings, an additional allocation from the Council’s Decarbonisation Capital Budget was approved by Cabinet at its meeting of July 2024. | <p>Greenhouse gas emissions from energy use in Council buildings are reported as ‘Net Zero by 2030’ emissions, as per Appendix 3.</p> <p>Non-domestic energy use is reported in the series <i>Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics</i> which are taken as the basis for reporting progress towards the Council’s ‘Net Zero by 2040’ climate change target.</p> |
| Emissions from transport? | Decrease | Further deployment of HVO biodiesel to Council fleet vehicles, subject to a further report to Cabinet, as per Appendix | Proposed activity which could be expected to support emissions reductions in the wider borough include: | As the UK electricity system continues its transition to Net Zero, electric vehicles will become less carbon | Emissions from fleet vehicles are reported as ‘Net Zero by 2030’ emissions, as per Appendix 3. |

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| | | <p>1. Since ‘well-to-tank’ are outside the scope of the Council’s ‘Net Zero by 2030’ climate change target, a trial of HVO in ten fleet vehicles delivered a carbon saving of 98.6% per litre, compared with the methyl ester-fossil diesel blend used in other diesel-fuelled vehicles.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of the Council’s existing network of public EV charging infrastructure. • Commissioning of work to determine how best to achieve net zero emissions from transport across the borough. • Continued development of schemes funded through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). | <p>intensive than vehicles fuelled by HVO. This consideration is partly obscured by the exclusion of ‘well-to-tank’ emissions from the scope of the Council’s NZ30 target. To mitigate any unintended carbon impacts, options regarding the scope of the Council’s target, interim carbon budgets and further targets for scope 3 emissions will be reviewed alongside progress to towards Net Zero by 2030, as summarised at Appendix 2: see <i>Overarching Activity</i>.</p> | <p>Use of the Council’s public EV charging infrastructure is reported as a source of scope 3 emissions, albeit aggregated as ‘Other’, in Appendix 3: see Figure 3, <i>Scope 3 Emissions by Source</i>.</p> <p>Emissions from transport in the wider borough is reported in the series <i>Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics</i> which are taken as the basis for reporting progress towards the Council’s ‘Net Zero by 2040’ climate change target.</p> |
| <p>Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?</p> | <p>Decrease</p> | <p>Introduction of separate recycling collections for customers of the Council’s commercial waste service, Rotherham Business Waste. Whereas previously recycling material might be recovered from residual waste at the BDR Waste Treatment Facility, now the Council receives a premium for paper and</p> | <p>Changes to the Council’s policies in respect of recycling contamination and an Environmental Services resources review are designed to increase recycling rates and decrease recycling contamination in the Borough of Rotherham. This should have a positive carbon impact, as more and better-quality recycling material</p> | <p>Potential increase in emissions from refuse collection vehicles serving business waste recycling rounds mitigated by re-deployment of existing resources, made available by route optimisation.</p> | <p>Greenhouse gas conversion factors for recycling and incineration only account for emissions from transport to downstream recycling and energy recovery from waste facilities, respectively. Since Rotherham Business Waste customers’ and households’ waste is transported in the Council’s own vehicles,</p> |

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| | | card it collects from Rotherham Business Waste customers, because it is such good quality. | is returned to the circular economy, rather than disposed as waste. | | whose fuel use is accounted for under 'scope 1' NZ30 emissions, a separate 'scope 3' emissions estimate from waste conversion factors is not provided, to avoid double-counting. However, scope 3 emissions from the Council's contract for residual waste treatment are reported: see <i>Scope 3 Emissions by Source</i> , Figure 3, Appendix 3. |
| Emissions from housing and domestic buildings? | Decrease | | <p>Social housing: renewed commitment to increase the energy performance of all Council homes to at least EPC band C, by 2030, as per the HRA annual report.</p> <p>Promotion of the Community Energy Rotherham scheme to support take up of energy efficiency measures in private homes.</p> | | Emissions from sheltered housing and district heat networks serving Council homes are reported as scope 3 emissions for the first time. Emissions from other domestic energy use in other Council homes is outside the scope of local authorities' emissions accounting, as per the emissions accounting tool developed by Local Partnerships on behalf of the Local Government Association. Domestic energy use is reported in the series <i>Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas</i> |

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| | | | | | <i>Emissions Statistics</i> , which are taken as the basis for reporting progress towards the Council's 'Net Zero by 2040' climate change target. |
| Emissions from construction and/or development? | Unknown | There will be an 'embodied' carbon impact from construction works within scope of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan for the municipal year 2025/26, including retrofit works to decarbonise heating systems at three operational sites and extension of the Council's existing, public EV charging infrastructure network. Such 'up-front' carbon impacts are justified by a transition to lower carbon energy sources and ongoing carbon savings, in operation. | | Opportunities to mitigate the 'embodied' carbon impact of construction materials are greatest at the point of scheme design, not implementation. However, the Council may specify the use of alternative, low carbon materials in its procurement of construction and other works. Similarly, the Council may support its appointed and prospective suppliers to develop carbon savings under contract as Social Value commitments, under the Council's Social Value Policy. | Monitoring carbon emissions 'embodied' in construction and other carbon-intensive materials depends on obtaining accurate bills of quantities (e.g., total tonnes of concrete poured), which has so far proven difficult for regeneration and highways schemes. However, services are responding to emerging requirements of external funders such as the Department for Transport, to account for embodied carbon in scheme design. |
| Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)? | Decrease | Tree planting targets the Council has so far exceeded its annual tree planting targets; trees planted earlier will sequester more carbon each year by 2030/31, hence will contribute | | | Annual carbon sequestration by trees planted in the Council's tree planting programme is estimated using the Woodland Carbon Code's calculation spreadsheet. Annual |

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| | | more to delivering the Council's NZ30 target. | | | carbon sequestration and total carbon stored by trees and woodlands in the Borough of Rotherham are estimated in the report <i>Valuing Rotherham's Urban Forest</i> . |
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Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

Fugitive emissions from air conditioning equipment in the Council's operational estate are estimated by a material balance method using information from servicing records for the first time this year: previous emissions estimates were based on a screening method, which applied conversion factors to estimate a rate for accidental leaks.

Other planned actions which have as yet undermined but potentially wide-ranging emissions impacts are the creation of a net zero strategy to achieve a net zero borough by 2040 and an update to the core strategy or development of a new local plan.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

Continued development of the Council's priority flood alleviation schemes will protect residents and Council services from the increased risk of flooding, as both average winter rainfall and the intensity of winter and summer downpours increases. Research into the relative exposure and vulnerability of different areas in the Borough to the impacts of extreme heat will inform the Council's strategic assessment of health and wellbeing needs in Rotherham. A programme to support service planning for climate change impacts will increase services' resilience, with a longer-term view than the Council's existing processes for contingency response and recovery.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Actions detailed in the Climate Emergency Annual Report continue the Council's efforts to mitigate climate change, by cutting greenhouse emissions from sources within its own control and by influencing others to act on climate change. As per Appendix 3, fuel use in corporate fleet vehicles and energy use in operational buildings are the two greatest sources of emissions within scope of the Council's NZ30 target: from this vantage, the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan and proposed extension of HVO biodiesel use are two of its most significant mitigation measures. Actions to influence emissions in the Borough of Rotherham include the Council's renewed commitment to increase the energy performance of all its social housing stock to at least EPC band C by 2030 and investing in a public network of EV charging infrastructure.

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| Supporting information: | |
| Climate Impact Assessment Author | Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer Property and Facilities Services Finance and Customer Services |
| Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment. | <p>Cabinet Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Council Building Decarbonisation Programme</i> (July 2024). • <i>HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 202`5-26</i> (December 2024). • <i>Waste Policies Report</i> (December 2024). <p>Other Citations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2023</i>, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (June 2023). • <i>UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2022</i>, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (June 2024). • <i>Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool</i>, Local Partnerships (September 2024). • <i>Valuing Rotherham's Urban Forest</i>, Treeconomics (Unpublished). • <i>Carbon Calculation Spreadsheet v2.4</i>, Woodland Carbon Code (March 2021). <p>For full references, see Background Papers (as per the main text of the Climate Emergency Annual Report 2025).</p> |
| If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts. | See Appendix 3 for the Council's latest greenhouse gas emissions data and background information regarding Energy, Transport, Housing and Waste themes of the Climate Change Action Plan. |
| Validation | Tracking Reference: CIA376 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer Property and Facilities Services Finance and Customer Services |

Improving Places Select Commission – Work Programme 2024-25

Chair: Cllr Cameron McKiernan
Governance Manager: Barbel Gale

Vice-Chair: Cllr Adam Tinsley
Link Officer: Andrew Bramidge

The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to long/short list each of the commission's respective priorities:

Establish as a starting point:

- What are the key issues?
- What is the desired outcome?

Agree principles for longlisting:

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is this being looked at elsewhere?
- Is this a priority for the council or community?

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria, e.g.

- T: Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
- O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
- P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
- I: Interest: what is the interest to the public?
- C: Contribution to the corporate plan

| Meeting Date | Agenda Item |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 04-Jun-24 | Housing Strategy Update Nominate representative to the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel |
| 09-Jul-24 | Overview of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Housing Overview of the portfolio of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working |
| 03-Sep-24 | Overview of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy Overview of the draft Rotherham Town Centre 10 Year Plan |
| 22-Oct-24 | Sec19 Flood Report Allotments Annual Update Repairs and Maintenance Policy (Delayed from September) Work Programme 2024-2025 |
| 10-Dec-24 | Bereavement Services Annual Report Flooding Alleviation Update (Delayed from September) Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report |
| Workshop - 12 December 2024 | Consideration of the 2025-28 Housing Strategy |
| 11-Feb-25 | Overview of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities Consider the outline plan of the planned trainline extension to Waverley and Parkgate (Mainline station proposal, considering any potential impacts). |

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| 18-Mar-25 | Tenant Scrutiny report: How Rotherham Council supports new tenants Climate Emergency Annual Report 2025 |
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Substantive Items for Scheduling

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| TBC | Nature Recovery Strategy - South Yorkshire Mayor Combined Authority |
| Sep-27 | Rotherham Gateway (Mainline & Tram Train) Station - consideration of the Full business case to include consideration of the likely impacts of construction - as discussed on 11 Feb 2025 |
| Jun-25 | Housing Strategy - final progress report on 2022-25 |
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Reviews for Scheduling

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| In Progress | Poss. Joint with ILSC - Agenda for Council Meeting on Wednesday 29 November 2023, 2.00 p.m. - Rotherham Council - School Road safety motion - Scrutiny Review |
| TBC | Review of Rothercard - specifically looking at the changes to the criteria and how it can be made available to a wider cohort of residents again. |
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Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc)

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| Workshop January 2025 - TBC | Housing Allocations Policy |
| TBC | Consideration of Town Centre Events Programme - combined with Summer Events item below. |
| TBC | Briefing Note followed by Spotlight Review if required - Rural Strategy |
| TBC | Update on the impact of 'Awaab's Law' |
| Mar-25 | Evaluation of Summer Events and look ahead to future Town centre events - off-agenda briefing |
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Items for Future Consideration

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| TBC - Further discussions to take place between the Chair and Cabinet Member | Community Living Fund |
| TBC | Consideration of the Our Places Fund |
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