

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Date and Time:- Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Membership:- Councillors Steele (Chair), Bacon (Vice-Chair), Baggaley, Blackham, A. Carter, Keenan, Knight, Marshall, McKiernan, Pitchley, Tinsley and Yasseen.

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 24 July 2024 (Pages 5 - 20)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 24 July 2024 and to approve them 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.

Items for Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In accordance with the outcome of the Governance Review in 2016, the following items are submitted for pre-scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 16 September 2024. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

6. July 2024-25 Financial Monitoring Report (Pages 21 - 46)

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £6.1m.
2. Note that actions will continue to be taken to reduce the overspend position but that it is possible that the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2024/25 financial position.
3. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme, including proposed capital programme variations to expenditure profiles and funding.

7. Boroughwide and Town Centre/Clifton Park Public Space Protection Orders (Pages 47 - 84)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

1. To carry out a consultation in relation to the future Town Centre and Clifton Park Public Spaces Protection Order.
2. To carry out a consultation in relation to the future Borough wide Public Spaces Protection Order specifically dealing with dog fouling and control.

For Discussion/Decision:-

8. Scrutiny Review - Preparation for Adulthood for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (Pages 85 - 94)

For OSMB to consider the outcomes from the Improving Lives Select Commissions spotlight review on preparation for adulthood, in relation to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

9. Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 (Pages 95 - 111)

To consider the annual update on activities and outcomes achieved in respect of Overview and Scrutiny during the 2023/24 municipal year.

For Information/Monitoring:-

10. Work Programme (Pages 113 - 115)

To consider the Board's Work Programme.

11. Work in Progress - Select Commissions

To receive updates from the Chairs of the Select Commission on work undertaken and planned for the future.

12. Forward Plan of Key Decisions - 1 September 2024 to 30 November 2024 (Pages 117 - 126)

To review and identify items for pre-decision scrutiny from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions covering the period from 1 September 2024 to 30 November 2024.

13. Call-in Issues

To consider any issues referred for call-in from recent Cabinet meetings.

14. Urgent Business

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

**The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
will be held on Wednesday 9 October 2024
commencing at 10.00 a.m.
in Rotherham Town Hall.**



**SHARON KEMP OBE,
Chief Executive.**

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday 24 July 2024

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Baggaley, Blackham, Keenan, Marshall, McKiernan, Tinsley and Yasseen.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Pitchley.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

9. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2024

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 05 June 2024 be approved as a true record.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chair invited members of the public to ask questions and reminded attendees that the agenda item would last for fifteen minutes, each member of the public was entitled to ask one question and one supplementary and questions had to relate to items on the agenda.

A question was asked relating to the request to raise the Palestinian flag, during a period of Purdah. The Chair advised that the general election had delayed the relevant petition from being presented to OSMB due to Purdah. The Monitoring Officer advised that the advice provided was that the matter was under consideration by Scrutiny and would be presented to OSMB. This decision was precluded by purdah and the Chief Executive would not pre-empted the decision of OSMB, therefore it would be the responsibility of Scrutiny to approve or decline the flag request and the Chief Executive would not override the governance process.

A supplementary question was asked in relation to the IHRA definition adopted on 4th September 2019 and the request for the definition to be replaced by the relevant sections of the Equality Act 2019. The Chair advised that the report on the Petition "Rotherham's Commitment to a Permanent Ceasefire and To Promote Peace in Palestine and in the Region" would be discussed during agenda item 6 and the recommendations would either be approved or declined. A response would then be presented to Cabinet for consideration and a full report would be provided back to OSMB from Cabinet. The Chair advised that the timescale for the process would be eight weeks. The Chair of OSMB Sub-Group had written to the Leader of the Council detailing the

recommendations set out within the report at present.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Agenda Item No. 9 (Minute No.16) Dinnington Projects Levelling Up Fund Update Report- Appendix 2,3,4 and 5, was exempt from the press and public:-

That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 (information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual/financial information).

Resolved:-That members of the press and public be excluded for this item.

13. REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD (OSMB) - PETITION "ROTHERHAM'S COMMITMENT TO A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE AND TO PROMOTE PEACE IN PALESTINE AND IN THE REGION".

The Chair invited Councillor Yasseen to introduce the report who provided the relevant context and background. Councillor Yasseen advised that during the meeting of Full Council on 28 February 2024, it was agreed that OSMB would be asked to consider the requests set out in the petition. It was advised that the development of the OSMB Sub-Group ensured the integrity and detailed consideration of each recommendation listed within the petition and created a space for the Council to work with lead petitioners and foster transparent discussions.

Councillor Yasseen acknowledged the hard work and contributions of the lead petitioners and residents in supporting the petition. Thanks were put on record to the Chair of OSMB at the relevant point in time, former Councillor Maggie Clark, Former Councillor Wendy Cooksey, Councillor Baker-Rogers and Councillor Yasseen. It was acknowledged that everyone involved in the OSMB Sub- Group attended several meetings to reach the outcomes detailed within the report and there had been a focus on ensuring that the outcomes would be deliverable.

Councillor Yasseen felt that the petition was linked to history and presenting the petition reaffirmed Councillors commitment to be morally accountable. It was advised that over 4,000 residents signed the ceasefire petition, to request that Councillors as local representatives would respond to the atrocities in Palestine. Councillor Yasseen stated that over 40,000 people had died, innocent Palestinians had been murdered, babies had been born into war and deprived of life and it was a place where the dying were denied dignity and comfort. Councillor Yasseen felt

that the role of Councillors was to protect and represent all, regardless of nationality, ensuring a moral obligation to speak out against injustice and advocate for peace for all residents in the borough. It was advised that the petition would not end at this meeting and the report would be a living document which would reflect the ongoing court rulings. An example was provided of a court ruling from the International Court of Justice, which related to a request set out within the petition regarding illegal settlements.

The Chair thanked Councillor Yasseen for presenting the report and agreed that this was a very serious on-going issue in Palestine. The Chair advised that he understood the frustrations of the residents in Rotherham seeing their families suffering. The Chair advised that the petition would go through the relevant governance process and the Chair would write to the Leader to request that the recommendations be expediated for consideration by Cabinet as soon as possible.

The Chair asked members if they had any questions or comments on the report and the following was discussed and noted:

Councillor Bacon queried recommendation 5, paragraph 1, which was a request to fly the Palestinian flag. Councillor Bacon advised that the reason provided for this recommendation in the report was for a gesture of solidarity for those in Gaza and the wider region who were affected by the conflict and to support peace. Councillor Bacon asked whether any other communities had been consulted on this recommendation, such as the Jewish community and what the reason was for choosing this flag, instead of a neutral flag. Councillor Bacon felt this could potentially inflame tensions and that Members should be mindful of Jewish visitors who may have families among some of the hostages.

Councillor Yasseen advised that the petition which had received the most signatures in the history of any petition presented to the Council, was signed by Rotherham residents and the request was a direct request from over 4,000 Rotherham residents. Councillor Yasseen stated that she could not state the backgrounds of the individuals and could not make assumptions of who signed the petition, but she was aware of the diversity of the community. Councillor Yasseen felt that Rotherham had a long history of responding to awful atrocities around the world, an example was provided of the Christchurch attacks in New Zealand, where the Leader, Chief Executive and Cabinet led a minute's silence for the attacks. A further example was provided of the Council flying the Ukrainian flag, to represent the Councils solidarity for peace in Ukraine and the atrocities committed in Ukraine. Councillor Yasseen felt that the petitions aim was for peace and to show solidarity for a ceasefire for the Palestinian people, therefore there was no neutrality in the petition, which aimed to ensure a parity approach. Councillor Yasseen referred to the Equality Duty and said that she felt that the Council could not only respond to certain atrocities and was required to show parity to all communities. Councillor Yasseen advised that she felt that residents had

to develop the petition and put pressure on the Council to deliver on its equality duty, relating to the parity of treatment to represent Israel after the October atrocities and to the Palestinians situation, which was widely understood nationally and internationally and this was the reason why the request detailed in the petition was to fly the Palestinian flag and not a neutral flag.

Councillor Bacon advised that in relation to his line of questioning he was focusing solely on the report presented to OSMB and not the petition itself. Councillor Bacon advised that the recommendation within the report stated that it was a gesture of solidarity to those in Gaza and the wider region and he felt that the comments made in the meeting indicated that the request in question was solely for the Palestinian people and not the wider region.

Councillor Yasseen responded that it was right to show parity and the Council had raised other countries flags previously, including the other side of the agenda's flag and this aligned with the strong culture in Rotherham. An example was provided of Rotherham Council fighting against Apartheid in the nineteen eighties, supporting South Africa and the wider region. Councillor Yasseen advised that the wording was agreed with the petitioners and all members of OSMB were invited to join the Sub-Group.

The Chair advised that most people living in the Gaza Strip were Palestinian people, therefore it was clear why the Palestinian flag had been chosen for this request.

Councillor Bacon queried recommendation 2, paragraph 2, which noted that the Council no longer had active twinning arrangements, and it was not recommended that these recommence. Councillor Bacon queried whether this recommendation related to twinning in general or whether it related specifically to Israel.

Councillor Yasseen stated that the Council did not currently have any twinning arrangements in place but did have a long history and culture of twinning.

Councillor Yasseen said that she was informed during the OSMB Sub-Group meeting that twinning was no longer a viable option due to financial implications and her understanding from the debate that took place, was that twinning would foster stronger relationships and related to the broader symbolic gesture of stronger relationships and representing the communities that lived in Rotherham.

Councillor Bacon queried again whether the recommendation in the report which stated that twinning was not recommended to recommence, had a specific focus on Israel or whether this was generic to all twinning arrangements.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that when the OSMB Sub-Group considered the recommendations within the report, the recommendation about twinning related to all potential twinning arrangements collectively. The Council did previously have twinning arrangements in place with St Quentin in France and other countries, which were not continued, and the council no longer actively promoted or delivered twinning.

Councillor Bacon advised that the context of the recommendation in question was important and queried that if it was the case that the Council no longer had twinning arrangements because of budgetary issues, why this was listed within this report.

Councillor Yasseen responded that the petition had not been brought to OSMB as local democratic representatives, it had been brought to OSMB by Rotherham residents. Councillor Yasseen stated that twinning did not exist currently, and she felt that the Council should do long term twinning to ensure stronger relationships outside Rotherham and internationally, the recommendation did not relate to one country and the idea was more symbolic and related to national and international history of twinning.

The Assistant Director of Legal, Elections and Registration Service/Monitoring Officer provided context to the background of the recommendation discussed and advised that as part of the petition presented to the OSMB Sub-Group for Councillors considerations, there was a question as to why if the Council was twinning with other areas, it could not for example twin with a Palestinian area. It was advised that there were no twinning agreements active, and the Council was not presently twinning in any context and would not initiate any more twinning arrangements.

Councillor Marshall stated that the flag had been raised previously for many atrocities throughout the world and although she felt that what happened on the 7th of October was atrocious, what was happening to the Palestinian people at present was worse. Councillor Marshall felt that as the flag had not yet been raised, no other flag could be raised and although the report stated that the flag raising should coincide with the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people on the 29th of November 2024, she felt that the flag should be raised straight away.

Councillor Carter advised that there were many recommendations within the report that he felt members should support. Councillor Carter focused on recommendation 2.2 and queried whether the Council knew whether it had any contractual obligations with any companies named in the UN Human Rights Councils list or the Israeli Government, he felt this was important to clarify. Councillor Carter also said that he hoped to see the government take a stronger stance on making sure there would be a peaceful two-state solution.

Councillor Keenan said that she fully supported the recommendations within the report, in particular the recommendations that provided a visible sign of support in the borough for Palestine, such as the suggestions of interfaith and cultural sporting events, community art murals and olive trees.

The Chair asked Members to indicate if they wanted to make any amendments to the recommendations listed within the report. Councillor Yasseen requested that additional recommendations be added, which were to request that the Cabinet Spokesperson continue to hold dialogue with petitioners to continue to seek peace in Palestine and the Region and to request that Cabinet consider expediting the governance processes and provide updates to OSMB on progress against the recommendations.

The Chair thanked the lead petitioner for their participation in the petition process.

Resolved:- That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

- 1) Approve the recommendations numbered 1-3 listed within the report, which incorporates the petitions recommendations number 1-7 and forwards them to Cabinet for consideration and decision.
- 2) Request that the Cabinet Spokesperson continues to hold dialogue with Petitioners to continue seek peace in Palestine and the Region.
- 3) Request that Cabinet consider expediting the governance processes and provide updates to OSMB on progress against the recommendations.

14. **COUNCIL PLAN AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Chair invited the Leader of the Council to introduce the report and present the update.

The Council Plan was a strategic document published on a four yearly cycle, there was an Annual Delivery Plan that sat underneath the Council Plan which detailed the relevant delivery actions. Updates on the Council Plan were presented to Scrutiny on a six-monthly basis. 78% of the 98 actions detailed in the plan had been completed. 59% of the 68 performance measures were on target. The report was the year-end report for the previous municipal year and the proposals for agreement, for the current municipal year were detailed in the report. Consultation would begin over the summer period, for the next four-year Council Plan.

In relation to the theme Every Neighbourhood Thriving, there had been achievements such as, the completion of a new Pavement Parking Policy and the Council were looking to start engagement with Ward Members on what places they would like to prioritise engagement with the public relating the regulations. In February 2024, a new 20 mile per hour

approach was agreed, to adopt a more coherent approach to 20 mile an hour speed limits. The Taxi Licensing Review was concluded, a new library was built at Thurcroft, and the programme of Capital Investment in CCTV Cameras was completed, although there was further work to be completed relating to the software of the cameras. In relation to delayed activities in this theme, the Local Neighbourhood Road Safety Schemes had ten schemes complete and eighteen in progress. The Towns and Villages Fund Phase One included the first four million pounds to be spent on the schemes, fifteen schemes had been delivered, four were on site at the current time and three were delayed. An example of Brinsworth was provided for one scheme that was delayed due to local issues.

In terms of performance measures in this theme, the anti-social behaviour perception measure was based on a police survey of how residents were feeling about anti-social behaviour, which had missed its target by less than 1%.

In relation to the theme People Safe, Healthy and Live well, there had been achievements such as the delivery of the Say Yes Public Health Campaign which encouraged people to say yes to healthier lifestyles. There had been a refresh of the Learning Disability Strategy and two thousand Rother Care kits for the new assistive technology, had been rolled out in advance of the future move towards digital phone lines. As all Councils were providing equipment for digital phone lines, BT had delayed their deadline for ending analogue phones and introducing digital phones only, therefore the delay was a national challenge. There had been a restructure of the homelessness service which resulted in several staffing changes and an increase in recruitment, to ensure the service would be more proactive and able to assist people before they became homeless, rather than responding to people who were already homeless. There were two delayed actions in this theme, one was Castle View which was a major plan for an in-house day centre with associated housing at Canklow. There had been a change in the plan and delays were a result of the costings of the scheme. The report referenced that a Cabinet decision was required for this action in July due to additional funding that was required. There were a number of housing scheme delays due to challenges at some sites. In relation to performance measures, admissions of elderly people into long-term residential care had a target of 300 and this was 301. Safeguarding enquiries where people felt their needs to be partially met was less than 1% off target. There were also two measurements relating to homelessness that were off target. This was due to an increase in people requiring homelessness support and was part of a wider national homelessness crisis.

In relation to the theme Every Child is Able to Fulfil Their Potential, there was achievements such as the roll out of the Family Hopes Programme, which was a two-year piece of work for Childrens Services and Health Services. The Youth Justice Action Plan and the SEND Written Statement of Action were completed. Improvements were required in both areas over recent years, and it was important that the Council had delivered on those

actions to improve the services. There had been delays in actions relating to children's residential homes, one had been opened, two purchased and one property had been identified but was not yet acquired. Delays in this area were due to identifying the right properties, purchasing the right properties, and completing engagement with local communities throughout planning processes. It was also a challenge to recruit employees for residential homes, an example was provided of how residential managers in particular could be a challenge to recruit. Although this was behind schedule, the Council were committed to delivering these commitments. In relation to performance measures, there was one off target, this was the year one phonics screen check, the data for this measure was out of date, it was based on the academic year rather than the municipal year.

In relation to the theme of Expanding Economic Opportunity, there were achievements such as the UK's Small Grants Programme which supported businesses and business start-ups. The Local Labour Planning Policy was adopted, and several town centre works were underway. In terms of delays, there was an identified delay on actions relating to Riverside Gardens Public Realm Scheme and the Templeborough Towns Fund Scheme. In relation to performance measures, the proportion to people in or looking for work, was based on recent new data and there was concern around the number of Rotherham residents feeling unable to access or look for work. It was advised that there was a high number of people who were economically inactive due to ill health. The numbers were based on Labour Force Survey numbers, which were unreliable, due to it being a small sample. There were four indicators which were pointing in the wrong direction for the last year and more work was required in this area. The performance measure relating to the recruitment of apprentices required further work to increase numbers.

In relation to the theme of a Cleaner, Greener Environment, there were achievements such as, a new IT system in place which would change the way IT was used, ensuring the system would work effectively and residents would get responses to enquiries in a timely manner. The new household recycling centre contract was in place and the Council was in the process of bringing the operations back in house over the next few years. Several transport schemes had also been delivered. There were a number of delays in this theme, such as the procurement of narrow access vehicles, the vehicle was on lease at this point in time and there was no difference in the service provided. Rother Valley and Thrybergh Country Park works were delayed, and the Centenary Way bridge repairs were delayed, to ensure that the repairs would not run alongside other roadworks in the area. The outline business case for the Mainline Station was delayed due to changes from the Government relating to the High Speed Two announcement and the requirement for Network Rail to produce the document for the Council. The new electric vehicle fleet for the Council was delayed due to a delay in officer recruitment to undertake the work. The delivery of the in-house green energy provision was delayed due to the landowner deciding not to go ahead with the project.

The EV Charging Scheme relating to the Drummond Street Car Park was delayed due to guidance from the Government relating to the nature of the schemes, guidance had been issued and work could now continue on the scheme. In relation to performance measures in this theme, there were challenging targets relating to enforcement measures on fly-tipping and other forms of enforcement, the target was not met but improvements in this area had been made. Targets on waste, reuse and recycling were not met, but this measure was 3% higher than the year before. There was a challenge for the Council to ensure people were recycling appropriately and avoiding simple mistakes. Complaints about Street Scene were off target by 2%. There was a delay in the data relating to carbon emissions therefore the report contained the previous year's data. Tree planning was delayed due to changes to the climate. In terms of One Council, all actions were completed. In terms of performance, there was challenges for the Complaints Team around timescales. There was a challenge relating to days lost to sickness and an ageing workforce, in particular within front-line services. These created challenges relating to sickness rates and recruitment levels.

New targets had been developed for the up-coming year which were more challenging than the previous year. An example was provided of highway maintenance, the target outcome was better than expected, therefore the target had been updated accordingly. On page 183 of the agenda pack there were a series of measures developed for the Year Ahead Plan for the up-coming year.

Councillor Marshall queried the number of days lost to sickness and whether there were any indicators towards the cause of the sickness levels and the work being completed to combat the levels.

The Leader responded to advise that the two main causes of sickness were stress related conditions and musculoskeletal conditions. The Assistant Chief Executive advised that in relation to musculoskeletal conditions, the Council were completing more day one referrals where an employee indicated that they are off work due to strains, into the Occupational Health Service to ensure support would be provided at an early stage, to support a return to the workplace. In relation to stress, there were several measures in place such as team risk assessments, the Employee Assistance Programme and a Health and Wellbeing Programme. The Employee Assistance Programme was accessible to all employees for personal or work-related stresses. Managers were provided with support and guidance was provided to assist them to prioritise work in situations where particular teams had higher workloads and stresses resulting from that.

Councillor Tinsley queried the two-year Capital Investment Programme to improve play areas across the Borough, under the theme Every Child is Able to Fulfil Their Potential. He asked where the capital investment was and advised that Maltby had not received any funding from this fund. The Leader advised that the measure covered a range of schemes that were

funded in different ways and the Maltby funding was generated locally. There was £100,000 of capital budget investment corporately that contributed to the works, there were a series of small-scale play equipment replacements, and all works were captured in the measures. The Council's in-house Design Team worked on a basis of covering their own costs through capital works and a fee was provided to the Team out of the scheme costs.

Councillor Yaseen queried the tables referenced on page 59 relating to the theme People are Safe, Healthy and Live Well and advised that the causes of increases in homelessness were not only as a result of people's personal circumstances, but also due to other external factors. An example was provided of the impact that delays in housing schemes could have had on homelessness levels within the Borough. Councillor Yaseen felt that the housing schemes developed did not always meet the greatest pressures, an example was provided of someone fleeing domestic abuse and the lack of housing stock for that profile.

The Leader responded that he agreed with Councillor Yaseen's assessment of the domestic abuse measures and assurance was provided that the service had increased engagement levels, this provided confidence about the support that people would receive if required. The Leader advised that the challenges around homelessness were not related to housing delays. Over the last five years the Council had built more council homes than in any comparable period for several decades. Compared to the scale of the challenge around homelessness, the delays in housing schemes were relatively small numbers. There was a high level of people requiring emergency accommodation for homelessness last year. All housing options were considered when discharging homelessness duties, this included the private rented sector, supported housing and council properties. If the Government helped to restrict the Right to Buy Scheme, this would help the Council to maintain the number of council houses that were available. The Council wrote to the Government to request support for more social housing delivery, this was part of a national drive.

There was a challenge relating to hostels for short term accommodation for the night, there was not this type of this accommodation available within the Borough and the Council relied on hostel accommodation based in Sheffield.

Councillor Yaseen queried pages 68 and 69 which related to the theme a Cleaner, Greener Local Environment and the delays listed in the tables. Councillor Yaseen felt that the Council was not prioritising the climate emergency and provided an example of how the council fleet Carbon emissions target had been lowered from 18% to a 10% target, both of which had not been met and Council carbon emissions had increased by 3.2%.

The Leader responded that the Council had spent money on specialist employees to assist with delivering on the climate emergency. The goals set for reducing carbon emissions were challenging. The Council made a big commitment of providing resources to shift the Councils energy supply and shifting fleet. The recruitment of specialist employees had taken longer than anticipated and once the team was established the numbers on emissions would drop, with the aim of the Council getting as close as possible to the 2030 commitment.

Councillor Yasseen queried the equality and diversity levels of the Councils workforce and the lack of a proportional representation of BAME employees. She asked whether this was being proactively addressed.

The Leader responded that the Council was one of the biggest employers in the Borough, with 75% of Council employees being residents. The real living wage was introduced for Council employees provided funds for Council employees and also the wider local economy.

Council Yasseen also queried specific measures in the report, an example was provided of the BAME figures and the use of the 2011 Census data rather than the latest Census data.

The Leader responded that the targets relating to people in BAME communities were developed because of the Council wanting to improve those figures. There was further work to do to ensure residents understood the breadth of careers that the Council offered. Work had been completed to improve this understanding, such as careers fairs and visits to schools across the Borough to engage people before they completed their GCSE's. Further work on BAME recruitment was needed, this would require targeted work to ensure the Council were reaching all individuals.

The Assistant Chief Executive advised that when the Council Plan was written the 2011 Census data was the only Census data available at that point in time. The latest Census data had been captured during the life of the current Council Plan and was captured within the report, forming part of the new targets for the new Council Plan. The Council were not representative fully of the communities that they served, and work was on-going to increase this via the Workforce Plan. A Senior Community Engagement Officer position had been developed within the Organisational Development Team and would focus on this work. The Service were engaging with community centres such as the Clifton Learning Centre, colleges, and schools to understand the barriers that may exist in recruitment processes.

Councillor Bacon queried the Cleaner and Greener Local Environment Theme and the ambition to increase satisfaction with the cleanliness of the Borough and how this would be completed. He felt that reports by residents into services were not being followed up, which had led to reports being reported more than once.

The Leader responded that in terms of improving the satisfaction with the cleanliness of the Borough, there had been investments made into street cleansing and ending seasonal working. An example was provided of additional resources provided throughout the winter. In terms of assessing satisfaction and impact, an industry standard assessment was in place for the cleanliness of Street Scene, a sample of streets were assessed on a quarterly basis and measured against a set of national metrics. There had been the introduction of handheld devices for bulky waste which was assisting to ensure tasks were being completed and closed in a timely manner. There was a Love Where You Live Volunteer Scheme where volunteers were helping to keep streets clean within communities. The re-reporting of the same issues was a challenge, as resources had reduced the schedules of work had been static. As Zonal working became better established, this would help to reduce the re-reporting levels.

Councillor Bacon felt that cleanliness could range quite widely and queried whether the Service would acknowledge that potholes and pavement repairs were an important aspect of cleanliness. Councillor Bacon held up a photograph of a pothole repair which he felt was a bad pothole repair.

The Leader responded that road re-surfacing completed to a good standard lifted communities, ensuring it would look better. It was advised that the picture shown was most likely a temporary repair, temporary repairs were completed to ensure the road was safe in the short term, whilst a permanent repair was arranged.

Councillor Bacon queried page 166 and asked whether the figures on reporting included internal Member casework. It was advised that the figures did not include internal Member casework.

The Leader responded that the Service were proactive with the resources that they had and did not rely on peoples reports. An example was provided of the changes made to the Bulky Waste Service, the changes had allowed more time for the team to focus on proactive work.

Resolved:- That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

That Cabinet:

- 1) Note the overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.
- 2) Note the Quarter 4 and year-end 2023-24 data for the Council Plan performance measures.
- 3) Agree the revised Council Plan performance measure targets and new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2024-25 for the final year of the current Council Plan.
- 4) Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2025.

15. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2023-24

The Chair invited Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Finance and Safe and Clean Communities to introduce the report and provide the relevant context.

The report outlined the financial revenue capital outturn position for the Council for 2023-2024 and described the detail of the reserve balance at the end of the financial year. The Council set a revenue budget of 3.2 million and a four-year Capital Programme with a cost of 6.10 million. The report was the final report in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet and set out the year end revenue budget outturn position, in light of actual costs and income. The Council had an overspend position of 8.8 million before mitigation, this was due to significant pressures, demand on market placements across social care, home to school transport, and inflation remaining high in 2023-2024. It was advised that pressures were forecast to reduce by saving via central services and the use of the corporate budget risk contingency plan of 8.7 million. During 2024 the Council delivered agreed savings to help mitigate some of the forecast pressures which had risen from wider financial impacts and as a result the final outturn improved to 0.1 million from 1.2 million. The Council's final overspend position of 0.1 million had been funded by treasury management savings. Funding uncertainty remained for the local government sector beyond 2024 and the Council would continue to face significant challenges moving forward in social care funding. The Council was in a stable position in comparison to other local authorities.

The Chair invited the Director of Finance and Customer Services and the Assistant Director of Financial Services to present the report.

The Council anticipated potential future budget pressures throughout the budget setting process, this contributed to a positive end outturn. There were pressures in certain parts of the Council and mitigation in place within the budget to account for the ongoing pressures. The main pressure areas were children's placements and home to school transport, work was on-going to monitor the pressures and to develop a final settled budget for those areas. Treasury management helped and supported the pressures on an on-going basis, via tight management of cash flows and dependency on interest rates.

Councillor Blackham asked officers whether there was any significant pressure building on next year's budget, as the main part of this year's mitigation had been the treasury management of 3.7 million, which was dependent on interest rates and cash balances available. The Assistant Director for Financial Services advised that the treasury management savings were expected to be available during the current financial year, interest rates were high and cash balances were still available, therefore a benefit could continue to be generated for the Councils treasury management services, which would help to support the Councils overall

position. Treasury management was not a long-term solution to the Councils budget pressures; therefore, recovery plans were being addressed to bring services back into budget.

Councillor Carter queried why the report framed the use of using fewer reserves than anticipated, as a positive outcome as he felt it should not be portrayed this way. The Director of Finance and Customer Services advised that when the budget was set, the Medium-Term Financial Strategy was also set, this looked at a plan over several years based on what the Council believed would be the financial position going forward, on the best information available at the time. This was the reason why the Council was in a more stable and safe position than other Councils because decisions had been taken in budget setting to account for the next few years in advance. It was a positive outcome as the Councils reserves were protected for future management to ensure the Council would not have to react on an annual basis and potentially cut services.

Councillor Carter asked if there had been any indication from the Government of what a local government settlement would look like in future years. The Director of Finance and Customer Services advised that officers had not had any indication from the newly formed government so far.

Councillor Yasseen queried the delays referenced within the report, an example was provided of Forge Island and asked officers how many of the delays on large infrastructure projects were due to the need for tighter management controls and whether the delays were unavoidable from a financial perspective. The Assistant Director for Financial Services advised that there was a challenging market for all local authorities, the market had been flooded with capital delivery which created a difficulty to obtain contracts. The Council were incurring additional costs as a result of inflation and market prices, which was causing the requirement for the scope and design of projects to be re-evaluated due to the costings, this led to inevitable delays in projects. A review of governance processes was underway to improve how projects were scoped out, designed, and delivered internally to ensure capital procedures were more robust and effective. In relation to the capital outturn position, the level of delivery was increasing every year.

Councillor Yasseen queried the savings profile of the Adult Social Care Service, in particular the employee vacancies and the budget underspend in this area and asked why the Council were not maximising the budget to meet the needs of the residents of Rotherham. The Director of Finance and Customer Services advised that it was noted that across all local government areas there was difficulty in obtaining employee's and vacancies were often a result of services being unable to recruit to positions. Adult Social Care had received additional money into the service throughout the financial year, via one-off funding arrangements and an additional 12.5 million pounds via the 2023-2024 Budget Plan, this had influenced the slight underspend and was driven by need and market

prices.

Councillor Marshall queried the cost of hiring employees via agencies. Officers advised that agencies were used as a last resort to address service needs, if the traditional recruitment process was unsuccessful after a number of times. The Chair advised that the Joint Consultative Committee had raised the issue of agency employees, and this would be considered as an item for the Scrutiny Work Programme.

Resolved:- That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

That Cabinet:

- 1) Note the revenue outturn position.
- 2) Note the budgeted transfer to HRA reserves increased by £4.7m following the revenue and capital outturn positions.
- 3) Note the carry forward of the combined schools balance of £2.2m in accordance with the Department for Education regulations.
- 4) Note the reserves position set out in paragraphs 2.52 to 2.57.
- 5) Note the capital outturn, funding position and programme variations as set out in paragraphs 2.58 to 2.97.
- 6) Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in section 2.80 of the report.

16. DINNINGTON PROJECTS (LEVELLING UP FUND) UPDATE REPORT

As resolved in Minute No.12 (Exclusion of the Press and Public), the Chair excluded the press and public from the meeting for the remainder of the item.

The Chair invited Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy to introduce the report and provide a high-level overview. It was advised that the report would be presented to Cabinet on 29th July 2024 to request the approval of the recommendations listed within the Report. The Cabinet Member viewed the project as an essential part of regeneration efforts within the Borough.

The Chair invited the Interim Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment to present the report.

It was advised that the funding for the project had been allocated by Government in March 2023 and the funding agreement was received in June 2023. Cabinet approved the start of the scheme in June 2023. The Service had completed the design phase and was going to ask for Cabinet's approval to enter into the delivery of the scheme, over the next few years.

The Chair thanked the Officers for the high-level overview of the report and invited members to ask questions in a closed session.

Resolved:- That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve the delivery of the Dinnington Principal Areas of Growth project within the scope and budget as detailed in Appendix 2.
- 2) Confirm the provisional allocation of £1m of the Towns & Villages Fund to works at Dinnington.

17. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 JULY 2024 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Board considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions from 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024.

Resolved: - That the Forward Plan be noted.

18. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in issues.

19. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 16 September 2024

Report Title

July 2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services
01709 254518 or rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out the financial position as at the end of July 2024 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first four months of 2024/25. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and is essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's policy agenda. To that end, this is the second financial monitoring report of a series of reports for the current financial year which will continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As at July 2024, the Council currently estimates an overspend of £6.1m for the financial year 2024/25. This is largely due to demand led pressures on children's residential placements, adults social care packages, home to school transport and the expected impact of the Local Government Pay Award. In addition, the Council is still impacted by the inflationary pressures in the economy. Even though inflation has fallen to 2.2%, the Council's base costs have significantly increased across the recent high inflation period. Increased costs across this period are also being felt by the social care market in particular, leading to market prices increasing at above inflation levels and placing further pressures on the Council's Budget.

Whilst the Directorate overspend which stands at £17.0m is concerning, elements of this overspend were forecast and two key Budget contingencies were created as part of setting the Council's Budget and MTFs for 2024/25. The Council set a Social Care Contingency of £3.4m and a Corporate Budget Provision of £3.5m to support anticipated pressures across Social Care and Home to School Transport, whilst

detailed review work of these services is undertaken and operational improvements are delivered to reduce cost pressures and create cost avoidance.

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy continues to perform well with the Council's approach to borrowing adapted to minimise the level of borrowing and borrow short term to ultimately minimise interest costs. This position has improved due to re-profiling of capital programme delivery, pushing back the need to borrow. It is estimated that this should see the Council generate savings of at least £4m for 2024/25, though again market conditions are out of the Council's control.

As a result of these corporate provisions and savings, an underspend of £10.9m is forecast within Central Services bringing the Council's net overspend down to £6.1m. Though the £17m Directorate overspend is significantly mitigated, the residual pressure will need to be addressed in year by the Council to prevent further use of reserves. As such Directorates have been required to develop in year budget recovery plans to identify actions and opportunities to reduce the current overspend position. This work is underway but not yet at a stage where it can be factored into the current position.

There remains funding uncertainty for the local government sector beyond 2024/25. The Local Government financial settlement was only a one-year allocation and the future impact following the change in central Government at the national elections is not yet known. The challenges faced by the Council are mirrored across the UK as Councils continue to face significant challenges in regards to the funding of social care and meeting the costs of rising demand. This is perhaps best illustrated by the volume of Local Authorities across the UK that have recently hit difficult times with a number having to issue S114 notices.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £6.1m.
2. Note that actions will continue to be taken to reduce the overspend position but that it is possible that the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2024/25 financial position.
3. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme, including proposed capital programme variations to expenditure profiles and funding.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Budget and Council Tax 2024/25 Report to Council on 28th February 2024

Finance Update 2023/24 to Cabinet on 10th June 2024

May Budget Monitoring Report 2024/25 to Cabinet on 29th July 2024

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

July Financial Monitoring 2024/25

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of its performance and control framework the Council is required to produce regular and timely reports for the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet to keep them informed of financial performance so that, where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring expenditure in line with the approved budget for the financial year.
- 1.2 Delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme within the parameters agreed by Council is essential if the Council's objectives are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.
- 1.3 This report is the second in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2024/25, setting out the projected year end revenue budget financial position in light of actual costs and income for the first four months of the financial year.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Table 1 below shows, by directorate, the summary forecast revenue outturn position.

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn 2024/25 as at July 2024

| Directorate | Budget 2024/25 | Forecast Outturn 2024/25 | Forecast Variance over/under (-) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Children and Young People's Services | 67.4 | 72.9 | 5.5 |
| Adult Care, Housing & Public Health | 129.7 | 136.5 | 6.8 |
| Regeneration and Environment Services | 45.1 | 49.8 | 4.7 |
| Finance and Customer Services | 34.0 | 34.0 | 0.0 |
| Assistant Chief Executive | 7.7 | 7.7 | 0.0 |
| Central Services | 42.2 | 31.3 | -10.9 |
| Directorate Forecast Outturn | 326.1 | 332.2 | 6.1 |
| | | | |
| Dedicated Schools Grant | | | 0.6 |
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) | | | -0.3 |

- 2.2 As at July 2024, the Council currently estimates a directorate overspend of £17.0m for the financial year 2024/25.

The Council's overspend position at this point is largely due to the following overall issues:

- Placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services (£4.8m) and Adults Social Care (£6.6m).
- Home to School Transport pressures within Regeneration and Environment (£2.5m) and Children and Young People's Services (£1.1m).
- Provider inflation impacting Children and Young People's Services. Fostering allowances and skills payments that have been uplifted based on the national minimum allowance and the estimated impact that these uplifts may have on provider payments for Independent Fostering Agencies and external residential placements.
- Increased costs of homelessness due to increased demand.
- Pressure across waste management on staffing, vehicle costs, disposal costs and related income.
- Impact of the Local Government Association (LGA) Pay Award. The Council's current forecast assumes an increase in pay award based on the LGA pay offer above that assumed in the Budget.

- 2.3 Whilst the Directorate overspend is concerning, elements of this overspend were forecast and two key Budget contingencies were created as part of setting the Council's Budget and MTFS for 2024/25. The Council set a Social Care Contingency of £3.4m and a Corporate Budget Provision of £3.5m to support anticipated pressures across Social Care and Home to School Transport. In addition, the Council's Treasury Management Strategy continues to generate savings to support the Council's budget, £4m estimated for 2024/25. As a result of these corporate provisions and savings, an underspend of £10.9m is forecast within Central Services bringing the Council's net overspend down to £6.1m.
- 2.4 Although inflation has fallen considerably since its peak in 2023/24, the impact has been an increase in the base cost of services that remains high, and it is this cost on which future inflation is applied. As such, the Council will continue to face financial pressures that will need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council's reserves.
- 2.5 Given the current forecast overspend, Directorates have been required to develop in year budget recovery plans to identify actions and opportunities to reduce costs and create cost avoidance moving forwards to mitigate the pressures faced. This work is underway but not yet at a stage where it can be factored into the current position. The forecast position will continue to be monitored closely and even with mitigations it is likely that the Council will need to call on reserves to achieve a balanced outturn. To support this, deep dive budget review sessions have been developed across the key pressure areas identified at 2.2 of this report.
- 2.6 The Council will need to ensure that mitigating actions are taken to reduce the current directorate forecast outturns along with ensuring that savings plans are delivered on time to mitigate any further impact on future years Medium Term Financial Planning. The Council has shown in recent years an ability to pull back

significant overspends in year, though the position is of course challenging in the current financial climate.

- 2.7 The Council's Budget and Council Tax report 2024/25 included the delivery of £9.904m savings, to be delivered across the Directorates. At present, £3.541m of delivery has been secured. The biggest challenges at present on delivery relate to CYPS Placements, which is forecast as a significant cost pressure again in 2024/25 indicating that the Council hasn't fully delivered the savings programme.

The table below shows the total amount of all savings to be delivered during 2024/25, and the amount that has been delivered to date.

Table 2: Delivery of Agreed Savings

| Directorate | 2024/25 Saving to be delivered | Secured as at 31 st July 2024 | Still to be delivered |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Finance and Customer Services | 238 | 238 | 0 |
| Assistant Chief Executive | 407 | 407 | 0 |
| Adult Care, Housing and Public Health | 1,998 | 1,320 | 678 |
| Children's and Young Peoples Services | 5,850 | 1,059 | 4,791 |
| Regeneration and Environment | 1,411 | 516 | 895 |
| Total | 9,904 | 3,541 | 6,363 |

- 2.8 The following sections provide further information regarding the Council's forecast outturn of £6.1m, the key reasons for forecast under or overspends within directorates and the progress of savings delivery.
- 2.9 **Children and Young People Services Directorate (£5.5m) forecast overspend)**
- 2.10 Children & Young People Services has a forecast budget pressure of **£5.5m** at the end of July 2024 primarily driven by pressures in Children's Social Care and Education. In the main the overall pressure is due to increasing demands on children in care placements and home to school transport.
- 2.11 The July forecast position includes the impact of £0.9m in-year budget recovery actions agreed by CYPS management to mitigate cost pressures in the year. The recovery plan actions that are reflected in the forecast position include delay in recruitment, limits and caps on discretionary spend and maximising or redirecting

the use of grant funding (where there is scope / flexibility to do so). The following section summarises the key budget variances across the CYPS directorate for the year.

- 2.12 Children in care placement budget is currently forecasting an overspend of £4.8m, which is an increase of £0.4m compared to the June position. The actual placement number at the end of July is 496 and compares favourably to the budget profile of 506 for the month. However, the number of external residential care placements (42), including achieved step downs in the period is higher than planned profile (39) and these continue to exert pressure against the placement budget. Work is ongoing to accelerate the in-house residential programme (to open more children's homes this year) and to identify and source alternative accommodation options for 16+ and 18+ placement cohorts. These actions should help alleviate the placement cost pressures over the medium term.
- 2.13 The Leaving Care service is forecasting an overspend of £0.2m mainly due to increased leaving care allowances and insufficient Government funding to cover the cost of supporting the rising number of 18+ UASC cohort.
- 2.14 A forecast overspend of £1.1m is currently anticipated against the CYPS home to school transport budget, which is consistent with the position previously reported. The pressure reflects demands on transporting children in care (£0.3m) and post 19 EHCP learners (£0.8m) to their school of choice. CYPS have operational groups set up to review transport costs to ensure the most appropriate method of transport is in place.
- 2.15 A net underspend of £0.6m is currently forecast across a number of service areas within the directorate. It mainly relates to the impact of the budget management actions been implemented in the directorate (e.g. redirection of grant funding, reduced spending, etc), although offset by staffing pressures in children social care.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 2.16 The following outlines the forecast position on the delegated and central Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets. A surplus budget balance of £0.9m is currently forecast for all 25 maintained schools in Rotherham for 2024/25 based on submitted budget plans. This is a reduction of £1.4m compared to the 2023/24 outturn schools' budget position and reflects increased cost pressures schools are facing in the current year. There are 3 schools with forecast budget deficits for 2024/25 totalling £149k. A budget recovery plan has been agreed with these schools to bring the budget back into a surplus position within an agreed timeframe.
- 2.17 A cost pressure of £1.5m is currently forecast for central DSG budgets and mainly relates to the SEND / High Needs budget. This is consistent with the position reported for the previous month; however, it represents an increase of £0.3m compared to the position agreed in the Safety Valve agreement. The increased deficit reflects rising pressures in the SEND system, namely; inflationary costs; increase in EHCP pupils in mainstream schools and specialist provision; and

continuing placements independent specialist settings outside the Borough. Work is ongoing through the SEND sufficiency programme to create more local SEND places and provision aimed at reducing out of authority specialist placements.

- 2.18 The latest DSG reserve account (inclusive of the above forecast high needs deficit and safety valve funding support payments from DfE) shows an overall forecast deficit of £1.8m in 2024/25 and £0.9m in 2025/26 (final year of the Safety Valve programme). The forecast deficit in 2025/26 presents a financial risk to the Council, as the statutory override protection of DSG deficits is to be removed from the end of 2025. Mitigating options are currently being explored to alleviate the demand and financial challenges in the SEND and high needs budget and therefore the deficit in 2025/26.

Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (£6.8m forecast overspend)

- 2.19 The overall directorate forecast is an overspend of £6.8m, made up of pressures in Adult Social Care (£5.6m) and homelessness (£1.2m).
- 2.20 The cost of care packages are forecast to be £7.0m overspent. The two main areas of pressure are older people and mental health support, due to increased numbers of people in older people's residential and nursing care and homecare and in mental health provision. The biggest increase has been in domiciliary care where numbers of clients has increased by 10% in the last year and almost 20% since 2022. The forecast assumes all current placements remain for the rest of the year although they may reduce. Overall movements in numbers will be closely monitored as the year progresses, additional income from Continuing Healthcare (CHC) has offset some of these costs.
- 2.21 A focus on preventative enablement work will look at reducing the numbers of people who go on to need long term support as part of a full review of services. A series of recovery plans that aim to help reduce the cost pressures across the Directorate are being developed, more detailed work is required to assess the viability of these options, the pace at which they could be implemented and the impact they might have. These include maximising the capacity of services ensuring best value provision of care. Direct Payments have shown an improved position since the previous report as a strong focus on auditing client accounts has allowed the Council to recoup overpayments to clients.
- 2.22 Neighbourhood Services (Housing) is forecast to overspend by £1.2m. Homelessness is expected to overspend by £1.2m after accounting for grant income. This is due to spend on hotels as numbers of people seeking support remain high. At the end of July 2024 there were 50 households in hotels, down from a high of 87 in April and 74 in May. Work is on-going to identify and source alternative temporary accommodation and 16 new properties are due to come on-line in the autumn. Further work is required to assess the forecast demand across the financial year.
- 2.23 Public Health is forecast to budget at this stage.

Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£4.7m forecast overspend)

- 2.24 The latest projection for the directorate indicates a forecast pressure of £4.7m for this financial year. The forecast in the main reflects the impact of ongoing demographic pressures in Home to School Transport and cost pressure within waste services. The forecast outturn projection includes the following specific budget issues.
- 2.25 Community Safety and Street Scene (CSS) is forecasting an overall pressure of £4m. The most significant pressure continues to be in respect of Home to School Transport where early forecasting indicates an overspend of £2.5m, due to ongoing demographic pressures leading to an increase in the number of new eligible passengers and fewer contractors in the market leading to increased prices. To address the increased costs and demand a range of solutions are being explored to influence demand and maximise savings opportunities, using improved cost data analysis to support plans to implement lower cost routes. As such at present the forecast is based on the outturn 2023/24, as the new cohort of passengers won't be known until September 2024. It is expected that the transition process in September will see an increase in projected overspend.
- 2.26 Parking Services is forecasting a pressure of £213k. The ongoing economic impact on Rotherham town centre footfall continues to see a reduction in income from parking charges. The forecast will be reviewed throughout the year to assess the impact from the Forge Island development once it is fully open.
- 2.27 Waste Management is currently forecasting an overspend of £1.5m. There is pressure on vehicle costs due to hire and repair costs of an ageing fleet, an increase in staff costs to cover sickness absence, increase in waste disposal cost based on tonnage estimates and a forecast shortfall in income from the sale of recycling materials due to lower market prices. These pressures were mitigated in 2023/24 by the £1m overachievement of budgeted income on pellet sales driven by the increased energy prices. Pressures in the service are being mitigated by a forecast underspend of £401k in community safety and regulation services delivery due to forecast overachievement of income budgets and vacancies across the service.
- 2.28 Culture Sport and Tourism (CST) is forecasting an overall pressure of £319k. There is a forecast overspend of £171k at Waleswood Caravan Park following an early assessment of income levels after poor weather has impacted pitch availability. There are also expected shortfalls in income at Rother Valley Country Park of £73k and Thrybergh Country Park of £61k. In addition, there is pressure on the music service and events budgets. These pressures are offset by an anticipated saving on the Leisure PFI of £167k following the benchmarking exercise.
- 2.29 Planning, Regeneration and Transport (PRT) is forecasting an overall pressure of £326k. The pressure is largely due to the ongoing forecast shortfall in Markets income arising from void stalls amid ongoing difficult trading conditions and an anticipated overspend on building control driven by a shortfall in budgeted income and the forecast cost of agency staffing to cover sickness and vacancies. These

pressures are partly offset by the use of grant income across the RIDO service and an expected overachievement of planning income.

Finance and Customer Services (balanced forecast)

- 2.30 The overall directorate is reporting a balanced position. Although there is an overspend of £444k arising from Property and Facilities Services which has transferred from Regeneration & Environment Directorate, the Finance and Customer Services Directorate intends to resolve those cost pressures in year where possible. The remaining services within the Directorate are forecasting a net balanced outturn position. Whilst there are some financial challenges within the wider directorate, projected savings on Legal disbursements and Bereavement Services income along with robust budget management are expected to offset those pressures.
- 2.31 The forecast position for Property & Facilities Services is an overspend of £444k (outturn for these services in 2023/24 was an overspend of £1.268m). Property services is forecasting a pressure of £1.1m with forecast shortfalls on income across estates and the commercial portfolio, increased costs on business rates, cleaning, maintenance and fixtures and fittings. There is pressure in school catering of £390k due to the continuing impact of inflation, this is an improved position from 2023/24 due to the forecast increase in income from the increased fees and charges. This is offset by a forecast underspend on building cleaning of £1m due to additional income.
- 2.32 Within Customer, Information and Digital Services, increased costs on postage and print are under review. Ongoing recruitment challenges are creating a temporary cost reduction, which is offset by over-recruitment within Customer Services contact centre to help manage the difficulties caused by high staff turnover in this area, that impacts on call waiting times.
- 2.33 Legal Services faces continued demand for legal support with child protection hearings and court case costs relating to Looked After Children. Ongoing difficulties in recruiting to key posts are currently resulting in the extended use of locum solicitors and external suppliers. However, the number of cases remains volatile and will continue to be monitored closely.

Assistant Chief Executive (balanced forecast)

- 2.34 Projected income of £90k for the services of the Chief Executive (CEX) to Nottingham City Council (2 days per week for the full year), along with £35k of additional income from salary sacrifice schemes are mitigating cost pressures across the Directorate. These are pressures relating to the Occupational Health contract (£40k) and HR & Payroll system (£51k). There are other minor variances across the directorate primarily relating to staffing and vacancy control, all of which are contained within the overall budget.

Central Services (£10.9m underspend)

- 2.35 Central Services has a £10.9m forecast underspend, made up of budget provisions set aside when the Budget was approved. A Social Care Contingency of £3.4m and a Corporate Budget Provision of £3.5m to support anticipated pressures across Social Care and Home to School Transport are being used to support the wider Directorates forecast position, along with a £4m forecast underspend from Treasury Management.
- 2.36 There continues to be significant financial challenges as a result of increased costs, energy prices and the potential impact of the 2024/25 Local Government Pay Award. The impact on base costs of high inflation in recent years continues to impact the renewal of Council contracts and payments to key service providers, as such it continues to present a financial challenge to the Council's approved Budget and MTFS. However, the Council was able to build into the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2024/25 greater levels of funding to manage the impact of inflation, energy and pay. As such it is currently anticipated that these impacts can be controlled within the existing budgetary provision.
- 2.37 The current economic climate remains turbulent, with challenges in projecting where inflation will move and the pace at which it moves. Though the recent trajectory has seen inflation fall to 2.2% (July 2024), this is not negative inflation and as such the Council's costs are still significantly higher than they were when inflation first started to spike above the Bank of England's 2% target. CPI had been above this 2% target since May 2021, seeing the CPI index increase by 23.4 points in that period. Although inflation has fallen considerably since its peak in 2023/24, the impact was that the resulting increased base cost of services remains high, and it is this cost on which future inflation is applied. As such, the Council will continue to face financial pressures that will need to be managed and mitigated through the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council's reserves.
- 2.38 However, energy prices have reduced which will help support the Council's Budget position for 2024/25, though it is too early in the financial year to be clear on its full benefit.
- 2.39 The Council's Treasury Management functions are expected to continue to perform well for the bulk of 2024/25. The Council still holds cash balances and is able to invest them for a greater return given current high interest rates, additional slippage on the Capital programme in 2023/24 means that the level of financing costs for 2024/25 will be less than anticipated. The benefits from the Treasury Management function can be used to support wider inflationary pressures that the Council will face during 2024/25, however it should be noted that as the Capital programme progresses, these short-term opportunities will diminish.
- 2.40 The Central Services budgets are made up of a number of corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Integrated Transport Levy (ITA), PFI Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report

2024/25, approved at Council 28th February 2024. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the directorates and thus held centrally.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 2.41 The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory ring-fenced account that the Council has to maintain in respect of the income and expenditure incurred in relation to its council dwellings and associated assets. The HRA is currently forecast to underspend by £274k.
- 2.42 The underspend largely relates to increased rental income as there have been fewer right to buy purchases than budgeted for

Capital Programme Update

- 2.43 The Capital Programme 2024/25 has been updated following the 2023/24 outturn and the latest information on project position and delivery plans. The revised Capital Programme is £199.085m split between the General Fund £143.111m and HRA £55.973m. This is a decrease of £2.310m from the position reported to Cabinet on 29th July 2024 as part of the Council's 2023/24 Financial Outturn report, the majority of which relates to the reprofiling of schemes due to delays caused by the high volume of capital activity taking place nationally that is limiting resources in the market and the challenges that inflation is causing on the cost of projects that ultimately requires greater work on project design and scope. The movement is based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, including slippage and re-profiles of (£4.548m) and new grant funding added to the programme of £2.244m.
- 2.44 **Table 3: Variations to the Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28.**

| | Total Impact £m | 2024/25 Impact £m | Post 2024/25 Impact £m |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Revised Grant and Funding Estimates | 4.181 | 2.244 | 1.937 |
| Slippage / reprofiling | 0.000 | -4.548 | 4.548 |
| HRA RTB receipts adjustment | -0.006 | -0.006 | 0.000 |
| Total | 4.175 | -2.310 | 6.485 |

- 2.45 The main items contributing to the reprofiling of the Capital Programme are:
- **Ickles Roundabout Improvement**, £0.945m slippage. The scheme has been delayed following internal scoping discussions due to the challenging location of the scheme. This has delayed the submission of the Strategic

Outline Business Case, which has now been approved by SYMCA. The Strategic Outline Business Case also highlighted significant cost increases for the original intended scheme and reduced anticipated benefits, meaning that further evaluation work is required. The Outline Business Case will seek to explore these options. The budget has been reprofiled in line with the expected programme delivery.

- **Replacement Classrooms at Aston Academy**, £0.581m saving. The project is complete and has spent less than the budget. The remaining budget has been reprofiled to future years to support other service priorities.
- **Mainline Station**, £4.357m slippage. Site investigations to assist land negotiations are ongoing resulting in a delay to key site acquisitions which are now expected to be in December 2025.
- **Riverside Infrastructure (Water Lane and Riverside Walk to Main Street)**, £1.075m slippage. Spend profile reforecast to reflect delay in contract commencement of approximately 1 quarter, with commencement on 29th July 2024 rather than the previously forecast March 2024. The delay is mainly down to the time it has taken to agree to the principals for the piling solution for the river walk. A piling solution is required to secure the land behind the existing river wall which the walk will be located on when complete to enable it to be adopted by Highways. As a result, spend has been reprofiled back by one quarter to reflect the delayed start.
- **Riverside Gardens**, £1.585m slippage. The Council's delivery partner has updated the design stage and have now provided a revised Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA) programme. This is behind the original schedule due to stage 3 redesign works and an unchartered YW sewer added further to the delays. Start on site now likely to be end of September 2024.

2.46 New grant funded schemes are added to the Capital Programme on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Grant schemes added or reduced since the July Cabinet report are listed below:

Table 4: New Grant/HRA Funded Schemes added to the programme

| Directorate/Scheme | 2024/25 £m | Post 2024/25 £m |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|
| Regeneration & Environment | | |
| Police & Crime Commissioner funding for CCTV upgrade at multiple sites | 0.016 | 0.000 |
| Historic England Grant for Waterloo Kiln, correction | (0.002) | 0.000 |

| | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| S106 Funding for Mushroom Roundabout improvement works. | 0.028 | 0.000 |
| City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) Local Neighborhood Roads Safety | 0.088 | 1.102 |
| CRSTS & S106 funding for Wath Road Brampton Crossing | 0.045 | 0.180 |
| Children & Young People | | |
| Family Hubs & Start for Life Grants (providing support to parents and carers to improve health and education outcomes for families) | 0.063 | 0.000 |
| School Basic Need Funding, correction following confirmation of allocation | (0.018) | 0.000 |
| Special School Targeted Basic Need Funding, correction following confirmation of allocation | 0.045 | 0.000 |
| Education Fund – LA Maintained correction following confirmation of allocation | 0.059 | 0.001 |
| Devolved Formula Capital correction following confirmation of allocation | 0.021 | 0.000 |
| WiFi for Classroom Grant correction following confirmation of allocation (Government backed initiative offering funding to schools to upgrade and improve their connectivity and WiFi) | 0.027 | 0.000 |
| S106 funding for Waverley Primary School to facilitate the expansion to create a three-form entry school | 1.872 | 0.654 |
| Total | 2.244 | 1.937 |

Programme Variations

- 2.47 The following variations to the Capital Programme cover significant virements between capital projects that are either key decision value or a change in use of corporate resources and as such need reporting to Cabinet.

- **Fleet Replacement Plan**

It is proposed to reallocate some of the budget for the Fleet Replacement Plan to a proposal that will deliver essential repairs on 16 refuse collection vehicles ensuring that the assets remain fit for purpose until the end 2028.

On the Fleet Replacement Plan there is a saving of £370k due to 4 vehicles being identified that no longer need replacing. Also £290k has been saved due to a reduced price for the purchase of 16 plate vehicles.

This proposed variation recommends that the identified saving of £660k is moved from the current Fleet Replacement Plan budget to a new allocation for

‘Fleet asset improvements’, whereby through refurbishment programmes, the spending will improve and extend the life of existing assets ensuring they meet their expected end-of-life cycles in accordance with the asset register.

- **Corporate Acquisitions Programme**

To support the Council’s budget recovery plans it is possible that the Council may require the acquisition of properties to support service delivery, such as properties to support the provision of accommodation for social care placements or temporary accommodation. In order to allow the Council to operate at pace should an opportunity present itself, it is proposed to create a £1m corporate acquisitions programme. This acquisitions budget will be used only to support strategic acquisitions that have a direct benefit on reducing the Council’s pressures or create cost avoidance. The ability to access this funding for any proposed acquisition will therefore be gained through the Council’s Strategic Director Finance Customer Services (Section 151), in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

MCA Approvals

- 2.48 The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) acts as accountable body for a number of different Government funding streams and as the accountable body for Gainshare. New funding received through SYMCA is £69k CRSTS funding for Wath Road Brampton Crossing, £1.190m CRSTS funding for Local Neighbourhood road safety.
- 2.49 **The proposed updated Capital Programme to 2027/28 is shown by directorate in Table 5 below.**

Table 5: Proposed Updated Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28

| Directorate | 2024/25 Budget £m | 2025/26 Budget £m | 2026/27 Budget £m | 2027/28 Budget £m | Total Budget £m |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General Fund Capital | | | | | |
| Children and Young People’s Services | 12.485 | 16.895 | 6.360 | 7.070 | 42.809 |
| Regeneration and Environment | 99.032 | 96.138 | 27.546 | 11.196 | 233.911 |
| Adult Care & Housing | 11.205 | 12.705 | 4.827 | 8.969 | 37.706 |
| Assistant Chief Executive | 0.228 | 0.210 | 0.210 | 0.210 | 0.858 |
| Finance and Customer Services | 20.161 | 27.329 | 5.644 | 5.656 | 58.790 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Capitalisation Direction | | | | | |
| Total General Fund Capital | 143.111 | 153.277 | 44.586 | 33.101 | 374.075 |
| | | | | | |
| Total HRA Capital | 55.973 | 52.284 | 97.593 | 31.174 | 237.024 |
| | | | | | |
| Total RMBC Capital Programme | 199.085 | 205.560 | 142.179 | 64.275 | 611.099 |

The Capital Programme for 2024/25 remains ambitious even with a significant level of re-profiling of schemes into 2025/26. The Council will therefore need to keep close control of project spend profiles and delivery milestones to keep these projects on track. The Council will also need to review the deliverability of this significantly increased capital programme and potentially, re-profile some schemes into future financial years.

Funding Position of capital programme 2024/25

2.50 The £199.085m of capital expenditure is funded as shown in Table 6 below

Table 6: Funding of the Approved Capital Programme

| Funding Stream | 2024/25 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Budget £m |
| Grants and Contributions | 74.145 |
| Unsupported Borrowing | 68.833 |
| HRA Contribution | 0.134 |
| Total Funding - General Fund | 143.111 |
| Grants and Contributions | 1.366 |
| Unsupported Borrowing | 8.436 |
| Housing Major Repairs Allowance | 25.796 |
| Capital Receipts | 14.555 |
| Revenue Contribution | 5.820 |
| Total Funding - HRA | 55.973 |
| Total | 199.085 |

Capital Receipts

- 2.51 The Council is continuing to undertake a comprehensive review of its assets and buildings portfolio with the aim of rationalising both its operational and non operational asset holdings. This may contribute future capital receipts which are earmarked to support the revenue budget, in accordance with the Council's approved flexible use of capital receipts strategy.
- 2.52 To date General Fund useable capital receipts of £0.194m have been generated. Although loan repayments will be received during the financial year, these cannot be used to support the revenue budget as only those receipts by the disposal of property, plant and equipment can be used in that way.

| Description | Total as at 31st July 2024 £m |
|---|--|
| Falding Street Chapel Masbrough | -0.131 |
| Covenantt release | -0.045 |
| Miscellaneous | -0.006 |
| Total Capital Receipts (Excluding loan repayments) | -0.182 |
| Repayment of Loans | -0.012 |
| Total Capital Receipts | -0.194 |

- 2.53 The detailed disposal programme is currently being updated. At this stage the forecast for useable capital receipts is between £0.75m and £1.25m but this may change when the detailed assessment has been completed. These receipts are made up of a small number of disposals and therefore any changes to these could impact on these forecasts significantly. It should be noted that there is no corporate requirement to disposal of General Fund assets and each individual decision should be taken as appropriate.

Capital Achievements

- 2.54 The following outputs have been achieved during the 2024/25 financial year to date.
- Forge Island has reached Practical Completion and the Travelodge is now open to the public.
 - Contracts have been signed for the Riverside Residential Quarter enabling works. This project will see reinforcement of the river wall and realignment of Water Lane and culvert taking place from July 2024.
 - Demolition of 7 Corporation Street has completed with the remainder of the site being demolished from September 24.

- Works to Swinton Library have completed and the building is now open to the public.
- Works to Maltby Grammar School and Magna Science and Adventure Centre have completed.
- Works to Snail Yard began in June 2024.
- A contract has been awarded for the creation of a new play space at Eldon Road in Eastwood, works are due to start after the school summer holidays.
- A further 51 new homes have been purchased under the strategic acquisitions programme and have been made available for rent. The homes have been delivered in Harthill, Thorpe Hesley, Treeton, Dinnington, Brecks, Wath, Waverley, Eastwood and Kimberworth.
- Ten direct delivery new build properties at East Herringthorpe have been completed. All properties will be made available for Social Rent. These homes have been designed to meet the Future Homes Standard due to be introduced in 2025 meaning they are highly thermally efficient achieving an EPC rating of A.
- Contracts were exchanged on the first scheme to be brought through the Council's Small Sites Homebuilder Initiative, with the seven new homes due to be handed over to the Council in August, whilst the Council further committed to acquire 30 homes in Waverley under 'Section 106' affordable housing planning provisions.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget the directorates are forecasting an overspend of £17m, further management actions continue to be identified with the clear aim of ensuring a balanced budget position can be achieved. It is currently assumed that to achieve a balanced outturn position there will be a need to utilise an element of the Council's reserves given the significant pressures that are being faced. This is in recognition that there are still financial implications that need to be fully understood and that may not be fully known until later in the financial year. It is nationally recognised best practice to monitor the performance against the agreed revenue budgets and the Capital Programme throughout the year.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Council consulted on the proposed budget for 2024/25, as part of producing the Budget and Council Tax Report 2024/25. Details of the consultation are set out in the Budget and Council Tax 2024/25 report approved by Council on 28th February 2024.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Strategic Directors, Managers and Budget Holders will ensure ongoing tight management and close scrutiny of spend this financial year.
- 5.2 Financial Monitoring reports are taken to Cabinet meetings during the year. The Financial Outturn report for 2024/25 will be taken to Cabinet in July 2025.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The Council's overspend position is detailed within the report along with the estimated impact of current financial pressures from inflation and increases in demand. This position continues to be monitored closely. Control over spending remains critical to both maintaining the robust Reserves Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 6.2 An update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy will be provided to Cabinet later in 2024. This will provide a more detailed update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning factoring in the impact of the current year financial pressures and the longer term impacts on the MTFS and reserves strategy.
- 6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Project specific implications have been addressed in the Key Issues section.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 No direct legal implications.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 No direct implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The report includes reference to the cost pressures on both Children's and Adult Social care budget.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 This is a finance update report, providing a review of current progress to date on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, any equalities and human rights impacts from service delivery have been or will be detailed as service budgets, capital projects are pulled together for inclusion within the Council's revenue budget or capital programme.

11 Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 No direct implications.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 At a time of economic difficulty and tight financial constraints, managing spend in line with the Council's budget is paramount. Careful scrutiny of expenditure and income across all services and close budget monitoring therefore remain a top priority if the Council is to deliver both its annual and medium term financial plans while sustaining its overall financial resilience

13. Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

| | Named Officer | Date |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Chief Executive | Sharon Kemp OBE | 02/09/24 |
| Assistant Director, Financial Services (Deputy S.151 Officer) | Rob Mahon | 27/08/24 |
| Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer) | Phillip Horsfield | 25/08/24 |

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services

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

APPENDIX 1

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

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.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Directorate: Finance and Customer Services | Service area: Finance |
| Lead person: Rob Mahon | Contact number: 01709 254518 |

1. Title: July 2024-25 Financial Monitoring Report

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Council has a framework of budgetary monitoring and reporting that ensures budget management is exercised within annual cash limits.

Each month the Budget Manager receives timely information on income and expenditure to enable them to fulfil their budgetary responsibilities. Following the review of the budget information, each budget manager provides a forecast of their projected outturn position on each service. The Strategic Director subsequently provides a consolidated forecast for their directorate to the Chief Finance Officer and relevant Cabinet Member.

A budget monitoring report, which includes an up-to-date outturn forecast, information about significant variances from approved budgets and proposals for dealing with them, is submitted to Cabinet at least 6 times a year, culminating with the Councils Financial Outturn report.

Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital

programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue position.

The financial monitoring position report summarises the key variances for each directorate and considers the key financial pressures and risks.

This report is the first financial monitoring report in the financial year, it sets out the Council's forecast revenue outturn position. The report also covers off any other key items to be noted at the time.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

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, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

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

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please 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 prior to carrying out an **Equality Analysis**.

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 and use the prompts for guidance.

| | |
|--|-----|
| <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 |
|-----------|--|------------|
| Rob Mahon | Assistant Director Financial Services | 21/08/2024 |

6. Publishing

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

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

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

| | |
|--|------------|
| Date screening completed | 21/08/2024 |
| If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication | |
| Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk | 21/08/2024 |

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APPENDIX 2

| Will the decision/proposal impact... | Impact | If an impact or potential impacts are identified | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors. | Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole. | Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts | Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out |
| Emissions from non-domestic buildings? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |
| Emissions from transport? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |
| Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |
| Emissions from housing and domestic buildings? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |
| Emissions from construction and/or development? | <i>no impact on emissions</i> | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)? | <i>no impact</i> | | | | |
| Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields: | | | | | |

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

As this report is a financial update on previous events, updates on levels of funding moving forwards and doesn't approve anything directly to happen, it does not have any carbon implications.

| | |
|---|--|
| Supporting information: | |
| Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate). | Nikki Kelly, Finance Manager (Corporate), Finance and Customer Services. |
| Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form]. | |
| If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts. | |
| Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions] | CIA 333 |

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 16 September 2024

Report Title

Boroughwide and Town Centre/Clifton Park Public Space Protection Orders

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Craig Cornwall, Community Protection & Environmental Health Manager
01709 823118, craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Dog Fouling – Borough Wide

Town Centre & Clifton Park – Boston Castle & Rotherham East

Report Summary

The current Town Centre and Clifton Park Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and the Borough-wide Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order were renewed in January 2024 for a period of 12 months. This period of designation is intentionally shorter than the three-year maximum term that is prescribed in the applicable statute in order to allow the service to review enforcement capacity associated with any new PSPOs. This report proposes to undertake consultation to establish stakeholder views in relation to those Public Spaces Protection Orders and to gauge support for future designations. Views will be sought concurrently about the conditions that might be included within such Orders.

The options available to the Council at the end of the consultation will be to extend the Orders, vary their requirements or to discharge them. Whilst each of these outcomes are possible, the consultation responses will ultimately steer future direction.

Recommendations

1. To carry out a consultation in relation to the future Town Centre and Clifton Park Public Spaces Protection Order.
2. To carry out a consultation in relation to the future Borough wide Public Spaces Protection Order specifically dealing with dog fouling and control.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Public Spaces Protection Orders Consultation Plan
- Appendix 2 Boroughwide PSPO in draft state
- Appendix 3 Town Centre and Clifton Park PSPO in draft state
- Appendix 4 South Yorkshire Police ASB Town Centre data 2022-2024
- Appendix 5 Environmental Health data relating to Dog Fouling and Dog Straying complaints 2018 to 2024
- Appendix 6 Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 7 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Item 86 Agenda for Cabinet on Monday 20 November 2023, 10.00 a.m. - Rotherham Council – Boroughwide PSPO for dog fouling

Item 87 Agenda for Cabinet on Monday 20 November 2023, 10.00 a.m. - Rotherham Council – PSPO for Town Centre & Clifton Park

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers
Statutory guidance for frontline professionals, Home Office, August 2019

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Boroughwide and Town Centre/Clifton Park Public Space Protection Orders

1. Background

- 1.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 created powers to introduce Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in order to prevent individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in public spaces.
- 1.2 On 20th November 2023, Cabinet agreed the implementation of a new Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order and a new Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order, which prohibit a number of behaviours and are effective from January 2024 (the time they were signed, sealed and published) for a period of 12 months each.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides for PSPOs, to be made for a maximum period of three years.
- 2.2 The Act requires that, where Orders are to be introduced or extended, consultation must be undertaken with:
 - The Chief Officer of Police, and the local policing body, for the police area that includes the restricted area;
 - Whatever community representatives the local authority thinks it appropriate to consult;
 - The owner or occupier of land within the restricted area.
- 2.3 In addition, the Act also stipulates that necessary publicity must be undertaken which means:
 - In the case of a proposed new order or variation, publishing the text of it.
 - In the case of a proposed extension or discharge, publicising the proposal.
- 2.4 Moreover, the Council is obliged to notify the parish council or community council, of the proposed order, extension, variation or discharge.
- 2.5 Enforcement of the Order for Dog Fouling has been carried out by Council officers and through Service Level Agreement arrangements with City of Doncaster Council, whilst the Town Centre Order enforcement is by South Yorkshire Police and Council Officers.
- 2.6 Complaints of dog fouling across the Borough steadily increased in 2018 to 2021, with only 2022 showing a slight decrease against this trend. Appendix 5 shows the data for dog fouling complaints and stray dog complaints, handled by Environmental Health between 2018 to July 2024. Although complaints of straying dogs reduced prior to Covid, we are now seeing a reverse of this trend from 2022 onwards. Anti-Social behaviour in relation to irresponsible dog ownership has increased, with local and nationally publicised incidents which have led to significant harm or sadly even death of members of the public. Therefore, consideration will be given to widening the

requirements and prohibitions included in any Dog Control related Order. The consultation will seek views across stakeholders on any variation of the Order to this end.

- 2.7 Since the designation of the Public Spaces Protection Order in the Town Centre, complaints of Anti-Social Behaviour have slowly been on the rise and peaked in October 2022 according to the last set of data analysed in relation to the most recent designation in January 2024. More recent data, as shown in Appendix 4, show complaints relating to rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour remains the most significant in terms of anti-social behaviour recorded by South Yorkshire Police in the town centre and Public Spaces Protection Orders provide the tools for officers to tackle these types of problems. Begging and vagrancy, also makes up a significant proportion of complaints received about anti-social behaviour (ASB). In Appendix 4, Headline ASB data from 2022/23 to 2024/25 shows that Quarter 1 in 2024/25 increased quite significantly when compared to Quarter 1 in previous years. The last two Quarters show a significant increase in ASB in the Town Centre.
- 2.8 The Council and partners continue to receive complaints relating to the town centre from businesses, Councillors and visitors alike. The town centre is a priority area for the Council and partners with a partnership project underway to work towards tackling these problems. The Town Centre is undergoing significant regeneration including the Forge Island development.
- 2.9 The Council and Police should carefully consider how the Order can be resourced. These types of Orders are best applied where dedicated uniformed presence can be deployed in hotspot areas for such activity. Currently, neither the Police nor Council has a focussed dedicated resource for the Town Centre.
- 2.10 Current staff, including Enforcement Officers and Community Protection Officers/ Environmental Health Officers, are authorised under the relevant legislation to act. Their work is often programmed casework and they are not often deployed in a manner that allows immediate response to reported incidents or undertake pro-active patrols in relation to anti-social behaviour conducted by groups or individuals.
- 2.11 Traditionally, South Yorkshire Police supplied most of the face-to-face uniformed presence in the designated areas to support the Orders. Often this was in the form of Police Community Support Officers.
- 2.12 WISE, the Council's partnering enforcement service provided by Doncaster City Council, have agreed to accept authorisation to enforce the Orders in place. This was an addition to previous arrangements of this type which have historically included littering and dog fouling offences. This took effect from April 2024. This provides experienced, uniformed and equipped officers able to take effective action against the Orders. 11 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued as a result of directed patrols between June 2023 and June 2024 in relation to dog fouling.

- 2.13 There is evidence of lower-level interventions such as verbal warnings and surrender of alcohol, where no offence is made because the advice/warning is complied with. In June 2024, South Yorkshire Police officers used the Town Centre Order on 9 occasions to require alcohol to be surrendered. In May and June 2024, 10 interactions with members of the public, where advice to refrain from drinking in public places had been given and positively responded to, had been logged by WISE. While these instances do not result in formal action (i.e. a fixed penalty notice), they are a positive use of the Order and high compliance with the requests are noted. This intervention would not be possible without the PSPO in place.
- 2.14 External funding from the Home Office was utilised within 2023/24 and has been extended in 2024/25 to provide additional high visibility patrols and activity by the Council and Police. Direction has been given to officers undertaking these patrols to use the PSPO tool to resolve identified issues as they arise. Additional patrols are being supplied in 6 ASB hotspots currently, some of which includes localities covered by the Orders in force.
- 2.15 The consultation in this regard will seek views on the effectiveness of the current Order and consider if any varied Clauses are required to ensure they match current priorities for all stakeholders, and match trends in relation to additional complaint types, such as Flyposting. The consultation should also seek views from all stakeholders on how the Order can be better resourced, with a commitment to do so from all relevant agencies and departments.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Council could take the view that with relatively low levels of Fixed Penalty Notices, the Town Centre PSPO and the Dog Fouling PSPO have not served their purpose and are therefore ineffective and not required. It is not however considered that this would be a preferred option given that the issues remain and the lack of a PSPO could have a negative impact on public health and community safety. In addition, the PSPO's offer the Council and partners tools to tackle very specific problems, without which effective responses to these types of behaviours are limited and essential lower-level interventions such as verbal warnings and surrender of alcohol, where no offence is made because the advice/warning is complied with, would not be possible.
- 3.2 The consultation process is a statutory requirement prior to implementation of a PSPO. The consultation process will enable the Council to collate information about the nature and impact of ASB and to make an informed decision as to whether a PSPO is appropriate and proportionate in the circumstances. The consultation will form part of the evidence gathering process in order to assess whether the two conditions set out within the legislation, before a PSPO can be made, are met. It will guide the Council as to the types of measures that should remain in place as part of a new PSPO and what, if any, new measures should be introduced. The relevant conditions within the legislation are outlined below:

The first condition is that:

- (a) activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or
- (b) it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities:

- (a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
- (b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
- (c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 South Yorkshire Police will be further consulted on the Orders as part of the formal phase consultation. It is informative that Neighbourhood Policing Team Central Inspector John Crapper has provided the following comments: *"My experiences of policing the town centre is that there are a lot of business owners and RMBC staff who are striving to make the town centre an appealing place to visit and shop. Unfortunately, it is affected by antisocial behaviour such as street drinking and begging which affects this. Shoplifting is also a significant problem which affects the viability of the shops. The behaviour which is perpetrated by a very small minority of people has a disproportionate effect on the appeal of the town centre. The incidents which are occurring are high in volume and low in individual significance, meaning that a reactive investigation and prosecution is never likely to bring about a resolution. A resolution needs to come through prevention in the first place, through the visible presence of officers or other capable guardians, who have the powers and training to take action when they encounter things. It also requires the partnership of SYP and RMBC to successfully use civil orders and other prevention techniques, in order to deter perpetrators".*
- 4.2 It is proposed that the formal consultation will commence from 18th September 2024 and run until 30th October 2024.
- 4.3 Consultees will include amongst others, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, Ward Members, key stakeholders, voluntary, community organisations, businesses and the public.
- 4.4 The consultation will seek views on the effectiveness of both Orders and gather evidence with a view to assessing whether varied requirements or prohibitions are necessary. As referenced within this report, in relation to Dog Control, this will involve wider responsible dog ownership such as a requirement to keep dogs on leads in certain areas of the Borough or when requested to do so by an authorised officer. In relation to the Town Centre, views on current priorities and complaint types will be matched to the requirements or prohibitions included in any Order.
- 4.5 A consultation plan is attached at Appendix 1.

- 4.6 Should the conclusion of the consultation recommend the Order is extended in its current state, the Order will be proposed as part of a further Cabinet report towards the end of the 2024 calendar year. Should the Orders be varied based on consultation, new draft Orders will need to be published before they will be formally adopted.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Following consultation, a report will be presented to Cabinet by December 2024 detailing the findings of the consultation and any recommendations that may be required.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The majority of this proposed consultation exercise will be undertaken on-line, so costs associated with this process will be limited to IT costs and minimal printing and postage costs. The overall cost of this consultation exercise is estimated to be no higher than £2k and will be contained within the Service's approved revenue budget.
- 6.2 There are no significant procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report. The costs referred to above, should be directed through current internal or contracted arrangements.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The power to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order is set out in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Act gives the Council the authority to draft and implement a Public Spaces Protection Order in response to particular issues affecting the community, provided it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met.

The first condition is that:

- (a) activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or
- (b) it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities:

- (a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
- (b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
- (c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

- 7.2 The Council will need to fully consider all evidence gathered as a result of the consultation process in order to be satisfied that the above conditions are met and to be satisfied that the Public Spaces Protection Order is necessary and proportionate in the circumstances. Any requirements or prohibitions imposed must be reasonable.

- 7.3 The Act itself sets out the ability to challenge the validity of any Order and so it is vital the Council follows the correct process in terms of the implementation of the Order and this includes the requirement to consult. The Council must carry out the necessary consultation and the necessary publicity, and the necessary notification (if any), before:
- (a) making a public spaces protection order,
 - (b) extending the period for which a public spaces protection order has effect, or
 - (c) varying or discharging a public spaces protection order.

The Council must consult with:

- (a) the chief officer of police, and the local policing body, for the police area that includes the restricted area;
- (b) whatever community representatives the local authority thinks it appropriate to consult;
- (c) the owner or occupier of land within the restricted area (this does not apply to land that is owned and occupied by the local authority and applies only if, or to the extent that, it is reasonably practicable to consult the owner or occupier of the land).

- 7.4 The Council must also comply with the necessary publicity and notification requirements set out in the Act. The necessary publicity means
- (a) in the case of a proposed order or variation, publishing the text of it;
 - (b) in the case of a proposed extension or discharge, publicising the proposal;

The necessary notification requirements means notifying the following authorities of the proposed order, extension, variation or discharge:

- (a) the parish council or community council (if any) for the area that includes the restricted area;
- (b) in the case of a public spaces protection order made or to be made by a district council in England, the county council (if any) for the area that includes the restricted area.

- 7.5 Any Order can last for a maximum of 3 years, unless extended under the provisions of the Act, and any such Order can be varied and/or discharged at any time.
- 7.6 The requirement to consult is a statutory requirement however there is no set statutory time scale for the consultation. The Statutory Guidance states that the appropriate length of the consultation will depend on the circumstances of the PSPO being sought, it is important that the Council ensures that the consultation is reasonable and proportionate to the issues under consideration. The proposed consultation of 6 weeks will be sufficient and is in accordance with the recommended best practice guidance for public consultations issued by the Government.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no Children and Young People or Vulnerable Adults implications contained within or arising from the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no Equalities and Human Rights Advice implications contained within or arising from the report.
- 10.2 An Initial Screening Assessment has been included at Appendix 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no carbon or climate implications arising from this report. An assessment is contained at Appendix 3.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 South Yorkshire Police are a key partner in delivery of the requirements of Public Spaces Protection Orders.
- 12.2 Businesses, particularly those within the town centre are likely to have some interest in ensuring that any impacts on the town centre from unacceptable behaviours, are made known to the Council, and in particular where these behaviours might affect the attractiveness of Rotherham as a place to do business or visit.
- 12.3 South Yorkshire Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce will be consulted under the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, following the attached Consultation Plan at Appendix 1.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The consultation may highlight further problems that may need to be addressed beyond what the consultation includes. Consequently, there will be a need to review such issues and consider them as part of the later proposed consultation report to Cabinet
- 13.2 The findings from consultation must be considered in the context of the staff and resources available to enforce any provisions that are suggested in order to ensure that any measures that may be desired can be included in a meaningful way.
- 13.3 A standstill period for publishing of a varied Order texts, depending on the outcome of the consultation, could leave agencies without the power to enforce the legislation.

14. Accountable Officers

Sam Barstow Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene
 Emma Ellis Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

| | Named Officer | Date |
|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Chief Executive | Sharon Kemp OBE | 02/09/24 |
| Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer) | Judith Badger | 16/08/24 |
| Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer) | Phil Horsfield | 16/08/24 |

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 Health Manager, 01709 823118; craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Appendix 1

Public Spaces Protection Orders Consultation Plan

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)

Consultation Plan

Introduction and Overview

PSPO's are intended to deal with a nuisance or problem in a specific area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing appropriate and proportionate conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone.

The Orders impacting the Town Centre & Clifton Park anti-social behaviour, plus the Borough-wide dog fouling Order, were renewed for 12 months in January 2024. In the consultation process leading to these renewals, support was seen in relation to varying the Orders in terms of variation of requirements and prohibitions. This consultation will look to further build on this with a view the new Orders due in January 2025.

Current Town Centre PSPO Prohibitions

- Behaving in such a way or using language that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to another person.
- Making unsolicited approaches, in the open air, for the purposes of face-to-face fundraising and marketing of commercial products, carried out by organisations without the prior written permission from the Council.
- Failing to keep a dog on a leash and under control (otherwise than within the designated area within Clifton Park as shown on the map contained in Schedule 2, where dogs may be off leads, but must remain under control).
- Depositing and leaving litter.
- Urinating or defecating in public, other than within designated public toilets.
- Spitting saliva or any other product from the mouth.
- Consuming alcohol other than on licensed premises or at a licensed event.

Current Dog Fouling Transitioned PSPO Prohibitions

- Failing to remove and appropriately dispose of dog faeces

Consultation issues:

- What are stakeholders current priorities in relation to Town Centre and Dog Control Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)?
- How do the current Orders match to these priorities?
- Consider varied requirements/ prohibitions in relation to the following proposed issues to be included:
 - **Town Centre PSPO**
 - Acting in a way that causes or may cause harassment, alarm or distress.
 - Approaching people for marketing or fund-raising purposes without a Licence.

- Keeping dogs on a lead (other than in the designated dog exercise areas in Clifton Park).
- Urinating or defecating in public.
- Spitting.
- Nuisance vehicles.
- Fireworks.
- Persistent and repeated or aggressive begging.
- Continuing to consume alcohol when required to stop doing so by any authorised officer.
- Any other matter arising from Consultees responses and corroborated by Crime and ASB data held by Agencies.
- Flyposting
- Borough Wide Dog Fouling PSPO
 - Failing to remove and appropriately dispose of dog faeces.
 - A person in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer.
 - A person must keep a dog on a lead in a cemetery.
 - A person must not take a dog into or keep it within a fenced/enclosed children's play area.
 - A person in charge of a dog must carry suitable means to remove any dog fouling.
 - Any other matter arising from Consultees responses and corroborated by Crime and ASB data held by Agencies.

Consultation Period

The consultation period will run for 6 weeks, commencing on 18th September 2024 and end on 30th October 2024. This will allow submission of a further report and amended Order(s) for Cabinet on 18th November 2024.

Who will be consulted?

- South Yorkshire Police – Chief Inspector Neighbourhoods
- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- All Ward Councillors
- Key Stakeholders
- Transport
 - Travel South Yorkshire – Rotherham Interchange
 - National Rail – Rotherham Railway Station
- Schools and Colleges
 - Rotherham College
 - Thomas Rotherham College
- Community Organisations
 - Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA)

- Friends of Clifton Park Community Group
- Clifton Learning Partnership
- Voluntary Action Rotherham
- Businesses
 - Rotherham Voice (all town centre businesses)
 - Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce
 - Rotherham Markets
- Parish and Town Councils
 - Anston Parish Council
 - Aston cum Aughton Parish Council
 - Bramley Parish Council
 - Brampton Bierlow Parish Council
 - Brinsworth Parish Council
 - Catcliffe Parish Council
 - Dalton Parish Council
 - Dinnington St. John's Town Council
 - Firbeck Parish Council
 - Gildingwells Parish Council
 - Harthill with Woodall Parish
 - Hellaby Parish Council
 - Hooton Levitt Parish Council
 - Hooton Roberts Parish Council
 - Laughton en le Morthen Parish Council
 - Letwell Parish Council
 - Maltby Town Council Council
 - Orgreave Parish Council
 - Ravenfield Parish Council
 - Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
 - Thrybergh Parish Council
 - Thurcroft Parish Council
 - Todwick Parish Council
 - Treeton Parish Council
 - Ulley Parish Council
 - Wales Parish Council
 - Waverley Community Council
 - Wentworth Parish Council
 - Whiston Parish Council
 - Wickersley Parish Council
 - Woodsetts Parish Council

Methods of consultation

- In writing (Partners/Organisations)
- Online survey (RMBC Website)
- Workshops
- Town Centre Stands

- Printed questionnaires at public facing events and on request
- Community Action Partnership (CAP) / Ward Briefings – in person
- Visits to Town Centre businesses / Town Centre Walkabouts

Communication

- RMBC Website
- Safer Rotherham Partnership Website
- Social media
- Posters/leaflets in local community
- Neighbourhoods communication
- Member briefings

Data and Information

Quantitative Data will be requested from South Yorkshire Police Data and Performance team in relation to both Orders. This will focus on the geographical areas, ASB and crime trends in the Town Centre and Clifton Park, and also dog related ASB across the Borough. Similarly, internal Council departments such as Environmental Health and Housing will provide data for interrogation and analysis.

Qualitative data will also be invited from operational officers in relation to how the tools are used, and nature of the incidents they are asked to deal with on a day-to-day basis.

APPENDIX 2

Public Spaces Protection Order
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act
Part 4 Chapter 2 Section 59

**The Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Dog Fouling and Control
Borough-Wide) Public Spaces Protection Order**

1. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has exercised its powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") and being satisfied that all the requirements of the Act have been met hereby makes the following Order, known as:

**The Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Dog Fouling and Control
Borough-Wide) Public Spaces Protection Order**

2. This Order shall come into operation on [DATE] and shall have an effect for 1 year thereafter, unless extended, varied or discharged by further order as set out in the Act.
3. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (2) of the Act have been met. Namely, that activities carried out in a public place within the authority's area have had or it is likely that they will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, namely:

3.1 The failure of persons to remove dog faeces from land

4. The Council is also satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (3) of the Act have been met. Namely, that the effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature and that these activities are unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed by this Order and that it is in all the circumstances expedient to make this Order for the purpose of reducing crime and/or anti-social behaviour in a public place.
5. The effect of this Order is to require relevant persons to undertake the following activities within the Borough of Rotherham:

Dog Fouling

5.1 It will be an offence for any person in control of a dog to fail to remove its faeces from the land forthwith unless:

- i) the person has reasonable excuse for failing to do so.

6. Unless otherwise stated, the prohibitions and requirements contained in this Order shall apply to all persons, at all times of the day and all days of the week throughout the calendar year and throughout the entirety of the restricted area.
7. Nothing in this order shall apply to a person who –
 - (i) Is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
 - (ii) A person with a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010 or its successor and who relies upon an accredited assistance dog trained by an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI) or the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) or other prescribed charity.
8. Any person who carries out acts from which they are prohibited from doing or fails to comply with a requirement set out in this Order, within the restricted area, commits an offence under section 67 of the Act and is liable to receive a Fixed Penalty Notice at a maximum of £100 and on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1,000).
9. An authorised person may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to anyone he or she believes has committed an offence. The level of the fixed penalty shall be £100. A person committing an offence and failing to pay the fixed penalty may be prosecuted.
10. Additional Information and Definitions for the purpose of the Order:
 - 10.1 A person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.
 - 10.2 Placing the faeces in receptacle on the land, which is provided for the purpose of, or for the disposal of, dog faeces shall be sufficient removal from the land.
 - 10.3 Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.
 - 10.4 “Public place” means any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as a right or by virtue of express or implied permission.
 - 10.5 “Land” refers to all land, including access land in the Borough of Rotherham which is open to air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side), to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).

10.6 “Authorised person” means a police officer, an employee of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council or other person who is authorised in writing by the Council.

11. In accordance with section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date upon which the Order is made.

THE COMMON SEAL OF)

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN)

BOROUGH COUNCIL)

was affixed to this Order)

in the presence of)

Duly Authorised Officer



APPENDIX 3

Public Spaces Protection Order
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act
Part 4 Chapter 2 Section 59

The Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Town Centre and Clifton Park)
Public Spaces Protection Order 2023

1. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has exercised its powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") and being satisfied that all the requirements of the Act have been met hereby makes the following Order, known as:

The Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Town Centre & Clifton Park)
Public Spaces Protection Order 2023

2. This Order shall come into operation on [DATE] and shall have an effect for 1 years thereafter, unless extended, varied or discharged by further order as set out in the Act.
3. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (2) of the Act have been met. Namely, that activities carried out in a public place within the authority's area have had or it is likely that they will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, namely:
 - 1.1 Acting in a drunken manner, which may include being loud, intimidating or incapable.
 - 1.2 Using loud, foul or abusive language. Shouting, screaming or acting in a generally rowdy and inconsiderate manner.
 - 1.3 Carrying out promotional or fundraising work, obstructing pavements or approaching people in the street so as to cause them annoyance.
 - 1.4 The throwing down of any waste
 - 1.5 Urinating or defecating in public.
 - 1.6 Spitting saliva or any other product from the mouth.
 - 1.7 Misusing vehicles or causing vehicle related nuisance.
 - 1.8 Dogs approaching strangers whilst off the lead, at times frightening them or their animal who may be on a lead or under proper control.
4. The Council is also satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (3) of the Act have been met. Namely, that the effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature and that these activities are unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed by this Order and that it is in all the

circumstances expedient to make this Order for the purpose of reducing crime and/or anti-social behaviour in a public place.

5. The effect of this Order is to prohibit the following activities within the restricted area as shown on the map contained in Schedule 1 and outlined in red:
 - 5.1 Continuing to consume alcohol when required to stop doing so by any authorised officer, save for those places identified at 10.4.
 - 5.2 Behaving in such a way or using language that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to another person.
 - 5.3 Approaching people for marketing or fund-raising purposes without an appropriate Licence.
 - 5.4 Depositing and leaving litter
 - 5.5 Urinating or defecating in public, other than within designated public toilets.
 - 5.6 Spitting saliva or any other product from the mouth.
 - 5.7 Being in charge of a motor vehicle and using it in a way to cause a nuisance to others or anti-social behaviour.
 - 5.8 Failing to keep a dog on a lead and under control otherwise than within the designated area within Clifton Park (as shown on the map contained in Schedule 2), where dogs may be off leads, but must remain under control
6. Unless otherwise stated, the prohibitions and requirements contained in this Order shall apply to all persons, at all times of the day and all days of the week throughout the calendar year and throughout the entirety of the restricted area.
7. Any person who carries out acts from which they are prohibited from doing or fails to comply with a requirement set out in this Order 5.2 to 5.7 above, within the restricted area, commits an offence under section 67 of the Act and is liable to receive a fixed penalty notice at a maximum of £100 and on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1,000).
8. Any person who carries out an act from which they are prohibited from doing under 5.1 above is guilty of an offence under section 63 of the Act if they fail to comply with the request of an authorised officer to not consume alcohol in breach of this Order (or anything that the authorised officer reasonably believes to be alcohol) or surrender any sealed or unsealed containers of alcohol (or anything that the authorised officer reasonably believes to be alcohol) in their possession and is liable to receive a fixed penalty notice at a maximum of £100 and on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (£500).

9. An authorised person may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she believes has committed an offence. The level of the fixed penalty shall be £100. A person committing an offence and failing to pay the fixed penalty may be prosecuted.

10. Additional Information and Definitions for the purpose of the Order:

- 10.1 “Public place” means any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as a right or by virtue of express or implied permission.
- 10.2 “Alcohol” has the meaning given by section 191 of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 10.3 “Authorised person” means a police officer, an employee of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council or other person who is authorised in writing by the Council.
- 10.4 A prohibition at 5.1 on consuming alcohol does not apply to—
- (a) premises (other than council-operated licensed premises) authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol;
 - (b) premises authorised by a club premises certificate to be used by the club for the supply of alcohol;
 - (c) a place within the curtilage of premises within paragraph (a) or (b);
 - (d) premises which by virtue of Part 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 may at the relevant time be used for the supply of alcohol or which, by virtue of that Part, could have been so used within the 30 minutes before that time;
 - (e) a place where facilities or activities relating to the sale or consumption of alcohol are at the relevant time permitted by virtue of a permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980 (highway-related uses).
- 10.5 In relation to vehicle related nuisance and anti-social behaviour, this includes:
- obstructing highways, residential or business properties
 - dangerous driving or inconsiderate driving
 - excessive noise via engine, horn or amplified music
 - littering
 - verbal abuse, swearing or intimidation to members of the public

11. In accordance with section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date upon which the Order is made.

THE COMMON SEAL OF)

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN)

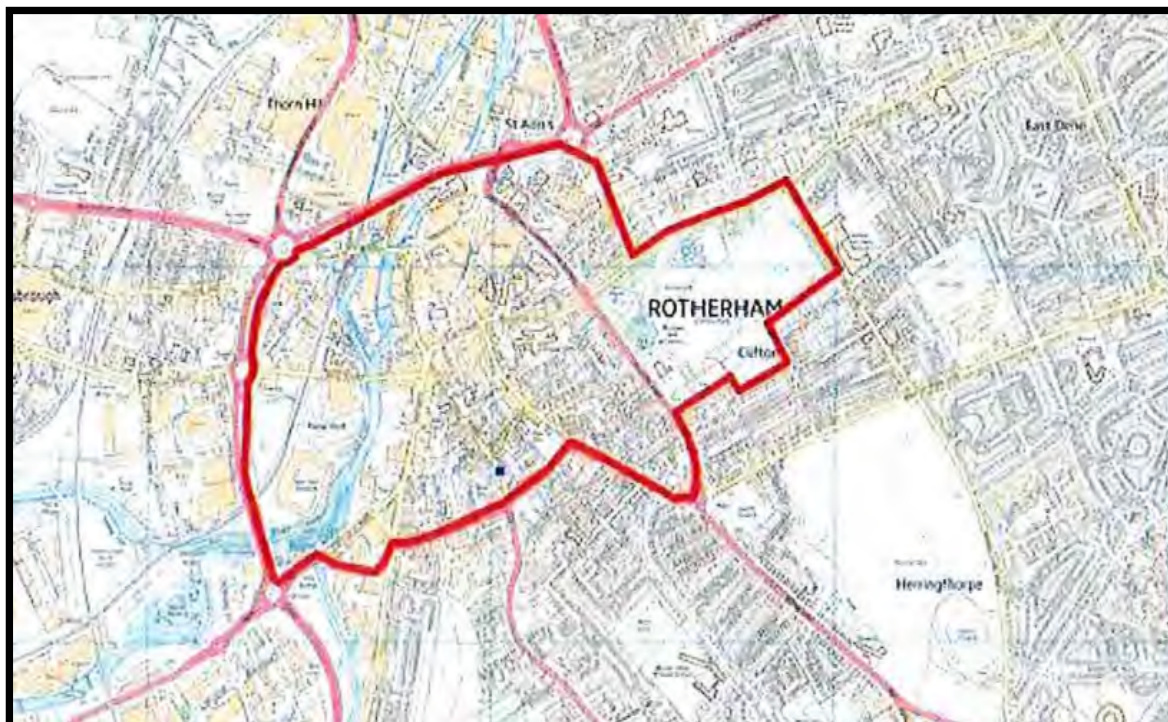
BOROUGH COUNCIL)

was affixed to this Order)

in the presence of)

Duly Authorised Officer

Schedule 1 – The restricted area



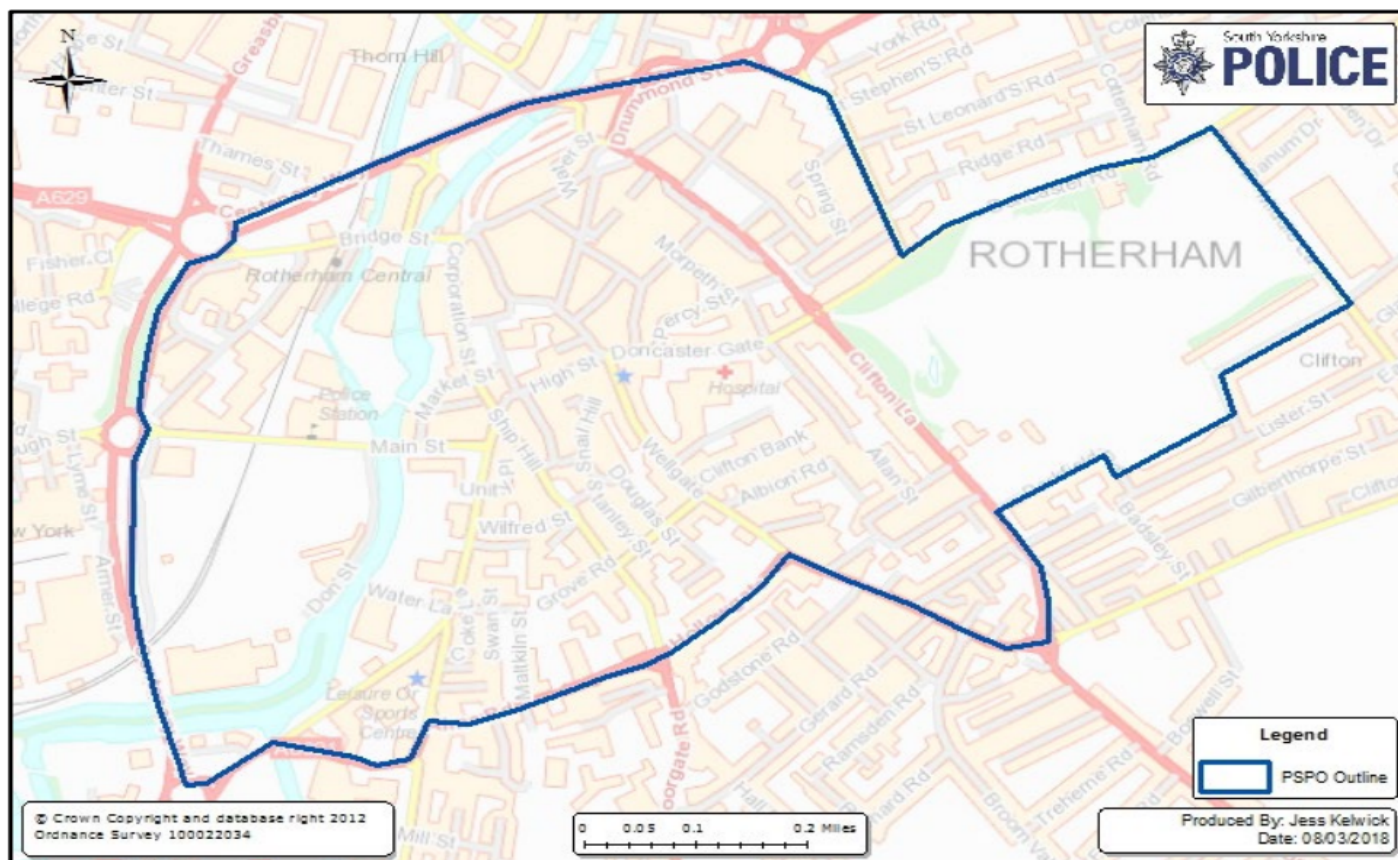
Schedule 2 – Clifton Park dog exercise area (black thatched area)



APPENDIX 4

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Data in the Town Centre 2022/2023, 2023/24 & 2024/25

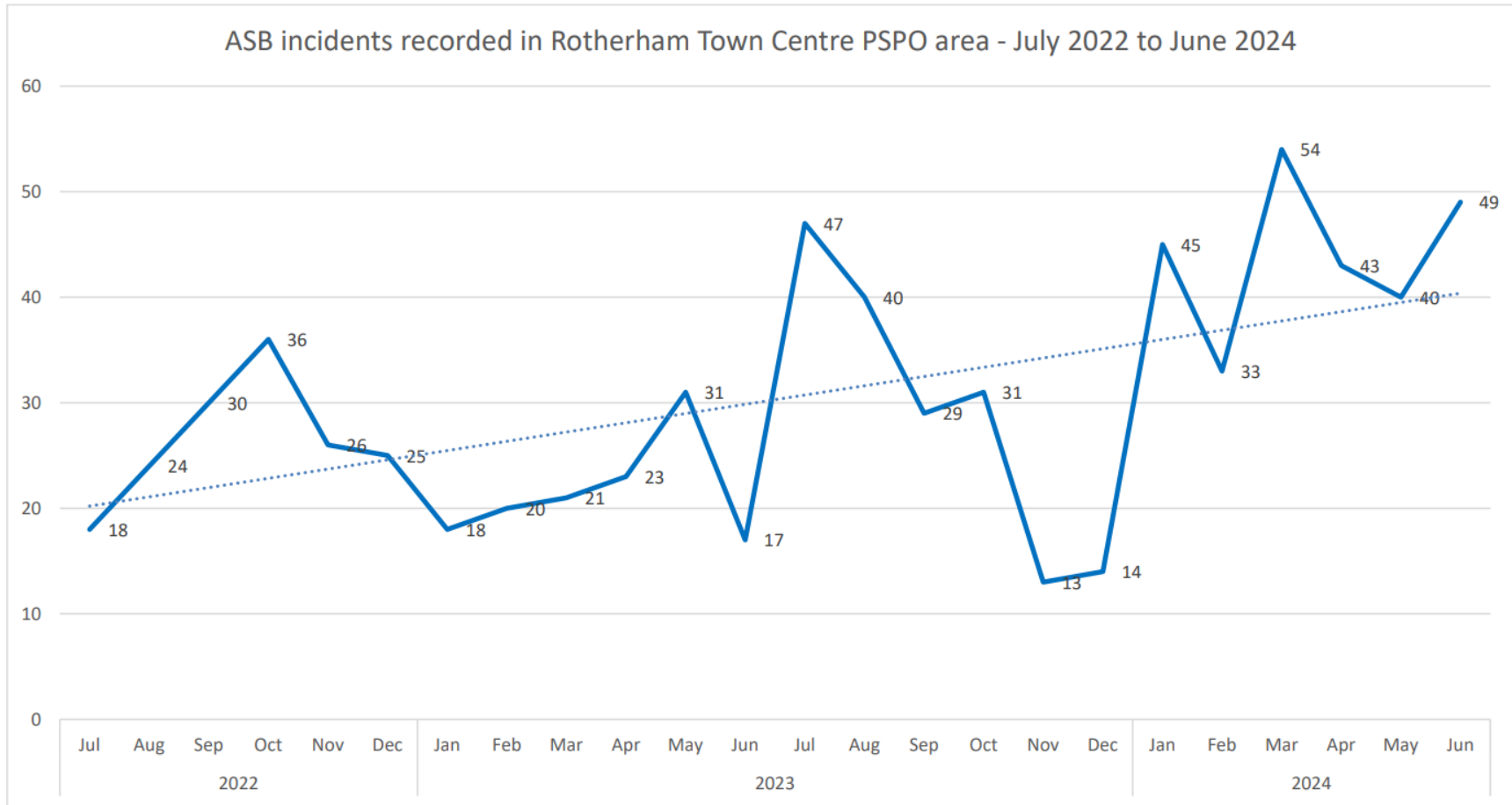
Town Centre PSPO area outline



Incident Types July 2023 to June 2024

The most common incident type was rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour, which accounts for 55% of all incidents recorded in the Town Centre PSPO area between July 2023 and June 2024. It was the most recorded ASB type in every month except April 2024.

| ASB Description | Jul-23 | Aug-23 | Sep-23 | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Total |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| ABND VEH NOT STOLEN | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 13 |
| ANIMAL PROBLEM | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| BEGGING/VAGRANCY | 18 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 20 | 9 | 1 | 87 |
| FIREWORKS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| LITTER/DRUGS TRAPPINGS | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| NOISE | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 10 |
| OFF ROAD BIKE/QUAD | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 18 |
| PROSTITUTION RELATED | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| ROWDY/INCONSID | 20 | 18 | 18 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 29 | 18 | 38 | 16 | 22 | 27 | 239 |
| STREET DRINKING | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| TRESPASS | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| VEH NUISANCE/INAPP USE | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 33 |
| Total | 18 | 24 | 30 | 36 | 26 | 25 | 18 | 20 | 21 | 23 | 31 | 17 | 438 |



2024 Boston Castle Ward (which includes Town Centre) ASB Data

| THEME | DESCRIPTION | 01 January 2024 | 01 February 2024 | 01 March 2024 | 01 April 2024 | 01 May 2024 | 01 June 2024 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR | ABND VEH NOT STOLEN | 1 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| | ANIMAL PROBLEM | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| | BEGGING/VAGRANCY | 11 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 12 | 1 |
| | FIREWORKS | | | | | | 4 |
| | LITTER/DRUGS TRAPPINGS | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| | NOISE | | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| | NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| | OFF ROAD BIKE/QUAD | 5 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 8 |
| | PROSTITUTION RELATED | | | | | | 1 |
| | ROWDY/INCONSID | 34 | 26 | 40 | 20 | 28 | 41 |
| | STREET DRINKING | | 1 | | | | 4 |
| | TRESPASS | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| | VEH NUISANCE/INAPP USE | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 14 |
| Grand Total | | 59 | 61 | 76 | 60 | 69 | 82 |

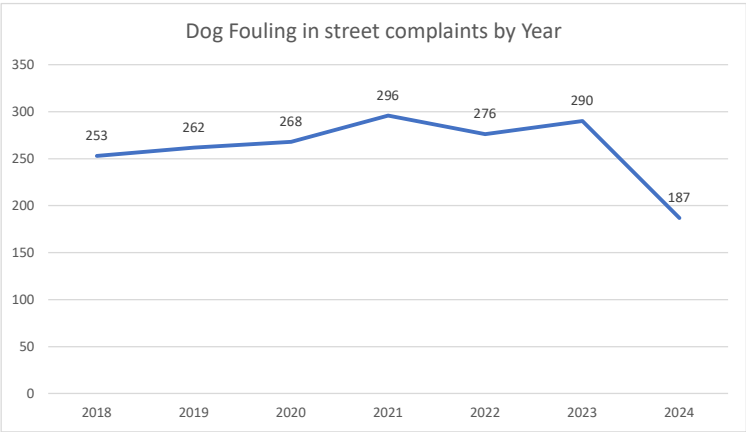
Boston Castle ASB Data 2022 to 2024

| THEME | DESCRIPTION | Apr -22 | May -22 | Jun -22 | Jul - 22 | Aug -22 | Sep -22 | Oct -22 | Nov -22 | Dec -22 | Jan -23 | Feb -23 | Mar -23 | Apr -23 | May -23 | Jun -23 | Jul - 23 | Aug -23 | Sep -23 | Oct -23 | Nov -23 | Dec -23 | Jan -24 | Feb -24 | Mar -24 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOU R | ABND VEH NOT STOLEN | 1 | | 4 | 2 | 2 | | 4 | | 3 | 5 | | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| | ANIMAL PROBLEM | | | | 2 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 |
| | BEGGING/VAGRAN CY | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 19 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | | 11 | 12 | 16 |
| | FIREWORKS | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 6 | 6 | 1 | | | |
| | LITTER/DRUGS TRAPPINGS | | | | | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| | NOISE | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 3 |
| | NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| | OFF ROAD BIKE/QUAD | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 3 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| | PROSTITUTION RELATED | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| | ROWDY/INCONSID | 27 | 17 | 18 | 16 | 21 | 24 | 33 | 24 | 20 | 19 | 23 | 20 | 9 | 23 | 21 | 26 | 24 | 23 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 34 | 26 | 40 |
| | STREET DRINKING | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| | TRESPASS | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | | | 1 |
| | VEH NUISANCE/INAPP USE | 7 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Grand Total | | 53 | 36 | 44 | 46 | 59 | 46 | 52 | 36 | 38 | 39 | 31 | 34 | 37 | 55 | 41 | 68 | 69 | 44 | 46 | 35 | 32 | 59 | 61 | 76 |

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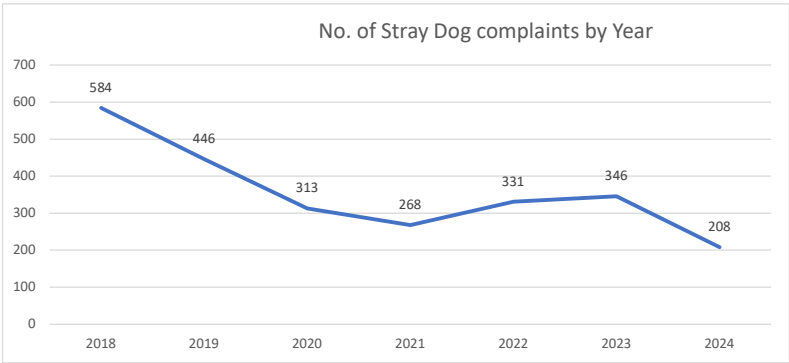
| Year | No. Of Dog Fouling in Street Complaints Investigated |
|------|--|
| 2018 | 253 |
| 2019 | 262 |
| 2020 | 268 |
| 2021 | 296 |
| 2022 | 276 |
| 2023 | 290 |
| 2024 | 187 |

2024 to 18th July 2024 only



| Year | Stray Dog Complaints |
|------|----------------------|
| 2018 | 584 |
| 2019 | 446 |
| 2020 | 313 |
| 2021 | 268 |
| 2022 | 331 |
| 2023 | 346 |
| 2024 | 208 |

2024 to 18th July 2024 only



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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: Boroughwide and Town Centre/Clifton Park Public Space Protection Orders | |
| Directorate: Regeneration and Environment | Service area: Regulation and Enforcement |
| Lead person: Craig Cornwall | Contact number: 01709 823118 |
| Is this a: | |
| <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |
| If other, please specify | |

| 2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening |
|---|
| <p>The report and recommendation on the designation of the Town Centre and Clifton Park Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) is defined through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and Statutory Guidance which provides a legal framework within which PSPOs can be implemented. Orders can be introduced in a specific public area where the local authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that certain conditions have been met.</p> |

APPENDIX 6

The first test concerns the nature of the anti-social behaviour, requiring that:

- activities that have taken place have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will take place and that they will have a detrimental effect
- the effect or likely effect of these activities:
 - is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature
 - is, or is likely to be, unreasonable
 - justifies the restrictions being imposed

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX 6

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?**

In the previous designations, public consultations have taken place with the latest between 26th June and 6th August 2023. This included an online public facing questionnaire, plus:

- Signposting of the online consultation by the Council's Social Media platforms.
- Internal consultation with key impacted services such as Green Spaces and Bereavement Services (with particular reference to clauses relating to Children's Play Areas and Cemeteries).
- Inclusion of the consultation on Corporate newsletters including 'Rotherham Round-Up' Newsletter which has thousands of subscribers.
- Email to all registered private sector Landlords and Managing Agents inviting participation as Rotherham residents or Business Representatives.
- Discussion with key stakeholders within frontline practitioner meetings and Ward Briefings.
- Emails to all Town Centre businesses registered with Rotherham Investment & Development Office (RiDO).
- Inclusion of the news item on a Voluntary Action Rotherham e-bulletin with 1,300 subscribers.
- Letters of invitation to reply to the key statutory agencies such as the Police, , SY Fire & Rescue as well as well established voluntary and third sector organisations such as Clifton Leaning Partnership, Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA) and RotherFed.

This latest consultation will seek to gather further supporting evidence and views from all stakeholders.

- **Key findings**

The consultation did not identify any issues from an equalities perspective. The application of the Order is required to be considered in line with the Council's General Enforcement Policy, and requires it to be enforced fairly, honestly and transparently – therefore protecting the most vulnerable from unfair treatment. The Orders have been in place in Rotherham since 2016, with no known adverse impact on groups.

- **Actions**

None

APPENDIX 6

| | |
|---|--|
| Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis: | |
| Date to complete your Equality Analysis: | |
| Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title): | |

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name | Job title | Date |
|----------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Craig Cornwall | Community Protection Manager | 08/07/2024 |

6. Publishing

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

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

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

| | |
|--|---|
| Date screening completed | 04/07/2024 |
| Report title and date | Boroughwide and Town Centre/Clifton Park Public Space Protection Orders |
| If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication | Cabinet – 16 th September 2024 |
| Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk | 04/07/2024 |

APPENDIX 7

| Will the decision/proposal impact... | Impact | If an impact or potential impacts are identified | | | |
|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors. | Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole. | Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts | Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out |
| Emissions from non-domestic buildings? | None | | | | |
| Emissions from transport? | Increase | Small increase projected due to travel associated with consultation activity. | | Where time allows and distance allows, officers to be encouraged to travel by active travel, public transport or car sharing to any consultation events. | Officer travel is included with the council's net zero 2030 greenhouse gas emissions accounting. |
| Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself? | None | | | | |
| Emissions from housing and domestic buildings? | None | | | | |
| Emissions from construction and/or development? | None | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|------|--|--|--|--|
| Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)? | None | | | | |
|---|------|--|--|--|--|

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

There may be additional carbon impacts arising from the implementation of any updated Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

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

There may be a small increase from officer travel involved in carrying out the consultation. This can be minimised by officers choosing lower-carbon travel options.

| | |
|--|--|
| Supporting information: | |
| Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate). | Craig Cornwall, Community Protection & Environmental Health Manager, Regeneration & Environment |
| Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form]. | None |
| If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts. | None |
| Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions] | Tracking reference: CIA252 Katie Rockett, Climate Change Officer |

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 10 September 2024

Report Title

Scrutiny Review - Preparation for Adulthood for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor
natasha.aucott@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to outline the outcomes from the Improving Lives Select Commissions spotlight review on preparation for adulthood, in relation to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Recommendations

That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board receives the report and considers the following recommendations:

1) School Effectiveness:

- a) That the support available for preparation for adulthood for children and young people with SEND in mainstream education, in both the early years and post sixteen settings, is further enhanced.
- b) That education pathways relating to preparation for adulthood for children with SEND are reviewed, ensuring clear communication of the pathways to parents and carers.

2) Inclusion and Communities:

- a) That information relating to the support available to parents and carers within communities is developed, enabling a seamless service that supports and empowers parent carers.

- b) That the feedback from the Autism Strategy Consultation is reflected in the support offer available, to ensure children and young people feel safe within their communities, at school and online.
- c) That there is a further focus on enhancing equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in relation to this area of activity, with a particular focus on improving engagement levels with children and young people with SEND in marginalised communities.

3) Communication:

- a) That established networks and partnerships, such as the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum, are further embedded, to increase awareness raising and increase the number of SEND families that are engaged and reached in the Borough.
- b) That the process relating to Education, Health and Care Plans is reviewed to ensure the young person's voice is present throughout the process.

List of Appendices Included

N/A

Background Papers

- Minutes of Meeting, Health Select Commission, 28 July 2023.
- Preparing for Adulthood Minimum Standards, January 2024.
- Quality Assurance Preparation for Adulthood Summary Report, March 2023.
- Preparation for Adulthood Work Programme, January 2024.
- Preparation for Adulthood Framework Guidance for Practitioners 2023.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

N/A

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Scrutiny Review - Preparation for Adulthood for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

1. Background

- 1.1 Preparation for Adulthood has been an on-going area of interest for the Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) over recent years, following the SEND inspection in 2021. In discussions, with the Improving Lives Select Commission, the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum highlighted that a greater focus was required to identify what was in place, to support successful preparation to adulthood for children and young people in Rotherham with SEND and consider whether there were any gaps in the available provision.

The Improving Lives Select Commission agreed to hold a spotlight review on preparation for adulthood which took place on 15th February 2024. The methodology is listed in section 3 of the report.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 What is "Preparation for Adulthood? For Children and Young People With SEND?

Preparation for adulthood (also known as transition) is the process by which young people who need support or care, move from services provided exclusively for children, to services provided for those over the age of 18, aiming to ensure a seamless transition. The Local Government Association describe successful preparation for adulthood as "A successful transition from children's and young people's services to adult care and support, needs the young person, their families, and professionals to work together with the young person at the centre of discussions. Legislation gives local authorities a legal responsibility to co-operate, and to ensure that all the correct people work together to get the transition right for a young person".¹

The support provided to children and young people assists with preparing for adult life and often includes the following aspects:

- Education, Employment and Training
- Friends, Relationships, and the Community
- Health
- Independent Living.

- 2.2 Why is Preparation for adulthood an identified area of focus?

Between the 5th and 9th July 2021, Ofsted, and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a joint inspection of Rotherham to judge the effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, as prescribed in the Children and Families Act 2014. The inspection identified four areas of significant concern and prescribed that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) should be produced, to outline how the areas of significant concern would be addressed. The third area of concern identified by the joint inspection, related

¹ LGA Preparation for Adulthood Guide, [Preparation for adulthood](#) | Local Government Association.

to the quality of provision for children and young people's preparation for and transition to, adulthood.

The WSoA that was developed as a result of the inspection, identified the actions that the partnership would take to address this particular area of concern, how success would be measured and what difference it would make to Rotherham's children and young people with SEND, and their parents and carers.

Emerging from the concern identified and outlined in the WSoA, the Rotherham SEND Strategy was a partnership response that set out four main outcomes to ensure that good practice in working with children, young people, parents and carers would be achieved. Mirroring the WSoA, one of the four outcomes of the SEND Strategy related to preparation for adulthood and aimed to ensure all young people in Rotherham with SEND would be well prepared and supported, to exercise choice and control that would enable them to enjoy fulfilling lives.

The Department of Health also published statutory guidance to support the updated National Autism Strategy, the Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives Strategy, which was developed in December 2014. The revised guidance covered nine areas, with one of these areas being specific to preparation for adulthood and focused on planning in relation to the provision of services for people with autism, as they move from being children to adults.

The Rotherham Autism Strategy 2024-2027 also outlined Rotherham's Four Cornerstones, which structure the Strategy and associated priorities. The Strategy identified key areas, with one of the main area's focusing on preparing for adulthood. The Autism Strategy connects to both the Rotherham's SEND Strategy and Learning Disability Strategy.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 Planning sessions were held in advance of the spotlight review meeting to determine the scope of the review. Briefing materials and resources were circulated in advance of the review session, to inform key lines of enquires (KLOEs). The review itself took place over a single afternoon, with many partners present to provide a range of perspectives and information.
- 3.2 An informal meeting was held with members of the Commission and the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum (RPCF) in advance of the review. During the meeting the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum presented their Annual Report and provided detailed information to members on the organisations vision, mission, values and strategic priorities. As part of the presentation to members, the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum provided information on the 323 workstreams that they were involved in, this included the Preparation for Adulthood Strategic Board, the Education Health and Care Plan Sub-Group and the Written Statement of Action Preparation for Adulthood Sub-Group.

3.3

The purpose of the review was to assess what measures were in place at that point in time, to support successful preparation to adulthood for young people in Rotherham with SEND and where required, to identify any potential gaps in provision or area's requiring further focus.

3.4 An information pack was circulated to each of the review group members which contained the following reports and/or briefing documents:

- Preparation for Adulthood Framework Guidance for Practitioners 2023.
- Draft Preparation for Adulthood Quality Assurance Summary Report 2022-2023.
- Preparation for Adulthood Work Programme Draft 2024-2025.

3.5 The review links to the following Council Plan themes:

- Every child able to fulfil their potential
- People are safe, healthy and live well
- Expanding economic opportunity
- Every neighbourhood thriving.

3.6 The review group consisted of the following members:

- Councillor Lyndsay Pitchley (Chair)
- Councillor Wendy Cooksey (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Tony Griffin
- Councillor Maggi Clark
- Councillor Taiba Yasseen

Witnesses were drawn from the Council and its partners. The Chair would like to put on record her thanks for the contribution of each participant and their evident commitment to tackling this issue.

- Councillor David Roche, Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.
- Assistant Director, Adult Care and Integration
- SEND Service Manager
- Commissioning Manager
- Head of Service, Adult Care
- Strategic Manager, the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum
- Operational Manager, the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum
- Psychologist, specific to inclusion.

4. Summary of the issues raised:

4.1 The key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) and issues raised during the review focused on four main areas. They were identified as a result of the background information and the presentations provided to review members, from local

authority officers and the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum and were as follows:

- Partnership working
- School effectiveness and education pathways
- Inclusion and communities
- Communication.

4.2 Partnership working

Overall, in relation to partnership working, it was apparent that there was a good strengths-based approach embedded throughout the service and partnership organisations, with robust partnership working in place which could be further enhanced. It was identified that there was a strong foundation with effective networks and many meaningful activities being completed. An example of this was the clear focus on the voice of children and young people with SEND, which was present throughout the development of both the Learning Disability Strategy and the Autism Strategy. Both strategies provided clear evidence of partnership organisations working together to gather a range of views, in creative ways.

4.3 School effectiveness and education pathways

In relation to school effectiveness and education pathways, it was identified that there were good education pathways in place, as demonstrated by the quality standards in relation to education. However, it was evident that further focus was required to ensure pathways were communicated more clearly to parents, carers and young people, this was as a result of feedback from the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum. It was also acknowledged by the service, that there was less emphasis on preparation for adulthood and independent living in mainstream schools, both in the early years and post sixteen settings. The Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum also provided feedback which identified this as an area requiring further focus. As a result, the review group felt that further work was required, to identify the specific gaps present in current provision available for academically enabled children and young people, with SEND in mainstream education, to determine how this offer could be strengthened.

4.4 Inclusion and communities

In relation to inclusion and communities, the main area identified that required further focus was ensuring that children and young people with SEND could feel safe within their communities. It was evidenced during the review, that the co-production activities undertaken as part of the Autism Strategy development highlighted feedback from children and young people with autism, which expressed that they did not feel safe within their communities, at school or online. It was also identified that whilst there was evidently clear embedded support in place for parents and carers, further work was required to ensure parents and carers could feel further empowered and supported in their journeys. It was also identified that further work was required in relation to Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), specifically in relation to children and young people with SEND in marginalised communities as members felt

that this was a gap currently. The service acknowledged during the review that there was further work to be completed, which would focus on providing EDI training to employees and ensuring targeted work was completed within communities, to improve engagement levels with marginalised communities.

4.5 **Communication**

In relation to communication relating to preparation for adulthood, it was advised that 2,000 SEND families were currently engaging with and being reached by the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum, out of 11,000 SEND families identified at the point of the review, living within the borough. It was acknowledged that further work was required to ensure clearer pathways were available and to ensure an increase in information and guidance available for parents and carers, to increase outreach and engagement to more SEND families residing within the borough. It was also acknowledged by the service that further work needed to be completed to ensure the young person's voice was present throughout all Education Health Care Plans (EHCP), as feedback on the process by children and young people with lived experience, highlighted that the individuals voice was often missing from the EHCP process.

4.6 Questions were raised during the review session which led to the following discussion points:

- Members felt that the presentations provided during the review session demonstrated that there were good engagement levels within the service and relevant partner organisations.
- It was acknowledged that there was more work to do in relation to EDI. This would include a focus on educating employees in the Council and partner organisations and completing targeted work with minority communities.
- In relation to the Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) community, it was advised that the proportion of BAME children, young people, parents and carers accessing the support and services available with the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum, was higher than the Rotherham borough's average and the national average. Therefore, further work would be completed by the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum to identify any specific barriers to the BAME community accessing services and any subsequent identifiable improvements.
- There would be a specific focus on creating more parent-to-parent engagement by sharing of family experiences. This would be achieved by creating and sharing videos which would include real life experiences of communities working with the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum.
- There were on average 11,000 children and young people on the SEND register in Rotherham and 3000 of those had an EHCP. It was clarified that children and young people did not require an EHCP to access provisions and services, in relation to preparation for adulthood, although it was acknowledged that there were some services that were led by EHCPs.

- In relation to the Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum's consultation feedback for the Autism Strategy and children and young people feeling unsafe in their communities, it was clarified that the feedback provided regarding feeling unsafe was not always due to where they lived, it also included examples such as feeling unsafe at school, online and in peer settings. It was also identified that children and young people felt that others such as their peers, were not understanding of their SEND requirements and needs.

5 Options Considered and the Recommended Proposal

- 5.1 Members have made a series of recommendations on how the support available for preparation for adulthood for children and young people, along with parents and carers, could be enhanced in Rotherham. It is recommended that Members approve the recommendations.

6. Consultation on proposal

- 6.1 The review considered evidence from the Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, the Assistant Director for Adult Care, Officers in Adult Care and Childrens Services. Evidence was also provided by health partners and partner agencies such as the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum. A full list of those included in providing evidence can be found at section 3.5.

7. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 7.1 The timetable and accountability for implementing recommendations arising from this report will sit with the Cabinet and officers. The Overview and Scrutiny Procedurals require the Cabinet to consider and respond to recommendations made by scrutiny within two months.

- 7.2 Implementation of any recommendation made to a partner organisation is at the discretion of the relevant partner organisation. Implementation of recommendations addressed to a directorate of the Council is a matter reserved to the relevant directorate. Timescales for Council directorates responding to scrutiny recommendations are outlined in the Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution of the Council.

8. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Any financial or procurement implications arising from this report will be considered as part of the Cabinet response to its recommendations.

9. Legal Advice and Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

10. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications directly arising from this report.

11. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

11.1 The review links to the following Council Plan themes:

- People are safe, healthy and live well
- Every child able to fulfil their potential
- Expanding economic opportunity
- Every neighbourhood thriving.

11.2 The review group has ensured that the implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults were considered throughout the review and they are listed in the main body of the report.

12. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

12.1 Members of the Improving Lives Select Commission review group have due regard to equalities and human rights in developing recommendations.

13. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

13.1 There are no implications for CO₂ emissions and climate change directly arising from this report.

14. Implications for Partners

14.1 The implications for partners are described in the main sections of the report. Implementation of any recommendation is at the discretion of the relevant partner organisation. The recommendations contained in this report are offered acknowledging the contributions that have been made by each of the partner organisations.

15. Risks and Mitigation

15.1 There are no risks arising directly as a result of this report.

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Report Author: Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor Natasha Aucott,
Governance Advisor

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

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023 / 2024

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD, CLLR BRIAN STEELE



I'm delighted to write the foreword to this annual report as the newly elected Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. I'd like to pay tribute to former Councillor Maggi Clark and all the other members of the Board and Commissions who have steered scrutiny over the past three years. This report is testament to their hard work and dedication.

In her address to Council in January 2024, former Councillor Clark remarked on the privilege of overseeing scrutiny's work programme. She focussed on the delivery of scrutiny recommendations and breadth of activity undertaken in the course of the year, whether that be reviews, visits, meetings with stakeholders or workshops.

Scrutiny is an important non-politically partisan process carried out by Councillors on behalf of the people of Rotherham. Scrutiny raises standards by challenging the Council's performance and by checking whether policies and services meet people's needs. Scrutiny also considers the work of other organisations that partner with the Council to deliver services. Pre-decision scrutiny maintains strong ties to decision-making by examining the Council's Cabinet decisions and holding them to account.

In line with the Council's Constitution, this report presents a summary of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the Select Commissions: Health (HSC), Improving Lives (ILSC) and Improving Places (IPSC). It also outlines its priorities for the work programmes for 2024-25 and details how, under the stewardship of former Councillor Clark, we have adapted and improved our working processes over the previous twelve months. As with last year's report, to showcase the impact of scrutiny in helping the Council achieve its goals, this report describes outcomes across all six Council Plan 2022-2025 themes.

I'd like to thank Cabinet Members, partners, senior officers and staff for their contributions and attendance at scrutiny meetings and reviews, the Link Officers for their constructive support and the Governance Team for their commitment and resourcefulness.

As we start a new four year term of office, overview and scrutiny has an opportunity to shape the direction of Council policies and deliver improvements to Rotherham residents. Our work programme will focus on key priorities and performance, whilst keeping a watching brief on the budget position and service pressures. As in previous years, scrutiny will maintain a degree of flexibility to respond to issues as they arise, whether that be through petitions, Council motions or major events, providing effective and constructive overview and scrutiny.

I'll give the final words to the Local Government Association Peer Review (2023) which stated: "There are clear, robust and embedded governance arrangements, accompanied by effective overview and scrutiny mechanisms (...) The peer team received positive feedback on the work carried out by scrutiny through scrutiny reviews, the support Members receive from officers, and the influence scrutiny has on the council's decision-making process, particularly through pre-decision scrutiny – *"there is transparency in decision-making"*."

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRS & VICE-CHAIRS 2023-24



Cllr Maggi
Clark, Chair



Cllr
Joshua
Bacon,
Vice-Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Cllr
Taiba
Yasseen,
Chair



Cllr
Firas
Miro,
Vice-
Chair

Health Select Commission



Cllr
Lyndsay
Pitchley,
Chair



Cllr
Wendy
Cooksey,
Vice-
Chair

Improving Lives Select Commission



Cllr Ken
Wyatt,
Chair



Cllr
Adam
Tinsley,
Vice-
Chair

Improving Places Select Commission

FAQ:

WHAT IS SCRUTINY?

Scrutiny aims to ensure that public services and policies best meet the needs of Rotherham Residents. Scrutiny acts as the check and balance to the Council's Executive decision makers, the Cabinet, by contributing to policy review and development; holding the Council's Cabinet and partners to account for decisions and performance; investigating issues that matter to residents; working with Council officers and partners to improve services.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Any Councillor who is not a member of the Cabinet can participate. Committees also have co-opted members and dedicated officer support. Cabinet Members, Strategic Directors, and representatives of partner organisations are invited to attend meetings to discuss issues.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS CAN SCRUTINY LOOK AT?

Councillors and Co-opted Members prioritise issues. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board manages the overall Work Programme, considering whether scrutiny can make a real difference by looking at an issue.

IS THERE ANYTHING SCRUTINY CAN'T EXAMINE?

Individual complaints or regulatory decisions are not appropriate topics for scrutiny.

IS SCRUTINY POLITICAL?

Councillors across all political groups participate, setting aside party politics to look objectively at issues, basing findings on evidence.

CAN I SUGGEST A TOPIC?

Yes, contact your ward Councillor to suggest a topic.



SCRUTINY MATTERS

THEME 1: EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIVING

NEIGHBOURHOODS ANNUAL REPORT

As a central theme to the Council Plan, the Rotherham Neighbourhood Strategy articulates what needs to be achieved to make all Rotherham's neighbourhoods thrive. IPSC has maintained oversight of the annual report and delivery plan and is well placed to comment on progress and impact. Rotherham's model was cited as exemplary in the recent Local Government Association (LGA) peer review.

Members were particularly interested in how the gap between more deprived and less deprived areas was narrowed and how this was evidenced, with a focus on timescales and targets so members could see progress or gaps in provision. Members made proposals to the Safer Rotherham Partnership to support integrated locality working. IPSC was keen to see good practice about enforcement activity and outcomes being shared.

Previous concerns raised by the commission around communications had been addressed through improvements to the website and creating greater access for officers to post updates directly onto ward web pages. Members requested that inflation and rising costs of materials and labour should be factored into ward delegated budgets going forward.

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

IPSC has closely monitored the delivery of bereavement services through the contract with Dignity Funerals Limited since 2016. As reported last year, the service continues to see a high number local people attending public meetings to articulate their feelings. Whilst examples were given of how Dignity was actively engaging with the community to seek feedback and host events over the course of the year, there were still concerns that some issues relating to burials remained unresolved.

Recent improvements to performance were reported, corresponding with a decline in complaints. Members asked for further details on financial penalties as a result of poor performance and recommended that this be included in future annual reports. An update was requested on current performance, with timescales for resolution for those issues raised by the local people. In reviewing performance, Scrutiny noted that Dignity had provided its Equality Policy, which had been developed in collaboration with the Council. IPSC recommended that religious awareness training be provided annually.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Mindful that effective consultation and engagement was essential to service delivery and community buy-in, OSMB challenged how the Council's approach to this worked in practice and if improvements could be made. In an informal session, OSMB met with officers from the Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate and considered case studies on projects across different services.

The refreshed consultation and engagement framework was explicitly linked to key strategies such as Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Customer Experience. Members explored the new framework and how training was being rolled out to embed consistency. Drawing on a strengths-based approach, each of the case studies outlined innovative approaches to consultation, demonstrating how the views of service users, local people and businesses were taken into account.

Outcomes from the session included amending the training and online guidance to stress the importance of informing Members of consultations in their ward. The frequency of training, was increased from quarterly to bi-monthly. Following feedback from OSMB that the current consultation software on the Council Website was not user-friendly or fully accessible to disabled people, proposals were made for a tailored digital software package.

THEME 2: PEOPLE ARE SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVE WELL

DAMP, MOULD AND CONDENSATION POLICY

IPSC considered the draft Damp, Mould and Condensation policy developed in response to the proposed 'Awaab's Law'. The law, drawn up as a result of the tragic death of a two-year boy who suffered prolonged exposure to damp and mould, would require social landlords to fix reported health hazards within specified timescales. Officers outlined how they had engaged with tenants to raise awareness, for example through easy-read leaflets and newsletters. Further work had also been rolled out with contractors to report and signpost problems early. As a result of publicity surrounding Awaab's death, there had been a 238% increase in referrals to the service from Council tenants although no additional resources had been allocated by Government to address greater demand. It was noted, that private sector housing was not covered by the proposed legislation. Whilst advice could be given to private rented tenants to address hazards within the home, there were limited enforcement powers available to the local authority. The Commission highlighted that training should be rolled out to frontline staff, e.g. Early Help workers, to signpost private tenants. It was also suggested that an easy-read leaflet be developed for private renters and owner occupiers. IPSC requested a further update once the policy had been implemented to better understand its impact and potential gaps.

ORAL HEALTH SCRUTINY REVIEW

The purpose of the review, undertaken by members of HSC, was to consider place-based strategic approaches to improve oral health amongst Rotherham residents, including children and young people, working age adults, and older people. Contributing information considered in this review was prepared by Rotherham's Public Health team, with input from key services and with an overview from NHS England's Consultant in Dental Public Health for Yorkshire and the Humber. This outlined many areas of good practice including stressing the importance of oral health to new parents as part of a universal health review. Other examples included the provision of teeth cleaning packs available from food-banks and targeted oral health schemes for people at risk of greater social exclusion or vulnerability.

The reviews recommendations included taking a prevention-first approach in respect of oral health and seeking expansion of targeted, evidence-based interventions that develop good oral hygiene habits for school age children, such as tooth brushing clubs. As part of a system-wide approach to promoting oral health awareness among all communities, it was recommended that oral hygiene guidance and support should be prioritised to make every contact count.

Although this review specifically focussed on oral health, Members undertaking the review found that improving oral health also relies in part upon improved access to dental care. Members were keen to ensure Rotherham voices continue to be heard in ongoing discussions of reforms designed to increase access for complex and high needs patients.

At the time of writing, the Oral Health Review was progressing through the Governance process and would be considered further by Health Select Commission.

MATERNITY SERVICES UPDATE

Maternity Services across England had come under considerable scrutiny in recent years. HSC invited senior nursing and midwifery staff to provide assurance on local services provided by The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) following the recommendations of the Oakenden and May reviews. In the latest Care Quality Commission results, TRFT maintained a "good" position, evidenced through performance data. Service developments were outlined including links to the Family Hubs initiative. Following concerns raised by Healthwatch and the HSC in previous years, details were given on targeted antenatal provision. Trends from hospital re-admissions of women and babies, alongside data relating to ethnicity and deprivation, were also being monitored to inform improvements to care pathways. HSC explored how the parent's voice was included and how themes from complaints were triangulated to identify concerns.

THEME 3: EVERY CHILD ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

EARLY YEARS DRAFT STRATEGY WORKSHOP

ILSC had the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Early Years strategy before its submission to Cabinet. Members recognised the work undertaken by the service to develop the strategy. It was felt that it was clear and understandable and strongly reflected the commitment to co-production and partnership working across Childrens and Young Peoples Services (CYPS), schools, private provision, health partners and the third sector. It was evident that the team had comprehensive knowledge of the sector and understood its strengths and challenges, particularly in respect of workforce development and recruitment (e.g. the extension of the free childcare offer up to 30 hours from September 2025). ILSC recommended that measures to address these pressures were detailed in the action plan accompanying the strategy.

Members were assured that the service was working proactively with families and had good oversight of the children within the early years' cohort. It recommended that the take-up of services from families at risk of poorer outcomes was monitored and reported. Members were also assured that there were clear inclusive pathways for children with SEND needs to access services and transition to other provision at key stages.

A particular concern of ILSC has been how early years development has been affected by the pandemic. It asked that this activity was captured in the action plan and progress/barriers were identified and mitigated against. Members were supportive of initiatives and events such as Tiny Talkers and recruitment campaigns and agreed to publicise events within their wards and community spaces. It was felt that using their local knowledge, Members could be a good conduit for sharing information and raising awareness of the early years offer.

PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

Following the SEND inspection in 2021, Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) has been an ongoing area of interest for ILSC and it agreed to hold a spotlight review along with HSC members, to identify the support in place and any gaps in provision. In preparation, ILSC met with Rotherham Parent Carers Forum (RPCF) to better understand the work that the forum have delivered over the past year and learn more about it's vision and strategic priorities. Their work was impressive and nationally recognised as good practice. As such, their expert voice was a real asset to the borough.

The review focussed on partnership working, school effectiveness and education pathways, inclusion and communications. Overall, members were assured that there were robust partnership arrangements in place. An example of this was the clear focus on the voice of children and young people with SEND, throughout the development of both the Learning Disability Strategy and the Autism Strategies. The strength of these arrangements was testimony to the commitment of all the agencies involved. In relation to school effectiveness and education pathways, it was acknowledged that there should be a greater emphasis on PfA in mainstream settings, with a recommendation that gaps in provision for academically-abled children and young people be strengthened. Areas for development included how children and young people with SEND could be supported to feel safe in their communities, with a recommendation on how inclusion can be incorporated into ward plans. It was also recognised that whilst the RPCF had extensive networks of over 2000 families, the majority of SEND families were not currently engaging with services.

Recommendations focussed on ensuring that pathways were clearly communicated to parents and carers; improving engagement levels with SEND families in marginalised communities and ensuring that the voice and aspirations of children and young people in relation to their move into adulthood was reflected. These were to be submitted to Cabinet in the autumn.

THEME 4: EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

ROTHERHAM MARKETS & LIBRARY REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The IPSC review was completed in 2022 with the Cabinet Response presented in early 2023. This update gave an overview of progress since the review was completed. The Cabinet Member welcomed the review and recommendations, outlining that it had been a positive process and the service had taken the recommendations on board which had heavily influenced the project approach.

Since the review, the service had prioritised face to face engagement with market traders and reinstated the voice meetings, prioritising their needs for the duration of the construction phase. As a result of the review, the service altered its approach to accommodate a temporary market rather than work being undertaken in and around vendors. A support package was offered to new traders along with rent concessions to mitigate the impact of construction.

Design plans embraced the recommendation to optimise space for inclusivity and accessibility, with engagement with user groups being key. Rotherham College was seen as a major stakeholder as increasing student and pedestrian footfall was crucial to development of the complex. Progress was also reported such as implementing cashless payments, (alongside continued cash use) and improving IT networks, linking it to the Council's digital programme. In considering the update, IPSC commented on the communication plans and asked that social media platforms and signage be better used to alert the public and traders of disruption and how these could be mitigated.

DIGITAL INCLUSION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

OSMB has reviewed digital inclusion over a number of years, recognising that lack of digital access could have a detrimental impact on residents, contributing to educational and economic disadvantage, health inequalities and increased social isolation.

OSMB questioned how local people had contributed to the digital inclusion strategy. The exercise highlighted that older people, people with long-term health conditions and younger people were more at risk of digital exclusion. It was also highlighted that certain locations in the borough faced greater challenges, e.g. East Herringthorpe, Central Rotherham and Maltby. This could relate to lack of access to devices, poor access to reliable broadband or affordability.

OSMB established that the programme would be rolled out in areas of greater deprivation with work underway with health and third sector partners to identify suitable venues for delivery, particularly in those areas which did not have libraries or customer service centres.

The committee requested details of the programme's long-term sustainability and how existing infrastructure or gaps in provision was mapped. Assurance was given that digital safety was a key part of the programme in place to protect vulnerable people from digital exploitation (e.g. scams). It was also highlighted that the programme would help residents to access online information and improve access to education, job searching or leisure activities.

MULTIPLY PROGRAMME (YEAR 2 AND 3 APPROVAL).

The Multiply programme was a national scheme to improve numeracy skills, focusing on supporting people aged 19+, without a Level 2 Maths qualification. Over £1 million of funding had been allocated to Rotherham. Benefits included improvements to functional skills levels and labour market outcomes. OSMB established that the programme was targeting providers based within communities as these were best placed to identify learners. In the first eight weeks of the programme, over 500 learners had been engaged. OSMB welcomed the programme and were keen to see how the Council's recruitment and selection processes recognised and promoted successful completion of the Multiply programme as evidence of an applicant's numeracy skills.

THEME 5: A CLEANER GREENER LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

NATURE RECOVERY REVIEW

Following the Council declaring a nature crisis, the IPSC undertook a wide ranging review, starting its work in March 2023, concluding later in the year. The nature recovery motion committed the Council to a range of activities, including ensuring its response to tackling climate change was extended to compliment the aligned cause of nature crisis. It also committed the Council to continue its work to enhance biodiversity by adopting innovative approaches to support wild flowered areas and ecological approaches to grounds maintenance.

The work included visits to nature sites, discussions with groups and expert witnesses as well as presentations and discussions with officers to understand the challenges of nature recovery. This included Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, members of the Rotherham Local Wildlife Sites Panel, South Yorkshire Police as well as our Green Spaces Team, Ecology and Climate Change staff. Members looked closely at the Environment Act and the enhanced duties for local authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and report on their actions. Alongside this, Members examined measures to address the impact of climate change and to promote and protect biodiversity.

The recommendations included that consideration to be given to what resources were required to coordinate the Council's response to the Environment Act 2021 and other statutory reporting, expanding the Councillors' role as nature champions and how the Council's estate could contribute to the Council's Enhanced Biodiversity Duty. The Cabinet's response to the report was expected in early autumn 2024.

FLOOD ALLEVIATION

As part of its annual review of flood management, the IPSC received an update on priority flood defences. It noted that substantial progress had been made to deliver the work, with several projects around the town centre and Parkgate being completed. Members had visited some of the developments including the recently completed improvements to Ickles Lock.

A matter of weeks later, following a period of heavy rain, the River Rother flooded homes and businesses in the Catcliffe and Treeton areas. Having just considered the flood alleviation report, the IPSC were able to comment on what had worked well. In particular, mobilising staff and volunteers to support crisis centres was seen to be effective as was the response of parish councils. Members said that communications were positive and helped them to brief residents on key information.

Other agencies responded speedily to the flood. Learning lessons from 2019, Network Rail removed signalling and electrical components at a much earlier stage, minimising disruption and closure to the station. Defences and improvements to areas that had previously flooded (Kilnhurst) had been effective, with minimal damage compared with previous incidents. However, it was felt that residents were not informed early enough by the Environment Agency that the flood defences in Catcliffe would breach. This led to extensive damage to property and vehicles which may have been less severe had more notice been given.

At a subsequent Council meeting, OSMB was asked to hold a further review into flood defences, with a particular focus on those areas where flood defences were breached in the October 2023 floods.

THEME 6: ONE COUNCIL

FINANCIAL MONITORING

OSMB continued to maintain a 'big picture' view of financial pressures affecting the Council and provided challenge as to how these might impact on existing budgets and budget setting for future years, as well as understanding the proposals about prudent levels of reserves. Budget pressures continued to be experienced in children's residential placement costs and home-to-school transport, with the economic climate remaining turbulent and inflationary challenges adding to costs. OSMB received assurance that there was prudent oversight of expenditure and efficiencies made to maintain spend within agreed budgets.

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX REPORT

OSMB undertook detailed scrutiny of budget proposals in February 2024 ahead of formal budget and council tax setting by the Council in March. In reviewing the Cabinet's proposals, Members noted the extent of budget savings since 2010 and their impact on services. It was noted that there were no saving proposals in this budget round with the budget focussing on investment in services across each of the directorates. The Cabinet had been able to propose a balanced budget for 2024/25, although faced a projected, potential £6.6m funding gap in 2025/26. The challenge of setting a balanced budget in light of financial austerity and economic conditions were noted, with OSMB commenting that this was due to careful management, and the prudent financial choices the Council had made were noted.

Scrutiny Members endorsed the budget proposals whilst seeking reassurance in respect of deliverability. Areas for additional investment across each of the Council Plan themes were outlined, with examples including baby packs for new parents and extending cleansing and maintenance of principal towns across the borough. OSMB asked that a report on the impact and take-up of the baby pack scheme be submitted to OSMB (or nominated select commission) at a future point when meaningful data had been gathered.

Capital investments were welcomed, in particular the development of a special educational needs and disabilities hub in the town centre. Further investment in flood defences were proposed to make the borough more resilient to a changing climate (£9.8 million), with further consideration given to what measures were required to protect the Catcliffe community from the devastating impact of flooding.

COUNCIL PLAN AND YEAR AHEAD PROGRESS REPORT

As with previous years, OSMB held Cabinet Members and the Strategic Leadership Team to account for performance against the Council Plan and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. There had been a decline in performance with 82% of measures being on target, compared with 88% in 2022/23. In respect of unmet targets, it was clarified that as part of management action, key themes were examined to review and identify areas of challenge. Members had the opportunity to explore key delivery targets such as reducing CO₂ emissions, perceptions of safety, capital programmes and investments in neighbourhoods, towns and villages.

SOCIAL VALUE MID-YEAR REPORT

Following its recommendation for case studies to be provided to communicate successes, OSMB were pleased to see how the policy had a positive impact on people across the borough. It was noted that the Council had received its annual accreditation for the real living wage, with further work underway with partners to support this initiative. This would make a real difference to household income. It was highlighted that the Council had received the Public Sector Leadership award for its work on social value.

THEME 6: ONE COUNCIL

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT

OSMB maintained oversight of the Council's performance in respect of equality, diversity and inclusion through scrutiny of the annual report and challenge of the way equality impact assessments contribute to decision making. OSMB questioned if the Council could achieve "excellent" status under the Equality Framework by 2025. It was outlined that equalities were embedded in each of the Council's key strategies, with practical examples of how this translated into service delivery (e.g. Rotherham's hosting of a Women's Euros football tournament stage). Other examples included co-production of the Learning Disability Strategy with those with lived experience as service users or parents/carers. OSMB interrogated data underpinning service assumptions. Examples included its scrutiny of the draft Early Help strategy, making a recommendation to accurately reflect the number of households with children to target resources effectively and ensuring that statistical data referenced in EIAs were the most up-to-date, including working age population and long-term sickness. Scrutiny also provided challenge to understand the impact of initiatives which had a direct effect on people with protected characteristics e.g. the mental health review and aids/adaptations assistance policy.

COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS REPORT 2022-23

Each year OSMB had the opportunity to review annual complaints data and performance in respect of complaints referred to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO). The focus in considering the report in 2022 was to identify improvements in the recording of compliments, as well as making more effective use of complaints data to inform service improvements. Given the issues raised by the LGO in previous years, OSMB was pleased to note that improvements had been made. The report also reflected that a greater emphasis had been placed on the themes emerging from complaints, actions taken and the impact that this has had on trends as requested by OSMB.

SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Under law, annual scrutiny was required of the decisions and actions taken in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions. The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) annual report was presented to OSMB to assist with this requirement.

Detailed scrutiny of SRP's priorities and performance was undertaken. Clarification was sought about the correlation between child exploitation and deprivation and assurance was sought that this was reflected in the approach taken by SRP. It was highlighted that the partnership adopted an intelligence-led approach to its work which informed the allocation of resources. The development of a strategy to address neglect was also cited as an example of this approach. Increased intelligence reporting was cited as an indicator that training and awareness raising activities were making a difference, particularly in respect of child exploitation. This has been validated in independent reports and reviews which had been considered by OSMB.

Further details were sought on issues identified with the CCTV network and if these issues had been resolved. There has been a significant growth in the number of fixed CCTV assets available in Rotherham. It was expected that issues with deployable units would be resolved later. Assurance was sought that the technical issues were understood and that the partnership would be better placed to anticipate system upgrades in the future.

REVIEW OF SCRUTINY PROCESSES—WORK PROGRAMMING

Following the successful scrutiny strategy day held in April 2023, OSMB reviewed how it prioritised its work programme to ensure that it looked at issues that matter whilst making sure it remained dynamic and responsive to items which may arise.

OSMB endorsed the following prioritisation process:

Establish as a starting point:

- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

Agree principles for longlisting:

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

Develop a consistent shortlisting criteria

T ⇒
O ⇒
P ⇒
I ⇒
C ⇒

Time: is it the right time, enough resources?

Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?

Performance: can scrutiny make a difference?

Interest – what is the interest to the public?

Contribution to the Council Plan?

Scrutiny work programme

- ⇒ provides a framework for scrutiny activity—not a full list
- ⇒ should be member led
- ⇒ is selective—can't focus on everything
- ⇒ has regards to what resources available to support—time and information
- ⇒ usually determined at the start of each municipal year
- ⇒ is a living document-reviewed and revised regularly

How does this work in practice?

There is an opportunity for scrutiny members to comment on the work programme at each meeting, with a specific item on the agenda summarising issues to be considered over the course of the year. Members can amend, suggest other items or reprioritise as necessary.

Members can also suggest items for future agendas using the form on the member portal, through the 'Councillor call for action' process or by submitting motions to Council.

Work programming

- Looking at the right issues, in the right way, at the right time
- Involves tough decisions – including consistent judgements by the chair
- Requires a focus for scrutiny's work
- Relies on having regular access to information



In its co-ordinating role, OSMB receives regular updates from each of the scrutiny Chairs or Vice-Chairs on their respective work programmes at each meeting. This keeps a watching brief on the work of scrutiny as a whole, to making the best use of resources and minimising any duplication.

REVIEW OF LINK OFFICER ROLE

What are link officers?

Link Officer are senior officers, either Strategic or Assistant Directors, who are assigned to OSMB or a commission to be a champion of scrutiny across the Council and with partners.

To clarify and strengthen the link officer role, Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive, led a recent review which came up with the following proposals.

Purpose

- To champion the importance of scrutiny across the Council and with partners.
- To support the provision of high quality and timely information to aid the scrutiny process.
- To act as a sounding board for the Chair and Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committees based on working knowledge and experience.
- To support the Chair and Vice Chair to focus on improved outcomes for the borough in all the activity undertaken by Scrutiny.
- To meet regularly with the respective Chair, Vice-Chair and Governance Advisor to assist in work programming and prioritisation.

Role

- ⇒ To liaise with the Governance Advisor to identify partners and external witnesses to support Scrutiny enquiries and be a point of contact for external attendees as needed.
- ⇒ To provide strategic advice to scope reviews, to clarify expectations, anticipated impact and added value of Scrutiny involvement and support wider discussions with Chair/Vice Chair and Select Commission members ahead of adding items onto working programmes.
- ⇒ To support Governance Advisors and Scrutiny members to align work programmes and scrutiny reviews to Council Priorities and Year Ahead Delivery targets.
- ⇒ To offer advice and guidance to commissions on the timing of work programme items, particularly if they're also to be considered in more than one arena.
- ⇒ To work with officers supporting scrutiny where they might require advice and support. .
- ⇒ To work with officers across the Council as required to enable their effective participation in scrutiny.
- ⇒ To undertake early resolution if issues arise.

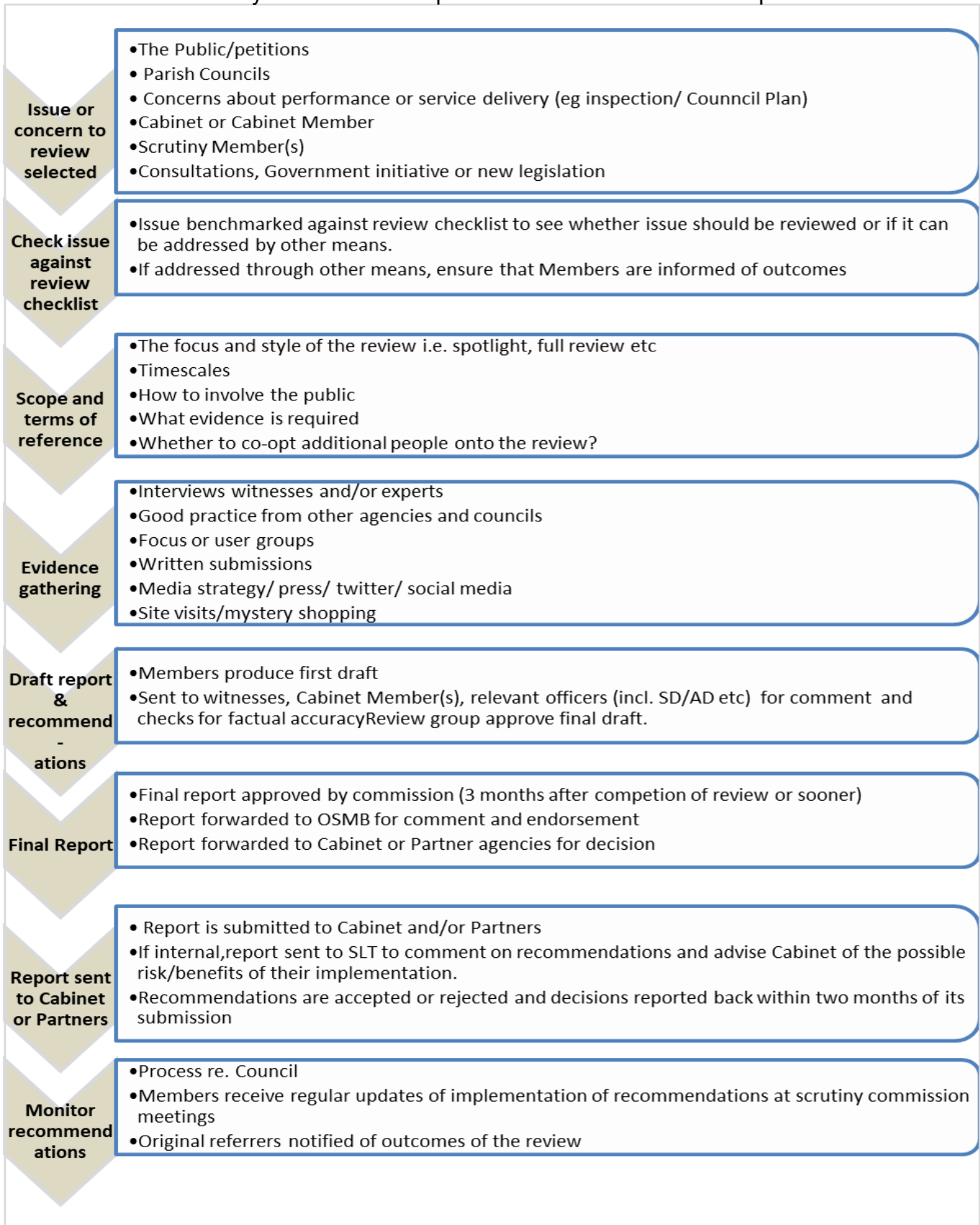
Link Officers meet with the respective Chair, Vice-Chair and Governance Advisor on a quarterly basis to assist scrutiny's management of its programme and prioritisation. They also are expected to attend, where possible, meetings of the OSMB and Select Commissions

| Committee | Link Officer | Position |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Overview and Scrutiny Management Board | Jo Brown | Assistant Chief Executive |
| Health Select Commission | Ben Anderson | Director of Public Health, Adult Care, Housing & Public Health |
| Improving Lives Select Commission | Kelly White | Interim Assistant Director, Early Help and Family Engagement, Children and Young Peoples Services |
| Improving Places Select Commission | Andrew Bramidge | Interim Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment |

SCRUTINY REVIEW PROCESS

What is a scrutiny review?

A scrutiny review is a detailed investigation gathering evidence to make recommendations for change. It can be a short “spotlight” review taking place over one or two meetings or depending on the complexity, a longer, more in-depth review. It can be undertaken by a full committee, or more usually, by a small task and finish group of councillors. Residents, experts or people with lived experience can be co-opted onto the task and finish group or invited to give evidence on the issue under scrutiny. This is how the process in Rotherham works in practice:



SCRUTINY REVIEW TRACKER

Scrutiny recommendations to Cabinet have been reported over many years. In order to monitor the progress of the implementation of accepted review recommendations and their impact, a review tracker has been developed to capture the following information:

- ⇒Details of key information and dates
- ⇒What prompted the review (member request, Council motion, call for action etc),
- ⇒Evidence of progress,
- ⇒Accountable directorate and/or external body
- ⇒Link to Council Plan theme.

The tracker is reported to the Strategic Leadership Team on a quarterly basis, in order that progress is maintained on the implementation of agreed actions and any barriers can be overcome at an early stage.

Reporting to OSMB for the first time in December 2023, the tracker provides updates on the status of reviews and specific recommendations completed. It is intended that an annual update is provided on completed reviews in order that the long-term impact of scrutiny reviews and recommendations can be captured.

Of the reviews reported to Council, the majority of recommendations are substantially complete or ongoing. All scrutiny recommendations considered by Cabinet have been accepted.

- ***Post Abuse Support** - Status Complete (6 recommendations complete and 2 ongoing).
- ***External Funding** – Status Complete (4 recommendations complete).
- ***Community Hub** – Status Complete (3 recommendations complete).
- ***Young Carers** – Status In Progress (1 recommendation complete; 1 ongoing and 1 in progress).
- ***Climate Change** – Status Complete – (5 recommendations complete).
- ***Market engagement and recovery** – Status ongoing (8 recommendations ongoing).
- ***Cultural Strategy** – Status Complete (3 recommendations complete; 1 ongoing).
- ***COVID-19 Care Home Safety** – Status Complete (4 recommendations complete).
- ***Access to primary care** – awaiting response.
- ***Modern Slavery** – Status in progress.
- ***Impact of Selective Licensing** - Status in progress.

RMBC'S CALL-IN PROCESS

The Council's Constitution requires that OSMB monitors the procedures relating to scrutiny, call-in and urgency annually, making recommendations to Council for review as necessary.

What is call-in?

There may be instances when the Cabinet takes a decision that some councillors believe should be changed. Call-in allows councillors who do not sit on Cabinet to ask that such decisions are reconsidered by the decision maker.

Under the Local Government Act 2000, Councils operating an 'executive' (or Cabinet) model of governance are required to establish arrangements which allows for executive decisions made but not yet implemented to be 'called in' for consideration by an overview and scrutiny committee.

How does it work?

Each council will have its own processes for how call-in operates, including timescales, what decisions can or can't be called in and the number of councillors needed to support a request.

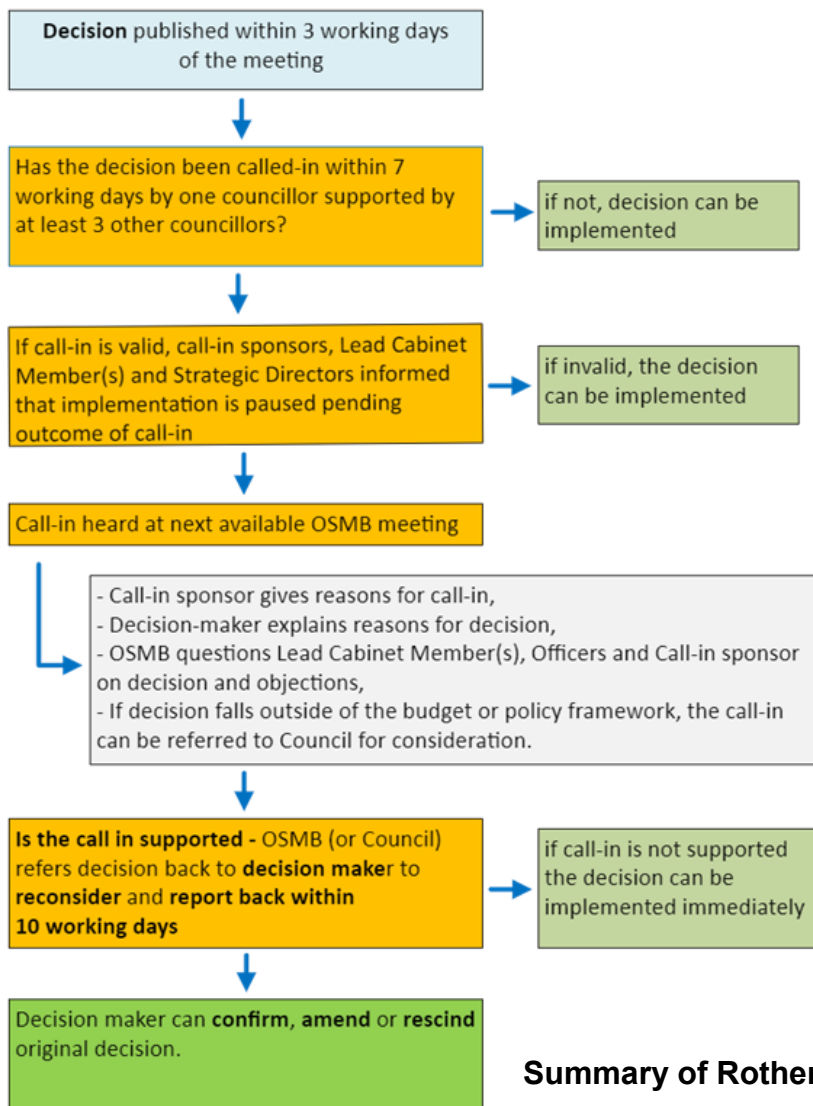
Rotherham's call-in process is set out in the [Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules](#), Appendix 2, Part V of the Constitution. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is the designated committee to receive call-in requests.

There have been very few call-in requests in Rotherham historically. Over the term of the last Council (2021-24), no call-in requests were received.

Call-in is one of many tools at scrutiny's disposal to influence decision making and should be regarded as a measure that is only needed in *exceptional* circumstances.

In 2016, Rotherham adopted a system of 'pre-decision' scrutiny which allows OSMB to review Cabinet reports prior to decisions being made and report back its recommendations directly to Cabinet.

This means OSMB has the opportunity to question proposals and make additional recommendations, prior to the decision being made. To date, all recommendations on pre-decision reports have been accepted by the Cabinet.



Summary of Rotherham's Call-in Process

Overview and Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs 2024-25



Cllr Brian Steele, Chair,
Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board



Cllr Joshua Bacon,
Vice-Chair, Overview and
Scrutiny Management Board



Cllr Eve Keenan,
Chair, Health Select
Commission



Cllr Taiba Yasseen,
Vice-Chair, Health
Select Commission



Cllr Lyndsay Pitchley,
Chair, Improving Lives
Select Commission



Cllr Stuart Knight, Vice-
Chair, Improving Lives
Select Commission



Cllr Cameron McKiernan,
Chair, Improving Places
Select Commission



Cllr Adam Tinsley, Vice-
Chair, Improving Places
Select Commission

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2024-25

OSMB

Children Commissioner's Takeover Challenge
– meeting with Youth Cabinet
Flood Defences (following motion No
confidence in the ability of the Environment
Agency to protect Rotherham residents from
flooding)
Spotlight Review - Byelaws/Life saving
equipment (schedule summer 2024)
Referral from Council to Overview and
Scrutiny Management Board – Petition
"Rotherham's Commitment to a Permanent
Ceasefire and To Promote Peace in Palestine
and in the Region"
Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan
Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report

Health

Oral Health Review
LGA Adult Care Peer Review
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
(TRFT) Annual Update
Place Partners Winter Planning Annual
Update
Sleep Pathways
Social Prescribing (Following Scoping)
Healthwatch Update

Improving Lives

CYPS Performance
Elective Home Education
Early Help Strategy Update- Year 1
Carers Strategy Update
Corporate Parenting Partnership Board
Annual Report
SEND Sufficiency Update
Rotherham Safeguarding Childrens Annual
Report
Child Criminal Exploitation

Improving Places

Housing Strategy Update
Road Safety
Flood defences (with OSMB)
Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report
Bereavement Services Annual Report
Tenant Scrutiny Report: How Rotherham
Council Supports New Tenants
Nature Recovery Strategy
Allotments Annual Update
Roads Maintenance Budget Reduction
Impact
Ten Year Plan for Rotherham Town Centre
'Awaab's Law' Impact Update

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2024-25

Chair: Councillor Brian Steele
Governance Manager: Barbel Gale

Vice-Chair: Councillor Joshua Bacon
Link Officer: Jo Brown

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 outcome that we want?

Agree principles for longlisting:

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – 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 |
|--------------|--|
| 05-Jun-24 | Pre-decision items |
| 24-Jul-24 | Referral from Council to OSMB - Petition "Rotherham's Commitment to a Permanent Ceasefire and To Promote Peace in Palestine and in the Region" |
| | Council Plan & Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update - Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| | Financial Outturn 2023-2024 - Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| | Dinnington Leveling up Progress Report - Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| 10-Sep-24 | Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Preparation for Adulthood |
| | July 2024-25 Financial Monitoring - Poss. Pre-decision |
| | Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 |
| | Boroughwide & Town Centre/Clifton Park Public Space Protection Order - Poss. Pre-decision |

| | |
|---|---|
| 09-Oct-24 | Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report Home to School Transport Budget pressures / mitigations Update Future Rothercare Model - Poss. Pre-decision |
| 17-Oct-24 Additional Meeting 5-7pm | Children's Takeover Challenge - Children's Health and Wellbeing (single item agenda) |
| 13-Nov-24 | Complaints Annual Report (including Housing Process) Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report Medium Term Financial Strategy Update - Poss. Pre-decision September 2024-25 Financial Monitoring Report - Poss. Pre-decision |
| 11-Dec-24 | Byelaws/Life Saving Equipment motion |
| 14-Jan-25 | Mid Year Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Report - Poss. Pre-decision HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2024-25 - Poss. Pre-decision |
| 05-Feb-25 | Budget and Council Tax Report (Usually a single item agenda) |
| 12-Mar-25 | Climate Emergency Annual Report Social Value Annual Report - Poss. Pre-decision Transport Capital Programme 2025/2026 - Poss. Pre-decision Modern Slavery Transparency Statement - annual Refresh - Poss. Pre-decision |
| 08-Apr-25 | |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 07-May-25 | |
|-----------|--|

Items for Scheduling

| | |
|--------|---|
| Dec-24 | A spotlight review into life-saving equipment and related byelaws - as agreed by OSMB at it's meeting on 10 May 2023 (https://modgov-p-db1.rotherham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=894&MID=15772#AI96184) linked to the Byelaws/Life Saving Equipment motion (Council 30/11/22 https://modgov-p-db1.rotherham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=95268) |
| TBC | Spotlight Review - Agency Staff |
| TBC | Spotlight Review - Grass Cutting / Ground Maintenance |
| TBC | Spotlight Review - Planning Enforcement |
| TBC | Community Infrastructure Levy (Consider Meeting with Cabinet Member/Officers) |
| TBC | Leader of the Council - General Q&A |
| TBC | Major Capital Projects (delays, project scaling back) (Consider Meeting with Cabinet Member/Officers) |

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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
1 September 2024 – 30 November 2024

This is formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 of Key Decisions due to be taken by the Authority and of those parts of the Cabinet meeting identified in this Forward Plan will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information as defined in the Local Government Act 1972.

Contact Information:-

Democratic Services
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Email: governance@rotherham.gov.uk
Tel: 01709 822477

What is the Forward Plan?

The Forward Plan contains all the key decisions the Council expects to take over the next three months. It will be refreshed monthly and will give at least 28 days' notice of any Key Decisions and, if applicable, the Cabinet's intention to discuss an item in private. This gives you the opportunity to submit relevant documents to the decision maker concerning any individual Key Decisions and draws to your attention any relevant constitution process.

What is a Key Decision?

A Key Decision is one which is likely to:-

- relate to the capital or revenue budget framework that is reserved to the Council, or
- result in income, expenditure or savings of £400,000 or greater, or
- have a significant effect on two or more wards

A Key Decision can be made by the Cabinet. The Forward Plan also includes some matters which are not Key Decisions under the heading "Decisions which are not Key Decisions".

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The plan gives information about:

- what key decisions are to be made in the next three months.
- the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made.
- who will make the key decisions.
- when those key decisions are likely to be made.
- what documents will be considered.
- who you can contact for further information.

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Authority's Constitution, Key Decisions are taken by the Cabinet. Key Decisions are taken at public meetings of the Cabinet. The Cabinet meets once a month on a Monday at 10.00am at Rotherham Town Hall. Meeting dates for 2024/25 are:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 10 June 2024 | 16 September 2024 | 18 November 2024 | 20 January 2025 | 17 March 2025 | 12 May 2025 |
| 8 July 2024 | 14 October 2024 | 16 December 2024 | 10 February 2025 | 14 April 2025 | |

Further information and Representations about items proposed to be heard in Private

Names of contact officers are included in the Plan.

If you wish to make representations that a decision which is proposed to be heard in private should instead be dealt with in public, you should contact Democratic Services by no later than five clear working days before the meeting. At the end of this document are extracts from the Local Government Act 1972 setting out the descriptions of information which may be classed as "exempt", and the definition of confidential information.

The members of the Cabinet and their areas of responsibility are: -

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

| Decision title | Date added to the Forward Plan | What is the decision? | Cabinet Portfolio | Who will be consulted | Documents to be considered | Wards affected | Is the decision to be made in private | Directorate and contact for further information |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--|----------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2024 | | | | | | | | |
| ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH | | | | | | | | |
| Re-Commissioning of Post CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) Services | July 2024 | To approve the re-commissioning of Post CSE support services. | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk |
| CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE | | | | | | | | |
| Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Hub Update | July 2024 | To receive an update on progress. | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices. | All Wards | Open | Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Rotherham Care Leavers Local Offer | August 2024 | To approve the updated Rotherham Care Leavers Local Offer. | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk |
| FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES | | | | | | | | |
| July 2024-25 Financial Monitoring Report | July 2024 | To note the current revenue and capital monitoring position and agree any required actions. | Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Land off Farfield Lane, Wath upon Dearne | August 2024 | The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the disposal of land to Barratt Homes and the acquisition of land to allow statutory allotments to be replaced. | Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | Wath | Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) | Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk |

| Decision title | Date added to the Forward Plan | What is the decision? | Cabinet Portfolio | Who will be consulted | Documents to be considered | Wards affected | Is the decision to be made in private | Directorate and contact for further information |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial Waste Update | July 2024 | To note the update and approve proposals regarding fees and charges, alongside proposals for future business food waste collection. | Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities | Relevant Members, officers, stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) | Andrew Bramidge Andrew.Bramidge@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Selective Licensing Scheme 1 (Policy) | July 2024 | To seek approval to develop further proposals for a Selective Licensing Scheme, including any required consultation. | Cabinet Member for Housing | Relevant Members, officers, stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Andrew Bramidge Andrew.Bramidge@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Boroughwide and Town Centre/Clifton Park Public Space Protection Orders | July 2024 | To review the Boroughwide and Town Centre/Clifton Park Public Space Protection Orders and consider the launch of a further consultation. | Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities | Relevant Members, officers, stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Andrew Bramidge Andrew.Bramidge@rotherham.gov.uk |
| NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2024 | | | | | | | | |
| ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH | | | | | | | | |
| Temporary Accommodation Policy | July 2024 | To approve the adoption of the new Temporary Accommodation Policy. | Cabinet Member for Housing | Cabinet Member, key stakeholders and customers. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Adult Social Care Local Account 2023-2024 | July 2024 | To approve the publication of the Adult Social Care Local Account 2023-24. | Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health | Cabinet Member and service users. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk |

| Decision title | Date added to the Forward Plan | What is the decision? | Cabinet Portfolio | Who will be consulted | Documents to be considered | Wards affected | Is the decision to be made in private | Directorate and contact for further information |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE | | | | | | | | |
| Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Referral from Council to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) - Petition "Rotherham's Commitment to a Permanent Ceasefire and To Promote Peace in Palestine and in the Region" | July 2024 | To receive the report and respond to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Sub-Group in relation to the Gaza Petition. | Leader of the Council | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk |
| FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES | | | | | | | | |
| New Applications for Business Rates Relief for Rotherham and District Citizens Advice Bureau | May 2024 | To consider the recommendation for a new application for Business Rates discretionary relief. | Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk |
| REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT | | | | | | | | |
| Cabinets Response to the Improving Places Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Nature Recovery | July 2024 | To formally respond to the Improving Places Select Commission Nature Recovery Scrutiny Review recommendations. | Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and Appendices | All Wards | Open | Andrew Bramidge Andrew.Bramidge@rotherham.gov.uk |
| KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 14 OCTOBER 2024 | | | | | | | | |

| Decision title | Date added to the Forward Plan | What is the decision? | Cabinet Portfolio | Who will be consulted | Documents to be considered | Wards affected | Is the decision to be made in private | Directorate and contact for further information |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH | | | | | | | | |
| Future Rothercare Model | July 2024 | To approve the future model and financial implications and agree to consult Rothercare users on proposals. | Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health | Cabinet Member, Members and Customers. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) | Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk |
| CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES | | | | | | | | |
| Looked After Children (LAC) Sufficiency Update (including the residential development progress update) | July 2024 | To receive an update on progress and agree the LAC Sufficiency plan 2025/26. | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk |
| FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES | | | | | | | | |
| Property Transactions | August 2024 | To consider any recommendations for property transactions, including disposals, acquisitions, leases and licenses. | Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk |
| REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT | | | | | | | | |

| Decision title | Date added to the Forward Plan | What is the decision? | Cabinet Portfolio | Who will be consulted | Documents to be considered | Wards affected | Is the decision to be made in private | Directorate and contact for further information |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Dinnington Compulsory Purchase Order | August 2024 | To approve the acquisition of land at Laughton Road on terms to be agreed and approve the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order if required. | Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | Dinnington | Part exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) | Andrew Bramidge Andrew.Bramidge@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Our Places Fund | August 2024 | To agree to the allocation of the Our Places Fund and the subsequent implementation of projects. | Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Andrew Bramidge Andrew.Bramidge@rotherham.gov.uk |
| NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 14 OCTOBER 2024 | | | | | | | | |
| ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE | | | | | | | | |
| Scrutiny Review - Preparation for Adulthood for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) | August 2024 | To receive the Improving Lives Select Commission Scrutiny Review recommendations - Preparation for Adulthood. | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Jo Brown Tel: 01709 255269 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk |
| FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES | | | | | | | | |
| New Applications for Business Rates Relief | September 2023 | To consider the recommendation for a new application for Business Rates discretionary relief. | Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report | All Wards | Open | Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk |
| KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 18 NOVEMBER OR LATER | | | | | | | | |

| Decision title | Date added to the Forward Plan | What is the decision? | Cabinet Portfolio | Who will be consulted | Documents to be considered | Wards affected | Is the decision to be made in private | Directorate and contact for further information |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH | | | | | | | | |
| Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy | August 2024 | To agree the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy. | Cabinet Member for Housing | Cabinet Member, officers, and tenants. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Ian Spicer Tel: 01709 255992 ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk |
| CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES | | | | | | | | |
| Rotherham Leaving Care Strategy 2024-2027 | August 2024 | To approve the Rotherham Leaving Care Strategy 2024-2027. | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements | July 2024 | To approve the new children's safeguarding arrangements as required by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Nicola Curley nicola.curley@rotherham.gov.uk |
| FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES | | | | | | | | |
| September 2024-25 Financial Monitoring Report | August 2024 | To note the current revenue and capital monitoring position and agree any required actions. | Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Medium Term Financial Strategy Update | August 2024 | To note the updates to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. | Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk |
| Property Transactions | August 2024 | To consider any recommendations for property transactions, including disposals, acquisitions, leases and licenses. | Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report | All Wards | Open | Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk |
| REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT | | | | | | | | |

| Decision title | Date added to the Forward Plan | What is the decision? | Cabinet Portfolio | Who will be consulted | Documents to be considered | Wards affected | Is the decision to be made in private | Directorate and contact for further information |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Waste Collections Policy | August 2024 | To approve the revised Waste Collections Policy. | Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Andrew Bramidge Andrew.Bramidge@rotherham.gov.uk |
| NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 18 NOVEMBER OR LATER | | | | | | | | |
| FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES | | | | | | | | |
| New Applications for Business Rates Relief | August 2024 | To consider the recommendation for a new application for Business Rates discretionary relief. | Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities | Relevant Members, Officers and Stakeholders. | Report and appendices | All Wards | Open | Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk |

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SCHEDULE 12A
ACCESS TO INFORMATION: EXEMPT INFORMATION
PART 1
DESCRIPTIONS OF EXEMPT INFORMATION: ENGLAND

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes –
 - a. to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - b. to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

PART 2
QUALIFICATIONS: ENGLAND

Paragraphs 1-8 repealed.

- 9 Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.
- 10 Information which –
 - a. falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
 - b. is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above, is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
SECTION 100A(3) – DEFINITION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Confidential information means –

- a. information furnished to the council by a Government department upon terms (however expressed) which forbid the disclosure of the information to the public; and
 - b. information the disclosure of which to the public is prohibited by or under any enactment or by the order of a court;
- and, in either case, the reference to the obligation of confidence is to be construed accordingly.