

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Date and Time:- Wednesday 5 February 2025 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 11 December 2024 and 14 January 2025 (Pages 5 - 35)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 11 December 2024 and 14 January 2025 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.

For Discussion/Decision:-

6. Medium-Term Financial Strategy Update (Pages 37 - 55)

To consider the enclosed Medium-Term Financial Strategy update which had been due for consideration by OSMB on 14 January 2025.

7. Home to School Transport (Pages 57 - 67)

To consider the enclosed presentation detailing an overview of the Home to School Service which was due for consideration by OSMB on 14 January 2025.

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 Monday 10 February 2025. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

8. Budget and Council Tax Report 2025-26 (Pages 69 - 325)

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet recommend to Council:

1. Approval of the Budget and Financial Strategy for 2025/26 as set out in the report and appendices, including a basic Council Tax increase of 1% and an Adult Social Care precept of 2%.
2. Approval of the extension to the Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, that will provide up to £126.12 of additional support to low income households accessing the Council's Council Tax Support scheme. It will support the most financially vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills as described in Section 2.5.15.
3. Approve the proposed changes to the Local Council Tax Support scheme as set out at 2.5.10 and proposed changes to Council Tax Premiums as set out in Section 2.5.19.
4. Approval of the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2027/28, as described within Section 2.6.
5. Approval of the Reserves Strategy as set out in Section 2.8 noting that

the final determination of Reserves will be approved as part of reporting the financial outturn for 2024/25.

6. To note and accept the comments and advice of the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer), provided in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as to the robustness of the estimates included in the Budget and the adequacy of reserves for which the Budget provides as set out in Section 2.14.
7. To note the feedback from the public and partners following the public consultation on the Council's budget for 2025/26 which took place from 18 November 2024 to 10 January 2025, attached as Appendix 5.
8. Approval of the proposed increases in Adult Social Care provider contracts and for Personal Assistants as set out in Section 2.4.
9. Approval of the proposed approach and increases in Childrens Social Care costs as set out in Section 2.4.25.
10. Approval of the revenue investment proposals set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 2.
11. Approval of the proposed revenue savings set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 4.
12. Approval of the Council Fees and Charges for 2025/26 attached as Appendix 7.
13. Application of the Business Rates Reliefs as set out in Section 2.10, in line with Government guidance.
14. Approval of the proposed Capital Strategy and Capital Programme as presented in Section 2.12 and Appendices 3A to 3F.
15. Approval of the Treasury Management matters for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 9 of this report including the Prudential Indicators, the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Investment Strategy.
16. Approval that any changes resulting from the Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2025/26 be reflected in the Budget and Council Tax Report to Council on 5th March.
17. Continuation of the principles and measures adopted since April 2020 to make faster payments to suppliers on receipt of goods, works and services following a fully reconciled invoice as described in Section 2.11.
18. Approval of the Budget allocations for the Community Leadership Fund as set out in Section 2.9.

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

- i. Any underspends on the existing approved Capital Programme in respect of 2024/25 be rolled forward into future years, subject to an individual review of each carry forward to be set out within the Financial Outturn 2024/25 report to Cabinet.
- ii. In line with Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules 7.7 to 7.11 and 8.12, any successful grant applications in respect of capital projects will be added to the Council's approved Capital Programme on an ongoing basis.
- iii. Capitalisation opportunities and capital receipts flexibilities will be maximised, with capital receipts earmarked to minimise revenue costs.

For Information/Monitoring:-

9. Forward Plan of Key Decisions - 1 January 2025 - 31 March 2025 (Pages 327 - 336)

To review and identify items for pre-decision scrutiny from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions covering the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025.

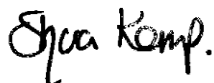
10. Call-in Issues

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

11. 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 12 March 2025
commencing at 10.00 a.m.
in Rotherham Town Hall.**



SHARON KEMP OBE,
Chief Executive.