



# CABINET

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**Monday 17 November 2025**

**10.00 a.m.**

**Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall,  
Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**

**Cabinet Members:-**

Leader of the Council  
Deputy Leader & Children and Young People Portfolio  
Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio  
Housing Portfolio  
Finance & Community Safety Portfolio  
Street Scene and Green Spaces Portfolio  
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy Portfolio

Councillor Chris Read  
Councillor Victoria Cusworth  
Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers  
Councillor Linda Beresford  
Councillor Saghir Alam  
Councillor Lynda Marshall  
Councillor John Williams

**Rotherham**  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council 

## **CABINET**

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

**Date and Time:** Monday 17 November 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

**Agenda Contact** Governance Unit – [governance@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:governance@rotherham.gov.uk)

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.

## **A G E N D A**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

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

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

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

### **3. Questions from Members of the Public**

To receive questions from members of the public who wish to ask a general question in respect of matters within the Council's area of responsibility or influence.

Subject to the Chair's discretion, members of the public may ask one question and one supplementary question, which should relate to the original question and answer received.

Councillors may also ask questions under this agenda item.

### **4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 20)**

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 October 2025.

## **5. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There are no items on the agenda that require the exclusion of the Press and Public.

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH**

### **6. Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2026-2029 (Pages 21 - 50)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

#### **Recommendation:**

1. That Cabinet note the development of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025 – 2028.

## **DEPUTY LEADER & CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **7. Families First Partnership Programme (Pages 51 - 70)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services.

#### **Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress made since the last update on 9th June 2025.
2. Notes the expenditure of the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant since the last update on 9th June 2025.
3. Agrees to receive a further update in March 2026.

## **FINANCE & COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### **8. September 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report (Pages 71 - 96)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

#### **Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £0.9m.
2. Note that whilst there is a projected overspend, the Council expects to

be able to manage this pressure during the year and return to a balanced position following mitigating actions. Should that not be possible the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2025/26 financial position.

3. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.
4. Note the update on the Local Authority Better Care Fund 2025/26 - Discharge Grant Commitments.

#### **9. Medium Term Financial Strategy Update (Pages 97 - 117)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

##### **Recommendations:**

1. That Cabinet note the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29 update.

#### **10. New Application for Business Rates Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust (Pages 119 - 140)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

##### **Recommendation:**

1. That Cabinet approve the applications for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report for the 2025/26 financial year.

#### **11. Corporate Safeguarding Policy (Pages 141 - 171)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

##### **Recommendation:**

1. That Cabinet approve the updated Corporate Safeguarding Protocol.

#### **12. General Enforcement Policy (Pages 173 - 206)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

##### **Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve a consultation with stakeholders to be undertaken in respect of the General Enforcement Policy to inform a review.



2. Note that a refreshed Policy will then be presented to Cabinet in May 2026 following the consultation.

## **HOUSING**

### **13. Rotherham Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 (Pages 207 - 241)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

#### **Recommendation:**

1. That Cabinet approves the Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28.

## **STREET SCENE AND GREEN SPACES**

### **14. Catcliffe and Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme (Pages 243 - 259)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

#### **Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress to date and the next steps in the Catcliffe and Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme.
2. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment to enter into contract with a design and build partner, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces and the Section 151 Officer.

## **TRANSPORT, JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY**

### **15. Pride in Place (Pages 261 - 314)**

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

#### **Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with S151 Officer and the Leader of the Council to submit Rotherham's PiP Phase 1 Regeneration Plan in line with the Government's Pride in Place programme.

2. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with S151 Officer, the Leader of the Council and the Neighbourhood Board Chair to approve the delivery of Rotherham's interventions (as detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2).
3. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with S151 Officer, the Leader of the Council and the Neighbourhood Board Chair to reallocate funding and add, amend or replace a scheme or intervention should it become unfeasible or undeliverable.
4. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport, to draw down the 2025/26 allocation of £415,103 capacity funding, in line with the details provided at Section 2.
5. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with S151 Officer and the Leader of the Council to approve allocations from the Pride in Place Impact Fund as outlined in section 3.4.

**16. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (To Follow)**

To receive a report detailing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in respect of the above items that were subject to pre-decision scrutiny on 12 November 2025.

**17. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 15 December 2025 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.



**John Edwards,**  
Chief Executive.

THE CABINET - 20/10/25

**THE CABINET**  
**20th October, 2025**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Baker-Rogers, Beresford, Cusworth, Marshall and Williams.

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

An apology for absence were received from Councillor Alam.

**56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations to record.

**57. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were 4 questions:

1. Mr. Ashraf asked if the Council would fly the Palestinian Flag on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people on 29<sup>th</sup> November as they had done in 2024. He stated that Rotherham had a proud history of supporting global humanitarian causes, such as resisting South African apartheid, welcoming Chilean refugees and supporting Mayors for Peace. Mr. Ashraf requested that the flag be flown for the Rotherham Palestinian families who had suffered and for the people of Palestine whose genocide was being livestreamed. He asked that the invitation to the flag raising event be sent to all Rotherham MP's, Councillors and local dignitaries. Mr. Ashraf would send through details when they had been finalised, and he would be happy to have a meeting to facilitate the event if needed.

The Leader agreed to consider the request and provide a written response.

In his supplementary, Mr. Ashraf asked a question in relation to South Yorkshire Pension Fund investments. He asked for the overall numbers and details of investments in Israeli bonds, complicit companies and companies supplying armaments to Israel before and after the 3 years of information already provided.

The Leader confirmed that the comments would be passed on to the pensions authority.

2. Mr. Mohammed asked a question in relation to Selective Licensing as he was a private landlord. He stated that he understood the legitimate reasons for the scheme but questioned why it needed to be a blanket scheme. He stated that he had properties just off from the Town Centre and, particularly on Sherwood Crescent, there were no issues

of concern. Mr. Mohammed asked if certain streets could be removed because there were no issues.

The Assistant Director of Community Safety and Street Scene explained that officers had responded following the consultation period and feedback had led to the proposals presented in the report. The proposals were based on evidence relating to issues such as deprivation, anti-social behaviour and local crime. Following the discussion at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board it was confirmed that a review would take place 12 months after implementation to consider if there were high areas of compliance and whether or not Selective Licensing should continue there.

The Leader confirmed that he was happy for the service to speak directly to Mr. Mohammed after the meeting regarding his particular circumstances.

3. Mr. Collins asked a question on behalf of Mr. Herbert in relation to the Council's role in responding to the proposals for the development of the Whitestone Solar Farm. He asked how the Council would ensure that it effectively reflected the views, opinions, local experience and expertise of the impacted communities by the consultation milestone. He also asked how the community response would be reflected in the approach taken by the Council in the preparation of the local impact report.

Councillor Williams stated that he understood the concerns of the local residents, however, he did clarify that the Council would not be making any decisions in relation to the Whitestone development. The decision would be made by the Planning Inspectorate. Councillor Williams did confirm that the Planning Service would hear local concerns and feedback on the proposals. The Council would be submitting the Local Impact Report but that did have to present both sides of the argument. Councillor Williams confirmed that he was happy to have a conversation with Mr. Collins and/or Mr. Herbert outside of the meeting.

Simon Moss, Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport, confirmed that the Council as the Local Planning Authority would be consulted at every stage of the process of the Development Consent Order. The Local Impact Report would take account of the views that had been collated from impacted communities. The Assistant Director also confirmed that any local residents or interested parties could make representations directly to the Planning Inspectorate. Officers would be providing Ward Members in impacted areas with advice on how they could feed local concerns into the process.

The Leader confirmed that information would be published on the Council's website detailing the best way for members of the public to share their views on the Whitestone proposals.

In his supplementary, Mr. Collins asked a question in relation to the democratic oversight and the reporting to the Planning Board that was detailed in recommendation 2 of agenda item 9. He asked how the reporting would fit into the deadlines set out by the applicant. He also asked how the impacted community would see and understand the actions and decisions made by the Council in its role as a host authority in a timely and relevant matter.

Councillor Williams confirmed that the report would be made quarterly to the Planning Board in recognition of the significant public interest in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP's.) However, these were just for information. The Council would not be making any decisions. The submissions were technical planning matters, and they would be presented to the Planning Board to ensure the public were aware of what was going on.

The Leader confirmed that Councillor Williams and a member of the Planning Service would talk to Mr. Collins and other residents outside of the meeting.

4. Councillor Yasseen asked how the Council could claim that the Selective Licensing consultation was meaningful when 68% of residents and tenants had said no to Selective Licensing but were ignored. She asked if it was a betrayal of public consultation principles and if the Council thought it knew better than tenants.

Councillor Beresford explained that the consultation had been extensive. She detailed the various methods used in the consultation and who had been consulted. It was acknowledged that the majority of respondents had not agreed with the proposal of Selective Licensing. However, they had agreed that there were problems with anti-social behaviour, poor housing, high levels of crime and deprivation in the areas selected. Councillor Beresford stated that she understood that landlords did not want to pay but this was something that needed to be done to ensure residents were living in safe, decent homes. The Council was doing the same with its own properties. Councillor Beresford reiterated that over 8,000 hazards had been removed which showed that some landlords were not being proactive and the Council needed to step in.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen stated that the Council had had the opportunity to do something progressive following the decade long Selective Licensing in Eastwood for example. She stated that going back to the same streets and same homes showed the previous schemes had failed. Councillor Yasseen wanted a more community partnership approach with all stakeholders, importantly tenants first

who did not have a good relationship with the Council, then landlord and home occupiers. Councillor Yasseen felt that the new scheme would not work, and this was reflected in residents' responses to the consultation.

Councillor Beresford did not believe that the previous schemes had failed. Removing over 8,000 hazards, seizing cannabis farms and combating organised crime was not evidence of failure. It was acknowledged that community engagement was important and that was why the Stakeholder Steering Group was being established so that those involved could help shape the scheme. Councillor Beresford referenced Maltby where, after 10 years of Selective Licensing, the standards had improved so much that it had not been included in the latest proposals. She reiterated that it was up to landlords to improve their properties for the good of the tenants.

**58. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:-**

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15th September, 2025, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

**59. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair advised that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

**60. OAKTREES EXTRA CARE SCHEME**

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update and the next steps in relation to the Resource Centre at the Oaktrees site, previously an Extra Care Housing Scheme. Due to significant fire safety concerns which were deemed unviable to remediate, Cabinet had made the decision to permanently close the site in September 2023. The report sought approval for Together Housing to demolish the existing building and repurpose the land, to create an outdoor asset for tenants.

Whilst Together Housing owned the Resource Centre, the Council had legal responsibilities in relation to the future of buildings as it owned the land and continued to support 13 tenancies on a responsive basis, staffed through a 24/7 satellite model of provision. 4 households opted out of the support and 2 households had moved into properties since they were reclassified as general need for older people.

Two options for consideration had been identified, including repurposing the land into additional communal garden space and/or additional car parking for tenants of the bungalows. Options proposed were based on minimising the maintenance costs and the impact this would have on tenant service charges, which formed part of the gross rent costs.

Together Housing, with support from the Council, had continued to engage with tenants since 2020 to ensure regular updates were provided. All current tenants were invited to formal consultation led by Together Housing on the future use of the land. Tenants were content with the proposal to demolish the Resource Centre and fed back on the proposed options for the future use of the land.

The options consulted on were set out in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the report. 16 out of the 19 tenancies fed back and 15 preferred option 2 which was to have a garden with seating and 2 car parking spaces.

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve Together Housing to demolish the Resource Centre on the Oaktrees site.
2. Approve Together Housing to repurpose the land into an enclosed communal garden with seating and 2 additional car parking spaces, for the exclusive use of tenants.

**61. REVISED ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Revised Elective Home Education Policy for approval. Rotherham's Elective Home Education Policy was last agreed in 2021, and a review was initiated to ensure that it was easy to navigate and understand and reflected accurately the current way in which the Elective Home Education Team worked with home educators. Home educators and partners were key to this process with a period of public consultation taking place following informal stakeholder events.

The number of children who were electively home educated was rising both locally and nationally. Paragraph 2.3 of the report detailed the reasons why parents and carers chose to home educate. These included ideological views, religious beliefs, bullying, dissatisfaction with the school system and health reasons. A lack of, or perceived lack of suitable special educational need support was also cited.

Views of elective home educators in Rotherham were invited through informal stakeholder engagement prior to the commencement of the formal review. Two drop-in sessions on 21st and 27th January, 2025, were offered in the Riverside Café with an invite sent to all home educators known to the Council by e-mail. Three parents attended events in person with a further 5 providing feedback by email. Additionally, the views of parents, carers and young people were also sought on an ongoing basis through visits and contacts undertaken by members of the Elective Home Education (EHE) team. Members of the Improving Lives

Select Commission were invited to an engagement session held on 28th February, 2025, to share information and views ahead of the formal consultation taking place. Paragraph 2.8 of the report detailed the stakeholder event held on 27th January, 2025.

Following these events, a proposed Policy was drafted, taking into account all feedback and comments received. The key changes proposed in the Policy were detailed in paragraph 2.9 of the report and included: guidelines for indicators the Council was looking for when making judgements about the provision of suitable education; simplification and removal of some of the process information detailing Council internal actions and systems; clearly stating the responsibilities of all parties involved in the process and providing clarity about the actions of the Council where it could not be satisfied that suitable education was being received by a child. Specific information about Flexi Schooling, which was an arrangement between parents and a school whereby a child who was educated at home most of the time was also registered at school and attended school for part of the week, was also included.

A period of formal consultation was agreed by an Officer Delegated Decision on 15th April, 2025, and was hosted on the Council's consultation webpages between 16th April and 17th June, 2025. There were 11 responses received to the formal consultation. These were summarised at Appendix 1. Following the consultation, no changes were made to the proposed Policy. Scrutiny was given to the proposed Policy by Improving Lives Select Commission on 22nd July, 2025, and no changes proposed.

Although legislative changes were proposed through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, these had not yet been enacted and were, therefore, not reflected within the proposed Policy. A decision was made to review the Policy at this point given that there was no defined timeline for proposed legislative changes to come into force. The report recommended that Cabinet approve any further update of Rotherham's Elective Home Education Policy via an Officer Delegated Decision to reflect any such changes as they were made.

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the revised Elective Home Education Policy at Appendix 2.
2. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Children and Young People Services to update the Policy if any minor changes are required as a result of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill (currently passing through Parliament).



**62. SELECTIVE LICENSING POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which asked Cabinet to determine whether or not to introduce further Selective Licensing declarations following the conclusion of the previous Scheme in April 2025. It was proposed that the revised Fee and Licence Conditions for the following areas be approved: Town Centre/Eastwood/ East Dene/ Clifton/ Boston Castle, Masbrough/ Kimberworth, Thurcroft, Dinnington, Brinsworth, and Parkgate.

Selective Licensing was a tool that sought to significantly improve living conditions for residents in the private rented sector by enforcing minimum property standards and holding landlords accountable. Government reviews, including the Ministry of Housing's 2019 evaluation, found that such schemes helped tackle poor housing quality, anti-social behaviour, and deprivation when implemented strategically. Independent research by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine also linked licensing to reductions in mental health issues and improved housing management. Locally, schemes like Rotherham's had removed thousands of serious hazards from homes, contributing to better health outcomes and improving communities.

The Council had previously designated 2 Selective Licensing schemes (2015-2020 and 2020-2025) which were declared on the criteria of 'low demand' and 'high levels of deprivation' respectively. Areas of Eastwood, Ferham, Masbrough, Maltby, Parkgate, Thurcroft and Dinnington (6 in total) had been subject to both schemes and were under licence for 10 years. Both previous schemes had delivered significant improvements to the condition and management of private sector rented properties in the designated areas. However, the latest information available from the 2020-2025 scheme also demonstrated that landlord behaviours in the majority of cases had not changed sufficiently to achieve the desired goal.

Despite the first scheme which ran from 2015-2020, the second 2020-2025 scheme still identified and led to the removal of a further 8,176 Category 1 and 2 hazards from 1,416 homes, which delivered improved health and quality of life to Rotherham's private sector tenants. Without the scheme being in place, and the additional resources it provided, the 2,377 inspections carried out under this scheme, would not have taken place. The health consequences of poor housing conditions were significant and the removal of this many hazards from people's homes represented a societal financial benefit of £1,860,797 (BRE Housing Health Costs Calculator). Paragraphs 1.9 to 1.13 detailed further hazards and the work undertaken to address those. A more detailed breakdown of the work undertaken as part of the 2020-2025 scheme could be found at Appendix 1.

It was acknowledged that Selective Licensing in itself was not a 'silver bullet' which allowed traditional services and policing to step back. Any declaration must deliver additional provision to an area and not seek to

fund core service provision. The limitations of any declaration were explored in the 'setting expectations (section 2)' section of the Cabinet report of 16th September, 2024. The same report also highlighted the benefits of Selective Licensing, realised in areas like Maltby, which were centred on improving housing conditions, tackling deprivation, and enhancing community wellbeing. As a result of these improvements, Maltby had not been proposed as an area for a future designation and was therefore not included in the consultation exercise. The report highlighted that Selective Licensing made a significant contribution to ensuring landlords maintained safe and healthy homes, which directly contributed to better health outcomes.

At the September 2024 meeting, Cabinet considered a report on the possibility of future declarations of Selective Licensing. The report contained details of potential areas for consideration, along with risks and supporting data. The selection of areas for consultation was based on a comprehensive ranking of 28 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) with high concentrations of Private Rented Sector (PRS) properties. These were assessed against 5 declaration criteria: low housing demand, anti-social behaviour (ASB), high migration, housing deprivation, and crime. Of these, 22 LSOAs were identified as meeting at least one mandatory criterion, making them eligible for future designation.

As a result of the information presented, Cabinet agreed to commence consultation (as required by S80(9) Housing Act 2004), with a view to developing and considering further designations which would commence after the 2020-2025 Scheme ended. 13 weeks of mandatory consultation commenced on the 6th January, 2025, and concluded on 19th March, 2025 (Phase 1), with a further period running from 30th June, to 20th July, 2025 (Phase 2) in each of the following areas:

- Town centre / Eastwood / East Dene / Clifton / Boston Castle
- Masbrough / Kimberworth
- Thurcroft
- Dinnington
- Brinsworth
- Parkgate

The consultation was extended to ensure the Council received a broad and representative range of feedback from all stakeholders, to gather comprehensive feedback from all affected parties and ensure everyone had the opportunity to voice their opinions and contribute to the decision-making process. Paragraph 4.0.4 of the report and Appendix 3 to the report detailed how the consultation was carried out and who was contacted. In Phase 1 the Council received a total of 541 responses, comprising 480 online/paper surveys and 61 direct emails or letters. In Phase 2 a further 581 survey responses were received; 201 of these were online and 380 were paper surveys. Of these, 368 were returned following a bulk request co-ordinated by an Elected Member and community group. These were submitted immediately after the survey closed and had been

manually analysed and reported separately. An additional 15 direct emails and 198 doorstep interviews were also conducted with officers providing information and signposting residents to the survey. In total, the Council received 1,335 responses across both phases, representing an estimated 8.3–9% engagement rate from the 16,000 properties contacted. This compared favourably to the previous 2020–2025 Scheme, which received 578 responses.

In Appendix 4, the responses from all aspects of the consultation were summarised. Section 4 of the report breaks down the results of the consultation and provides an overall conclusion. The conclusion reached was that the 1,335 responses gathered over the period of Selective Licensing consultation did not support Selective Licensing or the proposed fee structure. Responses seemed to more strongly support the reasons stated for the proposed schemes and its intended outcomes, (across all areas) than Selective Licensing itself, as a mechanism for delivery. The associated costs were the main issue in dispute.

Responders were also offered a range of alternative proposals to replace or supplement Selective Licensing. They were summarised in Section 4 of the report and contained in full at Appendix 7.

As detailed in Sections 4 and 5 of the report and the appendices, the Council had acted upon the feedback received and had adjusted its proposals in terms of the focus of the proposed declarations and Neighbourhood Plans, the boundaries and the associated fees.

The proposed changes to the Licence Fees were set out in Section 5 of the report. Under Part 3 of the Housing Act 2004, Section 87 allowed the local housing authority to charge a licence fee to cover all Part 3 activities including all costs incurred by the authority in the administration, enforcement, and monitoring of a scheme. These costs might include processing applications, communication with both landlords and tenants within the scheme, conducting inspections, investigating breaches of licence conditions, and wider enforcement. The fees could also be used to cover non-recoverable costs in the use of interim and final Management Orders within the scheme boundaries. The Council could not generate surplus funds from Selective Licensing schemes. The income generated, the bulk of which was collected in years one and two, was required to manage and resource the scheme for its full period of designation. Each Selective Licensing scheme had unique objectives and fee structures including discounts. They were, therefore, not directly comparable, however, the table at Paragraph 5.12 showed Selective Licence fees declared or proposed since 2024 in England. A more complete list of scheme fees was at Appendix 9.

Paragraphs 5.18 to 5.25 described the fee changes in detail. The overall Standard Licence Fee, made up from the Part 1 and Part 2 charge would be marginally reduced to £975.00 which, in turn, increased the discount on licence charges. The Part 1 charge covered administration and it was

estimated that the costs of infrastructure, including a database and administrative staff cost (x3.2 FTE), would be £1,154,287 over 5 years. Based on the reduced expected licences (4,132) costs per licence application will be £276.00. The Part 2 charge covered maintenance and was estimated from the Neighbourhood Development and Improvement Plans (Area Plan) attached at Appendix 5. The requirements from the 6 plans identified 9.65 (FTE) officers, at varying grades, to deliver the enforcement and engagement in the 6 areas. The estimated cost of the maintenance element was £2,968,163 over 5 years. The standard maintenance licence charge would be £699.00 (Budget projections were contained in Appendix 9.)

The discounts identified in the consultation would be retained or increased as follows:

- Applicants who provided complete and valid applications, assumed to be 50% of applicants, would receive a discount of 5% from the Part 2 charge
- Applicants who received a rebate in the 2020-25 scheme (37%)
- Applicants with flats in the same building would pay one Part 1 charge per building and receive a 65% discount on the Part 2 charge for all subsequent properties within that building
- Applicants with large portfolios (four or more properties) would pay a full Part 1 charge for each of their first three properties and receive a 65% discount on all subsequent properties.

Details on charges for non-compliant applications were set out in paragraph 5.21. The effects of the changes to the fees were set out in the table at paragraph 5.26.

Section 6 of the report set out the timetable for implementation. Appendix 10 was the publicity plan which outlined the prescribed actions that had to be undertaken following a declaration.

Section 3 of the report set out the options for Cabinet to consider. Option 1 was to not pursue any further Selective Licensing declarations at this time. Option 2 was to await the effect of the Renters' Rights Bill (as discussed in paragraph 2.4 of the report) and the updated data to identify relevant LSOA's and therefore postpone a decision on any declaration until the Bill was enacted and or new national/local data sets were published. These options were not recommended.

Option 3 was to proceed to make Selective Licensing declarations based on the criteria set out, the revised Licence Fee and the Licence Conditions, in all of the proposed areas, including the introduction of a Stakeholder Steering Group, as suggested in the consultation responses. This was the recommended option.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), who advised that the recommendations be supported.

The Chair of OSMB thanked the Assistant Director for his comprehensive responses during the scrutiny of the proposals. Many questions had been asked on various aspects of the report but OSMB agreed to support the recommendations as proposed. They did ask that the annual review of the Selective Licensing planned designations be brought back to the relevant scrutiny committee to review the progress being made on the overall Selective Licensing scheme and to review any amendments to the scheme 12 months after implementation. This was accepted by Cabinet.

During the meeting, Cabinet Members expressed their support for the scheme, particularly the positive impact it would have on families and children. The Leader reiterated that the Council could not make any profit from Selective Licensing. All fund generated would go into the running of the scheme. He stated that this was about making sure tenants were safe in their homes. The consultation responses were acknowledged but the Leader explained that it was a consultation, not a referendum. He criticised landlords that had openly threatened tenants with rent increases due to the scheme. The fact that Maltby had not been included in this scheme showed that Selective Licensing could lead to such improvements that it was no longer necessary. The Leader hoped that would be the case for other areas in 5 years' time. He reiterated that he wanted landlords to work with the Council to improve properties.

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet:

1. Review all options proposed in section 3 of the report and approve Option 3, which is to proceed to approve Selective Licensing declarations, including the establishment of a stakeholder steering group (based on the criteria set out within the report and appendices);
2. Approve the revised Licence Fee and the Licence Conditions, in all of the proposed areas which are: a) Town Centre/Eastwood/East Dene/Clifton/Boston Castle b) Masbrough/Kimberworth c) Thurgroft d) Dinnington e) Brinsworth f) Parkgate.
3. Agree that the annual review of the Selective Licensing planned designations be brought back to the relevant scrutiny committee to review the progress being made on the overall Selective Licensing scheme and to review any amendments to the scheme 12 months after implementation.

**63. AUTHORISATION OF NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (NSIP) - WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to delegate the preparation and submission of documents to the Planning Inspectorate, both in relation to the Whitestone Solar Farm project and any future applications that fell under the legislation for Nationally

Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy. This would ensure they were considered in an efficient and timely manner and within the curtailed timescales imposed by the Planning Inspectorate.

NSIPs were projects of certain types, over a certain size, which were considered by the Government to be so big and nationally important that permission to build them needed to be given at a national level, by the responsible Secretary of State. The thresholds for NSIPs were set out in Sections 15 to 30A of the Planning Act 2008. This process was separate from developments under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, with NSIPs having an emphasis on pre-application work shaping the design of the project.

Rotherham had recently been informed of proposals for a new solar farm and associated infrastructure, known as Whitestone which, due to its scale and energy generating capacity, would be considered as an NSIP. The process could take up to 2 years from when an application was submitted to when a decision would be made. The key milestones were set out in paragraph 1.7 of the report. The preparation of many of the documents outlined in paragraph 1.7 would be carried out in consultation with other internal departments and were not dissimilar to practices carried out on planning applications under the Town and Country Planning Act. This was with the exception of the Local Impact Report (LIR).

The LIR was a key document and was designed to give details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the authority's area, and it had to be taken into account by PINS and the Secretary of State. The timescale for submission of this was usually limited to 28 days, therefore, there would be limited or no opportunity for Cabinet or Planning Board to consider the contents of these documents. The content of this document would be 'matters of fact'. The LIR would document the impacts the proposed development would have on the Borough, both positive and negative, but there was no requirement for any analysis, or balancing of these impacts to be undertaken, as that was the role of the Planning Inspector.

The Council's Constitution pre-dated the submission of the Whitestone Solar Farm proposal and accordingly, it was necessary to determine the governance of this and any future NSIPs. In view of the factual nature of the LIR and all other associated documents, it was recommended that the Constitution be updated and approval of the aforementioned documents be delegated to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Head of Planning and Building Control and Cabinet Member. This was in relation to the Whitestone Solar Farm and any future applications that fell under the NSIP legislation.

During the meeting it was reiterated that the Council had no decision making powers in relation to the Whitestone proposals. All decisions would be taken by the Planning Inspectorate and Government. The strong local opposition to the Whitestone proposal was noted by the Leader and he stressed the need for the Government to listen to the views of the local community.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), who advised that the recommendations be supported. It did feel that the reference to Whitestone in the title of the report was misleading and they raised some concerns during debate but overall, they supported the recommendations. OSMB requested that a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document be developed to provide clear and accessible guidance on the process for making representations to support Elected Members and residents. It was agreed that this would be produced and published on the Council's website and sent to Elected Members.

**Resolved:**

That Cabinet:

1. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Head of Planning and Building Control and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to submit to the Planning Inspectorate all documentation and relevant evidence for their consideration and deal with all procedural matters that may arise in relation to this application and any future applications that fall under the legislation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
2. Agree to the proposal that a report be submitted to the Planning Board on a quarterly basis to provide a summary of all responses submitted from the Council to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in the previous quarter.
3. Agree that a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document be developed to provide clear and accessible guidance on the process for making representations to support Elected Members and residents and that this be published on the Council's website.

**64. HOUSEHOLDER DESIGN GUIDE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Householder Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for approval. Supplementary Planning Documents helped improve planning applications, which in turn could speed up the planning process and produce better outcomes for the community. The Householder Design Guide SPD was last revised in 2019 and had been updated to account for

the latest guidance on boundary treatment and renewable energy considerations.

The SPD had been revised in order to give the most up-to-date guidance to residents, planning agents and developers. The revisions included updates to general wording throughout the document, and:

- Design Guidance 2.10, which included changes to the wording for boundary walls and fences to be more concise on the design principle of boundary treatment on domestic dwellings.
- Section 2.13, Renewable Energy Technology where further guidance had been added to include more renewable energy types that could be incorporated into domestic development. Options for reducing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions on domestic dwellings had become more wide ranging in recent years and the guidance was updated to reflect this.

Consultation on the draft SPD was undertaken in line with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. In response to the consultation, the Council received 6 representations. All representations received had been considered and Appendix 2 'Consultation Statement' provided a summary of the issues raised, the Council's response and how the SPD had been amended as a result.

**Resolved:**

1. That Cabinet approves the adoption of the Householder Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document.

**65. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly.

**66. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-**

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025, commencing at 10.00 a.m.



**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-2028

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

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

**Report Author(s)**

Jackie Scantlebury, Safeguarding Adults Board Manager  
01709 254863 or [Jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The Care Act 2014 states that all Safeguarding Adult Boards must produce a Strategic Plan outlining how they will achieve their objective of helping and protecting adults at risk of abuse or neglect, and how member organisations will contribute to the plan.

The 2025 – 2028 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan has been developed through consultation with all members of the Board, including Rotherham Healthwatch and local voluntary organisations.

**Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet note the development of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025 – 2028.

**List of Appendices Included**

- Appendix 1 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025 2028
- Appendix 2 Part A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 3 Part B – Equality Analysis Form
- Appendix 4 Climate Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

None

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Health Select Commission – 02 October 2025

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-2028

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The primary objective of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) is to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements and partnerships act to help and protect adults at risk of or experiencing neglect and/or abuse. The RSAB is a multi-agency strategic partnership made up of senior lead officers and nominated safeguarding leads from within adult social services, criminal justice, health, housing, community safety, and voluntary organisations.
- 1.2 The RSAB has an independent chair who is accountable for the effective delivery of the Board. The Care Act 2014 also specifies that there are three statutory core partners:

1. Local Authority
2. Integrated Commissioning Board
3. Police

The RSAB is a multi-agency, strategic partnership made up of the three core members alongside:

- Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Probation Service
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Cabinet member for Adult Care
- Other Council service representatives across housing, community safety and criminal justice
- Children and Young People's Partnership.

- 1.3 The Care Act 2014 requires all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) to produce a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a statement of a SAB's vision, objectives, and agreed-upon strategic priorities for the next three years.

The Strategic Plan informs the public about the SAB's plans and commitment to keeping adults safe.

- 1.4 The previous Strategic Plan was developed in 2022 and covered the period 2022-2025. The Plan had three strategic objectives to be delivered during the 3-year period. The objectives were:

#### Back to Basics

Working with partners to ensure the 6 principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice. Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do. Key achievements included:

- Carried out the Partnership Self-assessment joint process with Children's Safeguarding Partnership.

- Worked with partners and providers to develop Safeguarding Threshold Guidance to provide a common understanding of 'what is safeguarding.'
- Provided safeguarding training to the partnership, voluntary sector, and commissioned services.
- Responded to emerging themes and demands highlighted in the quarterly performance report.
- Initiated training for the workforce delivered by Sheffield Hallam University.
- Conducted self-neglect and Hoarding Thematic Review involving colleagues from across the partnership.
- Developed a Hoarding and Self-neglect guide to assist reporting of issues.
- Raised awareness of Domestic Abuse in older people, via a publicity campaign and a learning event.

### Systems, Processes and Performance

Make sure that all services have appropriate systems and processes in place to support and safeguard Adults effectively. Key achievements included:

- Worked with the Local Authority to develop a New Safeguarding Referral Process to ensure the customer's voice is heard throughout the process.
- Updated the safeguarding pathway to include customer satisfaction questions.
- Embedded the 'Caused Enquiry' safeguarding process to ensure the safeguarding process was working efficiently.
- Revised and refreshed the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) process, developed new paperwork and included timelines to the process.
- Developed a thematic review process to capture non-SAR cases to ensure all learning is captured and disseminated across the partnership.
- Developed a SAR Multi-Agency Learning Approach to embed learning in practice and ensure all key messages are shared.
- Developed the Professional Curiosity training programme for the partnership, using the 'Train the Trainer' model to ensure training continuity.

### Strengthen Partnership

Make sure that partners, organisations, and communities will work together to prevent abuse from happening. Key achievements included:

- Commissioned a Local Government Peer Review to ensure all Board partners are working together to provide the best possible outcomes for the people of Rotherham.
- Reviewed the structure of the SAB and its subgroups, improved membership and reporting.
- All Terms of Reference for SAB and its subgroups refreshed.
- Strengthened the links with all partners of the Board.
- Delivered Safeguarding Awareness Week during November of every year, working with the Children's Safeguarding and Safer Rotherham Partnerships.

- Strengthened the Safeguarding message, using Safeguarding Awareness Week to provide training and awareness sessions on many different topics.
- Developed a Safeguarding Newsletter with partner contribution, with the newsletter circulated to all partners of the SAB.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025 -2028 was developed in consultation with Board members, including the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. A development day was held in January 2025 to bring partners together to agree the safeguarding priorities for the next three years. The development session included workshops to understand what the safeguarding partnership felt were the areas for development, and where, by working together, we could improve services for the people of Rotherham.

The partnership agreed to five new strategic priorities.

### **Strategic Priority 1: Communication, Engagement and Voice**

Improving safeguarding awareness across all citizens, communities, and partner organisations.

- We will work to ensure the citizens of Rotherham are heard by the safeguarding partnership.
- We will work with communities across Rotherham to promote the work of the Board and raise awareness of safeguarding issues.
- We will work to ensure that the voices of seldom-heard people are heard by the Board.

### **Strategic Priority 2: Prevention and Early Intervention**

Developing tools to support practice that promotes open cultures and reduces the risk of abuse and neglect.

- We will continue to work closely with the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership to build on and develop support for young people in transition.
- We will continue to work with the Safer Rotherham Partnership, partners and communities to protect vulnerable adults including cuckooing, modern day slavery, hate and mate crime and repeat victims of crime to improve reporting and strengthen joint working to tackle crime.
- We will embed a robust Vulnerable Adults Pathway to support people who may be at risk of harm and abuse who do not meet the safeguarding thresholds but have complex needs.
- We will further strengthen our safeguarding practices relating to neglect, self-neglect and hoarding.

### **Strategic Priority 3: Leadership and Partnership**

To promote effective leadership, partnership working and governance for safeguarding adults, holding partners and agencies to account.

- We will explore the benefits of an Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- We will continue to develop the SAB website to provide timely and accurate information and guidance from across the Partnership for the public and professionals.
- The Board and its partners will continue to work together across the Adult, Children's and Safer Rotherham Partnership Boards.
- Adopting a Think Family approach, we will work together across the partnership to fully embed a Think Family approach to safeguarding.

#### **Strategic Priority 4: Making Safeguarding Personal**

To make sure that safeguarding practice places adults at the centre and supports them in making their own decisions and outcomes.

- We will review and refresh Making Safeguarding Personal across the safeguarding partnership.
- All work will be done with the "so what?" question in mind. What is the difference we are making?
- We will strengthen our approach to the application of the Mental Capacity Act and use of Advocacy in safeguarding practices.

#### **Strategic Priority 5: Learning and Development**

To identify and share lessons from reviews and audits to drive practice development and learning.

- Deliver training to staff across the partnership to make sure safeguarding is person-centred and outcome focused.
- Undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) to identify learning, improve practice and prevent similar mistakes from happening again.
- We will develop a SAB multi-agency audit process.
- We will use the professional website page to share the outcomes from learning reviews.

2.2 The RSAB has four subgroups that sit under the Board and the Executive Group. Membership of the sub-groups includes representatives from across the partnership and each of the groups has a work plan that supports delivery of the Strategic Plan:

- Safeguarding Adults Review Subgroup
- Policy and Practice subgroup
- Performance and Quality Subgroup
- Workforce Development Subgroup

A new subgroup, Voice, will be developed to bring the customer voice and experience to the Board.

A business plan will track the progress made on each of the priorities, and the SAB Executive will monitor all actions quarterly.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 Cabinet endorses and supports the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025 – 2028.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The report was presented and signed off by the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board on 16 July 2025.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan will be available electronically via the RSAB website, <https://www.rsab.org.uk> from 1 December 2025.

### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Where there is a need to engage third party suppliers to deliver objectives from the plan, these must be procured in compliance with relevant legislation (namely the Procurement Act 2023 and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) subject to the route to market selected, as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

### **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 S43 of the Care Act 2014 requires each local authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) with the specific aim of protecting vulnerable adults in its area. To achieve this, the local authority is required to co-ordinate activities and approaches amongst partner organisations so as to ensure effectiveness of partners in achieving safeguarding outcomes.
- 7.2 Schedule 2 of the Act requires the SAB to produce a strategic plan which sets out how it will achieve its objectives and what each partner will do to implement the strategy. There are requirements that in the production of the strategic plan, the SAB will consult with the local Healthwatch and engage with the community in its area.
- 7.3 The requirements for the strategic plan are further amplified in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance and identifies the need for local SABs to understand the needs of their local community in the work that is done by the Board. The report reviews the previous activity of the Board and sets out its aims and objectives for next three years as required by the legislation.

### **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no HR implications associated with this report.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership board and has representation from Children and Young People Services. The Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Partnership was involved with the development of the new Strategic Plan, and the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships work jointly to deliver cross-cutting themes.
- 9.2 The Strategic Plan has identified areas that will benefit from joint partnership working to ensure that safeguarding adults in Rotherham is effective and services are person-centred.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 The Care Act 2014 states that all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) must produce a Strategic Plan outlining how they will achieve their objective of helping and protecting adults at risk of abuse or neglect, and how member organisations will contribute to this.

The 2025 – 2028 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan has been developed through consultation with all members of the Board, including Rotherham Healthwatch and local voluntary organisations.

The Equalities Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 2 and 3.

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 There are no known climate impacts arising from the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board strategic plan 2025-2028 as proposed. Appendix 4 contains the Carbon Impact Assessment.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025-28 has been produced with all partners of the Board contributing and agreeing on the final content.
- 12.2 Partners of the Board will share within their own organisations.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-28 has a requirement to be published to ensure the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board meets its statutory duty under the Care Act 2014.

## **14. Accountable Officers**

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health  
[ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk)



Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	27/10/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	27/10/25

*Report Author:* Jackie Scantlebury Safeguarding Adults Board Manager  
[jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk)

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

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# ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-28

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to make Rotherham a place where adults feel safe, secure, and free from harm and abuse.

Our mission is to promote partnership working and to co-ordinate the effective delivery of safeguarding arrangements across the Borough.

## WHO WE ARE

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) is a multi-agency partnership with statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. RSAB's main focus is to ensure that safeguarding arrangements in Rotherham work effectively so that adults at risk can live their lives free from abuse or neglect.

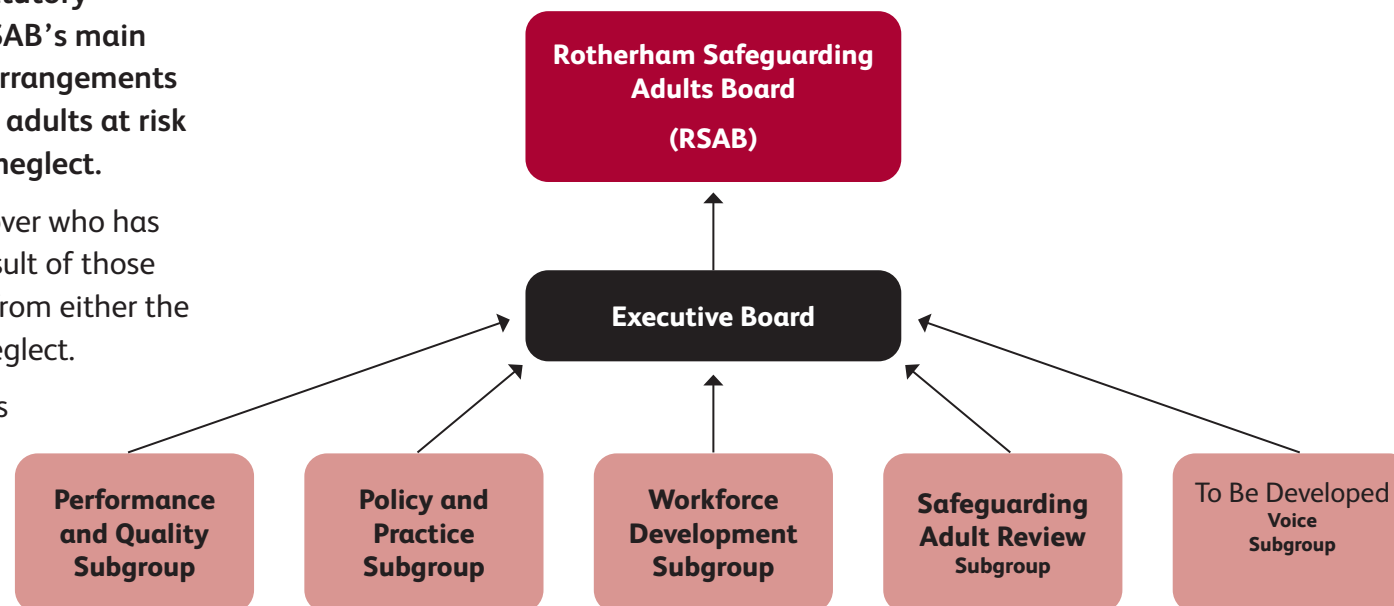
An adult at risk is a person aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support and, as a result of those needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

Unpaid carers such as partners, relatives or friends can also get help and support if they are being abused.

In this plan, we will call an adult at risk the 'Adult'.

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

How we will work



# OUR STRATEGIC STATEMENT

## What we plan to do

We will work together with partner organisations and people in our communities so that adults can live their best lives with their wellbeing and rights being supported, safe from abuse and neglect.

Our work will follow the six safeguarding principles, which are: **Empowerment; Protection; Proportionality; Prevention; Partnership and Accountability.**

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board has identified five strategic objectives that will ensure we can strengthen the current safeguarding offer for Rotherham residents.

*The objectives are;*

1. **Communication, Engagement and Voice**
2. **Prevention and Early Intervention**
3. **Leadership and Partnership**
4. **Making Safeguarding Personal**
5. **Learning and Development**





## Strategic Objective 1:

Communication,  
Engagement,  
and Voice



### **Improving safeguarding awareness across all residents, communities, and partner organisations.**

- We will work to ensure the residents of Rotherham are heard by the safeguarding partnership.
  - We will work closely with advocacy organisations/providers to ensure the voice of those they work with are heard by the RSAB.
  - We will use videos featuring experts by experience to tell the safeguarding story.
- We will work with communities across Rotherham to promote the work of the RSAB and raise awareness of safeguarding issues.
  - The annual Safeguarding Awareness Week will provide opportunities to interact with the public and the workforce of Rotherham.
- We will develop easy-read safeguarding guides, co-produced with the Rotherham Adults Social Care Always Listening (RASCALS) Co-production Board.
- We will work to ensure that the voices of seldom heard people are heard by the RSAB. We will establish a customer voice subgroup including RASCALS, Healthwatch and Advocacy to support this aim.
  - People from minoritised groups.
  - People at risk of homelessness.
  - People with drug and alcohol issues.





## Strategic Objective 2:

### Prevention and Early Intervention



#### **Developing tools to support practice that promotes open cultures and reduces the risk of abuse and neglect.**

- We will continue to work closely with the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership to build on and develop support for young people in transition.
  - There will be a focus on Transitional Safeguarding, working with the Principal Social Workers to promote strong working arrangements.
- We will continue to work with the Safer Rotherham Partnership, partners and communities to protect vulnerable adults from issues that include cuckooing, modern-day slavery, hate and mate crime and repeat victims of crime to improve reporting and strengthen joint working to tackle crime.
  - We will form a task and finish group to look at protecting vulnerable adults in Rotherham.
  - We will use our findings to develop an awareness campaign to inform the public.
- We will embed a robust Vulnerable Adults Pathway to support people who may be at risk of harm and abuse who do not meet the safeguarding thresholds.
- We will embed a Vulnerable Adults Pathway (VAP) based around Making Safeguarding Personal.
- We will further embed the Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC) and the Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Meeting (VARMM).
- We will enhance our partnership approach to supporting complex, vulnerable people.
- We will develop a suite of information, referral criteria and access routes to support CMARAC, VARMM and VAP.
- We will further strengthen our safeguarding practices relating to neglect, self-neglect and hoarding.
  - We will ensure the Self-Neglect and Hoarding Policy is embedded in safeguarding practice.
  - We will develop a self-neglect pathway that is easy to navigate.
  - We will work with people who are at risk of neglect, self-neglect and hoarding to prevent significant harm from occurring.
  - We will ensure learning from SARs and reviews is shared across the partnership to strengthen practice.
  - We will develop a partnership approach to supporting neglect.



### Strategic Objective 3: Leadership and Partnership



#### **Promote effective leadership, partnership working and governance for safeguarding adults, which hold partners and agencies to account.**

- We will explore the benefits of an Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.
  - We will work to look at co-location and develop protocols for effective referrals.
  - Further strengthen our adult social care front door to include agencies, which will strengthen our multi-agency response to safeguarding.
- We will continue to develop the RSAB website to provide timely and accurate information and guidance from across the Partnership for the public and professionals.
  - We will work with all partners to ensure the RSAB website is providing quality and useful information.
  - We will update and maintain the RSAB website.
- The RSAB and its partners will continue to work together across the Adult, Children's and Safer Rotherham Partnership Boards.
  - We will explore the benefit of a Learning Hub to share good practice and learning relating to Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews and Children's Serious Case Reviews.
  - We will arrange an annual joint safeguarding conference to share work and learning.
  - We will continue to hold a Safeguarding Partners Self-Assessment every two years.
- Adopting a Think Family approach, we will work together across the partnership to fully embed a Think Family approach to safeguarding.



## Strategic Objective 4:

### Making Safeguarding Personal



**Ensure that safeguarding practice places the adult at the centre of everything we do and supports them in making their own decisions and outcomes.**

- We will review and refresh Making Safeguarding Personal across the safeguarding partnership.
  - We will undertake a Making Safeguarding Personal audit using the Local Government Association toolkit.
- All work will be done with the “so what?” question in mind to understand the difference we are making.
- Safeguarding will ensure that achievable and proportionate person-centred outcomes are agreed with the person.

- We will strengthen our approach to the application of the Mental Capacity Act and use of Advocacy in safeguarding practices.
- We will seek assurance through auditing of practice that the legal requirements for completing mental capacity assessments are adhered to in safeguarding.
- We will seek assurance through auditing practice that advocacy is being used to support adults who require support and captures the voice of the person within their safeguarding experiences.
- We will develop a suite of information around Deprivation of Liberty information that will inform the RSAB.





## Strategic Objective 5:

### Learning and Development



#### Identify and share learning to drive practice development and improvement.

- Deliver training to staff across the partnership to make sure safeguarding is person-centred and outcome-focused.
  - Commission a 3-year training package to ensure the workforce is appropriately skilled.
  - We will ensure training evaluation is robust and consider using mystery shoppers to provide feedback.
- Undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) to identify learning, improve practice and prevent similar mistakes from happening again.
  - Embed the Multi-agency Learning Review process.
  - Use thematic reviews to gain learning from Safeguarding.
  - Embed learning from single-agency reviews.
- We will develop a RSAB multi-agency audit process.
  - We will agree an audit tool and schedule a diary of audits each year.
  - We will develop a methodology for partner agencies reporting into the RSAB on audits relevant to safeguarding.
- We will use the professional website page to share the outcomes from learning reviews.
  - We will develop easy-read guides, 7-minute briefings and videos to share learning to ensure it influences and shapes practice.

## HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS?

We will continue to work with our partners to make sure that by 2028 these priorities are achieved. We will develop an action plan that will be monitored by the Safeguarding Adults Board Executive Group and reported to the RSAB for assurance.

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## Appendix 2

### 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:** Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025 - 2028

**Directorate:** Adult Social Care

**Service area:** Safeguarding

**Lead person:**  
Jackie Scantlebury

**Contact:**  
Jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☐

**Service / Function**

☒

**Other**

**If other, please specify**  
Strategic Plan

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

The Care Act 2014 states that all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) must produce a Strategic Plan outlining how they will achieve their objective of helping and protecting adults at risk of abuse or neglect, and how member organisations will contribute to this.

The 2025 – 2028 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan has been developed through consultation with all members of the Board, including Rotherham Healthwatch and local voluntary organisations.

### 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**.

### 4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board held a development day with all partners to agree the new strategic priorities for 2025-28. A decision was made that engagement with Rotherham residents was a key area for improvement, especially with seldom heard voices and faith groups. The members of the board agreed that this should be the first new priority.

**The RSAB Strategic Plan Objective 1. Communication Engagement and Voice**

Improving safeguarding awareness across all residents, communities, and partner organisations.

- We will work to ensure the residents of Rotherham are heard by the safeguarding partnership.
- We will work with communities across Rotherham to promote the work of the RSAB and raise awareness of safeguarding issues.
- We will work to ensure that the voices of seldom-heard people are heard by the RSAB. We will establish a Customer Voice subgroup to include RASCALs, Healthwatch, and Advocacy to support this aim.

- **Key findings**

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board has acknowledged the need to work more closely with the voluntary sector and faith groups to ensure their voices are heard in relation to safeguarding matters.

- **Actions**

- The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board will recruit an 'expert by experience' to the Board.
- A new subgroup of the board will be established, focusing on Voice and Co-production.
- Voluntary Action Rotherham will assist the Board in recruiting and will support the new member in their role.
- Voluntary Action Rotherham will work with all interested voluntary agencies to shape the new Voice subgroup.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	08/10/25
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	09/10/25
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Jackie Scantlebury Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

## 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	13/10/25

Ian Spicer	Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	13/10/25
Kirsty-Louise Littlewood	Assistant Director, Adult Care and Integration	09/10/25

## 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](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	9/10/25
<b>Report title and date</b>	Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025-2028
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	08/10/25

## Appendix 3.

### PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics 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. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025-28	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 06/10/25	
Directorate: Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Safeguarding Adults Board
Lead Manager: Jackie Scantlebury	Contact number: Jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify Strategic Plan	

**2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance**

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Jackie Scantlebury	RMBC	Safeguarding Board Manager
Kirsty Littlewood	RMBC	Assistant Director Adult Social Care
Ian Spicer	RMBC	Director Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health

**3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance**
**Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)**

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Care Act 2014 requires all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) to produce a strategic plan. The strategic plan is a statement of a SAB's vision, objectives, and agreed-upon strategic priorities for the next three years.

The Strategic Plan informs the public about the SAB's plans and commitment to keeping adults safe.

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board will work with all safeguarding partners to fulfil the strategic objectives for 2025-28.

**Strategic Objective 1 – Communication, Engagement, and Voice**

Improving safeguarding awareness across all residents, communities, and partner organisations.

**Strategic Objective 2 – Prevention and Early Intervention**

Developing tools to support practice that promotes open cultures and reduces the risk of abuse and neglect.

**Strategic Objective 3 Leadership and Partnership**

Promote effective leadership, partnership working and governance for safeguarding adults, which hold partners and agencies to account.

**Strategic Objective 4 – Making Safeguarding Personal**

Ensure that safeguarding practice places the adult at the centre of everything we do and supports them in making their own decisions and outcomes

**Strategic Objective 5 – Learning and Development**

Identify and share learning to drive practice development and improvement



**What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)**

This report supports the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:

This is an overarching high-level partnership plan. Individual partner and agencies hold responsibility in meeting their Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010 within their own organisation including the collection and monitoring of equalities information.

Aggregated partner performance and outcome data is monitored at a high-level via the RSAB Performance Sub-Group and reported to board on a quarterly basis, and this has informed this strategy. This includes trends, abuse themes and response activity to abuse. Currently this is not routinely analysed by protected characteristics but can be requested by the RSAB.

The core information provider for adults safeguarding is the Council. The Council's adult social care (ASC) case management system collects and holds data across all protected characteristics. ASC customer profile reports are in place to understand all those accessing social care support. Developments are underway to create a specific profile focusing on just those subject to a Safeguarding Concern or Enquiry this will include demographic and geographic analysis.

Engagement for development of this plan has been at a professional level only. Partners are required and responsibly for engagement within their own organisations.

**Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?**

Information is owned by individual partners and held within their systems. It is their responsibility to identify any gaps and undertake data development to address them.

**What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?**

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025-28 progress will be captured in an action plan. The Action Plan will be monitored by the Board and the Executive Members when it is presented to meetings held quarterly.

The Strategic Plan will be available via the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Website.

We will provide the Strategic Plan in an easy-read version.

**Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)**

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board held a Development Day in January 2025. All partners of the Board and the wider Safeguarding partnership were consulted on what the new Strategic Priorities should be.

A draft plan was circulated to agree the new priorities, and the final draft was signed off by all Board Members in July 2025.

**Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)**

N/A

#### 4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

**How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?** (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The Strategic Plan has an objective to ensure the customer voice is heard at Board level. The development of a Voice subgroup will actively engage with seldom heard and hard to reach groups to ensure they are heard at Board.

Voluntary Action Rotherham will assist the Board in developing the subgroup, liaising with their members to ensure the Voice subgroup has representation from a host of organisations. VAR will work with its members to develop a Terms of Reference for the subgroup that is inclusive.

The Voice subgroup will ensure that groups that engage with people who are not already represented at the Board, have an equal opportunity to be heard, so express their views and to give feedback on safeguarding services in Rotherham. We will ensure the underrepresented are invited to join the Voice subgroup.

The objectives of the plan will be overseen by the Safeguarding Board members and progress and success will be captured in an action plan.

**Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?**

The Plan does not present any problems or barriers to communities.  
The plan can be translated into other languages if needed.

**Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?**

The Strategic Plan has an objective that focuses on Voice and Co-production. The objectives of the plan are to improve the RSAB's work with the community and remove any barriers in reporting safeguarding issues. The plan also works to promote an awareness of safeguarding adult issues.

**What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?** (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

The RSAB Strategic Plan aims to promote an awareness of safeguarding to all residents of Rotherham with a focus on engagement with seldom heard voices and groups.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

## **5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan**

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

<b>Title of analysis:</b> Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-28
<b>Directorate and service area:</b> Adult Care, Housing & Public Health,
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Jackie Scantlebury Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Manager
<b>Summary of findings:</b>
The equality analysis has been completed to ensure that residents across the borough including those with care and support needs, their families and unpaid carers, can access the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025-28. Care has been taken in the design of the document, from the images to the language, so that key information and data can be understood meaning that the document is effective, inclusive, and accessible to all.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Easy read version	D	April 2026
Translated into other languages (if needed)	RE	April 2026

**\*A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

## 6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Ian Spice	Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	24/09/25
John Edwards	Chief Executive Senior Leadership Team	30/09/25
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	13/10/25

## 7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis 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 should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-28 Cabinet - 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	08/10/25

**Appendix 4.** Climate Impact Assessment, Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-28

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 the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
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 emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

N/A

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

No

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

There are no known climate impacts arising from the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board strategic plan 2025-2028 as proposed.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Jackie Scantlebury  
Safeguarding Adults Board Manager  
Safeguarding  
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.

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.

Validation

Tracking Reference: CIA 537

Arthur King  
Principal Climate Change Officer

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

Families First Partnership Programme

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

**Report Author(s)**

Rob Savage

Strategic Programme Lead (Families First Partnership)

01709 333108 or [robert.savage@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:robert.savage@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

Cabinet received a report on 9th June 2025 outlining the approach to be taken by the Council and partners in response to the Government publication of the Families First Partnership (FFP) Programme. This report provides an update in respect of the progress to date including the expenditure of the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant.

**Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress made since the last update on 9th June 2025.
2. Notes the expenditure of the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant since the last update on 9th June 2025.
3. Agrees to receive a further update in March 2026.

**Background Papers**

[The families first partnership programme guide March 2025](#)

[Children's Social Care Prevention Grant Determination 2025 to 2026 February 2025](#)

[Cabinet report - Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham 2024 – 2029. 18th March 2024](#)

[Early Help Strategy – Family Help in Rotherham 2024-2029](#)

[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#)

[\(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Children Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[Guide for children and young people: Stable Homes, Built on Love - GOV.UK](#)

[\(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Children's social care: national framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Cabinet Report 09 June 2025](#)

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

N/A

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No



## **Families First Partnership Programme**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In February 2025, the Government published the grant determination for the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant for 2025-26 (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) allocation £2.083m). This new grant is specifically for direct investment in additional prevention activity for children and families through the implementation of Family Help and Child Protection reforms. It is intended to fund local authorities to deliver against the planned new legislative duties. This is in addition to the Children and Families Grant, which is now mainstreamed funding, initially for the Supporting Families programme and intended to enable continuation of existing prevention services.
- 1.2 In March 2025, the Government published the Families First Partnership Programme Guide. The aim of the programme is to support safeguarding partners to implement Family Help and multi-agency child protection reforms and make greater use of Family Group Decision Making. The programme guide describes the vision and objectives and sets out the practice change expected to improve the support provided to children and their families. The timeline for delivery of the transformation is ambitious, with significant progress anticipated within this financial year (2025-26).

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Following Cabinet approval on 9 June 2025 to establish the governance structure for the management, oversight, and scrutiny of the Families First Partnership Transformation Programme, progress has been made by the Council in realising the ambition of the programme and initiating a partnership approach to delivery.
- 2.2 On 4 September 2025, the inaugural meeting of the Families First Programme Delivery Group was held. This meeting had good representation by key officers across the partnership including South Yorkshire Police, Health, and Education, along with Council service areas.
- 2.3 The objective and subsequent outcome of the meeting was to agree and finalise a Terms of Reference, which will hold individual organisations to account for their contribution to the programme, ensuring representatives at the delivery group recognise their responsibility as the conduit back to their respective organisations to provide updates and ensure delivery of the programme is joined up.
- 2.4 On 9th June 2025, Cabinet received confirmation of the intended enabling workstreams which will be accountable to the Families First Partnership Programme Delivery Group, for mobilising and driving forward some of the key changes and opportunities within the programme. These workstreams have now been established as below;

Workstream	Objectives
Family Help Partnership Group	<p>To manage the delivery of the Family Help Strategy in Rotherham, considering the implications of the Families First Partnership Programme.</p> <p>In addition, to evaluate and consider the approach in response to the commissioned needs analysis, which should be completed by December 2025.</p>
Workforce Group	<p>To co-ordinate and manage any changes required in respect of the workforce to deliver the objectives of the Families First Partnership Programme, including the planning and progression of establishing Family Help Lead Practitioner and Lead Child Protection Practitioner roles, as prescribed in the Programme Guidance.</p>
Practice Development Group	<p>Established to lead the review and refresh of the required threshold document and associated practice guidance in line with the Families First Partnership Programme Guidance.</p> <p>Progress the changes required to further embed Family Group Decision Making, enhancing the environments in which families are better prepared to find their own solutions.</p>
Statutory Children's Service Multi-Agency Steering Group	<p>Agree the shared vision, structure, and practice framework that includes senior management oversight and accountability for delivery and delegated decision making (as part of strategic, statutory multi-agency safeguarding arrangements).</p>
ICT Development Group	<p>Review and implement new technologies to underpin better information sharing and making</p>

	<p>access to support and information easier for families, children, and young people.</p> <p>Linked to - Information sharing and consistent identifiers – Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill.</p>
Voice Steering Group	<p>A forum to provide a safe space for families, children, and young people to share their lived experience, to help shape future service design.</p>

2.5 On 18 September 2025, an update in respect of the Families First Partnership Programme was presented to the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Wider Network Meeting, giving an opportunity for partners to be updated on key progress of the programme. This update was well received and provided a good opportunity to ensure all partners commence the transformation journey together.

2.6 In addition to the programme governance arrangements being established, a number of key appointments have been made. These additional resources will form a transformation team providing dedicated capacity to enable the programme to accelerate delivery. The following appointments have now been made:

2.6.1 **Strategic Programme Lead – Families First Partnership (in post since 1<sup>st</sup> September)**

This role will have overall responsibility to manage the programme, with accountability through the programme governance arrangements as well as presenting formal updates back to the Department for Education (DfE).

The Strategic Programme Lead will manage the other resources within the Transformation Team.

2.6.2 **Participation Lead – (Start date 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025)**

A fundamental element of the programme will be to work with and capture the voice of children and young people alongside family networks to ensure future service delivery is modelled around lived experience.

As prescribed in the Families First Partnership Programme Guidance any co-design activity should have the voices of children, young people, and families at the heart of new service design.

This role will bring new and innovative ideas to ensure we build on the existing voice and participation support services available to families and act as a catalyst for change.

**2.6.3 Communication and Marketing Manager – (Start date 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025)**

A designated Communications and Marketing role to ensure communications across key partners and stakeholders is consistent, timely and informative.

In addition, making best use of new and emerging digital technology platforms to maximise reach and engagement in activities where family participation is required/encouraged.

This role will oversee all internal and external comms around the Families First Partnership Programme, ensuring messaging is suitable for its intended audience, is accessible and uses simple to understand language.

Furthermore, it is anticipated this resource will support the review and refresh of all public facing websites, ensuring a comprehensive suite of help and support available for families, building on the success of the Rotherham Family Hubs website and approach to consolidate information and advice.

**2.6.4 Attendance Leads (x3) – (Recruitment expected to complete by the end of Nov 2025)**

The intended outcomes are to support improvements in attendance for vulnerable children and those transitioning between key academic years. Support required by families will be identified jointly by Attendance Leads and schools, with anticipated target groups being:

- Primary age children with attendance below 50%, without an EHCP and not open to any formal support service
  - Attendance Leads will provide an intensive level of support with at least weekly contact initially, gradually building resilience within the family unit to support ongoing improvement in school attendance and reduce reliance on external support.
- Primary to Secondary Transition, working with identified secondary schools and feeder primaries to target children and young people with existing poor attendance and / or have a sibling in the secondary with poor attendance to try and break the cycle
  - Attendance Leads will develop structured programme of support across an identified cohort, offering weekly group sessions to young people in school and parental engagement alongside this.

**2.6.5 Family Help Navigators (x2) – Specialised in Kinship (in post since 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025)**

These Family Help Navigators will be recognised experts in the field of Kinship, with a comprehensive knowledge of the Kinship Local Offer, which will provide an improved support offer for kinship families.

These resources will be available as a first point of contact for kinship families or professionals who need support and advice surrounding kinship.

It is expected that these professionals will facilitate support groups, make visits to and advocate for kinship families.

It is anticipated the success of these roles will be evaluated by an increase in kinship families accessing help earlier and more easily finding the help they need.

2.7 In addition to the roles above secondment opportunities have been offered across South Yorkshire Police, Health and Education, to strengthen the partnership approach to deliver the objectives set out in the Families First Partnership Programme. The Police secondee will be a shared resource with Doncaster City Council. The Education secondee will be representative of secondary and primary settings. Recruitment into these newly created posts is underway. Interviews are arranged for the Education role, and the Police role. Recruitment to the health role from within the Integrated Care Board was unsuccessful and alternative arrangements are now being explored.

2.8 In addition to local arrangements, a number of officers representing Rotherham have engaged in regional opportunities to share best practice and provide peer support in respect of the delivery of the Families First Partnership Programme.

2.9 The Yorkshire and Humber Sector Led Improvement Programme have established a Family Help Network *'to convene a cross-agency network of senior leaders from social work, early help, (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND), education, and key partner agencies to drive forward the ambitions of the Families First Partnership Programme. The workstream will support Sector Led transformation through Family Help, Family Group Decision Making, and multi-agency child protection reforms, with a focus on improving outcomes for children and families.'*

2.10 The Family Help Network is sponsored by Directors of Children's Services at the following local authorities;

- York
- North East Lincolnshire

2.11 The anticipated outcomes of the Family Help Network are detailed in the Terms of Reference and described below;

*Every Local Authority (LA) strengthens their approach and processes with partners regarding the Families First for Children Partnership, specifically:*

- *Through sub regional events, every LA has the opportunity to develop networks with key partners to progress the transformation work in relation to Families First Community of Practice (FFCP).*
- *Every LA has an opportunity to have their model quality assured through the regional community of practice.*

- *Every LA is supported to understand the requirements of the Families First Partnership Guidance promoting local flexibility within a shared regional vision.*
- *The group will explore the principles of Family Help and multi-agency child protection as a single integrated system through a regional community of practice and inviting guest speakers from pathfinders and the Department for Education.*
- *Through regional engagements with partners and LA colleagues we will strengthen multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and workforce development.*
- *Share key documents, such as example Family Help assessments, job descriptions and practice models etc. across the regional Family Help Network.*
- *Build on good practice and learning in the region and share innovative ideas that focus on better outcomes for children and families.*
- *Use evidenced based practice to guide our thinking and practice.*
- *Share national Ofsted feedback re. the Families First for Children Partnership.*
- *Share learning and practice in relation to key policy guidance, such as The Best Start for Life for example.*

- 2.12 In addition, as commissioned by Yorkshire and Humber Sector Led Improvement Programme, The Innovation Unit will be facilitating a regional community of practice for all fifteen Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region. This will provide a structured and on-going framework for peer support and coaching to facilitate collaborative learning and the sharing of best practice across the region. The Innovation Unit, working with regional DCS's, will be designing and delivering a series of communities of practice throughout the remainder of the 2025/26 financial year.
- 2.13 As part of the wider Families First Partnership Programme governance arrangements, the DfE allocate a Regional Lead to provide support and advice to all local authorities.
- 2.14 Representatives from RMBC have recently met with the lead officer for the area and have received positive feedback in relation to the depth and breadth of the proposed delivery plan. In addition, there is real interest in the outcomes of the commissioned needs analysis. Monthly meetings are scheduled moving forward for the entirety of the Families First Partnership Programme.
- 2.15 Further resources and access to support and guidance is available via the Knowledge Hub, a useful digital resource for professionals supporting the delivery of the Families First Partnership Programme.
- 2.16 Part of the Families First Partnership Programme funding will be to commission a Voluntary Community Sector Organisation to co-produce a number of engagement activities, ensuring that families are truly at the heart of our transformation journey, the commissioning activity is underway and a final

decision on the successful applicant should be known by the end of November 2025.

- 2.17 In terms of next steps, the Council look forward to receiving the needs assessment and working with Public Health colleagues, and the transformation team to consider how this will shape planning and service delivery. Co-production with children and families, as well as local partners and ward members, will feature heavily in the shaping of services to ensure that children are supported at the earliest opportunity. This will also include consultation with staff.
- 2.18 The successful delivery of the Families First Programme will be underpinned by partnership collaboration with the Police, Health and Education (Secondary and Primary), as well as wider services and relevant agencies such as Probation, Youth Justice, Housing and Voluntary Community Sector organisations.
- 2.19 Representation and engagement from leaders and practitioners from the Voluntary Community Sector will allow strategic decision-making to be informed; respective views to be reflected in agreeing new service models; voice to be captured; organisational roles and responsibilities defined to enable change and ensure appropriate resources are allocated at the right time.
- 2.20 There is a commitment from the transformation programme to ensure all the workstreams outlined in section 2.4 of this document (and any further work packages identified as part of the delivery journey) have representation from partners and the Voluntary Community Sector, and where required these arrangements will be formalised through Terms of Reference.

### **3. Recommendations**

#### **3.1 That Cabinet:**

- 1. note the progress made since the last update on 9th June 2025.
- 2. note the expenditure of the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant since the last update on 9th June 2025.
- 3. agree to receive a further update in March 2026.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 A key focus of the Families First Partnership Programme is to keep partners fully engaged both in terms of shaping the approach to delivery but also accountable in terms of their respective responsibilities. The commencement of the Families First Partnership Programme Delivery Group ensures all partners are consulted on progress.

## 5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 A further update to the progress of the Families First Partnership Programme is proposed to be presented to Cabinet in March 2026.

## 6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 Any engagement of third party suppliers to support the delivery of the Families First Partnership Programme must be procured in compliance with the relevant procurement legislation (Procurement Act 2023 or the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) depending on the most appropriate route to market selected, as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.
- 6.2 The Cabinet report dated 9 June 2025 confirmed that Rotherham has been allocated £2.083 million for the financial year 2025/26 through the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant. This funding is ringfenced for direct investment in enhanced prevention activities for children and families, delivered through the implementation of the Family First Partnership Programme (FFPP). Subsequently, the Government has awarded an additional £0.127 million to support further transformation initiatives. This brings the total funding allocated to Rotherham for 2025/26 to £2.210 million.
- 6.3 In addition to confirming the funding allocation, the Cabinet report of June 2025 set out the intended use of the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant in line with the conditions outlined in the Grant Determination Letter. The funding will be used to support the following: to deliver transformation activity; increased direct delivery of family help; practice development, workforce development and ICT development; and children and family voice.
- 6.4 The table below outlines the planned expenditure and commitments to date for 2025/26, as agreed under delegated authority in accordance with the June 2025 Cabinet report:

<b>Transformation</b>		
Funding (maximum of 30%) should be spent on activities to increase readiness for system change and establishing a transformation team		
1	Transformation team - programme manager; service, data/performance, communications, parent partnership leads and project support	335,677
2	Secondments from Partner organisations	150,000
		<b>484,667</b>
<b>Service Delivery (Practice, Workforce &amp; ICT)</b>		
funding to be used across the full breadth of preventative services, including, Family Help, Family Networks, and child protection. Costs are expected to include additional workforce and commissioned services to enable the council to offer new and updated services		
3	Early Help - Establishing a Kinship Virtual Hub	85,772
4	Children Social Care - funding 2x post- Special Guardianship Order (SGO) support posts	63,000



5	Education - increasing staff capacity in the Elective Home Education team	100,149
6	Education - strengthening the role of education in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements	120,000
7	Early Help - increased service management capacity	155,874
8	Children Social Care - funding 3x temporary FSWs in Engage team	32,579
9	Early Help - 0-19 family help graduated response for children with SEND	223,007
10	Education - focused multi agency / preventative work in Education Psychology Service	62,773
11	Children Social Care - enhancing multi-agency child protection teams / safeguarding arrangements	250,000
12	ICT Developments - to support single system information / data sharing	tbc
		<b>1,093,154</b>
<b>Service Design (children &amp; families voice)</b> the funding is allowed to be used for undertaking a joint family help needs analysis and on stakeholder engagement (with local partners) to co-produce and design new service delivery models		
13	Commissioning joint family help needs analysis	£19,484
14	Co-production work with partners, children, and families	£21,443
		<b>21,443</b>
	<b>Total commitments to date</b>	<b>£1,619,758</b>

- 6.5 Work is ongoing to commit the current balance of funding of £0.591m in the current year, as well as ensure committed funds are spent in the year. In accordance with the grant conditions, the Council is required to provide assurance to the DfE on its transformation and delivery progress as well as a quarterly breakdown of expenditure, detailing costs across transformation activity, service design and service delivery.

## 7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Families First Partnership Programme represents the Government's expectations around children getting the best start in life and breaking down barriers to opportunities to achieve this. It is to be noted that the programme is not statutory guidance and therefore does not replace the current statutory guidance such as, Working together to Safeguard Children 2023 "Working Together" or Children's social care; national framework, "National Framework." However, its use builds on foundations already in place, such as the need for safeguarding partners and agencies to work collaboratively to design and implement local arrangements to meet the needs of children and families in the local area which this paper addresses.

7.2 The establishment of workstreams that will be accountable to the Families First Partnership Programme Delivery Group are noted at 2.3 above which is in line with the delivery expectations covered in the Families First Partnership (FFP) Programme Guide including the appointment of the Family Help Practitioner (FHELP), further progress around family group decision-making, establishing multi-agency child protection arrangements and implement new technologies around information sharing between agencies. It is also to be noted that the views of the family are also being captured at The Voice Steering group which also captures the voice of the child. The voice of the child is a principle from the Children Act 1989 and also embedded in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, (UNCRC), article 3 and article 12 taking into consideration the best interests of the child and preserving a child's right to express their views about decisions affecting them.

7.3 In view of the FFP Programme Guide which sets out delivery expectations for safeguarding partners, there are no legal implications raised in the update provided by following the recommendations at 3.1 above.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

8.1 HR will continue to support the recruitment for the identified posts within the report and represent on the appropriate groups to ensure that advice is provided on any workforce issues.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

9.1 The aim of the Families First Partnership Programme is to support safeguarding partners to implement Family Help and multi-agency child protection reforms and make greater use of Family Group Decision Making. Government expects to see improved support provided to children and their families. The programme aligns with the key local partnership priorities and plans including Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Plan, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership plan and associated strategies, Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Plan and Rotherham Health and Social Care Place Plan.

9.2 In delivering the expectations outlined in the Families First Partnership Programme guide, safeguarding partners will transform how support and protection is provided to families, focusing on early intervention and prevention to avoid crisis situations. This will emphasise the whole-family approach embedded in Rotherham practice, bringing together multi-disciplinary professionals to support families in overcoming challenges and remaining together.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 As this is a progress update, there are no wider equality implications, but equality and diversity will continue to be considered and monitored as part of the strategy.

## 11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The principal climate impact resulting from this decision is increased transport emissions related to attendance of meetings by council officers and partner organisations. To mitigate this, the use of Microsoft Teams will be considered to remove the need to travel. Where meetings are considered necessary, they will be located in central buildings to encourage the use of public transport. Car sharing will be promoted.
- 11.2 While the proposed programme of works does not have any direct impacts on resilience to climate change, supporting families could contribute to families' broader resilience, including their capacity to deal with the impacts of climate change.

## 12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 These are referred to in the report.

## 13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There are no new risks associated with this progress update, a risk register is maintained as part of the Programme Delivery and reviewed by the Families First Partnership Programme Delivery Group.

## 14. Accountable Officers

Kelly White, Assistant Director – Family Help

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	28/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	22/10/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	22/10/25

*Report Author: Rob Savage, Strategic Programme Lead (Families First Programme)*

01709 33108 or [robert.savage@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:robert.savage@rotherham.gov.uk)

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

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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	
<b>Title:</b> Family Help	
<b>Directorate:</b> CYPS	<b>Service area:</b> Family Help
<b>Lead person:</b> Rob Savage – Strategic Programme Lead – Families First Partnership	<b>Contact:</b> 01709 333108
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	
<b>If other, please specify</b>	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
An update to cabinet on the progress of the Families First Partnership Programme since 09 June 2025.

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.

## Appendix 1

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		
This is a progress update report and so has no equality implications. Equality and diversity will continue to be monitored, and the governance and delegated authority proposed in this paper would enable commissioning of a population needs assessment to inform the transformation. This would ensure that the needs of diverse groups and individuals are considered throughout delivery of the transformation.		

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**.

<b>4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity</b>
<p>If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).</p>

## Appendix 1

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How have you considered equality and diversity?</b></li> </ul> N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key findings</b></li> </ul> N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action</b></li> </ul> N/A	
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
Kelly White	Assistant Director, Family Help, Children & Young Peoples Service	30/09/2025

### 6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	30 September 2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	Families First Partnership Programme Update November 2025
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	17 November 2025
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	30 September 2025

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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 the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None	None	None	None	None
Emissions from transport?	Increase	New face to face meetings of groups established through proposed governance may require members to travel.	External partners may also need to travel to proposed governance meetings.	Use of Microsoft Teams reducing the requirement to travel will be considered. Meetings will be held in central buildings to encourage the use of public transport. Car sharing will be promoted.	Council officer travel is included with the council's Net Zero by 2030 greenhouse gas emissions accounting.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None	None	None	None	None
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	None	None	None	None
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None	None	None	None	None

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

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

None identified.

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

While the proposed programme of works does not have any direct impacts on resilience to climate change, supporting families could contribute to families' broader resilience, including their capacity to deal with the impacts of climate change.

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

The principal climate impact resulting from this decision is increased transport emissions related to attendance of meetings by council offices and partner organisations. To mitigate this, the use of Microsoft Teams will be considered to remove the need to travel. Where meetings are considered necessary, they will be located in central building to encourage the use of public transport. Car sharing will be promoted.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Rob Savage Strategic Programme Lead – Families First Partnership Family Help Children and Young People's Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	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
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 451 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

September 2025/26 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 September 2025 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first half of 2025/26. 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 third 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 of September 2025, the Council's financial position for 2025/26 remains positive. Whilst there is still a forecast overspend of £0.9m, this is an improvement of £1.5m since the reported position in July, as positive management activity takes effect. The forecast position is made up of a Directorate overspend of £6.2m, offset by a projected Central Service underspend of £5.3m. Whilst this is an overspend, the Council expects to be able to manage this pressure further during the year and return to a balanced position following mitigating actions.

As of September 2025, the Council currently estimates an overspend against the Directorates of £6.2m for the financial year 2025/26. This is largely due to demand and market pressures in relation to Children's residential placements and placement types. Market prices are increasing at above inflation levels, placing further pressures on the Council's Budget. These pressures were anticipated, and a corporate provision

was maintained within Central Services as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26.

The Local Government Pay Award was agreed at 3.2% at all pay bands up to senior officer. The impact of this is a cost of £2.3m above the budget that was allocated when setting the Council's Budget. The Council has no control over the level of pay award agreed.

Central Services is forecasting an underspend of £5.3m, reflecting use of the £5.4m Social Care Contingency approved within the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, the impact of the Local Government Pay Award and savings generated within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

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 to borrow short term to ultimately minimise interest costs. It is estimated that this approach should see the Council generate savings to support Council wide pressures. It should be noted that the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 approved a requirement for the Treasury Management Strategy to save at least £3m in 2025/26. This is on track; however economic and market conditions are out of the Council's control.

The report also provides an updated position on the Council's Capital Programme.

This report provides an update on Local Authority Better Care Fund 2025/26 - Discharge Grant Commitments. As part of the Financial Settlement 2025/26 the Discharge Grant was combined into the Local Authority Better Care Fund from 2025/26 onwards. As such, the Discharge Grant of £3.4m ceased to exist from the outset of 2025/26. However, as this was confirmed by Government late in the Budget setting process for 2025/26, the Council has needed to fund some of the activity that was already underway to ensure key projects and programmes could be completed and allow time to assess what areas of activity the Council needs to continue. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy could not accommodate the continuation of £3m of activity but could accommodate a phased reduction of the Discharge Grant activity.

## **Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £0.9m.
2. Note that whilst there is a projected overspend, the Council expects to be able to manage this pressure during the year and return to a balanced position following mitigating actions. Should that not be possible the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2025/26 financial position.
3. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.
4. Note the update on the Local Authority Better Care Fund 2025/26 - Discharge Grant Commitments.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 Report to Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Budget Monitoring, May 2025 to Cabinet July 2025

Budget Monitoring, July 2025 to Cabinet September 2025

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## September 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report

### 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 third in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2025/26, setting out the projected year end revenue budget financial position in light of actual costs and income for the first six 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 2025/26 as at September 2025**

Directorate	Budget 2025/26	Forecast Outturn 2025/26	Forecast Variance over/under (-)
	£m	£m	£m
Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)	72.2	76.5	4.3
Adult Care, Housing & Public Health (ACH&PH)	144.2	146.2	2.0
Regeneration and Environment Services (R&E)	53.1	54.1	1.0
Finance and Customer Services (FCS)	36.4	35.6	-0.8
Assistant Chief Executive (ACX)	8.9	8.6	-0.3
Central Services (CS)	44.2	38.9	-5.3
<b>Directorate Forecast Outturn</b>	<b>359.0</b>	<b>359.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>			3.3
<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</b>			-0.2

- 2.2 As at September 2025, the Council's financial position for 2025/26 remains positive, although there is currently a forecast overspend of £0.9m. This position is made up of a Directorate overspend of £6.2m, offset by a projected Central

Service underspend of £5.3m. Whilst this is an overspend, the Council expects to be able to manage this pressure during the year and return to a balanced position following mitigating actions. However, it is possible that the Council may need to call on reserves to achieve a balanced outturn.

- 2.3 The Council currently estimates a directorate overspend of £6.2m for the financial year 2025/26. The Council's overspend position at this point is largely due to placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services (£4.8m), and the cost of care packages in Adult Social Care (£2m).
- 2.4 As part of setting the Council's Budget and MTFs for 2025/26 the Council set a Social Care Contingency budget to act as a provision to support anticipated pressures across Social Care placements, principally linked to CYPS placements. Central Services is forecasting an underspend of £5.3m, reflecting use of the £5.4m Social Care Contingency approved within the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 to mitigate social care cost pressures, the impact of the Local Government Pay Award and savings generated within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
- 2.5 The budget as approved at Council on 5th March 2025 included provisions, allocations for inflation, pay award and anticipated cost pressures. These budgets are held centrally at the start of the year and allocated to services as costs are confirmed and incurred. The table below sets out the headline reasons for the movement between opening budgets and the latest budget that has been forecast against in this report.

2.6 **Table 2: Budget Movements during 2025/26**

	Opening Budget 2025/26	Pay Award / Fees & Charges Income Inflation	Contract Inflation & Central Provision Allocations to Services	Service Transfers between Directorates	Latest Budget 2025/26
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CYPS	<b>68.8</b>	0.8	2.6	0	<b>72.2</b>
ACH&PH	<b>135.9</b>	0.9	7.4	0	<b>144.2</b>
R&E	<b>48.6</b>	1.0	3.6	-0.1	<b>53.1</b>
FCS	<b>35.1</b>	1.1	1.3	-1.1	<b>36.4</b>
ACX	<b>8.3</b>	0.2	0.2	0.2	<b>8.9</b>
CS	<b>62.3</b>	-4.0	-15.1	1.0	<b>44.2</b>
TOTAL	<b>359.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>359.0</b>

- 2.7 The Council's Financial Outturn report 2024/25 reported that £4.902m of prior year savings remained undelivered. In addition, the Budget and Council Tax report 2025/26 included the delivery of £2.592m of new savings, giving £7.494m to be delivered during 2025/26. Currently, £2.265m of delivery has been secured. The biggest challenges at present relate to CYPS Placements, which is forecast as a significant cost pressure again in 2025/26. It is an ongoing challenge to clearly link the positive outcomes being delivered by CYPS in terms of reduced LAC numbers to the savings targets, principally as the service has seen rising market cost pressures and a number of significantly high cost placements. In reality, the reduction in number of placements has taken place but the rising costs of those placements remaining has outstripped the savings achieved. The table below shows the total amount of all savings to be delivered during 2025/26 and the amount that has been delivered to date.

**Table 3: Delivery of Agreed Savings**

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>2025/26 Saving to be delivered £'000</b>	<b>Secured as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 £'000</b>	<b>Still to be delivered £'000</b>
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	600	300	300
Children's and Young People Services	6,163	1,610	4,553
Regeneration and Environment	731	355	376
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,494</b>	<b>2,265</b>	<b>5,229</b>

- 2.8 The following sections provide further information regarding the Council's forecast outturn of £0.9m, the key reasons for forecast under or overspends within directorates and the progress of savings delivery.

**2.9 Children and Young People Services Directorate (£4.3m forecast overspend)**

- 2.9.1 Children & Young People Services has a budget pressure of £4.3m at the end of September 2025 (a reduction of £1.3m compared to July's reported position). The overall forecast is primarily driven by pressures in Children's Social Care placements of £4.8m and Education Inclusion services of £0.6m.
- 2.9.2 The children in care placements forecast overspend of £4.8m represents an improvement of £0.2m compared to the previously reported position. The improved position is mainly due to slippage in implementing the residential homes operational review that will see more staffing resources used to operate the homes and the use of asylum seekers support grant funding.



- 2.9.3 The following are key points to note in the latest placements forecast:
- The overall number of children in care has increased, with 473 children at the end of September, compared to 457 in July. The rise in placement numbers, although unusually high, is typical in the summer holiday period and is expected to even out in the coming months.
  - Underlying placement costs have increased since the last reported position, primarily driven by higher spend on foster care and external residential placements. However, this pressure has been offset by slippage on an operational review within in-house children's homes and the application of asylum seeker support grant funding.
  - External residential placements remain the primary driver of the forecast overspend. The unit cost of some placements continue to rise reflecting the increasing complexity of needs among children in care and ongoing challenges within the external residential placement market.
  - Occupancy levels in Council-owned children's homes currently stand at 93%. This is an improvement in the occupancy rate compared to the previous reported position of 73% and reflects continuing efforts to support more children and young people within council-owned homes.
  - The number of children placed with foster carers (in-house carers, with families & friends and independent fostering agencies) currently stands at 312, an increase compared to 303 in July.
  - Despite the reported forecast overspend, the Council continues to make year-on-year progress in reducing overall placement costs and demand. However, the mix of placement types, increasing unit cost and complexity of care needs remain significant challenges for the Directorate.
- 2.9.4 A forecast overspend of £0.6m is currently estimated against the Education Inclusion Services. This is mainly attributed to a shortfall in Education Psychology Service trading income from schools as well as the continued use of locum and agency staff to maintain core statutory provision.
- 2.9.5 A balanced budget position is currently forecast against the Home to School Transport budgets managed within CYPS (for children in care and post 16 learners with Education, Health and Care Plans).
- 2.9.6 The pressures referred to have been partly mitigated through staff turnover savings across the directorate, as well as maximising or redirecting the use of grant funding (where there is scope and flexibility to do so).

#### **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets (£3.3m forecast deficit)**

- 2.9.7 A net surplus of £1.2m is forecast across all 21 maintained schools for 2025/26. This surplus is ring-fenced for use by individual schools. Within this overall position, four schools are projecting budget deficits totalling £463k. Budget recovery plans will be agreed with each of these schools to return them to a balanced or surplus position within an appropriate timeframe.

- 2.9.8 A cost pressure of £3.3m (an increase of £0.2m compared to the last reported position) is currently forecast against the central DSG budgets and mainly relates to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) / High Needs Block. The forecast deficit reflects sustained cost / demand pressures across the SEND system. The DSG reserve is forecast to show a £3.7m cumulative deficit at year-end, which will be carried forward under the DSG statutory override and protections. Work is underway to extend the DSG Management Plan over a five-year period, in line with DfE requirements. This will be informed by the recent SEND needs and sufficiency analysis, ensuring alignment with local priorities and demand forecasts.

## **2.10 Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (£2.0m overspend)**

- 2.10.1 The directorate continues to forecast an overspend of £2m. However, the overspend in Adult Care has increased in the period by £300k, offset by additional income in Housing. Increases in demand and complexity of care packages make up all the projected overspend. The two main areas of pressure continue to be older people and mental health support, due to increased numbers as well as increased complexity, and cost.
- 2.10.2 Direct payments are underspending in all areas however there has been a significant increase in the numbers of Direct Payments during the period, reducing the forecast underspend.
- 2.10.3 Salary costs for social work are underspending, offsetting the overspend in placement costs. However, another area of risk is in in-house provision spend on agency. The high use of agency is caused by the need to maintain safe levels of staffing with high levels of vacancies and sickness. Work continues to bring levels down.
- 2.10.4 Housing is forecast to underspend by £300k. This had previously been forecast to come in on budget. The difference has been the recognition of additional grant income in the period. The cost of homelessness will be closely monitored over the year. A number of temporary accommodation properties have been acquired previously to help reduce the spend on hotels. At the end of September 2025 there were 14 households in hotels, up from 13 in July 25.
- 2.10.5 Public Health continues to be forecast to budget.

## **2.11 Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£1m forecast overspend)**

- 2.11.1 The Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £1m which has worsened by £0.5m since the last report to Cabinet.
- 2.11.2 The Markets service is forecasting a £0.5m overspend because of income shortfalls which is a similar position to previous years. This position has worsened £0.1m since the last update but it is hoped to improve in future years as the redevelopment continues.  
Within Culture Sport and Tourism, there is a £0.4m overspend owing to assorted income pressures within Country Parks, works to trees on Highways and
- 2.11.3 additional staffing, which is £0.1m worse than the previous report.

2.11.4 The Waste service is forecasting delayed delivery of the £0.5m saving approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26. As work progresses on the route optimisation plan that will increase the efficiency of waste rounds, the position with regards to the delivery of this saving will become clearer. However, the full year impact of the saving will not be realised in 2025/26. It is currently forecasting a shortfall in delivery of £0.2m. The service is operating a popular Bulky Waste collection service, which is £0.1m overspent due to increased disposal costs. Finally, the forecast for Home to School transport has increased by £0.3m above the provision in the Council's Budget, as the impact of this academic year's cohort is worked through.

2.11.5 These overspends are offset by a £0.2m underspend in Community Safety and Regulation owing to vacancies and delays in implementation of the new Street Safe Team. Licensing is also projecting a £0.2m underspend as a result of vacancies, which is a similar position to last year. The Regeneration team is capitalising staff salaries of project managers delivering the capital programme, resulting in a £0.2m underspend.

## **2.12 Finance and Customer Services (£0.8m underspend)**

2.12.1 Due to improvements within Property and Facilities Services (PFS) the directorate is now forecasting an underspend of £792k. Robust budget management and additional income generation in Building Cleaning are offsetting pressures across the wider directorate.

2.12.2 Property and Facilities Services (PFS) is forecast to be underspent by £0.9m. There is an underspend of £1.2m within Cleaning as income is greater than budgeted and, following a review of work underway, the Building Consultancy service is expected to exceed its income budget by £1.6m. This is largely offset by Facilities Management's £1.2m overspend due to assorted building costs, mostly repairs and maintenance, being above budget. There is also a £0.3m overspend within the Catering Service due to income under-recovery and £0.2m in Asset Management due to income under-recovery. This position has improved by £1.0m since the last Cabinet report, largely owing to the review within Building Consultancy.

2.12.3 Within Customer, Information and Digital Services, activity is underway to minimise the impact of increased postage costs. 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.

2.12.4 Legal Services faces ongoing 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, along with an internal development programme for trainee solicitors.

## **2.13 Assistant Chief Executive (£0.3m underspend)**

- 2.13.1 The service is currently forecasting an underspend of £311k, which is a slight reduction from the previous report as a result of lower than originally anticipated income generation in relation to the HR Service Centre and HR Consultancy offer to Schools. Factors contributing to the overall underspend include external grant income and a number of vacancies across the Directorate, in addition to overachievement of income from salary sacrifice schemes.

## **2.14 Central Services (£5.3m underspend)**

- 2.14.1 Central Services has a £5.3m forecast underspend, reflecting use of the Social Care Contingency set aside when the Budget was approved and the net impact of the Local Government Pay Award and additional Treasury Management savings.
- 2.14.2 There continue to be significant financial challenges as a result of increased costs and the impact of the 2025/26 Local Government Pay Award. Ongoing uncertainty in the global and UK economy remains a significant budget risk and as such will need to continue to be closely monitored.
- 2.14.3 The Council's Treasury Management functions are expected to continue to perform well for the majority of 2025/26. The use of short-term borrowing only as required, along with slippage on the Capital programme in 2024/25 means that the level of financing costs for 2025/26 is less than anticipated. The benefits from the Treasury Management function are being used to support wider inflationary and pay award pressures that the Council is facing during 2025/26, however it should be noted that as the Capital programme progresses, these short-term opportunities will diminish.
- 2.14.4 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 2025/26, approved at Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025. 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.

## **2.15 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£0.2m underspend)**

- 2.15.1 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 £200k in the year due to reduced energy costs and higher rental income than forecast. There has been no change in the period.

## 2.16 Capital Programme Update

2.16.1 The revised Capital Programme is £211.687m split between the General Fund £138.907m and HRA £72.780m. This is an increase of £2.208m from the position reported to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the majority of which relates to revised grant and funding estimates. The movement is based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, including slippage re-profiles and corrections of £879k and new grant funding added to the programme of £3.086m.

2.16.2 A £4m budget correction has been made to remove a future year (2028/29) budget added incorrectly in May 2025. The error was made when budget was being moved between a holding code and a project code as well as re-profiling the programme. Inadvertently the block allocation was left out of balance, increasing the overall budget in 2028/29. This was identified and corrected in September.

### 2.16.3 Table 4: Variations to the Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2028/29

	Total Impact £m	2025/26 Impact £m	Post 2025/26 Impact £m
Revised Grant and Funding Estimates	-0.292	3.086	-3.378
Slippage / reprofiling	0.000	-0.876	0.876
Budget corrections	-4.002	-0.002	-4.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>-4.294</b>	<b>2.208</b>	<b>-6.502</b>

2.16.4 The main items contributing to the reprofiling of the Capital Programme are:

- **Addison Road, Maltby**, £4.441m acceleration. This project comprises the Council-led delivery of one of three sites in Maltby that are forecast to deliver 45 new affordable homes of which 100% will be made available for Council rent. The Addison Road site will deliver a total of 27 new homes. It is now expected the scheme will make significant progress this financial year.
- **Larch Road, Maltby**, £2.542m acceleration. This project comprises the Council-led delivery of three sites in Maltby that are forecast to deliver 45 new affordable homes of which 100% will be made available for Council rent. The Larch Road site will deliver a total of 16 new homes. It is now expected the scheme will make significant progress this financial year.
- **Unallocated Flood Alleviation**, £2.760m slippage. Budget from this code is allocated to specific Flood alleviation Schemes as delivery phases of projects are agreed and fully funded. The budget has been slipped to reflect expected delivery of flood alleviation schemes as these take significant time to identify funding packages, design, scope and bring into delivery.

- **Fleet Management Vehicle Purchase**, £2m slippage. This relates to the purchase of 16 RCVs (Refuse Collection Vehicles). This budget has been slipped to reflect expected delivery of the vehicles as a result of a significant lead time between vehicles being ordered and delivered. The procurement of the vehicles is progressing.

2.16.5 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 September Cabinet report are listed below:

**Table 5: New Grant/HRA funded Schemes added to the programme**

Directorate/Scheme	2025/26 £m	Post 2025/26 £m
<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>		
Police and Crime Commissioner grant – Ferham park	0.006	0.000
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – allocation of Ward CIL	0.056	0.000
<b>Children and Young People Services</b>		
Education Funding Agency – Schools Maintenance grant	0.000	0.100
Education Funding Agency – Basic Need funding	-0.006	-3.746
<b>Finance and Customer Services</b>		
Loss of grant funding - Demolition of units 86-102 Wellgate due to being unable to redevelop the site in time.	-0.185	0.000
<b>Regeneration and Environment</b>		
City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme	-0.104	0.215
SYMCA – Gainshare, Templeborough Regeneration	1.510	0.000
Forestry Commission	-0.009	0.000
DLUHC – Pathfinder	0.086	0.000
Environment Agency – Flood Alleviation	1.500	0.000
DEFRA – Property Flood Resilience	0.232	0.000
Section 106 – Bill Winder Children’s Playground, Thrybergh	0.000	0.053
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.086</b>	<b>-3.378</b>

## 2.17 Capital Programme Variations

- 2.17.1 There are no variations to the Capital Programme that are either key decision value or a change in use of corporate resources and as such need reporting to Cabinet.

## 2.18 MCA Approvals

- 2.18.1 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 has been received through SYMCA of £1.510m Gainshare funding. A further £220k CRSTS funding for Borough wide safe school run schemes and £25k for Rotherham MBC to lead on air quality monitoring across South Yorkshire has been approved while £159k has been removed from collision investigation and prevention projects.

## 2.19 Capital Programme to 2028/29

- 2.19.1 The proposed updated Capital Programme to 2028/29 is shown by directorate below.

**Table 6: Proposed Updated Capital programme 2025/26 to 2028/29**

Directorate	2025/26 Budget £m	2026/27 Budget £m	2027/28 Budget £m	2028/29 Budget £m	Total Budget £m
<b>General Fund Capital</b>					
Children and Young People's Services	12.996	10.833	6.283	16.036	46.148
Regeneration and Environment	99.279	57.393	15.523	6.340	181.214
Adult Care & Housing	11.727	7.098	6.394	6.927	32.146
Assistant Chief Executive	0.487	0.210	0.210	0.210	1.117
Finance and Customer Services	14.418	17.421	10.541	19.451	61.831
<b>Total General Fund Capital</b>	<b>138.907</b>	<b>92.955</b>	<b>38.951</b>	<b>48.964</b>	<b>322.456</b>
<b>Total HRA Capital</b>	<b>72.780</b>	<b>78.930</b>	<b>48.483</b>	<b>94.251</b>	<b>294.444</b>
<b>Total RMBC Capital Programme</b>	<b>211.687</b>	<b>171.885</b>	<b>87.434</b>	<b>143.215</b>	<b>614.221</b>

- 2.19.2 The Capital Programme for 2025/26 remains ambitious even with a significant level of re-profiling of schemes into 2026/27. 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 increased capital programme and potentially, re-profile some schemes into future financial years.

## 2.20 Funding Position of capital programme 2025/26

**Table 7: Funding of the Approved Capital Programme**

Funding Stream	2025/26
	Budget £m
Grants and Contributions	71.424
Unsupported Borrowing	66.795
Capital Receipts	0.551
HRA Contribution	0.137
<b>Total Funding - General Fund</b>	<b>138.907</b>
Grants and Contributions	8.403
Unsupported Borrowing	21.155
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	36.964
Capital Receipts	3.075
Revenue Contribution	3.183
<b>Total Funding - HRA</b>	<b>72.780</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>211.687</b>



## 2.21 Capital Receipts

- 2.21.1 To date General Fund useable capital receipts of £0.013m 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 30th September 2025 £m
Miscellaneous	-0.001
<b>Total Capital Receipts (Excluding loan repayments)</b>	<b>-0.001</b>
Repayment of Loans	-0.012
<b>Total Capital Receipts</b>	<b>-0.013</b>

## 2.22 Capital Achievements

- 2.22.1 The following outputs have been achieved during the 2025/26 financial year to date:
- Footway Improvements – 135 footways with 34 completed plus patching works on other sections of the footway network.
  - Unclassified Roads - 145 roads with 87 completed.
  - CCTV portfolio - installation of new CCTV systems at Bradgate and Rosehill Park, enhancing surveillance and public safety in both areas. Additionally, a new ornate CCTV post, designed in keeping with the style of other posts in the area, was completed at Minster Gardens. This post houses a 360-degree unit that is fully integrated with Synergy, enabling South Yorkshire Police operatives based in the Control Room to monitor and manage the CCTV feed live, 24/7, significantly improving real-time response and situational awareness.
  - The new LED lighting at the Civic Theatre has been installed.
  - The wall at Treeton St Helen's Church yard has been completed.
  - Thrybergh Country Park circular path has been completed.
  - Ward budgets – a total of 60 projects have been completed to the end of September 2025, an increase of 15 since the July Financial Monitoring report.

## 2.23 Updated 2025/26 Capital Budget vs Original Budget

In order to enable effective monitoring and scrutiny of the movement in the capital budget during the year the below table shows the current 2025/26 capital budget against the original capital budget reported to Cabinet in July.

Directorate	Original Budget £m	Updated Budget £m
<b>General Fund Capital</b>		
Children and Young People's Services	14.879	12.996
Regeneration and Environment	104.493	99.279
Adult Care & Housing	13.902	11.727
Assistant Chief Executive	0.441	0.487
Finance and Customer Services	15.561	14.418
<b>Total General Fund Capital</b>	<b>149.275</b>	<b>138.907</b>
<b>Total HRA Capital</b>	<b>61.749</b>	<b>72.780</b>
<b>Total RMBC Capital Programme</b>	<b>211.024</b>	<b>211.687</b>

## 2.24 LA Better Care Fund 2025/26 - Discharge Grant Commitments

- 2.24.1 As part of the Financial Settlement 2025/26 the Discharge Grant was combined into the Local Authority Better Care Fund from 2025/26 onwards. As such the Discharge Grant of £3.4m ceased to exist from the outset of 2025/26. However, as this was confirmed by Government late in the Budget setting process for 2025/26, the Council has needed to fund some of the activity that was already underway to ensure key projects and programmes could be completed and allow time to assess what areas of activity the Council needs to continue. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy could not accommodate the continuation of £3m of activity but could accommodate a phased reduction of the Discharge Grant activity.
- 2.24.2 In January 2023, Central Government announced additional funding through a new £200m Discharge Grant for Local Authorities. The fund was intended to increase capacity in post-discharge care and support, improve discharge performance, patient safety, experience and outcomes.
- 2.24.3 The funding terms of the Discharge Grant included that funding should only be used on permitted activities that reduce flow pressure on hospitals, including in mental health inpatient settings, by enabling more people to be discharged to an appropriate setting, with adequate and timely health and social care support as required.
- 2.24.4 From 2025/26, the grant has been rolled in to the Local Authority Better Care Fund (LABCF) at the same level as the 2024/25 allocation which is £3.4m. However, in effect, the fund that was the Discharge Grant no longer exists. The £3.4m is now part of LABCF, has been used to support the wider financial

pressures in Adult Social Care as part of the £17m Budget uplift approved in the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26. The ring-fence around the grant has been removed but national conditions and use of the funding (spend and outcomes) now have to be reported through Local Authority Better Care Fund. This is discharged through the Health and Wellbeing Board, partnership agreement and s75.

- 2.24.5 Over the last two financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25, the Discharge Grant has been used to support several commitments to enable enhanced service delivery and demand pressures within Adult Social Care. The grant was also used to support wider existing activity being carried out by the Councils Adult Social Care services, in keeping with the grant conditions at the time.
- 2.24.6 Adult Social Care officers along with Finance have reviewed and recommended the areas' existing commitments that should be progressed on a short term basis in order to secure benefits already being delivered, or to continue to provide a safe service offer. It should be noted that these recommendations are based on areas posing the greatest risk to safe service delivery following the service carefully considering all commitments within the former Discharge Grant. The total requirement following this review for 2025/26 has reduced to £1,616,108. A summary of this activity is shown below:

Activity	Description	£
<b>Integrated Discharge Team (IDT)</b>	Additional front door capacity at the hospital (2x agency social workers)	£131,768
<b>Enablement Structure</b>	Funding for the Deputy Manager at Enablement Service	£50,000
<b>Continuing Healthcare (CHC) assessors</b>	CHC co-ordinators in practice hub	£100,000
<b>Mental Health Discharge</b>	Social Worker Discharge co-ordinator	£131,768
<b>S117 Reviews</b>	2 x SW to Review s117 cases	£134,500
<b>Trusted assessor for Care Homes</b>	Trusted Assessors - Band 6 over 7 days	£100,000
<b>Waiting Lists</b>	6 agency social workers to enable reduction in waiting lists to acceptable levels	£395,304
<b>Provider Services redesign</b>	Programme management capacity to oversee and co-ordinate the range of redesigns within provider services	£80,000

<b>Deputy Head of mental health services</b>	Additional management capacity to support the realignment of mental health services into the Specialist Services portfolio	£86,000
<b>Contract compliance officers</b>	Additional quality and contract management capacity to oversee the care market.	£110,000
<b>Learning Disabilities (LD) Social workers</b>	Additional capacity for the LD Team x 4FTE	£131,768
<b>Prevention</b>	Front door prevention capacity to ensure deflection x 2FTE	£100,000
<b>Vulnerable Adults Manager</b>	Delivery of a new vulnerable adults pathway as part of our preventative safeguarding practices.	£65,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,616,108</b>

- 2.24.7 The impact of these ongoing areas of activity is accommodated within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26. Further consideration is underway as to what activity may be required on a more permanent basis, with a specific report to be drafted for Cabinet in late 2025/26.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget overspend of £0.9m that the Council is forecasting, 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 the current overspend position can be mitigated before the end of the financial year but if mitigation actions cannot be identified then the Council will need to use reserves to balance the outturn position.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The Council consulted on the proposed budget for 2025/26, as part of producing the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26. Details of the consultation are set out in the Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 report approved by Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

### **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 2025/26 will be taken to Cabinet in July 2026.

### **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 2025. 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 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report

## **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 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. The Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

## **11 Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from the report. The Carbon Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

## **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:-

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	23/10/2025
Strategic Director, Financial Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	22/10/2025
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	24/10/2025

*Report Author: Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services*  
 This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

## 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.

<b>Directorate: Finance and Customer Services</b>	<b>Service area: Finance</b>
<b>Lead person: Rob Mahon</b>	<b>Contact number: 01709 254518</b>

### 1. Title: September Financial Monitoring Report 25/26

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 second financial report in the financial year, it sets out the Council's latest revenue forecast position. The report also covers off any other key items to be noted at this 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 explain the reason.**

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.

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.

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

N/A

- **Key findings**

N/A

- **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	20/10/25

#### 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 <b>all</b> screenings should also be sent to <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a> For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
<b>Date screening completed</b>	20/10/25
<b>Report title and date</b>	September 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report To Cabinet 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	17/11/2025
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	21/10/2025

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 the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
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 emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

*None – this report constitutes an update on previous activity.*

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

*There are no specific impacts on resilience identified as part of this assessment. Significant new actions will be or have been subject to their own climate impact assessments.*

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:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Nikki Kelly  
Finance Manager (Corporate Finance)  
Financial Services  
Finance and Customer Services

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.

N/A

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.

N/A

Validation

Tracking Reference: CIA543

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

Medium Term Financial Strategy Update

**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)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The report sets out an update of the Council's Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2028/29, including the standard technical updates required, recognition of financial pressures impacting the delivery of services and the ongoing impact on the Council's base costs of inflation.

The technical adjustments also include the Council's assessment of the potential impact of Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0 (FFR) which looks to make a significant change to the way Local Authority funding is distributed. The FFR 2.0 will provide a significant change in the formulas used for funding distribution as it looks to direct more funding to areas of greater need. To manage the impact on the Local Authorities that will see reduced resources as a result of the new methodology, there is a tapering of the impact over 3 years. However, the Council still estimates a positive impact that will see a £20m increase in its base funding by the end of the spending review period 2026/27 to 2028/29. It is expected that the Government's Budget on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 will provide further clarity about the impact of the FFR 2.0.

The MTFS will be revised further in advance of the Council Budget setting meeting in March 2026, to take account of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27, when issued, along with budget policy proposals on level of Council Tax, reserves, fees and charges and any budget savings or investments.

The MTFS position may change as the Council gains greater clarity on the impact of the FFR 2.0, the Government's Budget and the impact of management actions taken to ensure that the 2025/26 financial outturn is balanced by year end. The FFR 2.0 is the biggest change in the approach to Local Authority funding methods for many years and as such it presents a degree of uncertainty. The Government's Budget and outcome of the FFR 2.0 consultation will help, but none of these will actually provide a definitive outcome for the Council. The Provisional Financial Settlement is set to be released in mid to late December 2025; until then the Council will not have specific allocations.

The Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 reported that there was a balanced budget for 2026/27 and a budget gap for 2027/28 of £3.252m. Calculated through to 2028/29 would have produced, at that time, a potential budget gap of £6.856m; however due to the uncertainties in future years, the Council only reported the MTFS up to 2027/28. This base position and the financial pressures faced during 2025/26, in particular with regards to social care pressures, present a significant challenge for the Council in the MTFS period. However, the expected benefits of the FFR 2.0 and the estimated outcome of the South Yorkshire Pensions revaluation offer the Council an opportunity to address these financial challenges. After taking account of these pressures and opportunities, the Council is able to project a broadly balanced MTFS position in the short term. The Council will still face the following budget gaps for 2025/26 to 2028/29. This is before budget policy proposals on levels of Council Tax, reserves, fees and charges and any budget savings or investments.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2025/26 £'000</b>	<b>2026/27 £'000</b>	<b>2027/28 £'000</b>	<b>2028/29 £'000</b>
Opening Position – as at Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26	0	0	3,252	6,856
Revised Estimated Budget Gap	0	-695	-605	7,314

The current MTFS forecasts present small surpluses ahead of a large budget gap in 2028/29. The Council will need to utilise its positive short term position to plan for the 2028/29 challenge. As this pressure is far enough into the future, it will not necessarily require to be resolved as part of setting the 2026/27 Budget.

## **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet note the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29 update.

## **List of Appendices Included**

- Appendix 1 Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy, Council March 2025.

Financial Outturn 2024/25, Cabinet July 2025.

September Financial Monitoring Report, Cabinet November 2025.

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Medium Term Financial Strategy Update

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2025/26 through to 2027/28 was approved at Council in March 2025. Since approval of the MTFS there have been continuing financial challenges as a result of demand, complexity of care and market pressures impacting social care services, income pressures within Regeneration and Environment and the impact of the Local Government Pay Award 2025/26. Inflation remains a challenge, although it has softened over the last year. September 2025 Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.8%; this increases the Council's base costs which then presents a longer term challenge for the Council.
- 1.2 The Local Government Association (LGA) Pay Award for 2025/26 was agreed in July 2025 as a 3.2% increase on all the salary values and associated allowances for all grades. The impact of this pay offer is estimated to be £2.3m above the position built into the Council's Budget for 2025/26 and will be funded during 2025/26 through temporary savings from Treasury Management factored into Central Services. The ongoing impact will be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy as a pressure.
- 1.3 This update of the MTFS includes resource forecasts based on estimated increases to core funding streams that are inflated annually by CPI (September CPI, 3.8%). These resource assumptions will be reviewed again when the Government's Budget is released on 26<sup>th</sup> November and when the Provisional Finance Settlement 2026/27 is released in December 2025. The Government's Budget is expected to reveal the outcome of the FFR 2.0, with the Provisional Finance Settlement setting out the specific amounts of Government funding to be provided to the Council.
- 1.4 This update of the MTFS also includes the Council's latest financial assumptions, taking into account estimated income from Business Rates and Council Tax, impact of inflation on service cost and demand pressures and the Council's timeline for the delivery of agreed savings across the MTFS. This update will support and inform the detailed budget setting process for 2026/27, alongside taking into account the outcomes of the Finance Settlement and Members' policy choices and decisions on Council Tax levels. The Council's assumptions on Business Rates collection are impacted by the recent winding-up order made against Speciality Steel, the Council's single biggest rate payer at £2.8m a year.
- 1.5 The MTFS review sits alongside the September Financial Monitoring 2025/26 report to Cabinet in November 2025, that projects a financial overspend of £0.9m. The Council expects to balance this projected outturn position before the year end; however, there is a risk that the use of the Council's reserves may be required. Directorates are working on recovery plans to mitigate the financial overspend for 2025/26 as much as possible, to minimise the use of reserves.
- 1.6 Within the current forecast overspend of £0.9m for 2025/26, the Directorates have a forecast overspend of £6.2m, with a Central Services underspend of £5.3m. The Directorate pressures are offset by a planned corporate contingency for Social Care, totalling £5.4m (held within Central Services). This corporate contingency



was approved as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26. The Council's overspend position is due to the following overall issues:

- Placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services and Adult Social Care, due to demand and complexity or care requirements.
- Impact of the Local Government Pay Award 2025/26.
- Shortfall on trading income in the provision of the Education Psychology Service.
- Trading income pressures across Regeneration and Environment services, in the main Markets and Country Parks.
- Pressure across waste management linked to the implementation of route optimisation.

## **2. Key Issues**

### **MTFS Update – Planning Assumption**

2.1 The MTFS has been updated across the four years 2025/26 to 2028/29 and models the following:

- Government Grant forecasts based on the estimated impact of the FFR 2.0, as such based on high level information for 2026/27 to 2028/29.
- The Council's anticipated resources from Council Tax and Business Rates.
- The planning assumption for Council tax annual increases remains at 3%.
- Pay, Contractual, Price and Income inflation estimates including capital projects and National Living Wage. This includes maintaining the planning assumption of a 2% increase on fees and charges for 2026/27.
- Assumption that the agreed budget savings remain deliverable, within the agreed profile. Work is underway to review this position and has been tracked monthly through the Council's financial monitoring procedures.
- The ongoing costs of decisions made in previous budget rounds including financing costs of capital investment.
- Service demand and cost pressures that have been identified as requiring additional budget support as they can't be mitigated at least in the short to medium term.

2.2 The Council's collection rates for Council Tax are holding up well in spite of the cost of living difficulties for residents and businesses. In 2024/25 the Council's in-year collection rate of Council Tax remained above 96% at 96.98% and was the 3rd highest in-year rate of all 36 Metropolitan Councils. However, due to the impact of the winding up order for Speciality Steel, the business rates collection was 93.96%, and as such the Council had the lowest collection of all Metropolitan Councils. If the Council had collected all the business rates due from Speciality Steel, it would have been ranked 13<sup>th</sup> instead of 36<sup>th</sup> and would have had a collection rate of 97.33%. As a result of these two collection rate outcomes, the Council Tax assumptions have been maintained at the same level with the Business Rates position softened in the MTFS.

2.3 The estimated impact of inflation and the current reducing energy prices have been factored into the MTFS update. Whilst the ongoing legacy of the increased inflation

period continues to lead to further market price pressures for the Council's base costs and contracts, reducing energy prices is helping to mitigate this position. In addition, there are some areas of escalating cost due to service demand and complexity pressures being experienced, in particular in adult care services. These service demand pressures are being reviewed and will need to be continually reviewed as part of the ongoing MTFS and Budget work. Work has been underway throughout 2025/26 to try to better understand the financial and service impacts of in these key pressure areas, to better inform the MTFS.

- 2.4 A significant assumption the Council has made within the current MTFS update is that Government will continue to honour the inflationary uplift in a number of core resources that have historically been inflated by September CPI (inflation on business rates is set in regulation). The impact of every 1% of inflation on these core funding streams is the equivalent of £1m extra resource for the Council. As such the Council will need to continue to closely monitor announcements from Government between now and the provisional financial settlement.

### **Fair Funding Review 2.0**

- 2.5 A consultation on the Government's proposed approach to local authority funding reform through the Local Government Finance Settlement from 2026-27 was launched 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and ran through to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The outcome of the review is expected to be announced with the Government's Budget on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The consultation sought views on the approach to determining new funding allocations for local authorities and fire and rescue authorities through the Local Government Finance Settlement.
- 2.6 The consultation proposed a new methodology for the distribution of a large proportion of funding the Council receives as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement. The FFR 2.0 proposes a significant change in methodology for the distribution of Local Authority funding, known as the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA). The proposed methodology was expected to significantly shift the balance of funding back to a needs/demand basis; as such the Council was expected to significantly gain.
- 2.7 The approach represents a positive impact for the Council as the new methodology seeks to redistribute funding to areas of greatest demand and deprivation and on the ability to raise income locally through Council Tax. For example, areas that can generate the greatest level of Council Tax income and have a lower level of demand for services will receive a lower proportion of SFA grants. This will force those areas to place a greater reliance on their ability to generate Council Tax whilst reducing their volume of Government grant support. For the Council this will mean that there is still strong emphasis on the need to raise Council Tax locally as much as possible but also the Council will receive a greater proportion of Government Grants through the SFA.
- 2.8 The Government's intention through the FFR 2.0 is to provide greater certainty to Councils on their available funding over the spending review period (2026/27 to 2028/29). However, until the consultation process is completed and the outcome revealed, a key challenge for 2026/27 and the MTFS is that there remains significant uncertainty as to how Government's Financial Settlement for 2026/27 onwards will

look. Government have indicated there will be a 3 year spending period funding position; as such this will create greater certainty and be helpful for long term planning. Clearly there has been a significant change in approach towards the funding for Local Authorities and a clear acknowledgement that Local Authorities need more resources to support demand and cost pressures, which is positive for the sector.

- 2.9 As part of the new formula a host of existing demand and deprivation formula have been combined to allocate each authority a new share proportion of the overall SFA (this includes formulas around social care demand and home to school transport for example). The Council's share proportion is expected to be 0.49%. To enable this new formula to have greatest impact and to streamline local authority funding, a host of SFA grants are to be rolled into the Revenue Support Grant so that there is one single grant rather than a myriad of grants. This is largely positive; however, it is worth noting that for some of the rolled in grants the Council already gets a share greater than 0.49% (Social Care Grants 0.63%, Recovery Grant 1.46%) so there are areas where the Council will lose out.
- 2.10 To further support Councils in their planning, as well as streamlining the grant funds, greater certainty is to be provided with a confirmation of 3 year allocations covering the period 2026/27 to 2028/29. This will enable stronger medium term planning. The Council estimates that it will see an increase in its annual funding from the SFA of £20m by the end of 2028/29. This impact is a significant step in a positive direction for Rotherham in terms of national funding allocations; however, the impact is tapered in to allow Councils that will see reduced funding, to manage the impact. The changes are to be introduced on a weighted basis, 33% change in year 1 2026/27, 66% 2027/28 and 100% implementation 2028/29.

### **New Pressures & Mitigations**

- 2.11 Since the Council's Budget for 2025/26 was approved at Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025, there have been significant financial challenges that will impact the Council's position for 2025/26 and that will continue to impact the Council's MTFS beyond 2025/26.
- 2.12 Following review of the 2025/26 position the following financial challenges have been identified and will need to be considered as part of the Council's Budget and MTFS setting process for 2026/27.
- The Council's biggest Business Rates payer Speciality Steel is being wound up after entering financial difficulty during 2023/24. This presents a financial challenge to the Council through the need to write off £4.2m of Business Rates debt, spanning across Q4 2023/24 through to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025. The Council is only directly impacted by 49% of this debt, 1% impact South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services and 50% relates to central Government.

	<b>RMBC</b>	<b>SYFRS</b>	<b>Gov't</b>	<b>Total</b>
23/24	£144,142.81	£2,941.69	£147,084.50	£294,169.00
24/25	£1,383,184.86	£28,228.26	£1,411,413.13	£2,822,826.25
25/26	£546,908.48	£11,161.40	£558,069.88	£1,116,139.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,074,236.15</b>	<b>£42,331.35</b>	<b>£2,116,567.50</b>	<b>£4,233,135.00</b>

The impact of the write off will need to be factored into the Council's MTFS along with a consideration around the longer term use of the site and how that might impact the Council's Business Rates levels annually.

- Placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) resulting from market pressures driving up the cost of external placements and inflation driving up the cost of internal placements. The Council has made a significant impact in reducing the cost and volume of placements in recent years. An analysis of Looked After Children (LAC) numbers 2019/20 compared with 2025/26 shows that LAC have reduced by around 130. Had previous number of placements still been in place, at today's inflated prices, this would have cost the Council £10m more per year. However, there are elements of the CYPS savings plans that still need to be completed such as the in-house residential homes programme and improvement in volume of internal fostering provision.
- Adult Social Care pressures resulting from market inflation driving up cost of care packages along with growing complexity of care needs and an ageing demographic leading to increased demand. Growth in support for Mental Health is a key area of increased demand and cost.
- Home to School Transport pressures within Regeneration and Environment and Children and Young People's Services. The Budget 2025/26 addressed the historical budget challenge here with an investment of £4.3m, however, the September 2025 intake reflects continuing growth in demand.
- Impact of the Local Government Association (LGA) Pay Award.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is due to come to an end 2025/26. As such if the Council wishes to continue any of this activity, additional funding will be required.
- The Council also needs to make some provision to support the management of potential Equal Pay implications.

2.13 Following review of the 2025/26 position the following mitigations have been identified and will need to be considered as part of the Council's Budget and MTFS setting process for 2026/27.

- The impact of the FFR 2.0 is expected to see the Council's core funding through the Settlement Funding Assessment rise by £20m by 2028/29. The impact will be tapered in over time at roughly 33% per year from 2026/27 to 2028/29. The Council's MTFS already assumes a small increase in funding across this period ahead of the release of the FFR 2.0.
- September CPI has been confirmed at 3.8%, which is above the 2% position assumed in the Council's approved MTFS. Many major cost areas already have cost increases assumed at levels higher than 3.8% however there are some contracts that inflation is applied to in the budget at 2%, as such September's CPI will see some increased cost projections. Whilst the increase in inflation does see additional costs for the Council's MTFS, the impact on the Council's income position is greater.
- The Council is closely monitoring and participating in the consultation on the South Yorkshire Pensions revaluation process. This process will set the pension contribution rate for the next three financial years 2026/27 to

2028/29. Following robust dialogue with the Pensions Authority it is now projected that the Council's contribution rate will reduce from 17.3% to 12.1%, a saving of £6m per annum. This is to be confirmed by the Pensions Authority in March 2026.

- The Extended Producer Responsibility Grant value has been confirmed for 2026/27 and built into the MTFS in full, a £1.8m improvement.

2.14 The Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 outlined that social care cost pressures, Home to School Transport, Homelessness and the Local Government Pay Award presented the most significant risk to the Council's Budget. The legacy of the high inflation period remains with inflation at the heart of most of the cost pressures identified above, either increasing the costs of current provision or through exacerbating the impact of rising demand. For example, CYPS placements are reducing in terms of placement numbers, however, inflation and market pressures are causing the base cost of all types of placements to rise significantly.

2.15 These pressures and mitigations are set out in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Revised MTFS Position**

Budget and MTFS Update	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000
Approved MTFS Position per Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26	0	3,252	6,856
Impact of previous capital investment decisions £4m & Treasury Management Savings plan ending 27/28 £4m.			8,032
Revised inflation assumptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government Pay Award,</li> <li>• Social Care Provider inflation (trend remaining around 4%),</li> <li>• Speciality Steel write offs,</li> <li>• Low Business Rates Growth</li> <li>• Other inflationary impacts</li> </ul>	8,775	11,819	14,862
CYPS Education System Pressure	345	112	112
CYPS Placements pressures	2,000	2,000	2,000
Further Home to School Pressures	500	1,000	1,500
Further Adults Demand/Complexity Pressures above MTFS provision	TBC	TBC	TBC
Baby Pack – cost inflation	50	50	50
Local Plan work - £1.5 from reserves	TBC	TBC	TBC
UKSPF Activity Continuation	TBC	TBC	TBC
Local Council Tax Support - Top Up Scheme	TBC	TBC	TBC
Removal of Spinal Column Point (SCP) 2 per Local Government Pay Award.	740	740	740
R&E Development Team Capacity	250	250	250
Household Support Fund switch to Crisis Resilience Fund	TBC	TBC	TBC

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	-1,800	-1,800	-1,800
Fair Funding Review 2.0 (FFR) impact	-4,583	-10,613	-18,133
Pension revaluation impact	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000
Impact of September CPI at 3.8% (MTFS was 2%)	-972	-1,414	-1,156
<b>Revised Position</b>	<b>-695</b>	<b>-605</b>	<b>7,314</b>

- 2.16 Following the review of the MTFS pressures and mitigations the Council's Budget and MTFS is broadly balanced across 2025/26 to 2027/28. There is a more substantial pressure in 2028/29; however, given the level of change that can happen across this period and the uncertainty that exists within the local authority funding environment, there is no requirement to address this pressure as part of the current Budget and MTFS update. This position will need to take into account the outcomes of the Financial Settlement and Members' policy choices on budget policy proposals on levels of Council Tax, reserves, fees and charges and any budget savings or investments.

### **Delivery of Agreed Budget Savings**

- 2.17 The MTFS update assumes delivery of the remaining previously agreed budget savings. The Council's Financial Outturn report 2024/25 reported that £4.902m of prior year savings remained undelivered. In addition, the Budget and Council Tax report 2025/26 included the delivery of £2.592m of new savings, giving £7.494m to be delivered during 2025/26. Currently, £2.265m of delivery has been secured. The biggest challenges at present relate to CYPS Placements, which is forecast as a significant cost pressure again in 2025/26. It is an ongoing challenge to clearly link the positive outcomes being delivered by CYPS in terms of reduced LAC numbers to the savings targets, principally as the service has seen rising market cost pressures and a number of significantly high cost placements. In reality, the reduction in number of placements has taken place, but the rising costs of those placements remaining has outstripped the savings achieved. The table below shows the total amount of all savings to be delivered during 2025/26 and the amount that has been delivered to date.

**Table 2: Previously agreed savings**

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>2025/26 Saving to be delivered</b>	<b>Secured as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>	<b>Still to be delivered</b>
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	600	300	300
Children's and Young Peoples Services	6,163	1,610	4,553
Regeneration and Environment	731	355	376
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,494</b>	<b>2,265</b>	<b>5,229</b>

**Summary MTFS 2026/27 to 2028/29**

2.18 The MTFS in summary, taking into account the issues described in this report is summarised in Table 3 below. As can be seen it is currently projected that the Council has a broadly balanced Budget for 2026/27, 2027/28 and a significant budget gap for 2028/29 of £7.314m. The main drivers of this budget gap are as follows, though as reported above, some of these pressures are mitigated;

- Financing impact of previous Capital Investment Programmes - **£4m.**
- Local Government Pay Award 2025/26 - **£2.3.**
- End of Treasury Management temporary savings plan - **£4m** per annum.

**Table 3: Revised MTFS**

	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b><u>Resources</u></b>			
Council Tax and Business Rates	246,049	254,743	260,207
Government Grant	119,893	119,857	120,530
Fair Funding Review 2.0 Impact	4,583	10,613	18,133
Impact of September CPI 3.8%	972	1,414	1,156
Impact of increase EPR Grant	1,800	1,800	1,800
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>373,297</b>	<b>388,427</b>	<b>401,825</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Base Budget Requirement at 2025/26 pay and prices	346,995	348,240	349,735
Inflation Provision	31,380	41,352	51,391
Capital Investment Financing	7,826	10,073	14,105
Directorate Savings	-7,244	-7,244	-7,244
Use of Treasury Management Savings	-4,240	-4,000	0
Additional Service Costs and Demand	3,145	4,662	6,412
Impact of SCP2 removal	740	740	740
Impact of Pensions Revaluation	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>372,602</b>	<b>387,823</b>	<b>409,139</b>
<b>Funding Gap (Pre-Settlement)</b>	<b>-695</b>	<b>-605</b>	<b>7,314</b>

- 2.19 It is important to note that this position is before the exact amount of Government grant funding for councils is provided within the Finance Settlement. This is also a technical update of the MTFS before any Members' policy choices and decisions on levels of Council Tax.
- 2.20 Updated MTFS information will therefore form part of the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report to Council in March 2026 which will set out the full details of Budget and Council Tax proposals for 2026/27 alongside the final MTFS estimates for the medium term.
- 2.21 Given the financial position outlined for the Council, work is well underway with Strategic Directors to consider opportunities for increasing the operational effectiveness of services.

### Reserves Position

- 2.22 In considering the Council's MTFS position it is important to be aware of the Council's reserves position, as set out below in Table 4. The Council's reserves have been steadily built back up in recent years to a robust position and one that covers the Council's key financial risks. The Council's reserves are also, following positive outturn positions in recent years and robust financial management, projected to be £10m higher than they were projected to be when setting the 2023/24 Budget. This level of reserves gives the Council a more robust financial position overall and the ability to potentially manage short term pressures on a temporary basis.

**Table 4: Reserves Position**

Corporate Reserves	Projected Balance as at 31 March 2026	Projected Balance as at 31 March 2027	Projected Balance as at 31 March 2028
	£m	£m	£m
<b>General Fund Minimum Balance</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>
<b>Corporate Reserves</b>			
Budget and Financial Strategy	13.6	13.6	13.6
Business Rates	4.0	4.0	4.0
Corporate Revenue Grants Reserve	3.1	3.1	3.1
Local Council Tax Support Grant	0.6	0.6	0.6
PFI leisure	0.2	0.0	0.0
Treasury Management Savings	7.4	7.4	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>28.7</b>
<b>Total General Fund Reserves</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>53.7</b>



### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 In refreshing the MTFS the Council has made several financial assumptions as detailed within the main body of this report. Whilst various scenarios for how Government funding could be changed and the Council's costs could vary linked to in-year and potential future cost pressures, the update presented is the Council's current MTFS.
- 3.2 Given the level of uncertainty within financial markets, global factors and their impact on inflation, energy and the level of Government funding, elements of the MTFS remain complex to project. As such it is expected that when the Government releases the Provisional Financial Settlement for 2026/27, there may be changes to the availability of public sector funding.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The Council consulted on budget proposals for 2025/26 ahead of the approval of the Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 report at Council in March 2025. Consultation on the 2026/27 budget is planned to be undertaken from December 2025 to January 2026, specific dates to be confirmed as the process continues.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The information, proposals and recommendations will feed into the development of specific budget proposals for 2026/27 within the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report to Cabinet in February 2026 and Council in March 2026.

### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 The financial implications are set out in the report. The Council's MTFS position at present reflects a broadly balanced budget for 2026/27 and 2027/28 before a significant budget gap in 2028/29. It is however important to note that this position is before the exact amount of Government grant funding for councils is provided within the Finance Settlement. This is also a technical update of the MTFS before any Members' policy choices and decisions on levels of Council Tax.
- 6.2 The Council's September financial monitoring projects an overspend of £0.9m, due in the main to pressures in social care demand and complexity, income shortfalls in Regeneration and Environment and the impact of the Local Government Pay Award. The Council is working towards mitigating this remaining forecast overspend with a view to balancing the outturn for 2025/26 so that use of reserves is not required.
- 6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

### **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The implications are as set out in the report.

**10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in the report.

**11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 There are no direct implications on carbon emissions identified as a result of this report. A carbon impact assessment is available at Appendix 2.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 Risks and mitigation are described in the report

**14. Accountable Officers**

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	28/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	24/10/25
Assistant Director Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	24/10/25

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

## 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:**

Medium Term Financial Strategy

**Directorate:**

Finance and Customer Services

**Service area:**

Financial Services

**Lead person:**

Rob Mahon

**Contact number:**

01709 822064

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☒

**Service / Function**

☐

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

The report sets out a technical update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2028/29.

The information within the report will support the development of detailed budget proposals for 2026/27. No changes to the Council's approved budget and financial strategy are proposed within the report.

## Appendix 1

**3. Relevance to equality and diversity**

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

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

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

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

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

The report is a summary report of the Council's current Medium Term Financial Strategy, it makes no recommendations for action around investments, savings or anything that would change current approaches of the Council's service delivery.

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

## Appendix 1

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

#### 4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

N/A

- **Key findings**

N/A

- **Actions**

N/A

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
Rob Mahon	Assistant Director – Financial Services	20/10/25

#### 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](mailto: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.

## Appendix 1

<b>Date screening completed</b>	20/10/25
<b>Report title and date</b>	Medium Term Financial Strategy Cabinet
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	17/11/25
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	23/10/25

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 the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Decrease	Home to school transport is identified as a source of additional cost pressures in the MTFS review. Actions to mitigate these cost pressures, such as optimising home to school transport routes, may also mitigate climate change: a revenue saving from commissioned home to school transport services and the Council's own fuel use, will also have a carbon saving.			Emissions from home to school transport are to be included with the Council's scope 3 emissions monitoring for the first time, in the 2025 Climate Emergency Annual Report.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Decrease	Cost pressures from waste management are identified in the MTFS review. In the 2023/24 financial year, average contamination rates for paper and card and dry mixed recycling collections from			Recycling and contamination rates are monitored within the waste management service. Estimated greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's own waste and from household waste

		households were 15.58% and 18.66%, respectively. Charges are paid to the Council's downstream contractors for contamination exceeding 5% and 10% in each respective recycling stream. Meanwhile, 12.16% of material disposed as residual waste at the BDR Waste Treatment Facility could have been recycled at the kerbside, representing lost revenue. Measures, as approved in the Council's climate change action plan, to increase recycling and decrease contamination may help to relieve cost pressures, at the same time as they cut emissions from waste.			collections are published in the Climate Emergency Annual Report.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Unknown				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:					



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

Reviewing and updating the Council's MTFS does not in itself affect the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change, though it does support Council services' resilience indirectly, by ensuring their financial sustainability.

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

Reviewing and updating the Council's MTFS does not in itself affect the Council's carbon emissions, those of its contractors or the Borough of Rotherham. However, cost pressures detailed in the present MTFS review may affect delivery of the Council's climate change commitments. In some cases, there are financial 'co-benefits' of climate change actions: more efficient home to school transport, avoided contamination charges and increased recycling rates could mitigate some cost pressures, while helping to mitigate climate change.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Rob Mahon Assistant Director of Financial Services Financial Services Finance and Customer Services
----------------------------------	--

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	
---	--

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.	
---	--

Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 545  Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer
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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

New Applications for Business Rates Discretionary Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

**Report Author(s)**

Rachel Humphries – Operational Manager, Local Taxation, Revenues, Benefits and Payments, 01709 255159 or [rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

To consider the applications for the award of Discretionary Business Rates Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust. This is in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy

**Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet approve the applications for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report for the 2025/26 financial year.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Part A Initial Equality Screening Document  
Appendix 2 Part B Equality Analysis  
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

Discretionary Rate Relief Policy - Approved by Officer Delegated Decision on 1 July 2025.

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **New Applications for Business Rates Discretionary Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust**

### **1. Background**

1.1 Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1988 conveys power on local authorities to allow discretionary relief that would be additional to any mandatory relief that may be applicable.

1.2 The Council can grant discretionary relief to: -

- Registered Charitable Organisations, including Community Amateur Sports Clubs. The relief granted is up to 20% of the rate liability as these organisations are eligible for 80% mandatory rate relief.
- Other organisations or institutions that are not established or conducted for profit and whose aims are charitable or otherwise, philanthropic, religious, concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature or fine arts. Relief can be granted up to 100% of the business rates liability.
- Properties occupied by not-for-profit sports or social clubs, societies or other organisations for the purposes of recreation. Relief can be granted up to 100% of the business rates liability.
- Rate relief to ratepayers – Section 47 of the LGFA 1988 as amended by Section 69 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council the discretion to grant relief to any other body, organisation or ratepayer, providing there is a decision of the Council to award relief in those circumstances and it is in the interests of the Council Tax payers in its area.

1.2.1 The Council operate a system of awarding relief through the application of a Policy that was approved by Officer Delegated Decision on 1 July 2025.

1.2.2 Central Government and councils share every £1 of rates due as follows:

Central Government	50%
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	1%
Rotherham MBC	49%

### **1.3 Applications**

#### **The Rotherham Hospice Trust for the properties listed in 6.3 of this report.**

1.3.1 The Rotherham Hospice Trust is a registered Charity and is the only adult hospice serving the people of Rotherham. The Hospice offers specialist palliative care through a range of holistic services aimed at supporting patients to live life as fully as they can to the end of their life.

1.3.2 The Charity runs retail and cafe outlets throughout the Borough which are operated with the sole purpose of generating income to help fund the running costs of the Hospice. There are currently ten outlets operating which are staffed and supported by a team of volunteers which reduces overhead costs, maximising the income to go into care services.

- 1.3.3 The shops and cafes provide valuable social opportunities for the volunteers many of whom are retired, socially isolated or looking to gain confidence and work experience. The shops promote sustainability through the sale of donated goods, encouraging re-use and reducing waste. Overall, these retail premises play a vital role in supporting the Hospice's charitable aims, fostering local engagement, and delivering lasting social impact throughout the Borough.
- 1.3.4 The Charity has benefited from an award for discretionary rate relief at their main hospice premises since 1 April 2005 and is now seeking additional support for the retail and cafe outlets which operate throughout the Borough.
- 1.3.5 The applications for the award of discretionary relief are in line with the Council's qualifying criteria as set out in its Policy. The Charity provides access to facilities which are open to all sections of the community and works to reflect the diversity of local communities in service delivery, volunteering, and staffing.
- 1.3.6 The Charity is applying for discretionary relief with regards to their 2025/26 rates liability. The financial implication of awarding the relief is set out in Section 6 of the report. The applications meet the requirements of the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 To consider the applications for The Rotherham Hospice Trust which is requesting an award of discretionary rate relief for the properties shown at 6.3 of this report.

## **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 Given the discretionary nature of the relief requested, the Council can determine either to award or not award relief.
- 3.2 In helping Members make such a decision, the Council has put in place a specific Policy framework to consider individual applications. In accordance with that Policy, applications (including supporting documentation) for relief have been considered in line with the qualifying criteria and other considerations set out in that Policy.
- 3.3 In line with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy, having regard to the financial cost of the proposed relief, the charitable use of the premises and the contribution that the organisation makes to the local community, it is recommended that an award for discretionary relief be granted to The Rotherham Hospice Trust.
- 3.4 The alternative option was to decline to award relief to the applicant which has been rejected as a recommendation as the applications from The Rotherham Hospice Trust meet the Council's Policy.

#### 4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The recommendation in the report is based on the application of an existing policy. There has been no specific consultation carried out in relation to any individual organisation referred to within this report.

#### 5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The applicant will be advised by letter of the outcome of their applications for relief within 10 working days of the Cabinet decision.

#### 6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The applicant has completed a full application for each of the premises for the proposed relief in accordance with the Council's discretionary scheme criteria.
- 6.2 Paragraph 6.3 shows the value of the relief alongside the specific cost to the Council.
- 6.3 Recommended for approval:

Property Address	Amount of award 25/26
Unit C20, Alexandra Centre, Rail Mill Way, Parkgate, Rotherham, S62 6JE	£558.88
194 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1AA	£2,120.75
87 Browning Road, Rotherham, S65 2NW	£508.98
2 College Walk, Rotherham, S60 1QB	£1,422.15
Unit 5, Great Eastern Way Retail Park, Beale Way, Parkgate, Rotherham, S62 6EJ	£13,542.00
17/19 High Street, Wath Upon Dearne, Rotherham, S63 7QQ	£1,122.75
23 Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield, S25 2PN	£868.26
Unit 3, Onyx Retail Park, Harris Hawk Way, Wath Upon Dearne, Rotherham, S63 7FN	£1,646.70
56 Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8PZ	£444.11
72 Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8PZ	£444.11
<b>Total Amount of Relief</b>	<b>£22,678.69</b>
<b>Cost to RMBC</b>	<b>£11,112.56</b>

- 6.4 As indicated in paragraph 1.2.2, 49% of the cost of the relief is met by the Council with 50% falling on Central Government and 1% on South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 6.5 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

#### 7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The statutory framework for discretionary relief is set out in the body of the report.

- 7.2 The recommendation is made in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy and with consideration to the criteria.

**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 The Rotherham Hospice Trust supports patients with life limiting illness to receive the care they need when and where they want it by addressing the unique needs of each individual and their family. Sunbeams is a service run by The Rotherham Hospice Trust and is offered to children and young people aged 3-17 to provide bereavement support.

**10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 The recommendation in the report is to grant discretionary relief to The Rotherham Hospice Trust as this will positively impact the organisation ensuring continuity of service provision. This recommendation is based on the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy under which other businesses may make an application.
- 10.2 An Initial Equality Screening Document has been completed and attached as Appendix 1. A Part B Equality Analysis was completed on 21/05/2025 and is attached as Appendix 2.
- 11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**
- 11.1 It is anticipated that an award of relief would not change the organisation's current operational activities and therefore will not impact CO2 emissions.

**12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 As stated in 1.2.2, 1% of the cost of any relief granted is met by the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. In this case this cost is minimal.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 The Government has issued guidance notes to advise authorities what criteria should be used in considering applications for Discretionary Rate Relief. Authorities have been strongly advised to treat each individual case on its own merits and to not adopt a policy or rule which allows them to not consider each case without proper consideration. In cognisance of these guidance notes, the Council has formally adopted a Policy framework for considering individual discretionary business rates relief applications with the decision to award reserved for Cabinet.

**14. Accountable Officers**

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director, Financial Services



Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	23/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	22/10/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	21/10/25

*Report Author: Rachel Humphries – Operational Manager, Local Taxation, Revenues, Benefits and Payments, 01709 255159 or [rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk)*

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

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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	
<b>Title: New Applications for Business Rates Discretionary Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust</b>	
<b>Directorate: Finance and Customer Services</b>	<b>Service area: Financial Services</b>
<b>Lead person: Rob Mahon</b>	<b>Contact number: 01709 822034</b>
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <b>If other, please specify</b> <b>Cabinet Report to consider applications for the award of Business Rates Discretionary Relief.</b>	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The report presents applications for the award of Business Rates Discretionary Relief which have been considered in line with the policy agreed by Officer Delegated Decision on 1 July 2025.</p> <p>The policy criteria includes consideration of organisations who actively encourage membership from particular groups in the community which include, young people, women, persons with a disability and ethnic minorities.</p> <p>A Part B equality analysis was completed for the Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy on 21/05/2025 covering all equalities implications.</p>

## Appendix 1

The applicant has submitted equalities information in support of their applications which has not presented any additional actions.

### 3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The recommendation in the report is to award discretionary relief to The Rotherham Hospice Trust which will positively impact the organisation ensuring continuity of service and will ensure service users with protected characteristics can continue to access to these services.

- **Key findings**

The Rotherham Hospice Trust are an equal opportunities employer and actively support human rights and all equality legislation and promote diversity and inclusion throughout the Hospice. Their ethos is to respect and value people's differences, and to help everyone achieve more at work as well as in their personal lives so that they feel proud of who they are and of the part they play in our success. Upon joining, volunteers and employees are informed of the Equality and Diversity policy and that they are obligated to comply with its requirements and promote fairness in the workplace.

- **Actions**

A Part B equality analysis was completed on 21/05/2025 in relation to the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy. The individual applicant has submitted equalities information in support of their applications which has not presented any additional actions.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	See above
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	See above
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 of Finance & Customer Services.	10/10/2025

## 6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	30 September 2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	New Applications for <b>Error!</b> <b>Reference source not found.</b>
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	30 September 2025



## PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics 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. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: <b>Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy</b>	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): <b>14 April 2025</b>	
Directorate: <b>Finance and Customer Services</b>	Service area: <b>Revenues, Benefits and Payments</b>
Lead Manager: <b>Rachel Humphries</b>	Contact number: <b>01709 255119</b>
Is this a: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> If other, please specify	

**2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance**

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Rob Mahon	RMBC	Assistant Director
Adrian Blaylock	RMBC	Head of Service
Rachel Humphries	RMBC	Operational Manager

**3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance**
**Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)**

This policy sets out the Council's intentions for dealing with business rates discretionary rate relief applications (including hardship relief requests) from Charities, Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), Non-Profit Making Organisations (NPMOs), and other businesses situated within the borough of Rotherham.

Although allowing for discretion, the business rates regulations do prohibit Councils from adopting a strict policy or rule for granting discretionary relief. The Government has however provided good practice guidance to advise Councils of the criteria to use when considering applications for relief. Authorities are strongly advised to treat each case on its own merits. Councils can, however, agree on a general basis on which it will approach any application made. Rotherham's business rates discretionary relief policy considers all applications made on their individual merits.

The policy has the potential to affect all business ratepayers. They must have access to and be provided with the relevant information and the opportunity to claim any reliefs that they may be entitled to. This is to ensure that they are charged the correct amount of business rates.

**What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)**

The Council has a duty to consider all applications for discretionary rate relief from individuals and organisations. In doing so, we do encounter diverse groups but do not, currently, routinely gather information on those groups.

**Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?**

Due to the diverse range of businesses, the identification of those who support/impact customers with protected characteristics can only take place as part of the application process.

**What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?**

Data will be recorded including location, business type/sector and target customer base, e.g. whether this is a specific community/group, number and value of award.

This information will be analysed in order to ensure the policy is applied fairly and equitably and to assess its impact on businesses and communities, particularly those representing or serving communities/groups with protected characteristics.



<b>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b>	No direct engagement with customers has been undertaken in respect of this policy. The policy requires ratepayers to complete an initial application for consideration of relief. If relief is granted an annual renewal application is required for consideration of continued relief.
<b>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b>	<p>The Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy has been developed with support from colleagues in Revenues, Benefits &amp; Payments; RMBC legal services and an external legal review. The policy is subject to ongoing review by all stakeholders.</p> <p>Council Members and Officers and partners play a vital role in the application of the policy. Monthly management information is provided to the Head of Service and the Assistant Director.</p>

#### 4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

**How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?** (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The Council recognises that some businesses might have difficulty in making an application for business rates discretionary relief and those individual ratepayers who are vulnerable may need help with this process. The Council will ensure businesses are offered as much support as possible to be able to access the relevant information.

In cases of hardship, the Council will assist businesses in discussing and maintaining reasonable payment plans. In appropriate cases, the Council will consider suspending recovery action pending an application or further investigation of disputes and complaints.

The Council will also advise businesses experiencing exceptional hardship of the range of mandatory and discretionary discounts, reliefs, and reductions where appropriate.

The Council will signpost any people struggling to manage their business rates liability and finances to agencies that could help them assess their financial position [Finance and support for your business - GOV.UK](#).

**Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?**

The Council is committed to providing ratepayers with the full range of communication channels to overcome any barriers experienced with the following protected characteristics:

- **Age:** Communication methods may present barriers for older adults unfamiliar with digital technology. However, according to data provided by Statista, in 2022 there was an overall ownership in smartphones of 93%. In 2016, less than half of that 93% over the age of 55 owned a smartphone in comparison to 2022 where the figure rose to 82%. It may be presumptuous then to speculate that only the elderly population could be disadvantaged by digital communication channels. However, even if customers have not got access to a smartphone, the Council's telephony service is available daily Monday to Friday.
- **Disability:** ratepayers with disabilities may face challenges understanding or responding to communications, particularly if they have cognitive, sensory, or mobility impairments. Telephone support and online access through digital communication methods are anticipated to help overcome access barriers. It does mean that those who maybe have physical disabilities or are struggling with sight or hearing impediments can access the service via other methods that may be more accessible to their needs.
- **Gender Reassignment:** transgender individuals may face challenges if incorrect personal information (e.g., name, title) is used, leading to distress or delays.
- **Marriage and Civil Partnership:** joint liabilities/debts may create unequal burdens, particularly in cases of relationship breakdown.
- **Pregnancy and Maternity:** individuals on maternity leave or with caregiving responsibilities may affect individuals' ability to engage with application process (e.g. timing of contact).
- **Race:** language barriers may prevent individuals from understanding application processes or communications.
- **Religion or Belief:** religious observances or beliefs may affect individuals' ability to engage with application process (e.g. timing of contact).
- **Sex:** women, particularly single mothers, may face greater financial vulnerability due to caregiving responsibilities.
- **Sexual Orientation:** no specific barriers identified however, ensure inclusivity in communication to avoid assumptions.

**Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?**

The Council is committed to breaking down barriers and ensuring that the following actions provide a positive impact for communities or groups with protected characteristics.

- **Age:** ensure that multiple communication channels are offered (e.g., telephone, mail, online) to provide ease of access to information around the business rates discretionary relief policy and business rates information.
- **Disability:** offer accessible formats (e.g., large print, braille, audio). Train staff to recognise and support individuals with disabilities.
- **Gender Reassignment:** ensure that systems allow for updated personal information and that staff are trained on respectful communication practices.
- **Marriage and Civil Partnership:** address correspondence on an individual basis where appropriate, ensuring fair treatment for both parties (where a joint business rates liability).
- **Pregnancy and Maternity:** be aware and communicate clearly about application deadlines during periods of maternity leave or caregiving.
- **Race:** provide translated materials and access to interpreters as needed.
- **Religion or Belief:** accommodate religious practices when dealing with applications and relevant deadlines. Continue to provide flexible contact times
- **Sex:** Ensure equal treatment in policy application.
- **Sexual Orientation** use neutral language in all communications and ensure staff are trained on inclusive practices.

**What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?** (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

It is not envisaged that the Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy will have any negative impact on community relations.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

## **5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan**

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic – See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

<b>Title of analysis: Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy</b>
<b>Directorate and service area: Finance and Customer Services</b>
<b>Lead Manager: Rachel Humphries – Operational Manager for Local Taxation</b>
<b>Summary of findings:</b>
<p>The policy sets out the Council's intentions for dealing with business rates discretionary rate relief applications (including hardship relief requests) from Charities, Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), Non-Profit Making Organisations (NPMOs), and other businesses situated within the borough of Rotherham.</p> <p>The Council has a duty to consider all applications for discretionary rate relief from individuals and organisations. Due to the diverse and wide range of businesses, the identification of those who support/impact customers with protected characteristics can only take place as part of the application process.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
The business rates discretionary relief application will be updated to capture information as to how the ratepayer supports/impacts protected groups which will allow relevant information to be provided in future cabinet reports. On receipt of	A,D,S,GR,RE,RoB,SO,P M,CPM,C,O	06/25

new, or renewal applications, any data relating to a protected characteristic will be recorded along with the outcome of the application.		
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**\*A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

## 6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Rob Mahon	Assistant Director of Finance & Customer Services	14/10/2025

## 7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis 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 should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	21/05/2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	<b>Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy</b>
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	1st July 2025
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	30th September 2025

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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 the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
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 emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

N/A

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

No

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

N/A

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Rachel Humphries  
Operational Manager  
Local Taxation, Revenues, Benefits & Payments  
Finance and Customer Services

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.

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.

Validation

Tracking Reference: CIA 511

Arthur King  
Principal Climate Change Officer



**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

Corporate Safeguarding Protocol

**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)**

Amy Leech, Head of Human Resources (Policy & Operations)  
amy.leech@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The Corporate Safeguarding Protocol has been reviewed. The Protocol acts as a framework for the Council to ensure that safeguarding is embedded across all services and that staff, contractors, elected members and volunteers understand their responsibilities and the different forms that abuse can take.

The report outlines the main changes and updates made to the Corporate Safeguarding Protocol.

**Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet approve the updated Corporate Safeguarding Protocol.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Corporate Safeguarding Protocol  
Appendix 2 Equality Screening Part A  
Appendix 3 Equality Screening Part B

**Background Papers**

Corporate Safeguarding Protocol 2022

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Corporate Safeguarding Protocol

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Corporate Safeguarding Protocol was approved by Cabinet on 21 November 2022.
- 1.2 The report specifies that the Council has a duty to make appropriate arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults. The Council believes that every child, young person and adult, regardless of their background, age, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or religious belief should be able to live and participate in safe society without any fear, violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination or exploration.
- 1.3 The Protocol acts as a framework to ensure that safeguarding is embedded across all services and that senior leaders, employees, managers, contractors, elected members and volunteers understand the different forms that abuse can take. This includes awareness of their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and ensures that support is in place to develop and maintain this understanding in the evolution of safeguarding responsibilities, legislative alignment, and operational improvements.

### 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Corporate Safeguarding Protocol has been reviewed in line with legislation and considered at the Corporate Safeguarding Champions Meeting that is chaired by safeguarding leads for Adults and Children's Services.
- 2.2 The changes in the Protocol from November 2022 and the revised version are detailed below.

#### 2.3 Section 1 Foreword

Leadership and Governance Updates

- Chief Executive changed from Sharon Kemp (2022) to John Edwards (2025).
- Updated pictures of the Leader and Chief Executive

#### 2.4 Section 4 Legislative Context – Adults and Children's Types of Abuse and Neglect

Legislative and Policy Alignment

- Updated statutory reference from "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018" to "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023".
- New section titled "Legislative Context – Adults and Children's Types of Abuse and Neglect" added in 2025.
- Safeguarding Practice Enhancements
  - Expanded explanation of the Channel Programme and its local implementation.
  - Assessment tool updated from "Early Help Assessment" to "Family Assessment of Need".

- Confirmation of mandatory annual data protection e-learning for staff.

2.5 Section 5 Safeguarding Children and Young People  
Children's Participation

- The revised version emphasises involvement of children in care and care leavers in service development.

2.6 **Section 6 Adults Safeguarding Board (SAB)**

- The revised version now includes a detailed breakdown of SAB functions and responsibilities.

**3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agree the revisions to the Corporate Safeguarding Protocol.

3.2 The Protocol has been updated in accordance with changes in legislation and therefore there are no other options available for consideration.

**4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 The protocol has been reviewed in line with legislation and has been reviewed and considered at the Corporate Safeguarding Champions Meeting that is chaired by safeguarding leads for Adults and Children's Services.

4.2 Engagement and consultation has taken place with the Strategic Leadership Team meeting which includes the Council's Statutory Officers.

**5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 Subject to approval the revised Corporate Safeguarding Protocol will be published internally.

**6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications due to the recommendations in the report.

6.2 The procurement considerations associated with this report are included in section 8.3 of the Corporate Safeguarding Protocol.

**7. Legal Advice and Implications**

7.1 The Corporate Safeguarding Protocol is consistent with relevant legislation in particular the Care Act 2014, Children Act 1989 and 2004 and the Statutory Guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). Otherwise, there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation within this report.

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 Learning and development interventions are in place to ensure roles and responsibilities are understood in relation to safeguarding and that processes are in place to ensure matters can be raised.

**9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The Corporate Safeguarding Protocol ensures positive impacts for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults across Rotherham. The protocol provides a framework for the Council's safeguarding commitment and ensures all staff, elected members, contractors and volunteers are aware of their role and responsibilities in identifying and reporting potential safeguarding concerns.

**10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 Officers have had regard to equalities and human rights implications throughout development of the safeguarding statement. The safeguarding statement makes clear that everyone should be able to live and participate in a safe society without any fear, violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination or exploitation, irrespective of their background or protected characteristics.

**11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 There are no direct implications resulting from the recommendations in this report.

**12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 The Rotherham Together Partnership has a Safeguarding Partnership Protocol in place, which sets out how strategic partnership bodies work in a coordinated manner, working collaboratively to avoid duplication and ensure consistency. This includes Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership, Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board, Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board, Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership and the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 As referenced in the statement, safeguarding is everyone's business. The statement sets out roles and responsibilities for all Council Officers and includes key information on how to report any concerns.
- 13.2 In order to maintain a working knowledge of their roles and responsibilities, there will be review of the development interventions to support safeguarding awareness across the Council as well as regular corporate communications on the subject.

**14. Accountable Officers**

Lynsey Linton, Assistant Director, Human Resources.

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	23/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	22/10/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	22/10/25

*Report Author:* Amy Leech, Head of Human Resources (Policy and Operations)  
[amy.leech@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:amy.leech@rotherham.gov.uk)

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

**Rotherham Metropolitan Borough  
Council**

# Corporate Safeguarding Protocol

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**2025**

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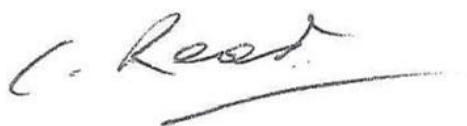
## 1 Foreword

Rotherham Council believes that every child, young person and adult, regardless of their background, age, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, ethnicity or religious belief, should be able to live and participate in a safe society without any fear, violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination or exploitation.

Safeguarding is everyone's business and everyone at the Council shares a responsibility, both corporately and individually, to ensure that every person is treated with dignity and respect and protected from others who may abuse them. All Council employees, elected members, contractors and volunteers, have a duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of the most vulnerable people in Rotherham, young or old.

Procedures and good practice are in place to ensure that every service and employee can demonstrate that they understand their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults.

The Council continues to monitor progress, make improvements, and work closely with partners to ensure that safeguarding remains everyone's business.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Read'.

Councillor Chris Read Leader of the Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Edwards'.

John Edwards Chief Executive

## 2 Background and Context

The Council, as an organisation, has a duty to make appropriate arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults.

This corporate framework reflects that there are similarities in many of the actions needed to safeguard children, young people and adults. However, the Council recognises there are also distinct differences. Further detailed information is contained in the relevant specific policies and procedures within [Adult](#) and [Children and Young People's social care and the multi-agency safeguarding children procedures](#).

This Protocol should be read alongside Council policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents including Code of Conduct, Safer Recruitment, Dignity at Work, Equality and Diversity and Whistleblowing.

### 2.1 Links to Rotherham Council Plan

The Council Plan outlines the priorities and outcomes that the Council will focus on. As well as making clear the Council's duty to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children, young people and adults, the Corporate Safeguarding Protocol helps to contribute to achieving a number of the outcomes set out in the Council Plan, including:

- People have good mental health and physical wellbeing
- Children, families, and adults feel empowered, safe, and live independently for as long as possible
- Neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe

### 3 Corporate Safeguarding Protocol

This Protocol operates as a framework for every service in the Council to carry out its statutory safeguarding duties towards children, young people and adults and defines the roles and responsibilities for all employees, managers, elected members and volunteers.

Rotherham Council will ensure that:

- Safeguarding is person-led and outcome-focused; respecting the rights, wishes, feelings and privacy of individuals.
- Safeguarding is promoted as everybody's business; ensuring all employees, managers, contractors, elected members and volunteers understand the different forms abuse can take and how to identify them, their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and that they are supported to develop and maintain this understanding.
- Clear procedures and protocols are in place to meet its duties and obligations towards the safeguarding of children, young people and adults.
- Clear overall accountability for safeguarding exists for all services.
- Assurance is provided to members of the public, service users, elected members, employees, partners and people working on behalf of the Council that there are arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children, young people and adults.
- Services are planned and delivered in a way which seeks to safeguard children, young people and adults; and employees can conduct themselves safely.
- We work with the Rotherham NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and South Yorkshire Police to ensure collective accountability for safeguarding adults and children, in line with the legislation including The Care Act 2014, and changes from the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and in statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.
- Local services work together where appropriate around the safeguarding needs of children, young people or adults, and that they are actively involved in developing and evaluating the services which are provided for them.
- Investment in preventative and early intervention services and endeavor to avoid situations where abuse or harm may occur.
- The Council and partner organisations, in relation to multi-agency working arrangements, have a shared understanding of the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults.
- Unsuitable people are prevented from working with children and adults with needs for care and support through its safer recruitment practices.

## 4 Legislative Context - Adults and Childrens Types of Abuse and Neglect

This section considers the different types of abuse and neglect. The list is taken from Care Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023). It is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to safeguarding concerns.

Defining abuse can be complex but it can involve an intentional, reckless, deliberate or dishonest act by the alleged source of harm. Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and affect one person or more.

There are four categories of abuse to children stated in Government Guidance document **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023**:

1. **Emotional** - the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development.
2. **Sexual** - forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether the child is aware what is happening or not.
3. **Neglect** - the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.
4. **Physical** - may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Safeguarding Adults has ten categories of abuse within The Care Act 2014 and set out in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance:

1. **Discriminatory** - when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies mainstream opportunities to some groups or individuals.
2. **Domestic Abuse** - incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family member regardless of gender or sexuality. Domestic abuse is not just about partners but all family relationships.
3. **Emotional/ Psychological** - acts or behaviour which impinges on the emotional health of, or which causes distress or anguish to, individuals.
4. **Financial** - unauthorised, fraudulent obtaining and improper use of funds, property or any resources of an adult at risk.
5. **Modern Slavery** - encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they

have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

6. **Neglect** - ignoring or withholding physical or medical care needs which result in a situation or environment detrimental to individual(s).
7. **Organisational** - where the culture of the organisations places the emphasis on the running of the establishment above the needs and care of the person.
8. **Physical** - the non-accidental use of physical force that results (or could result) in bodily injury, pain or impairment including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication and restraint.
9. **Self-Neglect** - this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.
10. **Sexual** - Direct or indirect involvement in sexual activity without consent.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on the Council to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the 'Prevent duty'). This statutory duty is about safeguarding and supporting children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in terrorism or supporting terrorism.

Support is provided through **The Channel Programme** which can be found at [www.rotherham.gov.uk/community-safety-crime/channel-programme/1](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/community-safety-crime/channel-programme/1)

Channel is a confidential, voluntary, multi-agency programme to safeguard people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Channel provides early intervention to protect vulnerable children and adults who might be susceptible to being radicalised which, if left unsupported, could lead to involvement in terrorist-related activity. Channel is run in every local authority in England and Wales.

The Rotherham Channel panel is made up of representatives from different safeguarding areas including children's and adults social care, family help and family support, health, mental health, housing and the police. The Panel is chaired by the Head of Service, Community Safety.

## 5 Safeguarding Children and Young People

The Children Act 2004 places a statutory obligation on Borough/District Councils to ensure they have in place, suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (either directly or via their families) who may access or use Council services.

In summary, the Act requires the Council to ensure that:

- (a) its functions are discharged with due regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and
- (b) through working with others, arrangements are put in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Statutory guidance defines a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, is in foster care or is in an adoptive placement does not change their entitlements to services or protection (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023).

### 5.1 Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Children's welfare is of the utmost importance. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified.

The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, requires that the three safeguarding partners (Local Authorities, NHS Integrated Care Boards and Chief Officers of Police), make arrangements to work in partnership together along with relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area.

This includes a shared accountability between the three key partners, and the key responsibilities are to:

- Ensure that there is a shared responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.
- Agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services.
- Act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others.
- Implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
- Achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families ensuring they receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.

The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively.
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

The Council, with its partners work together to ensure shared visibility when concerns are held below the statutory threshold level. The Family Assessment of Need is the common assessment tool that is in place to facilitate this and ensure that families only need to tell their story once.

The Council works in a way that promotes the participation of children and young people in the development and provision of services for them and achieves this through a range of activities including consulting with children and young people, seeking their feedback and including them in decision making, particularly children who are in care or have left care.

All children and young people have:

- A right to feel and be safe
- A right to have a voice and be heard
- A right to dream and have aspirations
- A right to be happy and healthy
- A right to feel loved and valued
- A right to education and achievement
- A right to have fun, have hobbies and access to social activities
- A right to a bright future of their choosing

## 6 Safeguarding Adults

Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to safeguard adults. This duty applies where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there):

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of the care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

The local authority must make whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult's case and, if so, what and by whom.

Safeguarding adults is different from safeguarding children in many ways. A main difference is that adults with mental capacity have the right to make their own decisions and should be asked for consent, where it is safe to do so and prior to anyone raising a safeguarding concern.

### Safeguarding Adults Board

The establishment of a local Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a statutory requirement under the Care Act 2014 and is an inter-agency forum for agreeing how the different services and professional groups should cooperate to safeguard adults across Rotherham. The local authority is responsible for the establishment of the local SAB.

The SAB undertakes this by assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance, making sure that arrangements work effectively to prevent abuse but where it does arise, identify such abuse or inadequate care, help vulnerable people and plan and implement joint preventative strategies.

### Key Functions of a Safeguarding Adults Board:

- Strategic Planning: SABs develop and publish a strategic plan outlining their priorities and how they will address adult safeguarding within their area.
- Annual Reporting: They publish annual reports detailing their activities, achievements, and the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs).



- Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs): SABs conduct SARs when an adult with care and support needs dies or is seriously injured as a result of abuse or neglect, to learn from such incidents and improve future practice.
- Multi-Agency Collaboration: SABs bring together representatives from various organizations, including local authorities, health services, the police, and others, to ensure a coordinated and effective approach to safeguarding.
- Raising Awareness: SABs work to raise awareness about the risks of abuse and neglect among both professionals and the public.
- Accountability: SABs hold partners accountable for implementing safeguarding strategies and ensuring that services are delivered safely and effectively.
- Promoting Person-Centred Care: SABs emphasize a person-centered approach, ensuring that adults at risk of abuse are at the heart of safeguarding arrangements.

In essence, the SAB's role is to:

- Ensure that there are effective safeguarding arrangements in place for adults with care and support needs.
- Coordinate and oversee the work of various agencies involved in safeguarding.
- Learn from incidents of abuse and neglect to improve future practice.
- Promote a culture of safety and well-being for adults at risk.

The Council is committed to maintaining an effective working relationship with the SAB to help achieve its mutual aims in respect of adult safeguarding.

## **7 Safer Rotherham Partnership**

The Safer Rotherham Partnership is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Council and other responsible authorities have a duty to work together to protect local communities and help people feel safer. They work out how to deal with crime and local issues like anti-social behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and reoffending. They assess local crime priorities annually, consulting with partners and the local community about their priorities and monitor progress in achieving them. There are five responsible authorities that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership:

- National Probation Service
- Rotherham NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- South Yorkshire Police

Voluntary Action Rotherham and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner are also represented at partnership meetings.

Each year the Safer Rotherham Partnership reviews its priorities towards its vision “*Working together to make Rotherham Safe, to keep Rotherham safe and to ensure the communities of Rotherham feel safe*”. The current priorities are:

- Protecting vulnerable children
- Protecting vulnerable adults
- Safer and stronger communities
- Protecting people from violence and organised crime

The Council is committed to supporting the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board to carry out its duties effectively and efficiently and to strengthen the partnership for the benefit of everyone in Rotherham.

## **8 Corporate Responsibilities for Safeguarding**

Rotherham Council is committed to ensuring the highest standards of safe recruitment, supervision and management of staff, particularly, but not exclusively those working directly with children, young people or adults, or those who have access to information about them.

The Council is committed to supporting all staff to understand their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding, through appropriate training, information sharing and guidance on what to do if there are concerns.

Every service within the Council has a role to play and has to take full ownership of their safeguarding responsibilities. Particular employees have specific roles in relation to safeguarding; notwithstanding this, every employee has an obligation to safeguard and take action when required to ensure children, young people and adults are helped and protected. This section clarifies the various roles across the Council, at different levels.

**The Chief Executive** has responsibility to ensure all staff are aware of their roles in safeguarding. Through the two statutory officers, the Chief Executive ensures that effective safeguarding arrangements for children, young people and adults are in place.

**The Strategic Director of Children's Services and Young People** is the key point of professional accountability with responsibility for the effective safeguarding of children and young people.

**The Strategic Director of Adult Social Services**, as chief officer and lead for adult safeguarding, has a particularly important leadership and challenge role to play in adult safeguarding. They are responsible for promoting prevention, early intervention and partnership working, which is critical in the development of effective safeguarding.

**The Principal Social Workers**, the Principal Social Worker provides a key role to champion the voice of frontline social work practitioners and managers to senior officers and political leaders as well as supporting and advising on the quality of practice on all safeguarding issue (child and adult protection).

**The Strategic Leadership Team**, encourage, embed and maintain the best safeguarding practice across all directorates and services to ensure continuous improvement and compliance with national and local policies.

**The Leader of the Council**, has overall responsibilities of the Cabinet and must ensure that elected members undertake the necessary training and that the Council is discharging its statutory responsibilities to Safeguard Children and Adults.

**Elected members** have an important part to play to ensure that the Council is discharging its statutory responsibilities and its services to safeguard vulnerable children, young people and adults. All elected members receive training which includes how to identify and report safeguarding concerns within the appropriate levels of confidentiality.

**The lead member for Children's Services** is the only role for elected members defined in legislation and is responsible for taking a strategic view in setting priorities and budgets, supporting the Director of Children's Services and championing the voice of children and young people in decision making across all Council services and partnerships.

**The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health** also has a key role to play in overseeing safeguarding activity, retaining the oversight of all commissioning activities and provision of adult social care, public health functions and the interface with NHS.

**Safeguarding Champions**, each directorate within the Council has a dedicated safeguarding champion, and their agenda is set to drive awareness and to embed adult and Children safeguarding issues into all Council staff and functions.

**Human Resources (HR)** ensure the effective implementation of safer recruitment practices and induction and that all staff employed to work with children and adults with needs for care and support are subject to the appropriate external checks including Disclosure and Barring, and prior to appointment.

**Line Managers** ensure that appropriate checks are made for all job roles that involve working with children and adults at risk, carrying out the induction process for all new employees, ensuring they fully understand safeguarding and that all staff in their area receive appropriate safeguarding information and training commensurate with the responsibilities of their role.

**All staff (including volunteers and contractors)** must ensure they are fully aware of their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, treat all safeguarding matters seriously and take responsibility for reporting disclosures, concerns, incidents or allegations as set out in safeguarding policies. This includes mandatory data protection e-learning on an annual basis.

### 8.1 Working with Partners

Good inter-agency and multi-disciplinary working is promoted and maintained both within the Council and with other organisations. The Rotherham Together Partnership has a Safeguarding Partnership Statement in place, which sets out how strategic partnership bodies work in a coordinated manner, working collaboratively to avoid duplication and ensure consistency.

The signatories of this are:

- Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board
- Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board
- Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership
- Safer Rotherham Partnership

### 8.2 Whistleblowing and Serious Misconduct Policy

The Council is committed to ensuring that it, and the people working for it, comply with the highest standards of openness, honesty and accountability.

All employees have a duty of care to draw attention to bad or poor practice in the workplace and can come forward and express their concerns without fear of victimisation, discrimination or disadvantage.

Safeguarding concerns about a child can be made by contacting 01709 336080 or MASH-Referral@rotherham.gov.uk

Safeguarding concerns about an adult can be made by contacting 01709 822330 or by completing an online form

Any person wishing to report any suspected serious wrongdoing (“a disclosure”) to the Council can do so by emailing [whistleblowing@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:whistleblowing@rotherham.gov.uk) or calling the Whistleblowing Hotline on 01709 822400 and leaving a message. Alternatively, a disclosure can be made in writing and sent by post to:

Whistleblowing  
c/o the Head of Legal Services  
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Riverside House  
Main Street  
ROTHERHAM S60 1AE

### **8.3 Commissioning and Procurement**

Safeguarding is everyone’s business and does not only apply to Council employees but also to suppliers delivering services to, or on behalf of the Council. As part of all contracts, suppliers have a duty to report anything that raises any cause for concern to the Council.

In addition to this standard duty across all contracts, for commissioning activity that involves vulnerable children, young people or adults, the Council’s Commissioning teams also build additional safeguarding criteria into specifications that is specific to the needs and requirements of the individual service.

### **8.4 Review of this Protocol**

This Protocol will be reviewed in line with any changes in legislation and the periodical reviews of Safeguarding Policy, Protocols and Guidance to ensure the Council meets requirements to safeguard children, young people and adults.

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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:** Corporate Safeguarding Protocol

**Directorate:**  
Assistant Chief Executive's

**Service area:**  
Human Resources

**Lead person:**  
Amy Leech

**Contact:**  
amy.leech@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy**
☐ **Service / Function**
☐ **Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

The Corporate Safeguarding Protocol was approved by Cabinet in November 2022 and has been reviewed in line with changes to legislation.

The Protocol acts as a framework for the Council to ensure that safeguarding is embedded across all services and that staff, contractors, elected members and volunteers understand their responsibilities and the different forms that abuse can take.

## Appendix 2

**3. Relevance to equality and diversity**

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

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

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

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

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



## Appendix 2

considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

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

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

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

The Protocol is designed to positively impact equality and diversity ensuring that every child, young person and adult, regardless of their background, age, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or religious belief should be able to line and participate in safe society without any fear, violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination or exploration.

- **Key Findings**

The Corporate Safeguarding Protocol has been reviewed in line with legislation and considered at the Corporate Safeguarding Champions Meeting that is chaired by safeguarding leads for Adults and Children's Services.

- **Actions**

The changes in the Protocol from November 2022 and the revised version are detailed below.

**Section 1 Foreword**

Leadership and Governance Updates

**Section 4 Legislative Context – Adults and Children's Types of Abuse and Neglect**

Legislative and Policy Alignment

**Section 5 Safeguarding Children and Young People**

Children's Participation

**Section 6 Adults Safeguarding Board (SAB)**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	See above
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	10/10/25
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Amy Leech, Head of HR (Policy and Operations)

## Appendix 2

**5. Governance, ownership and approval**

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Lynsey Linton	Assistant Director Human Resources	10/10/25

**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](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	
<b>Report title and date</b>	Corporate Safeguarding Protocol
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	17/10/25
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	10/10/25

## PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics 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. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
<b>Equality Analysis title:</b> Corporate Safeguarding Protocol	
<b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA):</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	
<b>Directorate:</b> Assistant Chief Executive's	<b>Service area:</b> Human Resources
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Amy Leech	<b>Contact:</b> Amy.leech@rotherham.gov.uk
<b>Is this a:</b> <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	
<b>If other, please specify</b>	

**2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance**

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Lynsey Linton	RMBC	AD HR (Policy Owner)
Joanne Rooke	RMBC	HR Business Partner
Amy Leech	RMBC	Head of HR Policy and Operations

**3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance**
**Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)**

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Corporate Safeguarding Protocol was approved by Cabinet on 21 November 2022.

The report specifies that the Council has a duty to make appropriate arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults. The Council believes that every child, young person and adult, regardless of their background, age, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or religious belief should be able to line and participate in safe society without any fear, violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination or exploration.

The Protocol acts as a framework to ensure that safeguarding is embedded across all services and that senior leaders, employees, managers, contractors, elected members and volunteers understand the different forms that abuse can take. This includes awareness of their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and ensures that support is in place to develop and maintain this understanding in the evolution of safeguarding responsibilities, legislative alignment, and operational improvements.

**What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)**

The protocol covers all vulnerable children and adults across RMBC and therefore we do not hold equality information.

**Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?**

No gaps identified.

**What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?**

Monitoring of the protocol will be via the management information and Safeguarding Audits within CYPS and Adults.

## Appendix 3

<b>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b>	N/A
<b>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b>	The protocol was added as an agenda item at the regular Safeguarding Champions Meeting. This was agreed as a positive move to ensure Safeguarding to all individuals especially those identified as vulnerable or with Protected Characteristics.

#### 4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

**How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?** (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The protocol was designed to positively impact all communities and groups that have an involvement or interaction with Rotherham Council. Paying particular mind to Protected Characteristics.

**Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?**

None identified.

**Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?**

The Protocol is aligned with the changes to legislation and was approved by Cabinet in 2022. It was designed to positively impact the lives of communities and groups to ensure a safer environment free of unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment.

**What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?** (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

By employee's working with the protocol at the heart of what they do it should give confidence to the communities that all members are being treated equally and equitably.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

### **5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan**

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

<b>Title of analysis:</b> Corporate Safeguarding Protocol
<b>Directorate and service area:</b> Assistant Chief Executive's
<b>Lead Manager:</b> Lynsey Linton – AD HR
<b>Summary of findings:</b>
The only revisions relate to legislative change to ensure that it continues to provide a positive impact on those with protected characteristics.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Review of the Protocol in 3 years unless subject to earlier changes in legislation.	All	11/28

**\*A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

<b>6. Governance, ownership and approval</b>
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Lynsey Linton	AD HR	10/10/25
Other routes ongoing.		

## 7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis 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 should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	10/10/25
<b>Report title and date</b>	Corporate Safeguarding Protocol
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	In accordance with November Cabinet Timescales
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	10/10/25

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

General Enforcement Policy

**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 of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

Craig Cornwall, Community Protection and Environmental Health Manager  
01709 823118 or [craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk)

Lewis Coates, Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement, 01709 823118 or  
[lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The Council has had an adopted General Enforcement Policy in place in a range of formats for a number of years. The Policy is required to be reviewed at regular intervals with the last one being in May 2023.

The Council is required by statutory guidance to have in place mechanisms to engage those they regulate, residents, businesses, and others to offer views and contribute to the development of their policies. A review of the Council's General Enforcement Policy is an opportunity to ensure that stakeholders are engaged and consulted in relation to policy development and to identify if there should be any amendments to the Policy.

**Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve a period of consultation with stakeholders to be undertaken in respect of the General Enforcement Policy to inform a review.

2. Note that a refreshed Policy will then be presented to Cabinet in May 2026 following the consultation.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 General Enforcement Policy May 2023  
Appendix 2 Consultation Plan  
Appendix 3 Equalities Screening Assessment  
Appendix 4 Carbon and Climate Change Assessment

**Background Papers**

- General Enforcement Policy, May 2023
- Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006
- Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007
- Department for Business Innovation and Skills: Better Regulation Delivery Office, Regulators' Code (April 2014)
- August 2023 Cabinet minutes, Item 40 – General Enforcement Policy

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## General Enforcement Policy

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is required by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 to have regard to the Regulators' Code when developing policies and operational procedures that guide its regulatory activities. This applies to the Council's General Enforcement Policy and any revisions it wishes to make to that Policy.
- 1.2 The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Better Regulation Delivery Office's, Regulators' Code of April 2014 is a statutory guidance document that councils must have regard to when developing policies and operational procedures that guide some of its regulatory activities. This applies to the Council's current General Enforcement Policy in relation to its regulatory and enforcement functions.
- 1.3 The General Enforcement Policy is underpinned by the statutory principles of good regulation but also ensures the priority of protecting the public.
- 1.4 The General Enforcement Policy sets out Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's approach to regulatory compliance and enforcement, aiming to protect the public, support businesses, and safeguard the environment. The policy emphasises transparency, consistency, proportionality, and accountability in all enforcement actions, ensuring that resources are targeted at the highest risks and that advice and support are prioritised to encourage compliance. It outlines the conduct of investigations, decision-making processes for enforcement actions, and the importance of fairness, confidentiality, and feedback. The Policy also details the range of enforcement actions available, from advice and voluntary undertakings to prosecution and licence revocation, and highlights the Council's commitment to working with partners, adhering to relevant legislation and codes of practice, and regularly reviewing its approach to ensure effectiveness and public trust. The Policy sets out the principles of transparency, consistency and proportionality to which the Council will adhere to in its discharge of enforcement and regulatory functions.
- 1.5 The current General Enforcement Policy was reviewed during 2023 in accordance with the Regulators' Code. The updated General Enforcement Policy was approved and adopted at the Cabinet meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 (item 40).
- 1.6 The Council's General Enforcement Policy, attached as Appendix 1, details the way in which the Council will exercise its regulatory obligations in a way that is:
  - Proportionate
  - Accountable
  - Consistent
  - Transparent
  - Targeted

Consultees will be asked to identify if there need to be any amendments in relation to legislative changes or any proposed changes in approach to regulation and enforcement.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 The key issues are set out in Section 1 of the report.

## **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 The Council is obliged by statute to have a General Enforcement Policy in place and is required to regularly review such Policies and therefore no alternative options have been considered.
- 3.2 The recommendation is to approve the intention to consult with stakeholders, and to provide a refreshed Policy to Cabinet, taking account of any actionable views, in May 2026.

## **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 A consultation plan is provided in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 The findings from the consultation on the existing Policy, together with a refreshed Policy, will be brought back to Cabinet for consideration.

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 Should consultation be approved by Cabinet in November 2025, then consultation will take place between 1 December 2025 and 27 February 2026.
- 5.2 Consultation will include Council colleagues, Elected Members, partners, stakeholders and the public.
- 5.3 A draft reviewed Policy, following the completion of the consultation, together with analysis of the consultation, will be presented to Cabinet in May 2026 to consider adoption.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 All costs associated with this consultation process and the subsequent implementation of and monitoring associated with the General Enforcement Policy will be contained within the approved revenue budgets for the Regulation and Enforcement Service.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.

## 7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Council is required by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 to have regard to the principles set out within section 21(2) of the Act and also the Regulators' Code when developing policies and operational procedures that guide its regulatory activities. This applies to the Council's General Enforcement Policy and any revisions its wishes to make to that Policy.
- 7.2 The Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007 details the regulatory and enforcement functions of the Council that are subject to the Regulators' Code and consequently the General Enforcement Policy. This covers a significant number of functions including for example Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Highways, Housing, Licensing, Parking and Transport; however, it should be noted that the provisions do not extend to Planning and Social Services.
- 7.3 Both the Act and the Regulators' Code details standards of function delivery that must be adhered to, establishing the following as legal obligations for the delivery of the Council's regulatory and enforcement functions subject to the Regulators' Code:
- Proportionate
  - Accountable
  - Consistent
  - Transparent
  - Targeted
- 7.4 The Government will monitor those subject to the Regulators' Code and their published policies and standards, and will challenge regulators where there is evidence that policies and standards are not in line with the Code or are not followed.
- 7.5 Adopting the recommended option will ensure that the Council is compliant with statutory requirements and allow for policy development where required. This will also minimise the risk of any legal challenge in respect of the policy itself, and any enforcement decisions made in accordance with the policy. A decision not to formally review the policy could leave the Council open to potential legal challenge in respect of enforcement decisions, judicial review and challenge from the Better Regulation Delivery Office (part of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills).
- 7.6 There are well known consultation criteria, based upon case law, for a consultation to be deemed lawful:
- (i) the consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
  - (ii) adequate and clear information must be given to allow for proper consideration and response;
  - (iii) adequate time must be given for consideration of the proposals and for consultees to prepare a response; and

- (iv) the results of the consultation must be conscientiously considered before making a final decision.

7.7 There is no statutory consultation period however any consultation should be carried out over a sufficient period of time. The proposal of an initial consultation internally with relevant Services and then 6 weeks for public consultation would be sufficient and is in line with Government guidance.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

8.2 Council teams/staff who are subject to the General Enforcement Policy will be encouraged to engage with this consultation.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 The existing Policy was subject to a full analysis following previous reviews and amendments. Any changes to the Policy following the consultation will also be subject to a full equality analysis if required.

10.2 A screening assessment has been carried out in Appendix 3.

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 An assessment has been carried out in Appendix 4. There are implications in relation to vehicle use emissions to conduct regulatory and enforcement visits however the impact is assessed as minimal.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1. Internal partners will be consulted in phase one of the process. No external partners are impacted, as agencies such as the Police will have their own Policies to comply with.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 Failure to have due regard to the provisions of the Regulators' Code, presents a risk of decisions or actions being successfully challenged, and evidence gathered during a criminal investigation being ruled inadmissible by the Court.

13.2 Failures to comply with the Regulators' Code can result in reputational damage to the Council through not complying with its legal obligations.

**14. Accountable Officers**

Sam Barstow, Assistant Director

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	28/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/10/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	21/10/25

*Report Author:*      *Craig Cornwall, Community Protection & Environmental Health Manager*  
                                  01709 823118 or [craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk)

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

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## **Appendix 1 - General Enforcement Policy**

### **Contents:**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Purpose of this Policy**
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. This document is the General Enforcement Policy for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. The document shows transparency, consistency and proportionality. It explains the main ideas officers follow to make sure everyone complies with the Council legislation. The policy conforms to the Regulators' Code (Better Regulation Delivery Office [BRDO]) April 2014. There are other, specific rules for different services such as those listed in Appendix C, but this explains the main ideas.
2. Our primary purpose is to ensure regulatory compliance and enforcement which protects the public. The Council will deliver well organised and consistent work focused by risk assessment. The Council will make sure everyone follows the rules. We will focus on the most important things to keep everyone safe. This will provide a positive approach to those regulated and achieve compliance.
3. The Council's Corporate Priorities are to provide protection from harm for individuals and the environment. This enables businesses to flourish without unnecessary burden of inspection and regulation. This improves the health and wellbeing of those living, working and visiting the Borough.
4. The Council will carry out good enforcement practice. We ensure that we adherence to the current legislation, guidance, and codes of practice, that influence this policy (see Appendix A).
5. The Council will maintain good standards and conditions that impact on the environments of all who live, work and visit Rotherham.
6. The Council is committed to good enforcement practice and adherence to the current legislation (see [Appendix A](#)).
7. The Council will exercise our regulatory activities in a way which is
  - Proportionate – our activities will reflect the level of risk to the public,
  - Accountable – our activities will be open to public scrutiny.
  - Consistent – our advice to those regulated will be robust, reliable and similarly advice provided by others will be respected.
  - Transparent – those regulated will be advised appropriately so they can understand what is expected of them and what they can expect in return.
  - Targeted – resources will be focused on higher risk enterprises and activities, reflecting local need and national priorities.
8. The Council will avoid imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens, and policies. Procedures and practices will consider supporting or enabling economic growth by considering economic impacts. We will also consider costs of compliance with a view to improving confidence in compliance of those regulated and encouraging compliance.
9. The Council will ensure that regulatory officers have the knowledge and skills to:
  - Understand the principles of protecting the public
  - Support those that they regulate
  - Understand those they regulate

- Understand the statutory principles of good regulation and how activities are delivered under the Code.
10. The Policy will be published on the internet. Relevant service standards and function specific Enforcement Policies drawn up by each individual service area, will be available in electronic or paper format upon request.

## 2. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

1. This policy will ensure public protection, legal compliance and set the framework which officers of the Council will operate.
2. All officers will have regard to this document when making enforcement decisions. Any departure from this policy must be exceptional, capable of justification and be considered by the Director of service before a final decision is made.
3. This provision will not apply where a risk of injury or to health is likely to occur due to a delay in any decision being made. The Chief Executive may suspend any part of this policy, in cases of emergency. This would achieve effective running of the service and/or where there is a risk of injury or to health of employees or any members of the public. The Regulators' Code requires regulators to have procedures in place to ensure that their officers follow their published service standards.

## 3. APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

1. The Enforcement Policy relates to those enforcement and regulatory functions discharged by the Council's Regeneration and Environment Directorates' Community Safety and Streetscene Department
2. The Policy does not cover the enforcement functions delivered by Planning and Building Control Services. This is because their regulatory statutory powers are not scheduled within Part 3 of the 2007 order. The extant list of regulations covered by the Regulators' Code. This can be found within the schedule to the Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007.
3. By using effective procedures and clear policies, it standardises regulation and enforcement.
4. Regulation and enforcement's primary function is to achieve regulatory compliance. This is to protect the public, legitimate business, the environment and groups such as consumers and workers. The Council prioritises achieving compliance through education and support. The Council reserves the right to take enforcement action even after initial compliance is achieved.
5. Officers will refer the matter to the relevant agency for offences or potential offences if they are outside of the legislative remit of this General Enforcement Policy. They will ensure that the issues are thoroughly investigated and feedback is provided to the complainant.

## 4. OUR APPROACH TO DEALING WITH NON-COMPLIANCE

The Council recognise that most businesses and individuals strive to follow the law, however, firm action will be taken against those who flout the law or act irresponsibly. Particular focus will be given to circumstances where the public's safety is compromised. Those that deliberately or persistently fail to comply will be dealt with by the Council.

Those regulated by the Council are able to request advice on non-compliance without directly triggering enforcement action. where they show a willingness to resolve the non-compliance, unless the matter is so serious that enforcement action is deemed necessary. This is in accordance with Section 5.4 of the Regulators' Code.

The Council will review all notifications/complaints of non-compliance and will investigate if necessary. Necessity to investigate and the promptness of the response will be dependent on the resources available as well as identification of risk.

Where appropriate The Council will carry out check visits or re-visit to assess compliance where prior advice or guidance has been given, before considering further action.

Council officers and decision makers will carry out all our enforcement duties, including taking formal enforcement action, in a fair, and consistent manner. Whilst officers exercise judgement in individual cases, the Council will have arrangements in place to promote consistency including liaison with other agencies and authorities.

### ADVICE & GUIDANCE

1. The Council recognises that prevention is better than a cure. We will actively work with business and residents to provide advice on and help with compliance with the law. In doing this it will be ensured that:
  - Any information provided will be in clear, concise and accessible language. It will be confirmed in writing where necessary.
  - Legal requirements and good practice/guidance aimed at improvements above minimum standards will be clearly distinguished
  - Provide advice to support compliance that can be relied upon
  - Work collaboratively with other regulators where those regulated by more than one regulator are affected, and where there is disagreement over advice given, regulators will reach agreement.

The Council's Scheme of Delegation, can be provided in electronic or paper format upon request. This includes details of who handles managing investigations.

## FEEDBACK & INFLUENCING

1. The Council will ensure that mechanisms are in place to allow those regulated, and the public, to express views, provide feedback. They can also contribute to the development of regulatory policies and service standards.
2. The Council will consider the impact on business, before changing policies and service standards.

## FAIRNESS

1. Officers will be courteous, fair and efficient at all times, and will identify themselves by name.
2. The Council will give consideration to fairness, individual's human rights and natural justice. This is in all aspects of our enforcement work.
3. The Council believes in openness and equality in the way services are provided. Every individual is entitled to dignity and respect.
4. The council will aim to ensure that there will be no discrimination against any individual when making enforcement decisions. This is regardless of culture, ethnic or national origins, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, political or religious beliefs, socio-economic status,. This includes previous criminal convictions or caution which is not relevant to the current issue.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

1. It is normal practice to maintain the confidentiality of a complainant. Unless they agree to act as a witness in formal action taken by the Council, or the Council are required by law to disclose the identity of a complainant. Anonymous complaints will be acted upon and investigated appropriately.
2. Where any officer or member of the Council becomes aware of any concern in enforcement practice or compliance requirements. In the first instance, it should be escalated to their line manager. If this approach is not seen to be appropriate the issue should be raised with another manager. Legal notices will clearly set out the means by which the notice can be appealed, including timescales and relevant bodies to which the appeal can be lodged.
3. If complaints of treatment or officer conduct cannot be informally resolved between stakeholders, officers and line managers, the customer will be directed to the Council's formal complaints process.
4. The Council does operate a "whistleblowing policy"; the "Confidential Reporting Code". This ensures serious concerns can proceed confidentially.

## CHARGING FOR ENFORCEMENT

1. The Council will recover costs for taking enforcement action against the responsible persons, where legislation allows. These costs will be associated with administrative costs associated with preparation and serving of any notice.



2. The responsible person will be advised of the potential of being charged for formal enforcement notices before any charge is incurred, unless the situation is an emergency. In emergency situations officers will make reasonable efforts to contact the responsible person. If the responsible person cannot be contacted or cannot respond quickly enough, formal action will be initiated and a charge made.

## NECESSARY AND PROPORTIONATE

1. The Council will choose proportionate approaches based on relevant factors.
2. In assessing what enforcement action is necessary and proportionate, consideration will be given to, amongst other things:
  1. Public protection and "risk to the public"
  2. The seriousness of the compliance failure.
  3. The past and current performance of any business and/or individual concerned.
  4. Any obstruction on the part of the offender.
  5. The risks being controlled.
  6. Statutory guidance.
  7. Codes of Practice.
  8. Any legal advice.
  9. Policies and priorities of Government and the Council.
  10. A person's circumstances
  11. The existence of a Primary Authority agreement

## COUNCIL INTERESTS

1. The Council will enforce under legislation, procedures, and guidance, where the council has enforcement and regulatory responsibility in relation to its own premises. This will be consistent across all premises regardless of ownership. If any council employees are investigated, the investigation will be conducted in accordance with procedures developed to ensure that conflict of interest is minimised. The investigation will be conducted in an open, honest and accountable manner. All individuals and business will be dealt with consistently, regardless of whether they have an interest in the Council

## PUBLICITY OF ENFORCEMENT

1. Where the Council;
  - is successful in prosecution and a conviction of an individual or business, or
  - has made an enforcement decision relating to licensed premises, vehicles, drivers and/or operators

it may, upon legal advice, publish details of the offence, perpetrators and convictions in both electronic and paper publications. This would be done to have a deterrent effect and to make the public aware that the Council is taking effective enforcement action where it is necessary.

## PRIMARY AUTHORITY & OTHER AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

1. Where a Primary Authority exists, the Council will consult on responses to breaches.
2. The council will liaise with the relevant agency if the Council is aware of likely non-compliance where the enforcement powers are shared or with another agency.
3. The Council has an Information Sharing Protocol in place through the Safer Rotherham Partnership. This allows the sharing of information with partners where allowed and appropriate.

## 5. CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATIONS

1. All investigations will be carried out under the following legislation. They will be in accordance with any associated guidance or codes of practice, in so far as they relate to the Council:
  - the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
  - the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996
  - the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
  - the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
  - Criminal Justice Act 2003
  - the Human Rights Act 1998
2. These Acts and associated guidance control how evidence is collected. It is used to give a range of protections to citizens and potential defendants. Our authorised officers will also comply with the requirements of the particular legislation under which they are acting, and with any associated guidance or codes of practice.
3. The powers used by authorised officers are determined and restricted to those set out in the appropriate statute and/or Council's Delegation of Powers scheme. This is available in electronic or paper format upon request.
4. Where any officer conducting regulatory or enforcement functions is obstructed in the course of their investigations, and legislation allows, formal action will be considered for obstruction offences.
5. Where legislation allows the seizure of equipment, articles, or items, the Council will adhere to legislation, guidance and specific policies in relation to those seizures.
6. Where necessary, the Council and its officers may request South Yorkshire Police exercise their powers of arrest in order to progress an investigation and/or apprehend an offender.
7. Where it is believed that an offence has been committed, the Council will endeavour to interview where appropriate alleged perpetrators in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and related guidance.
8. Legislation utilised by regulatory and enforcement officers, is often subject to statutory time limits for investigations from the point of discovery or commission of the offence. In all circumstances the Council will abide by these limitations when conducting investigations and when considering any subsequent enforcement actions.
9. Levels of authorisation are detailed within the Council's Scheme of Delegation, which is available upon request. Within the Scheme of Delegation there is provision for levels of authorisations for certain enforcement actions

such as prohibitions, seizures and works in default, which will require case review prior to authorisation.

10. Before information is laid at Court or at function level boards such as Licensing Board, the case file, casework and all relevant evidence are subject to case review through the line management arrangements prior to authorisation at section head level. These arrangements are laid out in function specific procedures.
11. Alleged offenders and witnesses will be informed of the progress of investigations.

## 6. DECISIONS ON ENFORCEMENT ACTION

These factors are not listed in order of significance. The rating of the various factors will vary with each situation under consideration.

1. There are a range of actions that are available to the Council which are set out in legislation.
2. For the purposes of this policy, formal enforcement action, includes (see Appendix C):
  - Compliance Advice, Guidance and Support;
  - Voluntary Undertakings;
  - Statutory (Legal) Notices;
  - Financial penalties;
  - Injunctive Actions / Enforcement Orders etc;
  - Simple Caution;
  - Prosecution; and
  - Refusal / Suspension / Revocation of Licences
3. Alleged offenders and witnesses will be informed of the progress of investigations.

### HOW DECISION ARE MADE ON ENFORCEMENT ACTION

1. Where formal enforcement action is necessary, the most appropriate course of action (from the range of sanctions and penalties available) will be considered with the intention of:
  - protecting public safety
  - protecting the environment and animal etc welfare
  - changing the behaviour of the offender
  - eliminating any financial gain or benefit from non-compliance
  - being responsive and considering what is appropriate for the particular offender and issue involved, including punishment and the public stigma that may be associated with a criminal conviction
  - being proportionate to the nature of the offence and harm caused
  - restoring the harm caused by non-compliance
  - deterring future non-compliance.
2. Where the responsible person has failed to respond once a breach of legislation has been brought to their attention or the breach is so severe as to present an imminent risk, it is very likely that formal action will be initiated.
3. Before instigating legal proceedings service will consider many factors, including:



- The seriousness of the alleged offence
  - The history of the party concerned
  - The willingness of the business or the individual to prevent a recurrence of the problem and to co-operate with officers
  - Whether it is in the public interest to prosecute
  - Whether there is a realistic prospect of conviction
  - Whether any other action (including other means of formal enforcement action) would be more appropriate or effective
  - The views of any complainant and other persons with an interest in prosecution.
4. These factors are NOT listed in order of significance. The rating of the various factors will vary with each situation under consideration.
  5. Where appropriate there will be cooperation and coordination with any relevant regulatory body and/or enforcement agency to maximise the effectiveness of any enforcement.
  6. Where an enforcement matter affects a wide geographical area beyond the Borough boundaries, or involves enforcement by one or more other local authorities or organisations; where appropriate all relevant authorities and organisations will be informed of the matter as soon as possible and all enforcement activity coordinated with them.
  7. Where the law allows regulation and enforcement will share intelligence relating to wider regulatory matters with other regulatory bodies and enforcement agencies, including::
    - Government Agencies.
    - Police Forces.
    - Fire Authorities.
    - Statutory undertakers.
    - Other Local Authorities.
  8. When a decision to take enforcement action against you and:
    - you are a business operating in more than one Local Authority area and you have chosen to have a registered Primary Authority Partnership under The Regulator Enforcement Sanctions Act 2008 (The RES Act); and
    - the enforcement action proposed is covered by the definition of enforcement action for the purposes of Part 2 of the RES Act

the Council will comply with the agreement provisions for enforcement and notify your Primary Authority of the proposed action. Your Primary Authority has the right to object to the Council's proposed action in which circumstances either they or the Council may refer the matter to BRDO.

9. Investigation Officers are required to escalate to their line manager all (suspected or actual) serious or complex incidents of non-compliance. This includes, and not exclusively, all non-compliance directly impacting on the safety of young and vulnerable persons.

## 7. ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES (SERVICE STANDARDS)

Services will be delivered in accordance with the requirements of the Regulators' Code.

1. Whether a business, employee or a member of the public, the Council are committed to providing an efficient, courteous and helpful service. This section explains what standards can be expected of regulatory and enforcement services in Rotherham.
2. The enforcement services are delivered in a number of service areas:
  - Environmental Protection
  - Public Health
  - Food, Health and Safety
  - Animal Health
  - Waste Management
  - Trading Standards
  - Licensing
  - Parking
  - Dog Control
  - Environmental Crime
  - Safety at Sports Grounds
  - Private Sector Housing
  - Highways
  - Green Spaces
  - Street Cleansing.

### HOW SERVICES ARE DELIVERED

1. Each service will have robust Service Standards which underpin expectations of level of service to relevant stakeholders including the public.
2. Services will be delivered in accordance with the requirements of the Regulators' Code.
3. In all dealings with the Council enforcers and regulators it can be expected to receive an efficient and professional service. Our officers will:
  - Be courteous and polite
  - Always identify themselves by name, and provide contact details (the exception to this are Civil Enforcement Officers undertaking parking enforcement, who under provisions in the Traffic Management Act Guidance for Local Authorities, should only be identified by their individual officer number).
  - Seek to gain an understanding of how a business operates
  - Provide details of how to discuss any concerns there may be
  - Agree timescales, expectations and preferred methods of communication
  - Ensure that information and progress on any outstanding issues is provided.

## HELPING BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS GET IT RIGHT

1. The Council wants to work with businesses and individuals to be compliant and successful. It is important that everyone feels able to contact for advice when it is needed. It does not follow that enforcement action will follow just because something is told to the Council.
2. Information and guidance to help make sure legal requirements are met are available on request either electronically or by paper copy.
3. When Council officers visit premises they will:
  - Explain the reason and purpose of the visit
  - Carry their identification card at all times, and present it on request when visiting; if they do not – ask to see it.
  - Exercise discretion in front of neighbours, and business customers & staff
  - Have regard to the business' or person's approach to compliance, and use this information to inform future interactions
  - Provide information, guidance and advice , if required, to support statutory obligations are met
  - Maintain a written record of the visit.
4. The Council will allocate resources to where they will be most effective by assessing the priority risks:
  - Risk will be considered at every stage when making a decision, including the most appropriate intervention, the way of working, checks on compliance, and when taking enforcement action.
  - Assessment of risk will recognise previous compliance history and all available relevant data including relevant external verification.
  - Where risk assessment frameworks are designed or reviewed consultation will be carried out with those affected. This approach will cover a range of regulatory activity.
  - The effectiveness of regulatory activities and outcomes will be reviewed regularly and adjusted accordingly.

## COVERT SURVEILLANCE, INCLUDING THE USE OF SURVEILLANCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1. The Council use of surveillance powers are covered by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). The Council will only do this when it is necessary and proportionate to do so to prevent and detect serious crime. It is in accordance with the Council's RIPA Policy. This is authorised by the Court.
2. Investigating officers will seek legal advice where necessary and always act in accordance with the Council's RIPA Policy and appropriate guidance issued by the Home Office and Regulator. If investigators believe they need to look at someone's social media accounts closely for a case, they must get special approval first. This is in accordance with written departmental procedures. Such authorisation will ensure as far as possible that authorised officers act lawfully and in a fair and transparent manner.

## REQUESTS FOR OUR SERVICES

1. The services that the Council offer, including details of any fees and charges that apply, are available on request either electronically or in paper copy.
2. In responding to service requests, including requests for advice and complaints about breaches of the law, there will be:
  - Response to the request within a maximum of 10 working days (this varies within services and compliance activity)
  - Advise when a substantive response can be expected
  - Seek to fully understand the nature of the request
  - Explain what may or may not be possible, so that its clear what the customer can expect
  - Keep the person or business informed of progress throughout the Council's involvement
  - Keep the person or business informed of the outcome as appropriate
3. A detailed breakdown of both the response and expected resolution time is available on request either electronically or in paper copy. Please be aware that judgment will be made by officers to determine whether a more prompt response is required.
4. Notice that officers intend to visit will be provided. This is unless there is a specific reason to believe that an unannounced visit is more appropriate.
5. The Council's website provides information about all Council services. It can be found at [www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk) You can also contact us by contacting the Enforcement team, or by post or in person.

## OPENING TIMES

1. Most services are available Monday to Friday 8.30 to 5.00pm. More information will be available within service specific policies and standards. Officers will also work at times outside the above core hours to aid compliance and enforcement of standard. This includes the Community Protection and Environmental Health service, which operates a night a week out of hours service.
2. Officers will seek to work with any person or business in the most appropriate way to meet the individual need. Information is available in different formats, and officers have access to translation and interpretation services.
3. If you contact the Council your name and contact details will be taken to enable us to keep in touch as the matter progresses. All contacts with the service will be treated in confidence unless there has been permission to share details with others as part of the matter being dealt with or there is an operational or legal reason to do so. Anonymous complaints will be acted upon and investigated.
4. Personal data will be managed in accordance with the Council's Data Protection Policy. This is available on request either electronically or in paper copy.

## OUR TEAMS

1. There is a dedicated team of officers who have the appropriate qualifications, skills and experience to deliver the services provided. Arrangements are in place to ensure the ongoing professional competency of all officers.
2. Where specialist knowledge is required in an area outside of the Council's expertise, arrangements can be made. This may be with both neighbouring authorities and other regulatory organisations. They may be needed to call on additional resources if necessary.

## WORKING WITH OTHERS

1. The Council's aim is for all Council services work together so a streamlined service is provided.
2. Council officers are familiar with the work of our partners and can signpost you to the advice and guidance you need. The Council is a member of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, Health and Safety Executive. If you have any comments or concerns regarding the way in which the local regulatory system is operating, you can contact the partnership by contact the Council as above.
3. Our services work in conjunction with various partners at a local and national level. This in order to ensure consistency, effective and lawful information sharing and to keep on top of regulatory and legislative updates.

## INFORMATION SHARING

1. The Council has information sharing protocols with various partners including the Police. This is to detect and deter crime and anti-social behaviour. The Council is committed to the objectives of this partnership. They will balance data protection considerations in line with the information sharing protocol.

## 8. REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

1. The council will consider any potential impacts on businesses before the Council changes any policies that affect regulatory and enforcement functions. Where there is a perceived significant change of impact then business will be consulted in relation to the changes of policy. Before changing policies or service standards, the impact on businesses will be considered. We will engage with business representatives. This is as per Section 2.1 of the Regulators' Code.
2. Policies will be reviewed if feedback indicates that improvements may be necessary, or where legislative changes require consideration of policy change. This includes those policies which are statutorily required.

## 9. COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

1. Feedback helps ensure our services meets the needs of the Council's customers so that there can be learning to bring improvements. All views are welcomed whether they be good or whether they suggest improvement is



needed. Customer satisfaction surveys, from time to time, are used but feedback can be made at any time.

2. The Council will provide a clearly explained complaints procedure. This will allow those that are regulated to easily make complaints about the conduct of the regulator. All complaints about the services offered by the Council will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's formal complaints procedure. An information leaflet is available at all Council offices. This is available in electronic or paper format upon request in accordance with section 2.3 of the Regulators' Code.
3. There is a willingness to discuss with you the reasons why there has been a particular course of action or why you may have been asked you to act in a particular way. You can contact the named officer that is dealing with your case, or ask to speak to the officer's line manager.

## APPENDIX A: LEGISLATION, GUIDANCE, AND CODES

1. Principles of Good Regulation. The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, Part 2, requires the Council to have regard to the Principles of Good Regulation when exercising a specified regulatory function. This is specified by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007. For local authorities, the specified functions include those carried out by our environmental health, trading standards and licensing services.

The Council will exercise our regulatory activities in a way which is:

- Proportionate – our activities will reflect the level of risk to the public and enforcement action taken will relate to the seriousness of the offence.
  - Accountable – our activities will be open to public scrutiny, with clear and accessible policies, and fair and efficient complaints procedures.
  - Consistent – our advice to those regulated will be robust, reliable and similarly advice provided by others will be respected. Where circumstances are similar, a consistent, if possible, approach/action to other local authorities will be followed.
  - Transparent – those regulated will be advised appropriately so as to understand what is expected of them and what they can anticipate in return.
  - Targeted – resources will be focused on higher risk enterprises and activities, reflecting local need and national priorities.
2. Regulators' Code. The Council has had regard to the Regulators' Code in the preparation of this policy. In certain instances it may be concluded that a provision in the Code is either not relevant or is outweighed by another provision. It will be ensure that any decision to depart from the Code will be properly reasoned, based on material evidence and documented.
  3. Human Rights Act 1998. The Council is a public authority for the purposes of the Human Rights Act 1998. The principles of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms will be applied. This Policy and all associated enforcement decisions take account of the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. In particular, due regard is had to

the right to a fair trial and the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence.

4. Data Protection Act 1998. Where there is a need for the Council to share enforcement information with other agencies, the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 will be followed.
5. The Code for Crown Prosecutors:
  - When deciding whether to prosecute, the Council has regard to the provisions of The Code for Crown Prosecutors as issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Code for Crown Prosecutors is a public document that sets out the general principles to follow when decisions are made in respect of prosecuting cases.
  - The Code sets out two tests that must be satisfied commonly referred to as the 'Evidential Test' and the 'Public Interest Test':
    - Evidential Test - is there enough evidence against the defendant? When deciding whether there is enough evidence to prosecute, the Council will consider what evidence can be used in court and is reliable. There must be enough evidence to provide a 'realistic prospect of conviction' against each alleged offender
    - Public Interest Test - is it in the public interest for the case to be brought to court?
  - The Council will balance factors for and against prosecution carefully and fairly, considering each case on its merits. The public interest factors that will be taken into account are detailed under the enforcement options available to us in Appendix C.
6. Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 ('the RES Act'). The Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, as amended, established the Primary Authority scheme. The requirements of the Act will be complied with when enforcement action against any business or organisation that has a primary authority is being considered, and will have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State in relation to Primary Authority.

## **APPENDIX B: ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL BREACHES**

1. Compliance Advice, Guidance and Support - The Council uses compliance advice, guidance and support as a first response in the case of many breaches of legislation that are identified. Advice is provided, sometimes in the form of a warning letter, to assist individuals and businesses in rectifying breaches as quickly and efficiently as possible, avoiding the need for further enforcement action. A warning letter will set out what should be done to rectify the breach and to prevent re-occurrence. If a similar breach is identified in the future, this letter will be persuasive in considering the most appropriate enforcement action to take on that occasion. Such a letter cannot be cited in court as a previous conviction but it may be presented in evidence. The Council recognises that where a business has entered into a partnership with a primary authority, the primary authority will provide compliance advice and support. The Council will take such advice into account when considering the

most appropriate enforcement action for it to take. It may discuss any need for compliance advice and support with the primary authority. Where more formal enforcement action, such as a simple caution or prosecution, is taken, the Council recognises that there is likely to be an ongoing need for compliance advice and support, to prevent further breaches.

2. Voluntary Undertakings - The Council may accept voluntary undertakings that breaches will be rectified and/or recurrences prevented. The Council will take any failure to honour voluntary undertakings very seriously and enforcement action is likely to result.
3. Statutory (Legal) Notices - In respect of many breaches the Council has powers to issue statutory notices. These include: 'Abatement Notices', 'Prohibition Notices', 'Emergency Prohibition Notices', and 'Improvement Notices'. Such notices are legally binding. Failure to comply with a statutory notice can be a criminal offence and may lead to prosecution and/ or, where appropriate, the carrying out of work in default. A statutory notice will clearly set out actions which must be taken and the timescale within which they must be taken. It is likely to require that any breach is rectified and/or prevented from recurring. It may also prohibit specified activities until the breach has been rectified and/or safeguards have been put in place to prevent future breaches. Where a statutory notice is issued, an explanation of the appeals process will be provided to the recipient. Some notices issued in respect of premises may be affixed to the premises and/or registered as local land charges.
4. Financial penalties - The Council has powers to issue fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices and monetary penalties in respect of some breaches of legislation. A fixed penalty notice, penalty charge notice or monetary penalty is not a criminal fine, and does not appear on an individual's criminal record. If a fixed penalty, penalty charge notice or monetary penalty is not paid, the Council may, however, commence criminal proceedings or take other enforcement action in respect of the breach or take civil enforcement action to recover the value of the fixed penalty, penalty charge or monetary penalty subject to the provisions of the relevant legislation. If a fixed penalty, penalty charge notice or monetary penalty is paid in respect of a breach, the Council will not take any further enforcement action in respect of that breach. Payment of the penalty does not provide immunity from prosecution in respect of similar, continuing or recurrent breaches. The Council is only able to issue a fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices and monetary penalties where it has specific powers to do so. If fixed penalty notices are available, their issue is at the Council's discretion. In some circumstances, in particular where breaches are serious or recurrent, it may be that prosecution is more appropriate than the issue of a fixed penalty notice. In specific instances dictated by regulation, the Council has powers to issue monetary penalties. In some cases the Council has discretion in the level of monetary penalty to impose. Where regulation makes provision for the Council to receive representations in respect of a charge, the Council will inform recipients how to make representation and provide guidance on what might be relevant issues. Any representation received will be reviewed in a timely manner within the terms of the regulation, the requirements of this policy and based on the reasonableness of the charge on a case by case basis. If the Council deems fit it may confirm, vary or quash a monetary penalty.



5. Injunctive Actions, Enforcement Orders etc - In some circumstances the Council may seek a direction from the court (in the form of an order or an injunction) that a breach is rectified and/or prevented from recurring. The court may also direct that specified activities be suspended until the breach has been rectified and/or safeguards have been put in place to prevent future breaches. Failure to comply with a court order constitutes contempt of court, a serious offence which may lead to imprisonment. The Council is required to seek enforcement orders after issuing some enforcement notices, providing the court with an opportunity to confirm the restrictions imposed by the notice. Otherwise, the Council will usually only seek a court order if it has serious concerns about compliance with voluntary undertakings or a notice. The Council may seek Banning Orders where relevant convictions exist and it is appropriate and proportionate to do so.
6. Prosecution - When deciding whether to prosecute, the Council has regard to the provisions of The Code for Crown Prosecutors as issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Prosecution will only be considered where the Council is satisfied that it has sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction against the defendant(s). Before deciding that prosecution is appropriate, the Council will consider all relevant circumstances carefully and will have regard to the following public interest criteria:
  - Seriousness of the offence committed
  - The level of culpability of the suspect
  - The circumstances of, and the harm caused to the victim?
  - Was the suspect under the age of 18 at the time of the offence?
  - What is the impact on the community?
  - Is prosecution a proportionate response?
  - Do sources of information require protecting?

A successful prosecution will result in a criminal record. The court may impose a fine and in respect of particularly serious breaches a prison sentence. The court may order the forfeiture and disposal of non-compliant goods and/or the confiscation of any profits which have resulted from the breach. Prosecution may also lead, in some circumstances, to the disqualification of individuals from acting as company directors.

7. Refusal/Suspension/Revocation of Licences - The Council issues a number of licences and permits. The Council also has a role to play in ensuring that appropriate standards are met in relation to licences issued by other agencies. Most licences include conditions which require the licence holder to take steps to ensure that, for example, a business is properly run and public safety is assured. Breach of these conditions may lead to a review of the licence which may result in its revocation or amendment. When considering future licence applications, the Council may take previous breaches and enforcement action into account and also other matters which, on the balance of probability, may influence the assessment of a person to be a fit and proper person.
8. Prohibitions - The Council has a range of powers that allow for the prohibition of activities, structures, or use of facilities such as sports grounds. The Council has a role to ensure the safety of the public and will exercise

prohibition powers only where it is essential to protect health and there is sufficient evidence available to demonstrate that a risk to health exists.

## APPENDIX C

While this document acts as an over-arching policy for the Council, reference must also be given to service function specific policies, including but not limited to:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- Banning Order Policy
- Food Safety Enforcement Policy
- Food Standards Agency Code of Practice
- Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Brand Standard
- Health & Safety Executive Enforcement Policy Statement
- Overt CCTV Policy
- Policy for the Use of Civil Penalty and Rent Repayment Orders under the Housing Act 2004
- Rotherham Council RIPA Policy
- Safer Rotherham Partnership Information Sharing Protocol

## Appendix 2 Proposed Consultation Plan

### Introduction

The consultation process anticipated for review of the General Enforcement Policy, will take the form of a two-month consultation.

### Consultation Timeline

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026** – The existing General Enforcement Policy will be put out to public consultation. This will include relevant stakeholders within the Council as well as the general public, including Councillors, and partners.

Those consulted will be asked to:

- Review the Policy in general terms
- Review the Policy in relation to legislative changes
- Review the Policy in relation to any changes in approaches to regulation and enforcement

The public consultation will be held via an online survey with stakeholders. The consultation will be publicised through social media channels, together with Councillors and businesses being written to seeking their views on the draft Policy and encouraging them to take part in the online consultation.

Printed copies of the consultation will also be made available at local libraries and community buildings. Public events will be held in spaces with no access restrictions.

Other stakeholders will also be invited to consider taking part in the on-line consultation, including South Yorkshire Police, Barnsley and Rotherham Chambers of Commerce and South Yorkshire Fire Service.

**March and April 2026** – comments and amendments received through the consultation will be considered to inform a revision of the Policy. In addition, a full analysis of the consultation and responses will be prepared to provide a written draft upon which further consultation can be undertaken with stakeholders.

**May 2026** – a refreshed Policy will be presented to Cabinet containing the analysis of the consultation and a reviewed Policy to consider for adoption.

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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: General Enforcement Policy consultation 2025/26**

**Directorate:**

Regeneration and Environment

**Service area:**

**Regulation and Enforcement**

**Lead person:**

Craig Cornwall  
Community Protection Manager

**Contact number:**

01709 823118  
Craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☒

**Strategy / Policy**

☐

**Service / Function**

☐

**Other**

**If other, please specify**

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

The report provides details of the intention to undertake consultation on the Council's General Enforcement Policy with an expectation to review and revise the existing Policy in accordance with legislative requirements and in line with the *Regulators' Code*.

## Appendix 3

### 3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		√
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		√
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		√
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		√
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		√
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		√
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
<p>The requirement to abide by the Regulators' Code is a statutory obligation covered by national legislation and guidance.</p> <p>If you have answered <b>no</b> to <u>all</u> the questions above please complete <b>sections 5 and 6</b>.</p> <p>If you have answered <b>yes</b> to any of the above please complete <b>section 4</b>.</p>		

#### 4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The General Enforcement Policy sets out the Council will comply with the Regulators' Code. The services recognise the importance of equality and diversity, ensuring that regulatory and enforcement functions delivered are available for all residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough in a way that its:

- Proportionate
- Accountable
- Consistent
- Transparent
- Targeted

- **Key findings**

The report details the intention to consult with key stakeholders including the public and businesses, with a view to adopting a revised General Enforcement Policy that will consider all comments received.

- **Actions**

The regulators' Code and subsequently the General Enforcement Policy ensures standards are established in relation to most of the Council's regulatory and enforcement functions. These standards are legal obligations based on national legislation and guidance.

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):	

## Appendix 3

**5. Governance, ownership and approval**

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Craig Cornwall	Community Protection Manager	13/05/2025

**6. Publishing**

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	13/05/2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	General Enforcement Policy Consultation
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	Not applicable
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	17/09/2025



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 the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None	The continuing impact of travel to carry out regulatory and enforcement functions is usually by car or van, contributing to the Council's overall carbon emissions. Consultation on the General Enforcement Policy 2026 is not expected to increase emissions from transport compared with their present level.		Proposed activity as outlined at Appendix 2 avoids further emissions from transport by seeking responses to an online survey, opposed to hosting in-person consultation events.	Carbon emissions arising from fuel supplied at the Council's depots, purchased using fuel cards or claimed for business travel are estimated and published in the Climate Change Annual Report.
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 emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

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

No

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

Travel arising from the Council's enforcement activity contributes to the continuing carbon impact of its services, as estimated and published in the Climate Change Annual Report, however consultation on the Council's General Enforcement Policy is not expected to increase emissions from transport above their present level, during consultation or in the implementation of an updated policy.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Craig Cornwall Community Protection Manager & Environmental Health Manager Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	
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.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 528  Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer



Public Report  
Cabinet

---

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Report Title**

Rotherham Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28

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

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

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

**Report Author(s)**

Paul Elliott – Head of Housing Income and Support Services  
Jackie Cobb – Financial Inclusion Manager

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report seeks approval for the attached refreshed Financial Inclusion Plan. This Plan details support available to the residents of Rotherham.

In the first instance, the aim is to help tenants and residents to improve their quality of life by maximising their income, reducing debt, increasing levels of educational attainment, and improving their potential to gain employment. The Plan 2026-28 will be implemented by the Financial Inclusion Team within the Housing Service with involvement from all Directorates. It is intended therefore to align resources and offer services, to all residents of the borough whether they are RMBC tenants, privately renting or homeowners, as appropriate.

Evidence demonstrates that improving financial capability and confidence will contribute to reducing poverty, improving health, educational attainment, and opportunities to access employment.

For the Plan to be effective it cannot stand alone in delivering solutions. A co-ordinated approach that brings together wider Council services, partners and agencies will not only be more cost effective, it will also achieve greater success in providing tenants and residents with the support required to enable them to become financially empowered.

**Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet approves the Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 The Rotherham Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28  
Appendix 2 Part A Initial Equality Screening Assessment form  
Appendix 3 Part B Equality Analysis form  
Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

The Financial Inclusion Plan 2023-24

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

N/A

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Rotherham Financial Inclusion Plan**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Council first developed a Housing Financial Inclusion Plan which covered the period 2017-2020. This was then updated for 2022-25 and its focus expanded to include all Rotherham residents. The Plan was designed to reflect current support practices and to develop a wider range of operational support, placing the customer at the heart of the service delivery model. The objectives were to promote financial responsibility, offer practical help with maintaining access to housing regardless of housing status and protect the most vulnerable and provide comprehensive support and advice.
- 1.2 The Council has undertaken an array of activity to promote financial inclusion and the well-being of residents. Examples of these initiatives include:
  - The provision of holistic, wrap around support to 1400 Council tenants each year.
  - As of March 2025, the combined Employment Solutions Teams have assisted 789 residents to complete accredited training and 887 into sustainable employment.
  - The Income Pre-Tenancy and Tenancy Support Teams identified and helped to generate £1,607,586 in additional income for tenants and residents in the year 2024-25. This is ongoing work which is already providing benefit in 2025-26.
  - The Energy Crisis Support Scheme has approved payment awards of up to £400 per household to 11,314 applicants, as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025.
- 1.3 Given the continuing pressures on the cost of living for residents, it is more important than ever that the Council has a clear plan explaining how it will support Rotherham's residents. The Council has reflected upon the work undertaken to date and has now strengthened its approach. The Financial Inclusion Plan is based upon the concept that the Council will enable residents to improve their own financial prospects, and from that, better outcomes will flow. All Council Services have worked together to develop this Plan, and delivery is embedded across the Council.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 The UK is currently facing inflation at 3.8% (September 2025) which is nearly double the Bank of England's target of 2%. Food costs are rising above the rate of inflation (4.5% for September 2025) and energy bills and housing costs continue to put pressure on household budgets.
- 2.2 Housing costs are increasing as fixed rate mortgage deals expire and are replaced with higher interest rates. Private rents have also increased by 8.1% in the year to January 2025 outpacing inflation and increasing pressure on families. The Government-determined Local Housing Allowance remains

frozen which means the gap between actual rent and benefit amounts increases year on year.

- 2.3 Energy costs continue to be a major source of pressure on UK households. Despite costs falling from previous levels the cost of energy remains almost double pre-2021. Costs are predicted to fall slightly in January 2026 before rising again by up to 8% from April 2026 which will have an impact on budgets and households.
- 2.4 To support residents through these difficult times, the Financial Inclusion Plan sets out the Council's offer to residents and describes how financial empowerment can be achieved through a combination of interventions:
  - **Education:** Multi-point education covering essential life skills such as budgeting, cooking and home management delivered from childhood into adulthood.
  - **Money Advice:** Specialised bespoke budgeting advice with a focus on money saving techniques where there is no additional entitlement to benefits.
  - **Holistic Support:** Client centred, holistic support which identifies and takes steps to address the underlying issues that can exacerbate financial difficulties such as mental health issues/drug/alcohol addiction etc to facilitate tenancy sustainment.
  - **Employment and Training:** Educating, upskilling, and supporting people into economically beneficial and sustainable employment opportunities.
- 2.5 The Council recognises that supporting its residents remains important. In line with the Council's Year Ahead Delivery Plan, the focus will be on reaching the people impacted by financial hardship that may have never needed to access support services before. As such, the framework is focused on tackling these issues.

### **Funding of services into the future**

- 2.6 The Council has continued to embed financial inclusion activity across services and external grants have been managed to ensure that residents access the support that is available. A number of activities in the plan are delivered through external grants and this will be kept under review.

## **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

### **Option 1 – The Rotherham Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the Rotherham Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 which will enable the continued delivery of several measures designed to support residents through these economically challenging times.

## **Option 2 – Do nothing**

- 3.2 If no Rotherham Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 was developed, then services would continue to be delivered across the Council but without an overarching plan to align and coordinate activity and to communicate to residents the services available to them.

## **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The refreshed Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 was presented to the Rotherham Humanitarian and Communities group on the 8 September 2025. The group is attended by professionals from voluntary and communities' groups as well as RMBC departments. The Plan was well received, and feedback was positive.
- 4.2 The refreshed Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 was presented to a Residents Focus session on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Rotherham Minster. The panel was made up of tenants and residents of the Borough and was a very positive and informative session. The Plan was well received with feedback in support of the proposals.
- 4.3 Meetings have also been held with colleagues from Age UK, Rotherfed, Social Supermarket and Citizens Advice Rotherham to ensure that the information in the plan is up to date and relevant.

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The plan is being presented for approval to Cabinet on 17 November 2025. If approved at Cabinet, implementation will take place from January 2026 in line with the 2026-28 timeframe.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the new Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28. However, any identified need to procure goods, works or services to achieve the objectives in the Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 must be procured in line with the relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) dependent on the route to market as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.
- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report. Funding for the teams is already included in the base budget. Delivery of the plan will support residents to manage their finances during difficult times which in turn will assist the council in effectively managing its finances and securing income that is due.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 Whilst local authorities are excluded from the requirement to be authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority for most financial regulated activities, the

Council would need to ensure that any activities conducted as part of the Plan do not fall foul of any such requirements and are compliant with all relevant legislation.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no HR related issues contained within the report.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 aims to contribute to the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2025-30:

- Places are Thriving, Safe and Clean
- An Economy that Works for Everyone
- Children and Young People Achieve
- Residents Live Well
- One Council that Listens and Learn

- 9.2 The Financial Inclusion Team will provide practical help and support to children's families and vulnerable adults aimed at improving their health and wellbeing, improving their aspirations and educational attainment. The details are explained further in the Plan.

- 9.3 The Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 aligns with the No Children Left Behind Strategy which has recently been approved by Cabinet. The Strategy details how RMBC and local partners work together to maximise income, improve access to learning/work and reduce health inequalities which are some of the themes of the Financial Inclusion Plan.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 2 and 3.

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 4.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 The Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 places emphasis on the benefits of partnership working. The Plan will ensure that the service offerings of all relevant partners and stakeholders are utilised to the best of their ability.

- 12.2 The Plan promotes holistic advice and support delivered in partnership with all relevant service providers. The aim is to reduce repeat presentations from customers at crisis point, therefore reducing the burden upon key agencies such as NHS and the Police.



### 13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The risk of failing to deliver the commitments set out in the Financial Inclusion Plan will be mitigated by ensuring the correct staff resources and processes are in place, and through regular and robust progress monitoring including an annual report.
- 13.2 The risk of the Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 becoming out of date due to policy and context changes at the national and local level, is mitigated by refreshing the plan every two years.

### 14. Accountable Officers

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	29/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	22/10/25
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	22/10/25

*Report Author:* Jackie Cobb Financial Inclusion Manager 07751 596281  
or [jackie.cobb@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.cobb@rotherham.gov.uk) Paul Elliott – Head of  
Housing Income and Support Services

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

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# ENSURING NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

The Rotherham Financial Inclusion Plan 2026/28

[www.rotherham.gov.uk/neighbourhoods/money-matters](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/neighbourhoods/money-matters)

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# FOREWORD FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING

**At the Council we know life can feel pretty hard for some of our residents. We've seen food and energy bills go up, inflation is high, and housing costs have increased.**

We don't want anyone to be left behind and want to help our residents thrive and live their best lives. This is why the Financial Inclusion and Employment Solutions teams are ready to help.

Our friendly teams work with residents in several ways and our help is totally free.

We help an average of over 6,000 people every year.

We can help people to manage their money. We'll check benefit entitlement and support residents to make relevant claims.

We also help residents to manage their money, we don't judge, but look at what's coming in and what's going out to see if by making small changes people can make a difference to what they've got left.

Last year we helped residents claim over £5 million in benefits they were entitled to.

We've also given over 11,000 people up to £400 through the Energy Crisis Support Scheme since it commenced.

We can also help with education and training, supporting people into employment and/ or improve their chances of getting a better job. So far, we've helped 789 people to complete accredited training, as well as supporting 887 residents to get decent jobs.

The Council and our partners continue to support our residents in many and varied ways, most importantly, tailored to each resident, offering a holistic approach to our assistance, ensuring no area of potential support is left unaddressed.

This Financial Inclusion Plan sets out the renewed commitment of the Council and its partners to ensure that no resident is left behind in the face of economic challenges. It aims to empower individuals and families to achieve stability, independence and wellbeing through tailored support and community collaboration.

I would urge anyone who wants to find out more to visit our website or call us.



**Cllr Linda Beresford,**  
Cabinet Member for Housing.

# WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

## 1. Places are Thriving, Safe, and Clean

- Invest in housing, regeneration of town and village centres, and improved public spaces which will reduce deprivation and support economic participation.
- Foster pride in neighbourhoods, enhancing visual appeal and improving the overall environment for all residents.
- Provide clean, safe environments which will also encourage local enterprise and community cohesion.

## 2. An Economy That Works for Everyone

- Work towards a fair and prosperous economy where everyone has the opportunity to secure a good job or start and grow a business and plan confidently for the future.
- The Employment Solutions Service is at the centre of a responsive local employment and skills system and provides targeted advice and support that helps residents find secure jobs and pursue fulfilling careers.
- These efforts help residents gain stable incomes and reduce reliance on crisis support.

## 3. Children and Young People Achieve

- Rotherham to be a great place to grow up; where all children and young people are safe, valued and able to achieve their aspirations.

- By investing in education, skills, and the Children's Capital of Culture initiative, the Council is building long-term financial resilience.
- Early intervention and support for families to reduce intergenerational poverty.
- Current Ofsted rating of good with an outstanding ambition to achieve outstanding: our children, young people and their families should expect nothing less.
- Provide support for children and families to reduce the need for social care intervention and ensuring that children are engaging with education.
- Supporting young people with special educational needs or disabilities in both mainstream and specialist settings to equip them with the essential skills they need to thrive beyond school.
- A universal offer across the borough to provide children and young people with fun, exciting and inclusive activities with a focussed offer for those who need it.

## 4. Residents Live Well

- Respond to the impact of the increasing cost of living by providing targeted support to our most vulnerable residents. This will include continuation of support funded by the Household Support Fund (HSF) for 2025/26. From April 2026 HSF will be replaced by the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CSF). This is a longer-term commitment from central government which aims to provide longer term assistance and certainty.

- Work with partners to focus on prevention to ensure residents live in good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- Invest in modern social care services that focus on intervening early to prevent problems from developing or worsening with the aim of increasing health life expectancy in the borough.

## 5. One Council That Listens and Learns

- Work with our communities to deliver responsive, transparent and modern services that are easily accessible to all.
- Listen to residents and staff to improve the ways we work and how we deliver services.
- Listen, inform and work in partnership with service users and stakeholders and wherever possible include their views in the shaping, commissioning and delivery of services.
- Commit to provide exceptional customer service and aim to be a council that places the customer at the heart of all we do and makes it easy to deal with us.

The Financial Inclusion Plan is a joint document that encompasses work by local partners as well as RMBC. The Plan aligns with the No Child Left Behind Strategy that has recently been adopted by the Council. Poverty and financial exclusion have profound, long-term impacts on both children and vulnerable adults, affecting their physical health, mental well-being, education, and social development. These issues are interconnected, creating a cycle of disadvantage that can persist for generations

Since 2020, local partners have directed substantial resources towards activity aimed at alleviating poverty. This has included working together to tackle the following poverty themes:

**Health and wellbeing** – reducing health inequalities related to poverty including reducing barriers to accessing services.

**Best start** – practical support and additional resources that enable young children to thrive

**Green spaces/play** – improving access to green spaces and encouraging engagement with the universal offer.

**Financial health and inclusion** – maximising income, practical help, and emotional support.

**Education, transition, and employment** – improving access to learning/ work.

**Housing** – improving access to suitable and affordable quality accommodation.

**Family help** – wide-ranging support, advice and information delivered in an accessible and integrated way.





# OUR APPROACH

Four guiding principles run through the plan, informing our way of working and helping us to achieve better outcomes.

## Expanding opportunities for all:

As we open up new opportunities, we will target the most help at those who need it, so no one is left behind.

## Recognising and building on our strengths to make positive change:

This will include working in partnership with local organisations, community groups and the voluntary sector to harness their knowledge and experience in order to deliver the best outcomes for our residents.

## Working with our communities:

To achieve the best outcomes for local people, we recognise the importance of putting them at the heart of everything we do. That means involving local residents in the things that matter to them and making sure we design our services based on input from those who use them.

## Focussing on prevention:

We know that prevention is better than cure in achieving positive outcomes for our residents. For this reason, we will focus on reducing the risk of problems arising in the first place, and when they do, we will intervene early to prevent them from worsening.





# KEY ASPECTS OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION

**Financial Inclusion is about ensuring that everyone – regardless of income, background, or circumstance – can access and effectively use essential financial products and services such as bank accounts, savings, credit, and insurance.**

*Our plan is built around four key aspects of Financial Inclusion:*

## 1. Accessibility

**Ensuring financial services are available to all.**

Many residents face barriers to accessing basic financial tools like bank accounts. Without one, individuals may:

- Be unable to receive income or benefits directly.
- Rely on others' accounts, increasing the risk of financial abuse.
- Be excluded from credit-building opportunities, affecting housing access.

The Council and its partners provide support to help residents open bank accounts and access essential products like home insurance as well as:

- The Council's Tenancy Support Team assist with opening bank accounts, accessing IDs such as a birth certificate and claiming benefits
- Citizens Advice Rotherham District (CARD) deliver digital inclusion projects and Rotherfed and Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) work on community projects such as Money Skills and Open Arms.

## 2. Affordability

**Financial services must be reasonably priced and non-exploitative.**

High costs can deter people from using financial services or push them toward high-risk alternatives.

The Council offers affordable options such as:

- A Home Contents Insurance package tailored for residents.
- Access to Discretionary Housing Payments to ease housing-related financial pressure.

### 3. Usability

**Services should meet the actual needs of users and be delivered in a responsible and sustainable way.**

Financial tools must be practical and relevant to people's lives.

The Council and the Voluntary and Community sector provide a range of usable, resident-focused support:

- Furnished homes packages to help people settle securely.
- FareShare food banks to support those facing food insecurity.
- Household Support Fund (until April 2026) offering:
  - Free School Meal vouchers during holidays.
  - Council Tax support.
  - Support for Care Leavers.
- From April 2026, this will transition to the Crisis Resilience Fund, a multi-year initiative offering more stability and planning certainty.

### 4. Empowerment

**Helping people build financial resilience and improve their quality of life.**

Financial inclusion is not just about access – it's about enabling people to take control of their financial futures.

We invest in partnerships and outreach to empower residents:

- Funding for Age UK and Citizens Advice Rotherham to increase Pension Credit uptake.
- Ongoing exploration of new services and initiatives to address evolving economic challenges.

### Looking Ahead

**The 2026 – 2028 plan will:**

- Build on existing initiatives.
- Introduce new services.
- Continue to identify and address the financial challenges our residents face.

By aligning our actions with the four key aspects of Accessibility, Affordability, Usability, and Empowerment, we aim to create a more financially inclusive borough where everyone has the tools and support to thrive.

## Financial Empowerment

Financial empowerment can be achieved by providing people with the skills and support they need to become financially resilient. Our financial empowerment plan places focus on four key areas:

**Education:** Multi-point education covering essential life skills such as budgeting, cooking and home management delivered from childhood into adulthood.

**Money Advice:** Specialised bespoke budgeting advice with a focus on money saving techniques where there is no additional entitlement to benefits.

**Holistic Support:** Client centred, holistic tenancy support which identifies and takes steps to address the underlying issues that can exacerbate financial difficulties such as mental health issues/drug/alcohol addiction etc to facilitate tenancy sustainment.

**Employment and Training:** Educating, upskilling, and supporting people into economically beneficial and sustainable employment opportunities.

*Examples of current financial empowerment initiatives include:*

- The Employment Solutions Team offers support to access training and employment. Three projects-Elevate which works with the unemployed and those on low income-Pathways to Work which targets the economically inactive and Individual Placement Support (IPS) which is for those on a structured recovery programme looking to get into employment or training.
- The Council's Income Pre-Tenancy team offer budgeting and income maximisation advice to new and existing Council tenants. 2861 interviews were conducted in 2024-25 with prospective tenants to check affordability of a council tenancy.

- The Council's Tenancy Support team provide support to Council tenants that need help to maintain their tenancy. 1360 referrals in 2024/25 for tenants seeking assistance with tenancy sustainment.
- Social Supermarkets (currently four on offer) provide short term access to low-cost groceries with the added provision of support in areas such as budgeting.
- The Council's Money Matters newsletters and blogs provide information, advice and guidance to residents on financial issues.
- The Council's Money and Benefits Advice Team provide practical support and guidance to residents on the issues of welfare benefit appeals and debt.
- The Council's Projects and Interventions Officer delivers an educational programme to residents of all ages on subjects including budgeting and tenancy management.
- The Age UK Age Related Benefit Advisory Service supports pension age residents to access any welfare benefits that they may be entitled to. Additional resource has also been provided to enable further applications for Pension Credit
- Rotherfed and Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) deliver several community projects such as Money Skills and Open Arms.
- Citizens Advice Rotherham District (CARD) are delivering digital inclusion and energy projects as well as their new Tackling Destitution programme in partnership with Trussell Trust. They have also received additional RMBC funding to promote and assist with claims to Pension Credit.
- The Council's Commissioning team commission Housing related support services including Roundabout and Action Housing offering supported accommodation and floating tenancy support.
- A Place Of Your Own (APOYO) is an educational training programme for new tenants delivered by Rush House.

# EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

**Mr W received support from the Tenancy Support team after being hospitalised with Pneumonia. Due to his mental health, he had not been engaging with Universal Credit and had been sanctioned.**

After working with Tenancy Support, he was awarded a Discretionary Housing Payment to clear outstanding rent and his sanction was cancelled resulting in a payment from Universal Credit.

His Tenancy Support Officer liaised with Housing Property Services to report damp and mould in the property which was dealt with promptly by replastering meaning he could return home.

Mr W was also supported to join the Housing Register as he needs a bungalow due to his physical health needs. He will be on auto-bid in the next week and will hopefully be offered a bungalow soon.

**R was referred into our Individual Placement Support (IPS) team for help getting back into work. He had been using alcohol as a way of coping with undiagnosed ADHD for five years which was affecting his home life, his employment and eventually resulted in the loss of his driving licence.**

The ROADS team referred him to IPS who then worked with him to build self-esteem using the Endorphins course. He achieved his CSCS qualification, and this gave him the confidence to speak to a local construction company who offered him a job as a labourer.

Today, R is building a new life filled with purpose, sobriety, and the satisfaction that comes from meaningful work. His journey proves that sometimes the path to employment starts with rebuilding confidence and finding work that truly matters to you.



***“It’s hard work but I’m a gaffer and I’m loving it” — R***

# GET INVOLVED...

**We want residents to be at the heart of everything we do.**

There are lots of different ways for people to get involved, providing views on our services, helping to shape plans and priorities, and keeping up to date on news and views. This includes ward plans, neighbourhood newsletters, social media and consultations.

For further information visit the Council website at

[www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

If you would like this information in another language or format, please ask us.



# FIND OUT MORE

Further details of the services mentioned in the above plan can be found at:

[www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk) or call us on 01709 382121.

[www.citizensadvicerotherham.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicerotherham.org.uk)

[www.varotherham.org.uk](http://www.varotherham.org.uk)

[www.ageuk.org.uk/rotherham](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/rotherham)

[www.rotherhamfederation.org](http://www.rotherhamfederation.org)

[www.rushhouse.co.uk](http://www.rushhouse.co.uk)

For employment related support, please contact us at

[employmentsolutionsteam@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsolutionsteam@rotherham.gov.uk)

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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	
<b>Title: Corporate Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28</b>	
<b>Directorate:</b> Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	<b>Service area:</b> Housing Income and Support Services
<b>Lead person:</b> Jackie Cobb	<b>Contact:</b> 07751 596281
Is this a:	
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	
<b>If other, please specify</b>	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>Rotherham's current Financial Inclusion Plan expires in 2025 and the refreshed plan is being formulated currently and will cover 2026-28.</p> <p>This plan will set out the priorities and delivery strategies of the Financial Inclusion team (and its key stakeholders) to ensure that our tenants and residents receive the support they need to become financially empowered and economically secure during these times of financial crisis.</p>

## Appendix 2

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

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

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



#### 4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

- How have you considered equality and diversity?**

The Corporate Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 looks to actively remove and reduce any barriers to accessing services.

It has a particular focus on engaging with hard-to-reach members of the community.

We are actively seeking to engage with residents of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds.

Using the information available we will target the communities least likely to be accessing our services at the current time.

We have completed trend analysis using current tenant data which has highlighted our target groups/ areas etc.

We have consulted with tenants, residents, and professionals through attendance at the Humanitarian and Communities Group, Residents Forum and meetings with partners and RMBC colleagues to obtain their thoughts, suggestions, and feedback on our proposals.

- Key findings**

Completing the equalities review has highlighted the need to capture special category data at key points in the customer journey (within the Financial Inclusion team) to ensure that customers with protected characteristics are accessing our services.

- Actions**

Check special category data in our Income Pre-tenancy, Tenancy Support and Projects and Interventions teams clients to quantify and validate engagement with residents that have protected characteristics and to ensure that details already obtained by other housing departments are up to date.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	8/10/2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	8/10/2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Jackie Cobb Financial Inclusion Manager

#### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
John Holman	Interim Assistant Director of Housing	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

## 6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	Corporate Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	Cabinet Meeting 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

## PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics 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. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	
Directorate: ACHPH	Service area: HISS
Lead Manager: Jackie Cobb	Contact number: 07751 596281
Is this a: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Y Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, please specify	

## Appendix 3

**2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance**

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Jackie Cobb	RMBC HISS	Financial Inclusion Manager
Paul Elliott	RMBC HISS	Head of Housing Income and Support Service
Mark Edmondson	RMBC HISS	Housing Income Manager

**3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance****Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)**

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Financial Inclusion Team was established in 2017 to improve the financial wellbeing of RMBC tenants and residents.

Rotherham has historically been an area with high levels of deprivation with Rotherham ranked 44<sup>th</sup> out of 317 local authorities for overall deprivation, showing significant disadvantage compared to the national average (2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation). Life expectancy in Rotherham is 4 years lower for men and 3.1 years lower for women than the national average. Many residents are on a low income with limited economic prospects. RMBC recognised that to address this issue, they needed to support their most vulnerable residents to improve their finances. In turn this will help them to build stronger communities and improve the prospects for low-income families in line with our 'Ensuring no Child is left Behind' commitment.

Rotherham's current Financial Inclusion Plan expires in 2025 and the refreshed plan is being formulated currently and will cover 2026-28.

This plan will set out the priorities and delivery strategies of the Financial Inclusion team (and its key stakeholders) to ensure that our tenants and residents receive the support they need to become financially empowered and economically secure during these times of financial crisis.

The plan sets out support already provided by the Council which provides financial help to residents to ensure that the aims of the Council plan and the Ensuring No Child Is Left Behind are met. This includes help from the Household Support Fund for families and Care Leavers and additional funding for Age UK and CARD to promote Pension Credit Take up. These initiatives have a direct impact on families and individuals and aim for financial stability over a longer term.

**What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)**

The Council currently owns circa 20,000 homes, 544 leasehold homes and 3,375 garages with a turnover from rents and other sources approaching £105m per annum.

Circa 265,800 people live in Rotherham Borough, about half living in and around the main urban area of Rotherham. The remainder live in smaller towns such as Wath, Dinnington and Maltby, and in numerous large villages and rural communities, all of which have their own distinct identities.

113,000 Rotherham residents are in employment which represents 67.1% of those aged 16 to 64. 3,900 people aged 16 to 64 are unemployed which is a rate of 3.3%. Economic inactivity has increased in the borough to around 45,800 or 28.7% of the population in Rotherham. Economic inactivity is an increasing problem particularly since The Covid pandemic and the UK Government is funding projects throughout the country to address this. RMBC has been awarded a Pathways to Work scheme within our Employment Solutions service to address the issue and get Economically inactive residents back into work where possible.

The 2021 Census showed that 56,177 (21.1%) of Rotherham's population had a long-term health problem or disability and 9.9% said their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long term conditions (8.3% nationally).

Despite improvements overall, some areas of Rotherham are affected by high economic and social deprivation. Rotherham is the 44th most deprived district in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019.

Deprivation is not evenly distributed; specific wards like Rotherham East, Dalton & Thrybergh, and Maltby East are among the most deprived. Pockets of severe disadvantage are also noted in areas such as Eastwood, Ferham, Canklow, and East Herringthorpe.

The Corporate Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 responds to the above concerns by continuing to invest in the provision of tenancy support services, the delivery of educational programmes in key life skill areas such as budgeting, and the provision of support to access training and employment opportunities.

We have consulted with tenants, residents, employees and partners through a series of meetings and seminars to discuss the impact of the proposals.

**Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?**

Equalities data is routinely gathered at first contact with Housing Options in line with Consumer Regulation. At any further contact such as Income Pre-Tenancy or Tenancy Support the data will be checked and updated where required.

**What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?**

We will collate equalities information as part of our standard procedures within each individual service delivery team.

The Income Pre-tenancy and Tenancy Support team will gather this information as part of their standard case recording process enabling us to quantify the metrics of our service users in the future.

The Projects and Interventions Officer will collate equalities data by completing evaluation reports following educational delivery sessions.

This information is already collected as standard by our Employment teams as part of their funding obligations.

**Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)**

Residents Focus Group 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025.  
An engaged and positive group who were happy with the proposed new plan and its content.  
Humanitarian and Community Group 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025. No issues raised by the group.

**Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)**

The plan has also been presented to Senior Management Team for Housing, Departmental Leadership Team for ACHPH and Senior Leadership team for RMBC and was met with a positive reaction at all 3.  
The Leader has also seen the plan and provided positive comments and feedback as portfolio holder.

**4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)**

**How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?** (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The plan aims to actively support as many residents of Rotherham as possible by removing the barriers that prevent people from accessing services.

The team will deliver services in multiple languages using approved translation services.

The team will deliver services in a variety of locations including schools, faith groups and community centres to access a diverse range of communities.

The service will work in partnership with organisations that specialise in supporting minority groups such as Clifton Learning partnership and the Roma Slovak community.

We will also work with Age UK to ensure take up of Pension Credit where possible as this is an underclaimed benefit throughout the Borough.

The plan is a joint document with partners. RMBC and its partners will work together to ensure barriers are removed. Engaging out in the Borough and not just in the town centre will ensure more reach for those who are financially disadvantaged and will bring services to them rather than them having to travel.

## Appendix 3

Barriers will also be removed by using the Household Support Fund (and the new Crisis Resilience Fund) to provide school meals in holidays and council tax help that will free up money for those most affected by financial exclusion.

**Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?**

There are no problems/ barriers identified at this time. The Corporate Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28 looks to actively remove and reduce any barriers to accessing services.

**Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?**

Our policy actively tries to remove any barriers to engagement. We are seeking to engage with residents of all ages, faiths, and nationalities to achieve the best outcomes for all residents.

The team will deliver services across multiple platforms including face to face, telephone, digitally and in written format in multiple languages with additional assistance for our customers with a sight/hearing impairment.

Once completed the plan will be published on the RMBC website and available to all residents. The Financial Inclusion team will work to the plan and ensure that activities are undertaken at venues around the Borough to engage hard to reach cohorts. The Energy Crisis Scheme hold an outreach at Clifton Learning Partnership to engage with the Roma Slovak community and the Tenancy Support team hold outreach sessions at libraries and community centres around the borough to ensure that service are not undertaken around the town centre and Riverside House, therefore excluding residents unable to travel away from their localities.

**What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?** (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

We expect that the inclusivity of the plan will enhance community relations.

The plan offers services to all residents and therefore is not exclusive to one particular client group. (Although some elements of the service offer will be restricted to Council tenants due to being funded through the Housing Revenue Account)

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

### **5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan**

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

<b>Title of analysis: Corporate Financial Inclusion Plan 2026-28</b>
<b>Directorate and service area: ACHPH-Housing Income and Support Service-Financial Inclusion Team</b>
<b>Lead Manager: Jackie Cobb. Financial Inclusion Manager</b>
<b>Summary of findings:</b>
The review process has highlighted the need to incorporate special category data collection at key intervals in service delivery so that we can monitor and confirm engagement from clients with protected characteristics.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Implement special category data collection at key points in the Income Pre-Tenancy, Projects and Interventions and Tenancy Support journey to ensure that each service/programme is being accessed by protected characteristic client groups.	A,D,S,GR,RE,SO,RoB	<b>June 2026</b>

**\*A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**



6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	Job title	Date
John Holman	Interim Assistant Director of Housing	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.	
If this Equality Analysis relates to a <b>Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision</b> a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.	
A copy should also be sent to <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a> For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	Financial Inclusion Plan 2026/28
<b>Date report sent for publication</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

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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 the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	As our employment projects support more residents to access employment there may be an increase in the number of people using transport to get to work		We support local jobs for local people with the aim of generating economic prosperity for Rotherham. This should ensure work related travel requirements are minimal.	
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 emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: N/A					

<p>Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?</p> <p>This plan will not directly affect the Council's resilience to climate change impacts, but it may improve the resilience of communities to the longer-term impacts of climate change. Increased financial resilience reduces vulnerability to the risks associated with climate change as residents will be more able to handle economic changes, such as rises in food or energy prices for example or be in a position to better insulate homes to protect from excess heat.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity to link the delivery of this plan with the ECO-4 FLEX scheme via the Community Energy Team, providing access to grants for energy efficiency related home improvements.</p>
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<p>Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:</p> <p>The Financial Inclusion plan aims to increase economic opportunity for both our residents and the Borough itself. The impact of this plan could be increased travel across the borough as people access employment. We will try to minimise the impact by promoting low carbon travel options where possible and supporting local jobs for local people ideology that will keep travel to a minimum.</p>
---

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Jackie Cobb Financial Inclusion Manager Housing Income and Support Services Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	N/A

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.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 534  Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

Catcliffe and Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme

**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 of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

Richard Jackson, Head of Highways and Flood Risk  
Richard.Jackson@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Rother Vale

**Report Summary**

As a result of the heavy rainfall in October 2023 (Storm Babet), Catcliffe and Treeton Villages suffered severe flooding from the River Rother. As part of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) duties, a Section 19 flood investigation was carried out by the Council. Contained in the Section 19 report were “Catcliffe and Treeton next steps” which identified three options the Council could investigate to help reduce the risk of future flooding in this area.

Whilst flood risk management of main rivers is the responsibility of the Environment Agency (EA), the Council recognises the devastation and hardship experienced by residents affected by flooding and has engaged its staff in evaluating these three options. Following the initial evaluation, there is a key area of focus emerging for the Council in relation to seeking to alter the existing bridge on Treeton Lane to improve the flow path of the River Rother, which has been supported by a Capital investment commitment by the Council of £6m. In parallel to progressing further work on this option, the Council will continue to explore the development of upstream storage of storm water through working with the Environment Agency and neighbouring local authorities.

Initial hydraulic modelling of the Bridge alteration shows that a reduction in the thickness of the existing bridge deck at Treeton Lane can improve conveyance in the River Rother. This proposal would see the existing bridge removed and replaced with a new one built to modern design standards, allowing a greater distance between the bridge deck and the river.

## **Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress to date and the next steps in the Catcliffe and Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme.
2. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment to enter into contract with a design and build partner, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces and the Section 151 Officer.

## **List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Equality Impact Assessment  
Appendix 2 Climate Impact Assessment

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

## **Council Approval Required**

No

## **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No



## Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme

### 1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2023, Storm Babet brought prolonged and intense rainfall across England, resulting in widespread flooding throughout the Rotherham Borough. Among the worst affected areas were the villages of Catcliffe and Treeton, where the River Rother overtopped its banks, inundating residential properties, infrastructure, and public spaces.
- 1.2 The flooding event occurred overnight, prompting the Council and emergency services partners to carry out door-to-door evacuations in Catcliffe during the early hours of 21<sup>st</sup> of October. Aerial photographs taken the following morning revealed the extensive scale of the flooding, with large sections of the villages submerged under water.
- 1.3 The severity of the incident led to significant disruption for residents, many of whom were displaced from their homes and faced considerable damage to property and belongings. In response to the incident, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, acting as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), initiated a formal investigation under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. This investigation aimed to identify the contributing factors to the flood event, assess the roles of relevant risk management authorities, and outline the actions taken or proposed to mitigate future flood risk.
- 1.4 The Council also launched a series of community engagement initiatives, including public meetings and the publication of the Section 19 Flood Investigation Report, to ensure transparency and support for affected residents. These efforts have informed the development of targeted flood alleviation measures, with Catcliffe and Treeton identified as priority areas for intervention.
- 1.5 In the immediate aftermath of the flooding, the Council mobilised a significant emergency response to support affected communities. Council teams were on-site, monitoring river levels and coordinating with emergency services and the Environment Agency to manage evacuations and mitigate risks. The clean-up operation was extensive, with approximately 40 staff deployed in the days and weeks following the flood to assist residents with lifting and disposing of damaged items. At its peak, 36 skips were distributed across impacted areas and replenished regularly, with Council staff working through weekends to meet demand. In addition to these efforts, the Council supported the implementation of the Government's Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme, which provided up to £5,000 per eligible household or business to fund measures that improve resilience against future flooding events. This Scheme formed part of the wider Flood Recovery Framework triggered nationally in response to Storm Babet and was administered locally in accordance with Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) guidance.
- 1.6 The River Rother has overtopped the flood defences in Catcliffe on three occasions since 2000.

#### November 2000 Floods

- Over 90 dwellings in Catcliffe were flooded during the exceptional rainfall event in November 2000.
- The River Rother rose 1.3 metres higher than the highest level expected by the Environment Agency at that location.

#### June 2007 Floods

- Reports indicate that up to 250 homes in Catcliffe were flooded when the River Rother overflowed due to intense rainfall.
- This event was part of the wider South Yorkshire floods, which were among the worst in the region's history.

#### In Storm Babet (October 2023):

- 140 residential dwellings and 5 businesses flooded internally in Catcliffe.
- 8 residential dwellings flooded internally in Treeton.
- 3 strategic roads in Catcliffe & Treeton flooded.

- 1.7 In its budget for 2025-26, the Council has committed substantial capital investment to flood alleviation measures in the worst-affected areas of Catcliffe and Treeton. A total of £6 million has been allocated across the 2025–2029 Capital Programme to support the design and construction of the replacement bridge at Treeton Lane.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 The current cost estimate for the design and construction of the replacement bridge at Treeton Lane is approximately £6 million. This estimate is based on preliminary design and benchmarking against similar flood alleviation infrastructure projects. It is important to acknowledge that large-scale civil engineering schemes, particularly those involving flood mitigation and regulatory oversight, are subject to a range of external variables that can significantly influence final costs.
- 2.2 Experience from comparable projects has shown that over a five-year delivery timeframe, factors such as construction inflation, changes in material costs, unforeseen ground conditions, and evolving regulatory requirements can contribute to substantial cost increases. Additionally, the involvement of external approval bodies, including the Environment Agency and other statutory consultees (such as the Planning Authority), may introduce programme delays or design modifications that carry financial implications. For this reason, additional allocation has been built into the approved budget for the scheme.
- 2.3 One of the key delivery risks associated with the Treeton Lane bridge replacement scheme is the limited availability of suitably qualified contractors with experience in complex flood alleviation and bridge infrastructure projects.

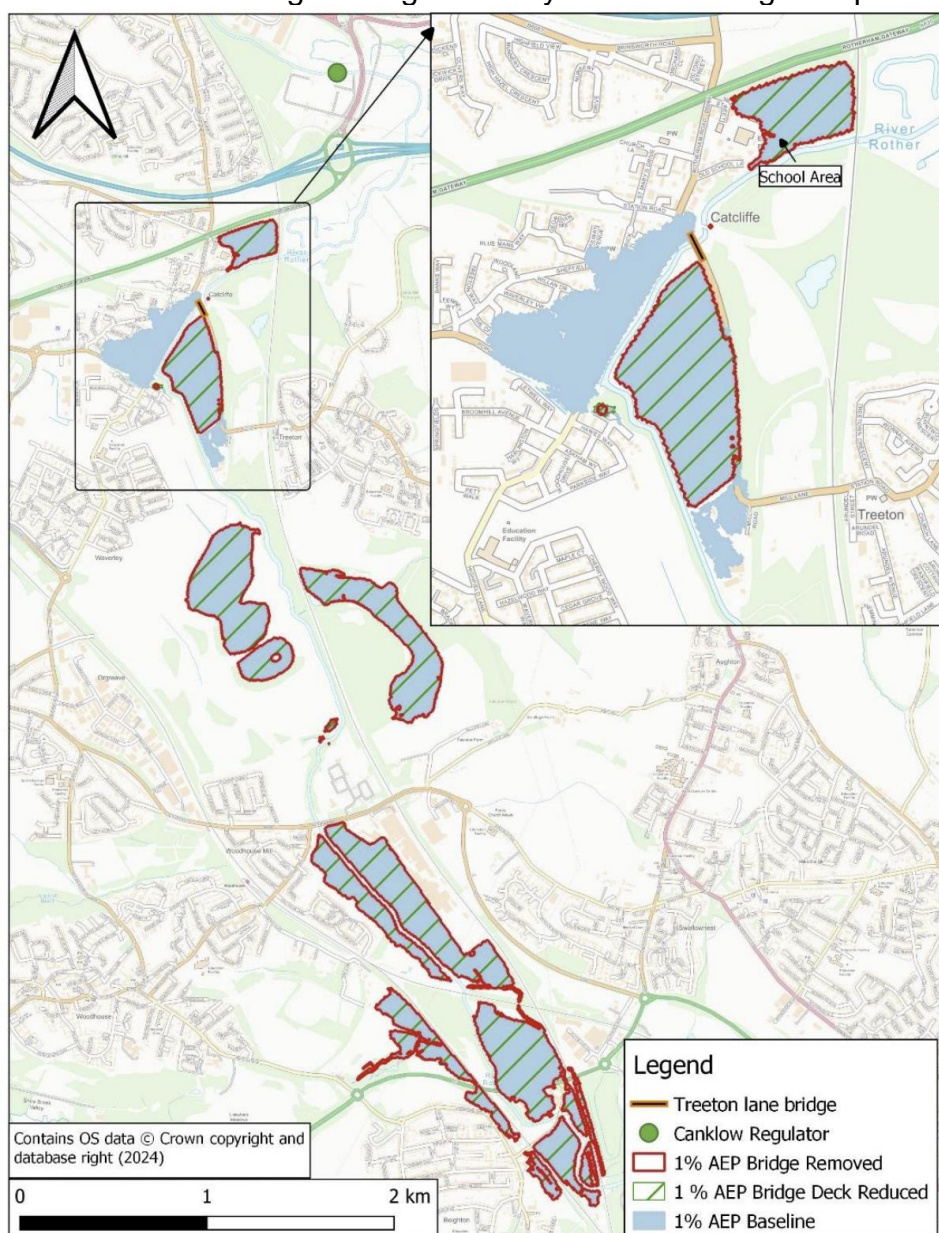
The specialist nature of the works, particularly the integration of hydraulic design, environmental mitigation, and structural engineering means that the pool of contractors capable of delivering such schemes to the required standards is relatively small.

- 2.4 To mitigate this risk and maintain momentum within the programme, the Council is prioritising early contractor engagement. Securing a design and build contractor at the earliest opportunity will be critical to ensuring continuity between the design and construction phases, enabling more efficient planning, risk management, and coordination with regulatory bodies such as the Environment Agency.
- 2.5 Early engagement will also allow the contractor to contribute valuable insights during the design development stage, helping to refine construction methodologies, identify potential constraints, and optimise the programme for delivery. Subject to approvals, the procurement process is expected to conclude with contract award in Quarter 3 of the 2025/26 financial year, positioning the project for a timely transition into detailed design and mobilisation. In order to continue to progress at pace, this report seeks a delegation to the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment to award the contract, following a procurement process, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces and the Section 151 Officer.
- 2.6 This proactive approach reflects the Council's commitment to delivering the scheme within the targeted timeframe, while recognising and addressing the challenges inherent in sourcing specialist delivery partners.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 Following the flooding incident in October 2023 (Storm Babet), Rotherham Council undertook a comprehensive review of potential measures to reduce the risk of future flooding in the communities of Catcliffe and Treeton. As part of its commitment to delivering a long-term and effective solution, the Council allocated funding to support both the design and construction phases of the preferred solution.
- 3.2 To ensure transparency and community involvement, a series of public engagement events were organised, chaired by the local Member of Parliament. These sessions provided an opportunity for residents to review and discuss the proposed options, with particular focus on the preferred solution outlined below.
- 3.3 **Preferred Option: Improving Downstream Conveyance**  
A detailed study was commissioned to assess how downstream conveyance within the River Rother could be improved, specifically focusing on the hydraulic impact of the existing Treeton Lane bridge. The investigation included advanced hydraulic modelling, which demonstrated that the current bridge structure significantly restricts river flow during high water events.

- 3.4 The modelling results indicated that reducing the thickness of the bridge deck would enhance conveyance and reduce upstream flood risk. Consequently, the preferred solution involves the removal of the existing bridge and its replacement with a new structure designed to modern engineering standards. The new bridge will feature an increased clearance between the deck and the river channel, thereby improving flow capacity and reducing the likelihood of future flooding.
- 3.5 Hydraulic modelling has demonstrated that the proposed reduction of the bridge deck by 900mm effectively eliminates the risk of flooding during a 1 in 200-year return period event. Additional scenarios were assessed, including the permanent removal of the bridge structure; however, these alternatives did not provide any measurable improvement in the standard of flood protection when compared to the 900mm deck reduction option. The modelling results indicate that the selected approach provides an optimal balance between engineering feasibility and flood mitigation performance.



- 3.6 The above diagram shows that with a reduction in the bridge deck or the bridge being removed, no property flooding would occur for a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP); the blue shading is the baseline of the hydraulic model. The options for removing the bridge and reducing the bridge deck are hatched in green with a red outline. The model report shows all flooding will remain within the river level and designed flood storage areas.
- 3.7 This option has been selected as the most technically and environmentally effective approach and, following Council approval of a £6m Capital Investment for both design and build, awarded in the 2025/26 budget, is now being progressed into the detailed design and delivery stages.
- 3.8 To progress the Scheme, the Council is currently seeking the necessary approvals to appoint a design and build contractor. This procurement approach is intended to streamline delivery by integrating design and construction under one contractor, thereby improving coordination and reducing programme risk. Subject to approval, it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in Quarter 4 of the 2025/26 financial year, enabling mobilisation and commencement of detailed design shortly thereafter.
- 3.9 To secure design approvals, various 3<sup>rd</sup> party design approvals will be required from the Environment Agency before works can commence. Previous experience has demonstrated this can be a lengthy procedure.
- 3.10 It is believed that in-channel foundation works will need to be delivered during the summer months to take advantage of lower river levels. The new bridge structure will be fabricated off-site and lifted into position, which should streamline installation and reduce dependency on weather conditions. However, this is a complex Scheme with numerous factors to coordinate and consider.
- 3.11 For this reason, the Council is seeking a Design and Build Contractor to help mitigate risks to the Council which may arise from a change of contractors between these critical stages. This builds on the Council's experience of delivering other significant flood mitigation scheme such as the Canal Barrier and Ickles Lock. The project will require specialist expertise.
- 3.12 The Council is ambitious in aiming to deliver the Scheme within three years to seek to protect residents and properties as quickly as possible, but experience suggests that a five-year timeline may be more realistic.

#### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The Council held two public meetings that were chaired by the local Member of Parliament; both were very well attended. The bridge scheme was discussed at the meeting and received widespread support from the local community. Further to these events, two community drop in sessions have been held with member so the Council in attendance to allow residents the opportunity to discuss the Scheme or any concerns in a one-to-one environment.

- 4.2 On 9 May 2025, a formal consultation was held with representatives from the Environment Agency to proactively identify and address any potential regulatory or environmental constraints that could impact the progression of the design phase. The purpose of this engagement was to ensure that all relevant statutory requirements and environmental considerations are fully integrated into the project from the outset, thereby reducing the risk of delays or non-compliance at later stages.
- 4.3 During the meeting, a collaborative approach was adopted to review the scope of the proposed works and assess any areas where environmental sensitivities may arise. As a result of these discussions, initial agreements were reached regarding the specific environmental permits that will be required to support the development. Furthermore, the Environment Agency provided guidance on key environmental aspects that must be incorporated into the design, including mitigation measures, ecological enhancements, and water management strategies.
- 4.4 This early engagement has laid a strong foundation for ongoing collaboration with the Environment Agency throughout the lifecycle of the project. It also demonstrates a commitment to responsible and sustainable design practices, ensuring that environmental obligations are met in a timely and efficient manner.
- 4.5 In addition to external stakeholder engagement, consultation has also been undertaken with the internal structures team to support the development of the bridge design specification. This collaborative effort has been instrumental in refining the technical requirements and ensuring that the proposed design aligns with both engineering standards and project objectives.
- 4.6 The input provided by the Structures Team has contributed significantly to the completion of a robust and comprehensive specification, which will form the basis of the tendering documentation. Their expertise has helped to address key structural considerations, including load capacity, material selection, and construction methodology, thereby enhancing the overall quality and feasibility of the design.
- 4.7 This internal coordination reflects a multidisciplinary approach to project delivery and ensures that the design is both technically sound and commercially viable as it progresses into the procurement phase.

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The anticipated delivery timeframe for the Scheme is between three to five years starting in 2025 with a completion date of 2028 to 2030. While the Council is committed to delivering the project as efficiently as possible with an ambitious target of completion within three years, previous experience with complex flood alleviation schemes suggests that a longer programme may be required. This is particularly relevant where coordination with external regulatory bodies, such as the Environment Agency, is necessary to secure environmental approvals and technical consents.

- 5.2 To progress the Scheme, the Council is currently seeking the necessary approvals to appoint a design and build contractor. This procurement approach is intended to streamline delivery by integrating design and construction under a single contract, thereby improving coordination and reducing programme risk. Subject to approval, it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in Quarter 3 of the 2025/26 financial year, enabling mobilisation and commencement of detailed design shortly thereafter. This investment will not only address a key hydraulic constraint within the River Rother but also contribute to long-term community resilience and infrastructure modernisation in a flood-prone area.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 On 5 March 2025, Council approved a £6m capital investment for the Catcliffe Village (River Rother) Flood Alleviation Scheme, as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025-26. The scheme is funded by Council borrowing and is profiled from 2025/26 to 2028/29.
- 6.2 The procurement activity detailed in this report will be undertaken in compliance with relevant procurement legislation, namely the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR15), as the route to market identified is a call-off via a framework procured under PCR15 is proposed.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 Under s.6(7) Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Council is designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority for the Borough. Pursuant to Section 19 of the Act, Lead Local Flood Authorities must investigate significant local flooding events and publish their findings. The replacement of the bridge on Treeton Lane as set out the report is a recommended outcome of those investigations.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 This severe flooding affected many families including those with children and some vulnerable adults. Reducing the risk of flooding will have a positive impact on those affected or at risk in future events.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 As noted within the appendix, the Equality Impact Assessment confirmed full implications will be investigated as design process is undertaken. The report is to note scheme progress to date,



## 11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 As noted within the appendix, full implications will be investigated as design process is undertaken. The report is to note scheme progress to date.

## 12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The delivery of the proposed scheme may require planning approval and will require approval from the Environment Agency. The works will take place in River Rother channel, and this will include environmental mitigation (e.g., fish passes, habitat restoration) and permit approval. The full implications will be investigated as the design progresses.
- 12.2 The highway network will be affected by the replacement of the existing road bridge on Treeton Lane. The vehicle connectivity between Catcliffe and Treeton Villages will be interrupted. It is hoped that an alternative pedestrian route can be offered, during the construction period.

## 13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The delivery of a major civil engineering project in a river channel will be challenging. The design of the proposed scheme will need to address geotechnical, hydraulic, and structural complexities. The project will be design and delivered by experienced industry leading consultants and contractors to mitigate the risk to the Council.

The tender process will provide assurance regarding the estimated design and delivery cost to reduce scheme delivery risk.

- 13.2 The project will be design and delivered by experienced industry leading consultants and contractors to mitigate the risk to the Council of any unforeseen ground conditions such as riverbed instability, or extreme weather can delay or complicate construction

## 14. Accountable Officers

Richard Jackson, Head of Highways and Flood Risk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	28/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/10/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	21/10/25

Report Author: Richard Jackson, Head of Highways and Flood Risk

[Richard.Jackson@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Jackson@rotherham.gov.uk)

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



## 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: Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme**

**Directorate:**  
**Regeneration and Environment**

**Service area:**  
**Community Safety and Streetscene**

**Lead person:**  
**Andy Saxton**

**Contact number:**  
**01709 822296**

Is this a:

☐

**Strategy / Policy**

☐

**Service / Function**

☒

**Other**

**If other, please specify:** Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme - note the progress to date and the next steps in the Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme.

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

The report reviews works being undertaken within Catcliffe and Treeton Village including major capital intervention project to reduce flood risk.

This report provides an update on current progress and next steps within moving the scheme into design phase for the construction of a new bridge between Catcliffe and Treeton Villages to improve conveyance within the River Rother.

### 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?		✓
Could the proposal affect service users?		✓
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		✓
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		✓
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		✓

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

A full assessment will be carried out after the design phase and before the construction phase begins.

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

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

### 4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made. Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

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

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

The Council's Flood Risk Management project will provide a reduction to flood risk for residents, businesses and critical infrastructure, including schools, highways, and other public transport links within Catcliffe and Treeton.

All residents, businesses, local Councillors and relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to the delivery of the scheme. All queries relating to access to properties or businesses are considered in the provision of the works. All additional requirements required to meet any specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of our works will be accommodated, where practical and appropriate.

The Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.

The Council has already engaged with communities through Parish/Town Councils and held public meetings, distributed newsletters to residents and businesses previously affected by flooding, as well as engagement with stakeholders, landowners and residents where applicable.

Accessibility and mobility have already been considered and differing options will be implemented closer to the time of construction.

- **Key findings**

issues around access and cutting of routes between the villages have been considered and will be progressed as the project proceeds.

The long term benefit of reducing flood risk will reduce the overall impacts for communities because:

- Property/infrastructure will be flooded less frequently, requiring less frequent property and infrastructure closure and repair, reducing the effect on the community
- Requirement for emergency response during flood events that is provided via the Council and its Partners to vulnerable groups will be less frequent

In the short term, disruption will increase construction phases of the Flood Risk Management project, with only localised impacts anticipated. Medium and long term impacts would be a reduction in disruption, because flooding will be less frequent, reducing the impacts associated with carrying out repair works and delivering an emergency response.

- **Actions**

Accessibility and mobility have already been considered and will be designed implemented at a closer time to the construction phase. During the detailed design phase Organisations and Community Groups will be identified and liaised with to help improve

## Appendix 1

equality and diversity aspects (such as mobility and accessibility) of the design where possible.	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	5 August 2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	Rich
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Kyle Heydon, Principal Drainage Engineer

### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Richard Jackson	Head of Highways and Flood Risk	04/09/2025

### 6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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	05/08/2025
Report title and date	Cabinet Report - Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme
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 Decision date:
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	04/09/2025

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 the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Increased transport movements will occur during survey/investigation and construction works.	N/A – only localised impacts anticipated	Where practical, reduce travel during survey/investigation works; target use of locally sourced materials during construction works; and dispose of wastes to local sites.	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	Demolition and clearance works would result in additional emissions during such works.	N/A – only localised impacts anticipated	Where practical, materials from demolition and clearance works will be re-used within the permanent works.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	-	-	-	
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	The Council has a statutory duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate flood risk.	N/A – only localised impacts anticipated	Where practical, FAS assets should be designed to reduce emissions from construction, including targeting the use locally sourced materials during	

		<p>The Council seeks to reduce flood risk where possible for the benefits of Rotherham's communities, businesses and infrastructure operators.</p> <p>Both the above can increase emissions in the short term.</p>		<p>construction works. In previous construction works, the Council has used alternative construction materials such as Ultra-Low Carbon Concrete, where practical and affordable, to mitigate embodied carbon emissions. Discussions will be held with Contractors during pre-construction phases, to see if the fuel used on site during construction can be reduced, and the quantity/type of materials can be estimated (to estimate embodied carbon emissions)</p>	
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Decrease	<p>Whilst some trees will need to be removed to construct FAS assets, this loss will be mitigated through replacement tree planting.</p>	<p>N/A – only localised impacts anticipated</p>	<p>The Council is targeting Biodiversity Net Gain across the FAS projects, and this will include proposals to plant new trees (in addition to those required as replacements for lost trees).</p>	

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

The long-term benefit of reducing flood risk will reduce the overall impacts on emissions because:

- Property/infrastructure will be flooded less frequently, requiring less frequent property and infrastructure repair works to be undertaken
- Emergency response during flood events that is provided via the Council and its Partners will require less travel and material use

Managing the risk of flooding from rivers through flood alleviation schemes will increase the climate resilience of the Borough and its residents through climate adaptation, which should complement the Council's efforts to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions.

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

The Council's Flood Risk Management project will provide a reduction to flood risk for residents, businesses and critical infrastructure, including schools, highways, and other public transport links within Catcliffe and Treeton.

During construction the works will cause some delay in the Council carrying out its duties due to the diversion routes that will be required while the bridge is being replaced.

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

In the short term, emissions will increase during the survey/investigation and construction phases of the project, with only localised impacts anticipated. Medium- and long-term impacts would be a reduction in emissions, because flooding will be less frequent, reducing the impacts associated with carrying out repair works and delivering an emergency response.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Kyle Heydon  
Principal Drainage Engineer  
Flood Risk  
Regeneration and Environment

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.

N/A

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.

N/A

Validation

Tracking Reference: CIA 540

Arthur King  
Principal Climate Change Officer

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

Pride in Place

**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 of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

Megan Hinchliff, Regeneration Programme & Strategy Manager  
01709 289207 or [Megan.Hinchliff@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Megan.Hinchliff@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Boston Castle, Sitwell, Dalton & Thrybergh, Rotherham East, Rotherham West, Keppel, Greasbrough, Rawmarsh East

**Report Summary**

Pride in Place (PiP) was originally announced in March 2025 and named the Plan for Neighbourhoods. It is part of a wider strategy to ensure that nowhere is left behind. It is intended to “help revitalise local areas and fight deprivation at root cause by zeroing in on 3 goals: creating thriving places, building stronger communities, and empowering people to thrive. Rotherham is one of 75 places in the UK to benefit from a £20m fund to be made available over 10 years.

The report seeks approval from Cabinet, to submit Rotherham’s PiP Phase 1 Regeneration Plan, a high-level indicative plan comprising a 10-year vision and 4-year funding profile, as detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 by 28 November 2025. This report is not concerned with the recently announced second award of funding from the Pride in Place programme for Maltby East. Development work will take place on this during 2026 for a programme start in April 2027.

Authorisation is also sought to draw down £415,103 capacity funding to commence preparation for the delivery of the Phase 1 programme and to allocate funding for the Pride in Place Impact Fund.

## Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with S151 Officer and the Leader of the Council to submit Rotherham's PiP Phase 1 Regeneration Plan in line with the Government's Pride in Place programme.
2. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with S151 Officer, the Leader of the Council and the Neighbourhood Board Chair to approve the delivery of Rotherham's interventions (as detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2).
3. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with S151 Officer, the Leader of the Council and the Neighbourhood Board Chair to reallocate funding and add, amend or replace a scheme or intervention should it become unfeasible or undeliverable.
4. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport, to draw down the 2025/26 allocation of £415,103 capacity funding, in line with the details provided at Section 2.
5. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with S151 Officer and the Leader of the Council to approve allocations from the Pride in Place Impact Fund as outlined in section 3.4.

## List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Rotherham Pride in Place Phase 1 Regeneration Plan (10 Year Vision)  
Appendix 2 Funding Profile by Intervention Theme  
Appendix 3 Place Standard Tool Consultation Analysis  
Appendix 4 Initial Equality Screening Assessment Part A  
Appendix 5 Climate Impact Assessment

## Background Papers

UK government Guide: [Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)  
[Decision - Plan for Neighbourhoods Consultation - Rotherham Council July 2025](#)  
[Plan for Neighbourhoods: Regeneration Plan guidance - GOV.UK](#)  
Government issued BUA data pack [Rotherham.pdf](#)

## Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Places Select Commission – 02 September 2025  
Improving Places Select Commission – 21 October 2025

## Council Approval Required

No

## Exempt from the Press and Public

No

## Pride in Place

### 1. Background

- 1.1.1 The UK government's Plan for Change is focused on economic growth to raise living standards. The Government refers to worsening deprivation and the reduced growth potential in certain areas of the Country and aims to address this inequality and lay stronger foundations for boosting the national prosperity.
- 1.1.2 In March 2025, the Government announced that the central area of Rotherham had been selected to receive up to £20 million over a 10-year period as part of the Plan for Neighbourhoods (PfN), which replaces the previous 'Long Term Plan for Towns'. Since September 2025 the initiative is now known as the Pride in Place (PiP) programme. The first phase of this programme is a fund of £1.5 billion which aims to revitalise designated intervention areas in 75 towns across the UK.
- 1.1.3 Specifically, the PiP initiative aims to create safer, healthier neighbourhoods where communities can thrive by delivering against the three strategic objectives:
- Create thriving places.
  - Build stronger communities.
  - Empower people to thrive.
- 1.1.4 Overall, through the PiP programme the Government aims to foster stronger, more well-connected communities, where people trust each other and feel a common identity; to improve resilience, cohesion and safety by tackling economic and social marginalisation by:
- Raising living standards.
  - Reducing social exclusion.
  - Spreading opportunities for young people.
  - Improving health and wellbeing.
  - Building stronger and more cohesive communities.
  - Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.1.5 Selected places are required to submit a 'Regeneration Plan' consisting of a 10-year Vision document and plans for the first 4 years of investment, see Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. This is intended to be a high-level indicative plan, reflecting the priority intervention areas emerging from the consultation to be further developed through work with the Neighbourhood Board (see section 1.3) This is due to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- 1.1.6 Rotherham will subsequently be required to submit a new investment plan for years 5-7 and again for years 8-10. These submissions will be subject to future Cabinet approval.

## 1.2 Pride in Place Phase 1 Geography

- 1.2.1 A key stipulation of the funding is that MHCLG determine the area of focus. The boundary chosen by Government is Rotherham's 'Built Up Area' (BUA) as defined by the Office for National Statistics. At the heart of Rotherham's BUA is the town centre and it is surrounded by a concentration of the most deprived areas of the Borough.
- 1.2.2 Although made up of distinct neighbourhoods, the area identified in the phase 1 funding should be seen as one mutually beneficial community for the purpose of this funding.
- 1.2.3 While £20m is a significant sum, the funding is spread over a large geography with a population of 71,627, [00] and a long period of time; it is essential therefore that its allocation is carefully considered and concentrated to ensure it has impact.

### 1.2.4 List of places

#### Area

Town Centre, Canklow, Broom Valley and parts of Clifton, Moorgate and Templeborough  
 Deepdale, Whiston and Broom  
 East Herringthorpe  
 Eastwood, East Dene, Clifton and Herringthorpe  
 Ferham, Holmes, Masborough, Thornhill, Henley, Bradgate, Blackburn, Richmond Park and part of Kimberworth  
 Part of Scholes, Kimberworth and Kimberworth Park  
 Part of Greasbrough and Wingfield  
 Aldwarke

#### Ward

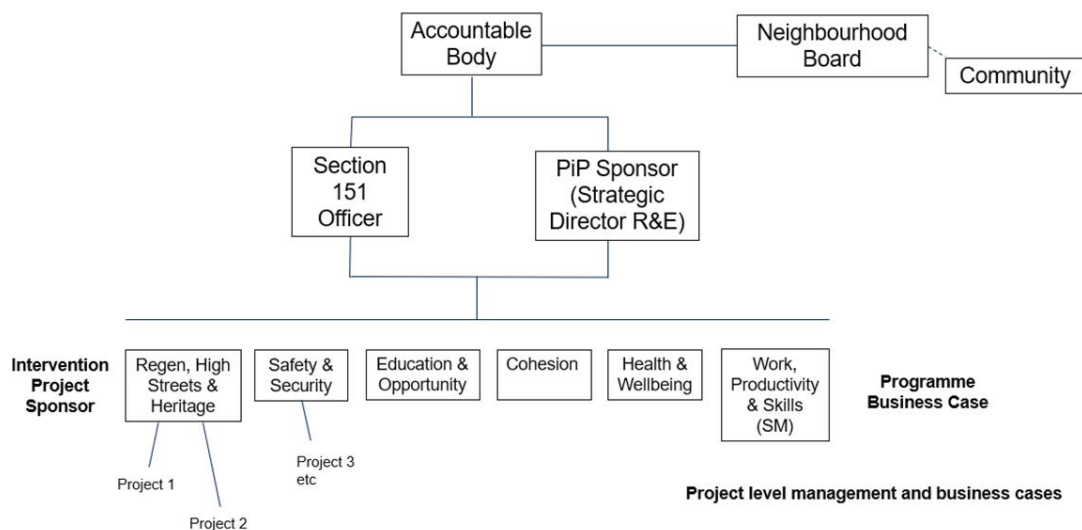
Boston Castle  
 Sitwell  
 Dalton & Thrybergh  
 Rotherham East  
 Rotherham West  
 Keppel  
 Greasbrough  
 Rawmarsh East

### 1.2.5 Boundary Map



### 1.3 Neighbourhood Board

- 1.3.1 A requirement of the funding is that a Neighbourhood Board must be established and it should bring together those with a deep connection to the local area.
- 1.3.2 This structure puts local people at the centre of defining their town's future, with responsibility for developing their Regeneration Plan, in partnership with the local authority, to deliver the strategic objectives of the programme.
- 1.3.3 As encouraged by Government, Rotherham's Neighbourhood Board originated from the established Town Board but has been adapted to ensure it is representative of the BUA geography and equipped to undertake its responsibilities within the PiP programme.
- 1.3.4 Since the fund was established, Rotherham's Phase 1 Neighbourhood Board has been transitioning and its membership is expected to continue evolving up until the commencement of the programme in April 2026, so that representation is reflective of the geography and the investment themes. Presently the Neighbourhood Board is made up of representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as statutory involvement from South Yorkshire Police, the MP for Rotherham Central and two Ward Councillors - the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy (Councillor John Williams) and Councillor Thorp, Councillor for Sitwell Ward. . At the time of preparing this report, the process of appointing a new Chair is underway.
- 1.3.5 The diagram below sets out the overall delivery structure including how the Council as the Accountable Body and the Neighbourhood Board will work together to carry out their individual functions.



## **2. Key Issues**

### **2.1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan**

- 2.1.1 Rotherham Council proposes to respond to the Government's call by submitting a Regeneration Plan made up of two parts: a 10-year vision (Appendix 1) describing Rotherham today, its vision, need for investment, strategic alignment and how the Council will meet its duties as Accountable Body. This sits alongside a 4-year investment plan (summarised in Appendix 2) outlining how funding will be allocated within the first investment period of the programme. The two documents are intended to be read together.
- 2.1.2 Following extensive community and stakeholder consultation, as detailed in Appendix 3 and summarised in Section 4, along with local level data analysis, the Council has worked in partnership with the emerging Neighbourhood Board to develop Rotherham's response to Pride in Place Phase 1. This is now provided to Cabinet for approval.
- 2.1.3 Rotherham's 10-year vision is intended to be a long-term document that sets out the strategic ambition. However, opportunities to review and refresh it are provided within the programme.
- 2.1.4 The 4-year investment plan is not expected to be an exhaustive document but instead an indication of the types of interventions that will be prioritised, which should then be refined during the early delivery stages of the delivery period. The selection of specific projects will be carried out throughout this process, providing more clarity on how funding will be allocated.

### **2.2 Vision for the Future**

- 2.2.1 Rotherham is bold in its ambitions for the future and is currently delivering investment programmes of inclusive growth that people can see and feel in their daily lives.
- 2.2.2 To establish its Pride in Place, Rotherham is putting forward its vision for the future which will set the roadmap for investment over the programme. The 10-year vision document is provided at Appendix 1, but is summarised below.
- 2.2.3 Rotherham's Built Up Area geography (see data pack in background documents) demonstrates some positive trends, such as higher than average footfall (considered to be largely attributable to Parkgate shopping area) and fewer barriers to accessing housing and services when compared to national insights. It is clear however, as supported by consultation evidence, that there are also complex and compounding challenges with regards to low incomes, a qualification deficit, low social trust and high commercial vacancy rates. The vast majority of Rotherham's BUA is within the top 7 most deprived wards in the Borough.

- 2.2.4 The funding will therefore be committed to a long term programme of tackling the root causes of this disparity to create an attractive and desirable place that is forward looking, innovative and proud.
- 2.2.5 Rotherham's Pride in Place Phase 1 approach is born from the principles that:
- A strong, well performing town centre provides for its local and extended communities by being attractive with a strong service provision and is well-maintained and accessible.
  - A strong and resilient community is one in which people feel a sense of belonging and mutual respect, with the ability to connect to opportunities, services and each other.
- 2.2.6 Creating a greater relationship between the Town Centre and its surrounding communities is the strategic focus of Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods to support mutually beneficial growth.

## 2.3 **4-year Investment Plan**

- 2.3.1 The Government has structured the fund around a set of themes under which are a list of pre-approved interventions. This aims to guide Neighbourhood Boards in the allocation of funding and development of projects. The themes and interventions are considered to be suitably designed to address Rotherham's specific challenges, and with adequate flexibility to reflect the longevity of the programme.
- 2.3.2 Following consultation with communities and the Neighbourhood Board, Rotherham's investment themes for the first 4 years are listed below. Whilst the project level detail is to be developed on commencement of the programme in April 2026, a summary of the type of interventions being explored is provided below.

### **Investment Theme 1: Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage**

- 2.3.3 Rotherham has a long standing commitment to improving its town and neighbourhood centres. Residents support directing investment towards the creation of thriving places, in particular where this makes them feel safer and well cared for. Tackling vacancies and improving the built environment in the Town Centre will be key to creating vibrant streets and more inviting public spaces. Projects to be explored will include capital investment as well as funding for operational costs over the length of the programme.
- 2.3.4 Rotherham's local centres, parks and community facilities are well used and communities take real pride in them. Therefore, opportunities to upgrade infrastructure and support people to make the most of them will be explored in order to future proof these assets.
- 2.3.5 Investment in Rotherham's young people is a common passion locally, therefore funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative initiatives will

aim to provide a long term commitment to nurturing home grown talent and fostering community pride. With a particular focus on providing support and inspiration, this will include the animation of public spaces through events, art and performance to showcase what Rotherham has to offer at a local, regional and national scale.

### **Investment Theme 2: Safety and Security**

- 2.3.6 Rotherham's residents, businesses and visitors consistently report that they want to feel safer. Therefore, interventions to prevent crime in targeted locations will be explored throughout the programme. Designing out crime along with investment in management and maintenance will make public spaces safer and more welcoming, boosting investor confidence, and unlocking greater potential in Rotherham's central area.

### **Investment Theme 3: Education and opportunity**

- 2.3.7 Consultation highlighted low levels of reported influence and sense of control indicating an opportunity to deliver greater civic participation.
- 2.3.8 Support for community-based learning and development will be explored to develop outreach work, grow skills, empower residents, and create more opportunities for communities to forge their futures. Key to achieving this ambition will be just as much about creating an inviting forum for collaboration that works for the locality as it will be about funding.

### **Investment Theme 4: Cohesion**

- 2.3.9 Communities want to see long term investment in measures to improve community cohesion, capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society, youth and community groups. Best practice suggests that these should be self-driven interventions, therefore work under this theme will develop opportunities for communities to access funding for projects that support collaboration, celebrate diversity, create a shared sense of belonging and create civic pride.

### **Investment Theme 5: Health and Wellbeing**

- 2.3.10 Healthy life expectancy for males in the borough is 2.8 years lower than the Yorkshire and Humber average and for females is 3.8 years lower. Rotherham will therefore allocate a significant proportion of this investment programme towards health and wellbeing interventions to address this disparity.
- 2.3.11 Capital investment towards the integration of health and wellbeing services and local sport and activity will embed services and facilities that are key to healthy living in areas that are convenient for residents. The right facilities in the right locations will also boost footfall and support places to thrive.



- 2.3.12 Funding for community level outreach work will make support more accessible and responsive, increasing health benefits whilst reducing inequalities that disproportionately affect Rotherham's BUA in acknowledgement that healthier communities are stronger communities.

### **Investment Theme 6: Work, productivity and skills**

- 2.3.13 Analysis of the consultation feedback ranked work and the local economy as one of lowest scoring themes, indicating an obvious priority for improvement and highlighting the strong ambition amongst residents. Developing and expanding existing local business support and networks for smaller business and social enterprises will aim to harness local skills and talent for the benefit of the wider local economy.
- 2.3.14 Exploring investment that addresses skills gaps will aim to empower people to tap into opportunities in growing employment sectors and increase their earning potential.

### **Alignment with the Council Plan**

- 2.3.15 The Pride in Place principles closely align with Rotherham's established priorities, and the funding supports opportunities to be bold in our ambitions and make long term funding commitments. Interventions selected and projects developed will support delivery of Rotherham's Council Plan objectives through creating **Places that are thriving, safe and clean, an economy that works for everyone**, and an environment where **children and young people achieve**, and **residents live well**.

## **3. Capacity Funding and Pride in Place Impact Fund**

- 3.1 Government has allocated a revenue capacity budget to Pride in Place in order to support the development of Rotherham's Regeneration Plan, as well as to build capacity in communities and prepare for the investment programme.
- 3.2 It is proposed that this funding is utilised as below to ensure that the Neighbourhood Board, delivery team, and the community is upskilled and well-resourced when the programme commences in 2026. Further detail on the Voluntary and Community Sector capacity building work will be provided including opportunities to participate.

3.3	Accountable Body Costs	£57,800
	Communications, consultation and engagement	£30,303
	Neighbourhood Board budget	£77,000
	Voluntary & community sector capacity building	£150,000
	Preparation for programme delivery	£100,000
	Total 2025/26 budget	£415,103

- 3.4 Additionally, the Government has allocated £1.5m through the new Impact Fund to Rotherham Council, as one of 95 local authorities across the country, to deliver some short term capital interventions. £750,000 has been allocated in 2025/26 and a further £750,000 in 2026/27 to be spent within each financial year on improvements to community spaces, public spaces and high streets across the borough. Through this report, delegated authority is sought to allocate this funding to be spent on projects that meet the Government's criteria within the timescales.

#### **4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

##### **4.1 Do Nothing**

The Council could choose not to pursue this grant funding opportunity however, the consultation and area data suggests that the proposed interventions are critical to addressing local need. This option is therefore not recommended.

##### **4.2 Progress the funding opportunity**

It is recommended that the Council, in partnership with the Neighbourhood Board, submits Rotherham's PiP Phase 1 Regeneration Plan to Government in November, to bring forward a long-term programme of interventions that will deliver positive outputs for local people. Following Government's review of the submission, work will then progress with the Neighbourhood Board on refining a programme of funded projects.

#### **5. Consultation on proposal**

- 5.1 Rotherham undertook a public consultation exercise, targeted at the selected geography from 14 July to 26 August 2025. This expanded on the extensive programme of consultation that was carried out in 2024 under the superseded Long Term Plan for Towns initiative. The methodology employed and the consultation outcomes is provided in Appendix 3.

- 5.2 Analysis of data from other consultation exercises in recent years was also utilised, including the Council Plan insights.

## 6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1	November 2025	28 November - Deadline for submission of Regeneration Plan to MHCLG for assessment and approval.
	December 2025 –	Consideration of submission by MHCLG.
	March 2026	Once the Regeneration Plan is accepted, a memorandum of understanding will be agreed between the local authority (as the accountable body) and MHCLG.
	April 2026 to March 2030	Period 1: First phase of Rotherham's Regeneration Plan commences with the release of the first tranche of funding in April 2026
	April 2030 to March 2033	Period 2: The second phase of delivery following approval of Rotherham's second Regeneration Plan by Cabinet and MHCLG.
	April 2033 to March 2035	Period 3: The final phase of delivery following approval of Rotherham's third Regeneration Plan by Cabinet and MHCLG.

## 7 Roles and responsibilities

- 7.1 Government stipulates that the delivery of this initiative should take a partnership approach, therefore a number of roles are defined.

### Accountable Body

- 7.2 The role of the Council is to support the Neighbourhood Board in the development and delivery of the plan. Importantly, the statutory role of an Accountable Body for the use, distribution and management of the public funds sits with the Council.

- 7.3 The Council's role is also to ensure compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control and procurement.

### Neighbourhood Board

- 7.4 As per the Government guidance, Rotherham's Neighbourhood Board is being established to develop the Regeneration Plan and lead the direction of the investment programme. However, ultimately the Board is accountable to the local community. The Board is limited to 20 members with each having an equal vote on Plan for Neighbourhood matters.

- 7.5 The Board Membership will be approved using delegated powers to appoint to outside bodies. For full transparency, Rotherham's Neighbourhood Board Terms of Reference, membership details and papers will be published on the Council's website.

## Delivery model

- 7.6 The Council's established gateway process for the delivery of capital and revenue projects will be utilised to develop and implement the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. Given this funding initiative spans numerous service areas, an overarching programme manager will be responsible for coordinating and delivering the plan as a whole. However, specialist project leads and programme sponsors will be accountable for the individual work areas.

## 8. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Rotherham has been selected to be one of 75 places to receive up to £20mil of funding over the next 10 years under the Government's "Plan for Neighbourhoods". This funding is split 25% revenue and 75% capital, with a profile as below:

Grant type (£000s)	2023 to 2025	2025 to 2026	2026 to 2027	2027 to 2028	2028 to 2029	2029 to 2030	2030 to 2031	2031 to 2032	2032 to 2033	2033 to 2034	2034 to 2035	2035 to 2036	Total
Revenue funding (capacity)	250	200	150										600
Revenue funding (grants)			232	256	432	432	432	432	437	450	450	450	4,003
Total revenue funding	250	200	382	256	432	432	432	432	437	450	450	450	4,603
Capital funding (grants)			360	1,736	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	14,936
Total													19,539

- 8.2 The interventions detailed in Appendix 2 propose allocating an indicative £8.4m of the available capital and £2.0m of the available revenue funding over the first four years of the grant's term as part of the first investment plan. This will result in spend in advance of the grant profile which will be managed over the lifetime of the grant. These themes have been chosen from a pre-approved list and up to £400k can be moved between themes without approval from The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). If approved, this will leave approximately £6.5m of capital funding and £2.6m of revenue funding available for further investment plans over the remaining six years of the grant.
- 8.3 Capacity funding is included within the overall £20m available. Plans for how this is to be spent are detailed in section 3 and have been shared with MHCLG. The Council may be able to carry this forward into future financial years, subject to MHCLG confirmation.
- 8.4 Under the grant terms and conditions, a statement of grant usage signed by the Council Chief Financial Officer (CFO) will be required annually.
- 8.5 As schemes are developed under this plan for delivery, careful consideration will need to be given to the prioritisation and planning of any required procurement activity. All procurement activity must be undertaken in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (namely the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023), which will be dependent on the route to market selected, as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

## **9. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 9.1 As described in the government guidance document Plan for Neighbourhoods, and as referred to above, the Council is the Accountable Body responsible for establishing the Neighbourhood Board. The Neighbourhood Board will be established in line with Government guidance and will be subject to governance arrangements as set out in a separate decision-making process.
- 9.2 Further as Accountable Body the Council will be responsible for ensuring that the relevant funding is distributed fairly and effectively and in accordance with the terms of the relevant funding arrangements. Also as Accountable Body the Council will be responsible for ensuring compliance with subsidy control and public procurement requirements, in relation to specific projects proposed within the Council's Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plan.

## **10. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

## **11. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 11.1 Support for children and young people and vulnerable adults features as a golden thread throughout Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods. In particular proposed investment in creative initiatives, supporting people to feel safe in the town centre and funding for cohesion and outreach work aims to generate positive outcomes.
- 11.2 The Neighbourhood Board will continue to increase engagement with children, young people and vulnerable adults to ensure delivery of the programme meets the needs, and addresses the ambitions of these groups.

## **12. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 12.1 Equality and diversity within the PfN programme will need to be further considered in the context of each individual intervention, as details of the interventions are developed. This will be captured through specific Equality Analysis and included within the Business Case process.
- 12.2 All interventions will be underpinned by the principles supporting and promoting equality and diversity and will aim at improving the quality of life of the local residents as well as providing equal and equitable opportunities for all, which is aligned with the government's provisions for the PfN programme.

- 12.3 Due to the length of the PfN programme it is expected that engagement with local communities will be ongoing to ensure the interventions address the priority needs of the local population, including the groups and individuals with protected characteristics.
- 12.4 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 4.

### **13. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 13.1 The climate impact of the PfN programme will be determined by the nature of each specific intervention. The detail of the interventions is yet to emerge. Some of possible interventions, e.g. creation of new or improvement of existing green spaces may directly contribute to the climate resilience of the borough and its residents.
- 13.2 Interventions, such as refurbishment and renovations may reduce the need of the future maintenance of improved areas and facilities. Investment in local services and facilities may reduce the distances people travel to engage in socio-economic and community/relationships building activities. Increased community cohesion, which is an expected outcome of the programme, can in itself indirectly contribute to positive environmental management.

### **14. Implications for Partners**

- 14.1 Growth for the most deprived areas of Rotherham cannot be delivered by the Council alone, therefore the collective commitment of all partners is essential to ensure this occurs. The development of Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods has been led by the Town Board which is made up of many key partners such as Voluntary Action Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), therefore at its core it has focussed on achieving alignment with their commitments and objectives. Further details on the Board membership and key stakeholder consultation is provided in the appendices.
- 14.2 In providing more opportunities to collaborate, and to access funding, PfN is considered to have positive implications for partners.

### **15. Risks and Mitigation**

- 15.1 The funding for the Plan for Neighbourhoods is structured to be delivered over a 10-year period, in accordance with government guidance. However, the economic and political context may shift over time, potentially influencing local priorities and the strategic direction of the programme. To ensure the funding continues to deliver outcomes, spend will be monitored regularly and reviewed against both the evolving Rotherham context and the Council's broader ambitions. This will enable the programme to remain flexible, responsive, and aligned with long-term regeneration goals.

- 15.2 The level of engagement from board members is critical to the success of community-led interventions. A lack of active participation in achieving quorum at board meetings, poses a significant risk to timely decision-making. Without the minimum number of attendees required to validate decisions, progress may be delayed. Measures will be taken to encourage consistent attendance and active involvement from board members. This includes clear communication of meeting schedules, efficient decision-making, and exploring flexible meeting formats (e.g. hybrid or virtual options) to accommodate availability. Additionally, engagement strategies such as regular updates, recognition of contributions, and alignment with community priorities will be used to sustain interest and commitment.

## 16. **Accountable Officers**

Simon Moss, Assistant Director Planning, Regeneration & Transport

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	29/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/10/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	21/10/25

*Report Author: Megan Hinchliff, Regeneration Programme & Strategy Manager  
01709 289207*

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

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## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

## 1. Introduction to the local community: history, identity, people, economy, and story so far.

### 3. ROTHERHAM TODAY



Rotherham is **one of four metropolitan boroughs** in South Yorkshire.



There were over **4 million visits** to Rotherham's brilliant culture, sport and **visitor attractions** last year with sites such as Wentworth Woodhouse, Gulliver's and Magna amongst South Yorkshire's most popular tourist destinations.



**25 wards** covering a wide range of urban, suburban, and rural areas. 70% of Rotherham is open countryside.



University Centre Rotherham offers **higher and further education opportunities** in the borough, training the borough's future teachers, engineers, software developers and carers.



Rotherham's **population of 271,195** mostly live in urban areas. Although growing, this is at a slower rate than the regional/national averages..



**Life expectancy** in the most deprived areas of Rotherham is 9.9 years lower for men and 9.5 years lower for women than in the least deprived. Gaps in healthy life expectancy are more stark: over 18 years for men and nearly 20 years for women.



**Population is ageing**, with 1 in 5 residents 65 and over. 53,570 (19.8%) people aged 65 years or over.



22% of residents live within the **10% most deprived areas of England** and the borough is amongst the 14% most deprived local authority areas in England. 11,904 children were living in "absolute poverty" (DWP, 2022/23)



An increasingly diverse community which includes **31,193** people from **minority ethnic groups** (11.7% of the population). The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British.



Record numbers of people **economically inactive** due to long term sickness (a third of all those economically inactive); 10.6% working age population have no qualification.



**75% of residents are satisfied** with their local area as a place to live, whilst 66% of residents are satisfied with the wider borough as a place to live.

#### [council-plan-2025-2030](#)

Understanding Rotherham, and the people who call the town home, is a vital starting point for Rotherham's Regeneration Plan.

Rotherham developed from a small market town into a major industrial centre based on coal and steel. Many of the current challenges stem from the legacy of its industrial past and the historical reliance of many communities on the steel and mining industries. The town has diversified and is now recognised for its strengths in advanced manufacturing and the innovative work ongoing within the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District (AMID).

Like many towns, there is an ageing population, health inequality is evident, and parts of the Borough remain some of the most deprived in the country, requiring more support and investment to ensure they share the benefits of an improving local economy. This deprivation is particularly concentrated in the neighbourhoods which surround the town centre which are over to the Built Up Area geography.

Rotherham's town centre suffered from de-population and the loss of many high street stores, but the town centre is transforming. Now home to a brand-new state of the art cinema, new hotel and restaurants, world renowned Grimm & Co, high quality public realm and green space improvements, new integrated services and a growing residential community all being delivered in the course of a decade.

Rotherham is proud to celebrate its culture, heritage and natural beauty. 70% of the Borough is rural, characterised by attractive villages and rolling countryside, much loved heritage buildings and an abundance of natural assets throughout its network of green and blue spaces. Yet participation in cultural activities is significantly lower than the national average. In response Rotherham Council and its partners are supporting everyone in the town to "get active, get creative and get outdoors more often."

## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

The town's excellent national road network links means that Rotherham has by far the highest rate of commuting flows in the City Region and correspondingly high levels of car use. In the last 5 years there has been significant investment in active travel with routes into and around the town centre being improved with innovative design to change user behaviour and prioritise the cyclist and pedestrian.

Rotherham's rail network remains limited by the branch line station which serves the town and gives direct access to the local area only. This inequality will be rectified with the arrival of Rotherham Gateway, opening up national links through multi-million-pound investment in a new mainline station, tram/train stop, innovation campus and new housing.

Rotherham is a key player in the Don Valley Corridor, one of the largest investment and economic growth opportunities for South Yorkshire. Spanning in geography from Sheffield through AMID, the town centre to the provision of 2,000 new homes at Bassingthorpe Farm and culminating in Rotherham Gateway. This opportunity has the potential to attract £1.2bn into the economy and an additional 8,000 jobs.

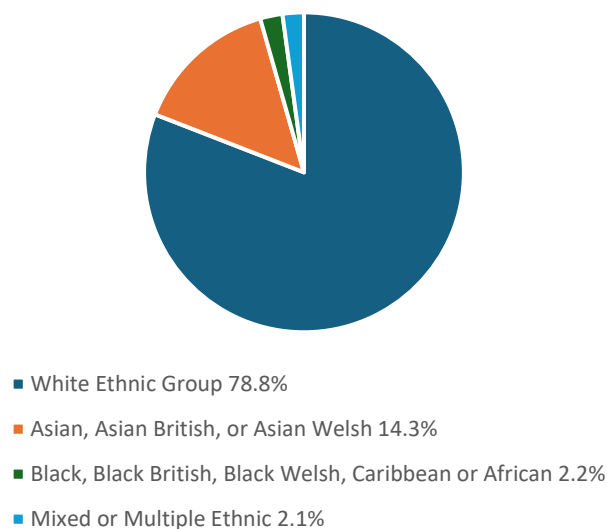
The Plan for Neighbourhoods geography sits within this corridor and is a vital part of the jigsaw of interventions to ensure some of our most deprived communities' benefit from growth.

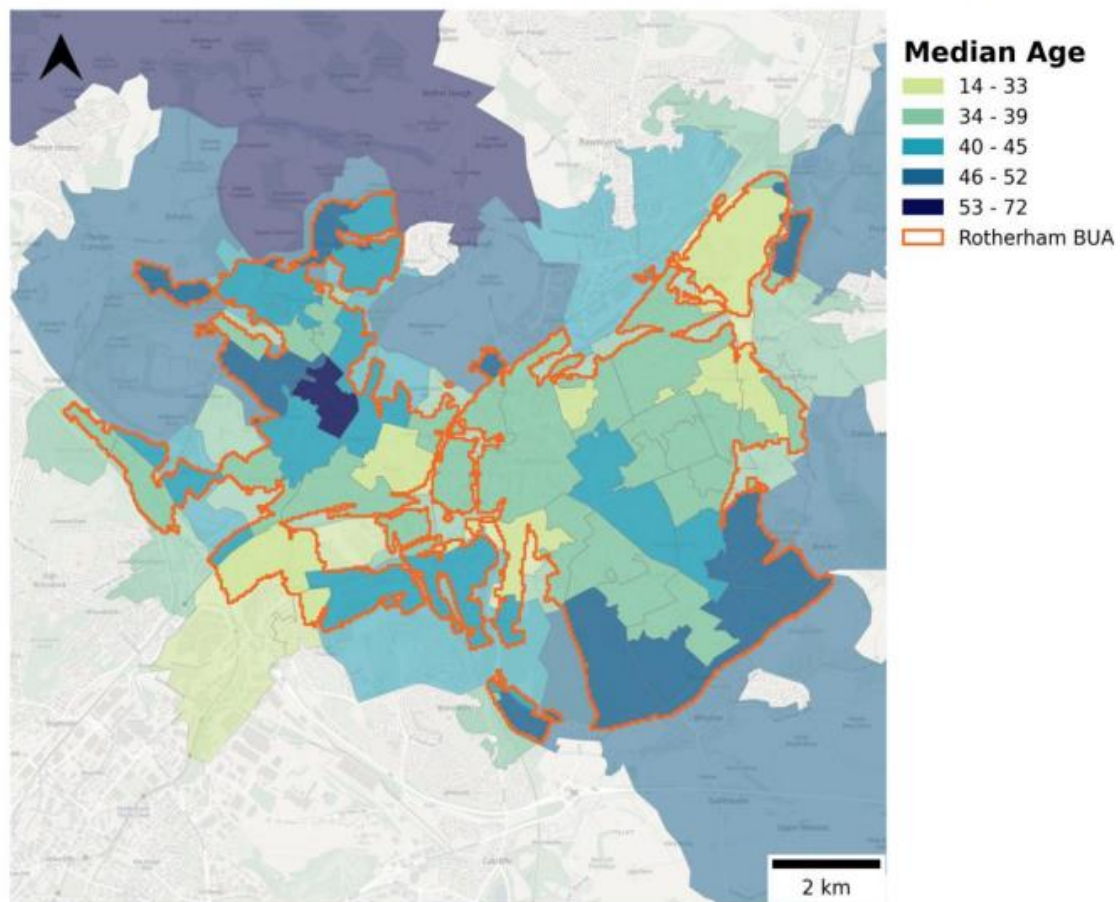
### Rotherham's Built Up Area

The communities within the Pride in Place Phase 1 (Plan for Neighbourhoods) area are relatively young and diverse. At 71,627 at the last census, the population had grown by just 1.3% since 2011 which highlighted significantly lower growth than both the borough (4.3%) and the national average (7.7%).

This represents a key opportunity for sustainable growth at the centre of Rotherham's transport network and with access to key services and facilities. Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods will complement existing investment to attract more people to live and thrive in the town centre and the neighbourhoods surrounding it.

Rotherham BUA Ethnicity

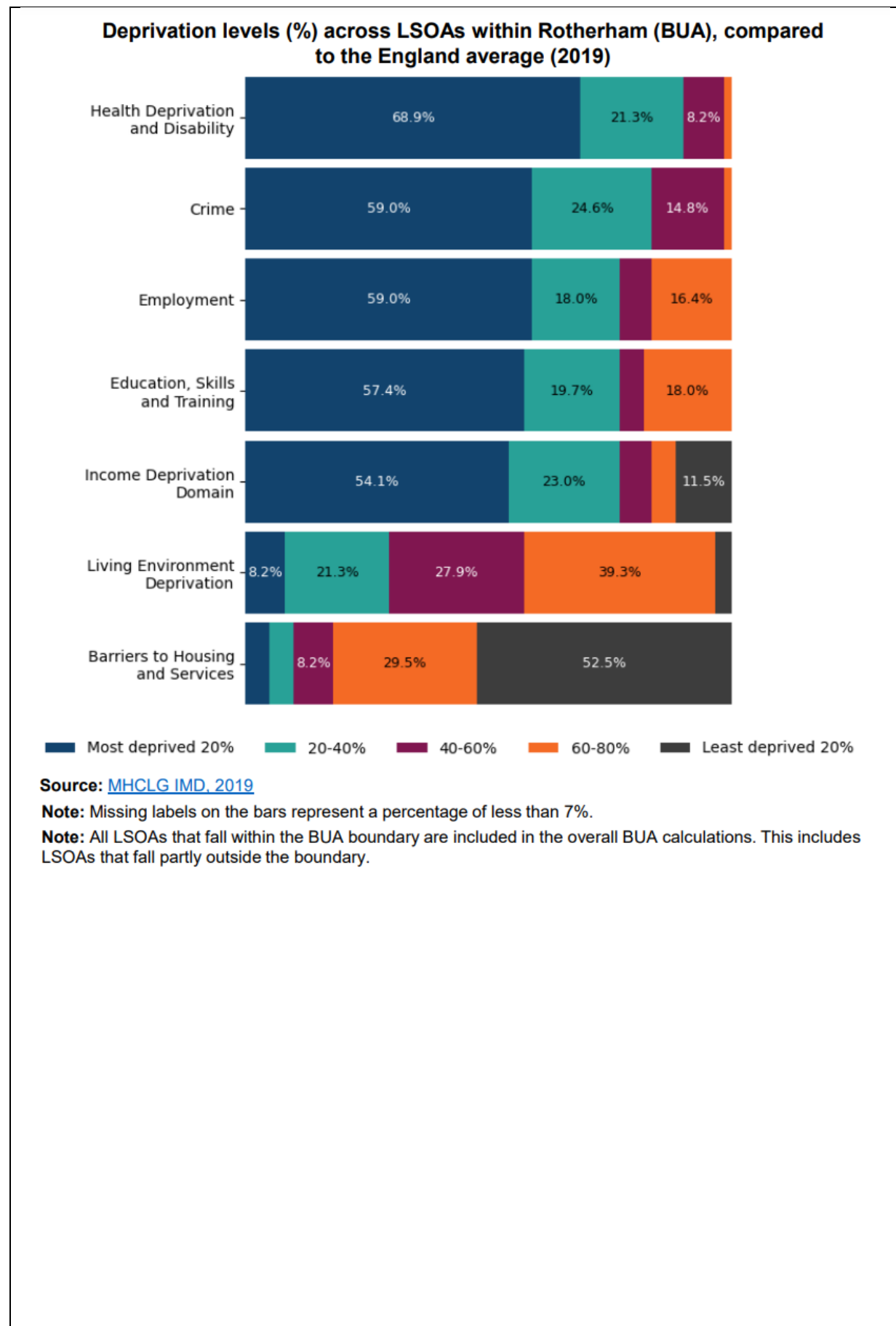


**Median age in Rotherham (BUA) at LSOA level (2022)**

Source: [ONS, 2024](#)

2022 Data	Rotherham BUA	Rotherham Borough	UK Average
Median Age	38	41	40
Population growth between 2011 and 2022	1.3%	4.3%	7.7%
Residents under 16 years old	20.7%	18.9%	18.5%
Residents over 65 years old	16.6%	19.6%	18.6%

## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan





## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

**2. Map of geographic boundary; Description of focus areas (e.g. town centre, high-need neighbourhoods)**

This map defines Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods boundary as defined by the Office of National Statistics's Built-Up Area. This corresponds to the area provided by Government.

At the heart of the prescribed geography is the town centre. Rotherham town centre is largely typical of many town centres across the country, although its challenges are exacerbated by its proximity to Sheffield, and out of town shopping centres Meadowhall and Parkgate.

The majority of UK town centres are facing structural decline as a result of the growth of e-commerce with many caught in a detrimental cycle of boarded-up shops, a declining built environment, decreasing footfall and a perception of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. The scaling back of national retailers in town centres has however created potential for the growth of local independent retailers, leisure, service provision and residential uses.

Surrounding the town centre is a cluster of residential communities characterised by low perceptions of their local area, lack of pride, trust and optimism for the future.

Rotherham communities are amongst the most deprived in the country, particularly those surrounding the town centre, with the vast majority of Rotherham's Built Up Area Geography being within the top 7 most deprived wards in the Borough.

Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods is born from the principles that:

- A strong, well performing town centre provides for its local and extended communities by being attractive with a strong service provision, it is well-maintained and accessible.

## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

- A strong and resilient community is one in which people feel a sense of belonging and mutual respect, with the ability to connect to opportunities, services and each other.

The areas identified by the PfN are seen as one mutually beneficial community for the purpose of this funding. The co-dependent relationship between the town centre and its surrounding communities is the focus of Rotherham Plan for Neighbourhoods.

### **3. Detailed 10-year vision; Narrative of specific areas and expected changes; Vision statement (max 250 words)**

Rotherham will be an attractive and desirable place that fills local people with hope and confidence in the future. It will be forward looking, innovative and proud.

Everyone will benefit from regeneration and inclusive growth as improved travel networks open up opportunities, including the new Rotherham Gateway rail station and tram/train. Its characterful neighbourhoods will thrive as communities come together to celebrate and embrace the town's heritage and cultural gems, inspiring future generations. More people will choose to call Rotherham home; and will learn, work and grow across the borough.

With Rotherham Minster, the redeveloped markets and library and a wealth of year-round events; the town centre will grow in popularity. Regeneration will bring back purpose to cherished buildings, create safe and welcoming public space and breathe new life into the town centre.

Rotherham's approach will inspire hope and confidence in the future, as it demonstrates how to not just survive but thrive in the rapidly changing landscape of town centres. With the town centre at the heart of the community, it will celebrate diversity, restore civic pride and provide residents with the services, leisure opportunities and green spaces they need for a healthy and happy life.

The success of Rotherham's plan will be felt by the Rotherham community who will feel empowered to participate, and recognise a growing sense of belonging and pride, as they come together more to celebrate where they live.

### **4. Evidence of need (economic, social, market failure); Community priorities; Alignment with programme objectives: Intended use of powers; Long-term outcomes**

#### **Evidence of Need**

Like so many towns, Rotherham suffered economic decline throughout the 1980s with the triple impact in the reduction of the steel, manufacturing and coal industries. Coupled with recession in the 1990s the town saw a 12% reduction in the number of residents in work between 1986 and 1994. Rotherham's employment rate fell to 65.7% in 1999 but began to show a strong increase during 2001, an improvement which continued up to 2005 as the borough's economy diversified and grew.

Economic volatility following the Global Financial Crisis in 2007 slowed Rotherham's recovery and cultural shifts in the way we shop, socialise and use our high streets hit the town centre particularly hard. In recent years Brexit and Covid challenges have compounded historic issues and diverted resources away from local growth.

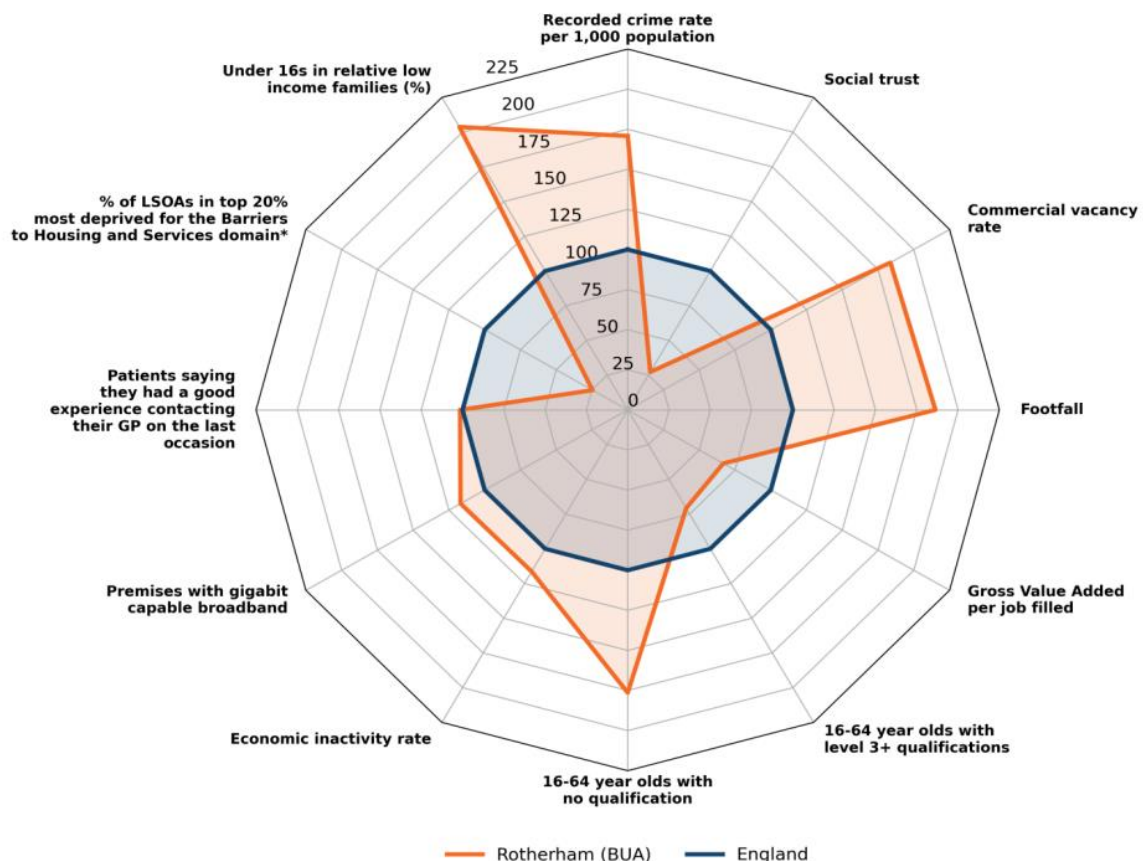
Despite unprecedented levels of public sector investment and intervention over the last 5 years to support the economy, the Borough's labour market profile offers cause for concern with qualifications and levels of pay across the population remaining below the national and

## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

Yorkshire averages. Deprivation remains amongst the highest 20% in the country and life expectancy is significantly below the national average.

Today economic inactivity remains higher than both the national and regional average at a rate of 31%, having increased over the last 10 years, with more people impacted by long term sickness, and a particular increase in young people struggling with mental health. If not tackled holistically these trends will continue to limit growth and opportunity.

### Rotherham's Built Up Area Data



[Rotherham.pdf](#)

Rotherham's Built-Up Area data demonstrates some positive trends, such as higher than average footfall (although this is considered to be largely attributable to out-of-town Parkgate shopping centre) and fewer barriers to accessing housing and services when compared to national insights. It is clear however that there are also complex and compounding challenges with regards to low incomes, a qualification deficit, low social trust and high commercial vacancy rates. It is more difficult to create a thriving town centre and improve quality of life within this environment. The opportunity to fund the tackling of root causes and commit to a long-term programme will go some way to achieving Rotherham's vision.

### Community Priorities

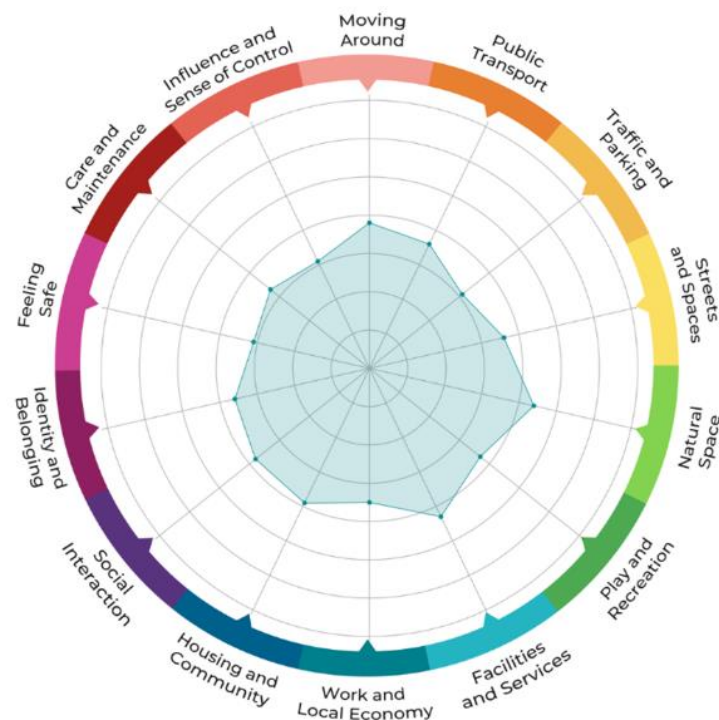
Extensive consultation was undertaken in 2024 in response to Long Term Plan for Towns and expanded in 2025 in response to the Plan for Neighbourhoods announcement. As a result, communities have driven the direction of the investment programme to ensure it meets local needs and responds to local ambitions.



## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

The graphs below show how the key elements of Rotherham's Built-Up Area have been ranked by communities, with the lowest scoring factors being those that require more improvement, and the highest scoring factors showing greater satisfaction levels.

Theme	Average Score
Influence & Sense of Control	2.63
Feeling Safe	2.91
Care & Maintenance	3.11
Traffic & Parking	3.22
Work & Local Economy	3.25
Street & Spaces	3.32
Identity & Belonging	3.37
Public Transport	3.48
Social Interaction	3.54
Housing & Community	3.59
Play & Recreation	3.67
Facilities & Services	3.71
Moving Around	3.87
Natural Spaces	4.18



### Alignment with Programme Objectives

Residents want to feel greater control over their area and their future, and feeling safe in the town centre and at home is of upmost importance. People have pride in their local environments, particularly with regards to green and open spaces however more needs to be done to tackle everyday maintenance and parking issues to support places to truly thrive. Residents want equal access to opportunities therefore inclusive growth is needed to invest in skills, increase wages and improve living standards. Ultimately communities want to see inequality tackled and improvements at a local level that empower them in their day to day lives.

### Creating Thriving Places

Rotherham has a long standing commitment to improving its town and neighbourhood centres. Residents support directing investment towards the creation of thriving places, in particular where this makes them feel safer and well cared for. Tackling vacancies and improving the built environment in the town centre will be key to creating vibrant streets and more inviting public spaces. Projects to be explored will include capital investment as well as funding for operational costs over the length of the programme.

Rotherham's local centres, parks and community facilities are well used and communities take real pride in them therefore, opportunities to upgrade infrastructure and support people to make the most of them will be explored in order to future proof these assets.

Healthy life expectancy for males in the borough is 2.8 years lower than the Yorkshire and Humber average and for females is 3.8 years lower. Rotherham will therefore allocate a significant proportion of this investment programme towards health and wellbeing interventions to address this disparity. Capital investment towards the integration of health



## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

and wellbeing services and local sport and activity will embed services and facilities that are key to healthy living in areas that are convenient for residents. The right facilities in the right locations will boost footfall and support places to thrive.

Rotherham's residents, businesses and visitors consistently report that they want to feel safer therefore interventions to prevent crime in targeted locations will be explored throughout the programme. Designing out crime along with investment in management and maintenance will make public spaces safer and more welcoming, boosting investor confidence, and unlocking greater potential in Rotherham's central area.

### Building Stronger Communities

Communities want to see long term investment in measures to improve community cohesion, capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society, youth and community groups. Best practice suggests that these should be self-driven interventions therefore work under this theme will develop opportunities for communities to access funding for projects that support collaboration, celebrate diversity, create a shared sense of belonging and create civic pride.

Investment in Rotherham's young people is a common passion locally therefore funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative initiatives will aim to provide a long term commitment to nurturing home grown talent and fostering community pride. With a particular focus on providing support and inspiration, this will include the animation of public spaces through events, art and performance to showcase what Rotherham has to offer at a local, regional and national scale.

Funding for community level outreach work will make support more accessible and responsive, increasing health benefits whilst reducing inequalities that disproportionately affect Rotherham's BUA in acknowledgement that healthier communities are stronger communities.

### Empowering People to Thrive

Consultation highlighted low levels of reported influence and sense of control indicating an opportunity to untap greater civic participation. Creating more collaboration between service users and service providers is key to maximising this investment opportunity.

Support for community-based learning and development will be explored to develop outreach work, grow skills, empower residents, and create more opportunities for communities to forge their futures. Key to achieving this ambition will be just as much about creating an inviting forum for collaboration that works for the locality as it will be about funding.

Analysis of the consultation ranked work and the local economy as the fifth lowest scoring indicator indicating an obvious priority for improvement and highlighting the strong ambition amongst residents. Developing and expanding existing local business support and networks for smaller business and social enterprises will aim to harness local skills and talent for the benefit of the wider local economy. Exploring investment that addresses skills gaps will aim to empower people to tap into opportunities in growing employment sectors and increase their earning potential.

### Use of Powers

The ethos of Plan for Neighbourhoods brings together residents, business leaders, and community leaders to begin to fix the foundations and take back control of their futures. To

## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

do this, places are encouraged to make the most of all the powers and tools they have available. In developing Rotherham's projects, relevant powers will be explored where they align with the interventions, strengthen impacts and serve to achieve the collective vision. In particular, the development of design codes, and use of powers that seek to improve the quality of the environment will ensure that all sectors contribute to Rotherham's regeneration.

### Long Term Outcomes

To track the success of the Plan for Neighbourhoods interventions, data will be gathered that measures progress holistically.

A key measurement of the success of PfN investment will be in the satisfaction levels scored against the Place Standard metric. The Place Standard Tool will be utilised to capture insights from communities every two years, providing time for projects to be implemented and change to gradually be affected. The objective over the ten-year programme is to achieve an improvement of between 1 and 2 points, with the acknowledgement that some of the indicators will be more challenging to tackle.

The use of commercial vacancy rates will be analysed to determine the direction of economic activity and specifically how the interventions support the local business community and investment confidence.

Footfall data will be used to capture visitor patterns as investment generates more activity and more people live, work, access services and enjoy their leisure time in Rotherham's central area.

Tracking sector spend data will complement the wider insights to reveal how people are spending their time in the town centre, so that interventions can be refined be responsive to market trends and put Rotherham at the forefront of new growth areas.

A report will be published every two years that analyses this data collectively to provide a comprehensive picture of the direction of travel. Crucially the data will support the refinement of project level detail and provide opportunities to review the interventions and adapt the programme to improve outcomes. This data will inform the second and third periods of investment and support the progression of other investment programmes.

### 5. Summary of alignment with: Local/regional/national programmes; Government investments; Masterplans and strategies

#### National and Regional

Nationally, the Government's Invest 2035 Strategy considers growth the number one mission over the next 10 years. The Strategy seeks to support growth driving sectors such as Advanced Manufacturing, whilst tackling barriers to growth through improved skills, access to finance and improved infrastructure. This will take a place-based approach, presenting key opportunities for Rotherham to take forward it's local growth ambitions. Plan for Neighbourhoods aims to invest in the fabric of life, improving civic infrastructure so that communities are empowered to shape the growth of their local economy.

South Yorkshire's Growth plan 2025-2035 aims to restore the pride, purpose and prosperity of South Yorkshire and focuses on four spatial growth areas. Don Valley Corridor, first identified in Rotherham's Town Investment Plan, connects the Sheffield Innovation Spine through to Rotherham town centre via the Advanced Manufacturing Park and onwards to the East of the town centre to Parkgate and Rotherham Gateway. This shared geography

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will provide the catalyst for providing the fundamental step change in Rotherham's economy that will ensure inclusive growth across the Borough.

Rotherham's central area is at the heart of the economic growth corridor and it sets to benefit from ambitions to develop a new mainline rail and tram/train station, innovation campus and new sustainable living community.

## Local

Rotherham's Local Plan identifies the town centre as an area of high employment, population and commercial growth. Investment in the central area Geography will therefore support this strategic ambition to restore pride and purpose to the core of the borough.

## Council Plan



Rotherham is a borough with its sights set on the future. The Council Plan commits to improving the lives of every resident in every corner of the borough, focusing extra attention where it is needed, to ensure that everyone can achieve their potential throughout their lives.

The plan captures the ambition of Rotherham's communities; they want to feel safer, to feel greater pride, and for the town to be prosperous again. Many residents share a desire to see continued investment in the town centre to continue its regeneration and rebuild its reputation.

To deliver on these ambitions, The Plan is committed to creating **Places that are thriving, safe and clean, an economy that works for everyone**, and an environment where **children and young people achieve**, and **residents live well**.

The Pride in Place principles closely align with the Council's established priorities, and the funding supports opportunities to be bold in our ambitions and make long term funding commitments. Interventions selected and projects developed will support delivery of Rotherham's strategic objectives as detailed above.

## Ward plans

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Rotherham Councillors engage and work with local people and community groups to shape and deliver ward plans across Rotherham's 25 wards. These ward plans identify neighbourhood priorities, providing a focus for local activity and investment.

The key priorities identified across Rotherham's Built Up Area are as follows:

- Improving the environment
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Addressing road safety and traffic concerns
- Improving facilities for young people
- Supporting communities

The strength of Rotherham's existing engagement with communities means we are already working towards addressing these established priorities. The package of interventions funded through PiP will support and expand existing work streams, providing long term funding, along with more opportunities for grass roots participation.

### **Alignment with Rotherham's Regeneration Programme**

Rotherham has a successful track record of attracting major national and regional grant funding, all complemented by significant capital and revenue funding contributions by the Council. Rotherham is now amid its biggest regeneration programme to date, with much of the funding focused on the town centre.

Rotherham was one of the original Pathfinder towns and has secured Government funding in the region of £130m for the town centre which continues to build upon the ambitions first conveyed in the 2017 Town Centre masterplan and more recently in Rotherham's Place Based Investment Strategy.

Rotherham's Regeneration Plan will complement this work and support these ambitions, to support and diversify the town centre offer, to increase footfall and create a resilient and economically secure place which serves its neighbouring communities and beyond.

### **6. Outline of match funding strategy; Existing commitments; Plans to secure future support**

Rotherham has in the last 4-5 years succeeded in attracting significant investment into the Borough, with Rotherham Council investing heavily in town centre regeneration and Borough wide improvements to create confidence.

This included Future High Streets Fund (£12.7m), Town Deal (£31.6m) and Levelling Up (£80m) investment, funding projects that are complete or in development.

Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods funding will build on the work thus far, expanding the investment profile to provide the next phase in the journey to being a vibrant and sustainable place which serves both the local and extended communities.

Project level detail will be developed over the first 6-12 months of the funding periods and a focus on collaborative working will open up opportunities for match funding in order to maximise outcomes.

The Neighbourhood Board will strive to maximise the opportunities Pride in Place presents by seeking funding and promoting investment opportunities. With its roots in the well-established Town Board and made up of an evolving, diverse group of public, private and

## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

philanthropic parties, the Board is well placed to attract and maximise opportunities for investment in the Borough that it serves. With its recognition that lack of revenue funding is a barrier to addressing some persistent issues faced by towns, the Pride in Place programme is particularly welcomed as a mechanism to deliver on the Board's ambitions to bring about change. The Board intends to capitalise on its strengths and engage with its network of contacts and will take on a key role in promoting initiatives and bringing Rotherham's stakeholders on the journey.

The board will lead on the development of a multifaceted programme of interventions that won't claim to solve every issue but will promote Rotherham's ambition and initiate a pipeline of opportunities. Dedicated resource embedded within the Council will guide this process and support upskilling of the board members in their roles. It is considered that attracting this funding with which to develop, coordinate and publicise a steady stream of investment in the town, will boost confidence and act as a catalyst for wider investment. This will strengthen the existing work of the board in growing the Rotherham offer and solidifying destination status.

The town is already a hive of investment with the Mainline Station project, Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, and South Yorkshire Investment Zone taking shape therefore, Board Members are empowered to communicate through their channels that the town is very much open for business. Board Members will be integral to bringing opportunities to the attention of the Board through which additional funding can be leveraged to maximise return on the grant.

## **7. Board membership and leadership; Distinction from local authority; Engagement with businesses, civil society, communities; Ongoing consultation plans**

### **Board Membership and Leadership**

Rotherham established its Town Board in 2020 in response to Rotherham's inclusion in the Town Deal. Having successfully secured £31.6m, the Board later took oversight of the whole Pathfinder programme.

During the development of its Long Term Plan for Towns, an exercise to review membership of the Board was undertaken and attracted 11 new members from local community groups, South Yorkshire Police, local businesses and sporting associations.

In light of the revised Plan for Neighbourhoods a new Neighbourhood Board is being established with the sole focus of supporting the aims of Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods.

Since the PfN initiative was established Rotherham's Neighbourhood Board has been transitioning and its membership is expected to continue evolving up until the commencement of the programme in April 2026, so that representation is reflective of the Geography and the investment themes. Presently The Neighbourhood board is made up of representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as statutory involvement from South Yorkshire Police, the MP for Rotherham and two Ward Councillors.

In the intervening period while the Board the Town Board has taken on development of the Regeneration Plan and retains a supportive, mentoring role to establish the principles and arrangements of the new Board.

The process of appointing a new Chairperson is underway; until this person is in place and established the experienced and dedicated Town Board Chair will support the programme, chair the Board and mentor the incoming Chair.

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The role of the Neighbourhood Board is to lead the direction of the investment programme and represent the views of communities. This role is distinct from the Local Authority which is the Accountable Body for the use, distribution and management of the public funds.

### **Engagement with businesses, civil society and communities**

Local residents and a broad range of businesses and civil society organisations have been actively engaged to ensure diverse perspectives and lived experiences were captured from a wide cross-section of the community. This included:

- **Town centre businesses**, who contributed insights on local economic activity, safety, and infrastructure.
- **Rotherham Business Growth Board**, providing strategic input on business development and investment priorities.
- **Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce**, representing a broad spectrum of local enterprises and advocating for business needs.
- **Public, Private and Voluntary representatives on the Town Board and Neighbourhood Board**, who played a key role in shaping consultation priorities and ensuring alignment with local objectives.
- **Local residents**, providing first-hand knowledge of their neighbourhoods, including what works well and what needs improvement.
- **Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR)** played a central role in leading community engagement, drawing on their extensive network of voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations.
- **VCSE community leaders** were recruited and trained to facilitate focus groups and participatory mapping sessions within their own communities. These groups included organisations working with:
  - Young people
  - Older adults
  - Ethnically diverse communities
  - People with disabilities
  - Faith-based groups
  - Local neighbourhood associations

This multi-channel approach enabled meaningful dialogue and ensured stakeholder perspectives were represented.

### **Long Term Plan for Towns**

A comprehensive consultation was undertaken between May and July 2024 which focused on establishing a baseline understanding of local priorities. Methods of engagement included:

- Targeted focus groups
- Digital survey
- On-street public events
- Facilitated workshops

The Place Standard Tool was used to gather perceptions across 14 key themes, highlighting areas such as influence and sense of control, safety, and care and maintenance as priorities for improvement.

## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

### Consultation outputs:

- 18 hours of stakeholder engagement
- 11 hours of on-street consultation
- Six-week online survey
- 552 consultation responses

### Plan for Neighbourhoods

Building on the Long-Term Plan for Towns foundation, a second phase of consultation was delivered in July and August 2025, deepening engagement with communities and the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. The Neighbourhood Board partnered with Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) to lead a tailored programme of community consultation, utilising their trusted relationships to reach underrepresented voices and grassroots organisations.

This collaborative approach reduced reliance on external consultants and instead focussed on building capacity locally.

VAR recruited and trained 16 local community leaders from VCSE groups to facilitate focus groups and participatory mapping sessions. These were designed to be inclusive and accessible, with adaptations made to the Place Standard Tool to support engagement across different age groups, languages, and abilities. A visual toolkit was also developed to support meaningful dialogue and idea generation.

This approach not only enriched the consultation but also built local capacity and left a legacy of empowered groups able to lead future engagement.

Alongside this, communities were able to provide feedback at pop-up consultation events and via an online survey.

### Consultation outputs:

- 14 pop-up consultation events
- 39 hours of on-street consultation across the boundary area
- 22 focus group consultations
- 12 participatory mapping sessions
- 1 dedicated youth voice session
- Four-week online survey
- 567 responses to consultation

Across both phases, the consultation process was designed to be inclusive, representative, and locally driven. The insights gathered have also been summarised in ward-level reports, identifying key priorities and recommendations for local investment, ensuring that the voices of businesses, civil society, and communities are central to shaping the future of the town.

### ZenCity Data

The ZenCity data represents the views of a local cohort who responded to a targeted online survey carried out in Spring 2025. It strengthens the insights gathered by the Board and the Local Authority and was used in the selection of the interventions.

Of those surveyed, 51% of respondents were either fairly or very dissatisfied with the local services and amenities in the town centre.

## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

The top areas residents would like to see improvements in were anti-social behaviour (50%) and Tackling crime (46%).

Residents identified drugs or evidence of drugs (47%) and litter or rubbish or dog mess (44%) as the most pressing problems in their area.

### **Ongoing consultation plans**

To support the ongoing development and implementation of Rotherham's interventions a structured programme of future consultation activities will be established to ensure continued, inclusive, and meaningful engagement with local communities.

The continued use of the Place Standard Tool, utilised throughout the consultation process, will enable the tracking of changes in attitudes and supports the evaluation of how public perceptions evolve as planned interventions are implemented. This approach ensures that the impact of neighbourhood improvements can be measured not only through physical outcomes but also through shifts in community sentiment, thereby strengthening the evidence base for future decision-making.

Feedback gathered through all consultation phases will be analysed and reported back to stakeholders, clearly demonstrating how their input has shaped decision-making and continues to inform the delivery of improvements.

### **8. Roles and responsibilities; Governance structure; Transparency and Nolan Principles; Investment appraisal process**

As per the government guidance, Rotherham's Neighbourhood Board has been established to develop the Regeneration Plan and lead the direction of the investment programme. However, ultimately the Board is accountable to the local community. The Board is limited to 20 members with each having an equal vote on Plan for Neighbourhood matters.

For full transparency Rotherham's Neighbourhood Board Terms of Reference, membership details and papers will be published on the Council's website.

Members of both Boards are required to adhere to a Code of Conduct which operates in line with the Nolan Principles, each Member is also required to complete a Declaration of Interest.

The role of the Council is to support the Neighbourhood Board in the development and delivery of the plan. Importantly, the statutory role of an Accountable Body for the use, distribution and management of the public funds sits with the Council.

The Council's role is also to ensure compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement

Rotherham's Plan sets out 6 intervention themes as detailed in the 4 year investment plan. Proposals for the projects that will deliver on these themes will be developed jointly between the Neighbourhood Board in its capacity as representative of the communities and the Council as Accountable Body.

The first year of the programme will be focussed on establishing the project level detail and carrying out feasibility work. Projects will be developed in line with the Council's Capital Programme Gateway processes which align with HM Treasury Business Case processes.

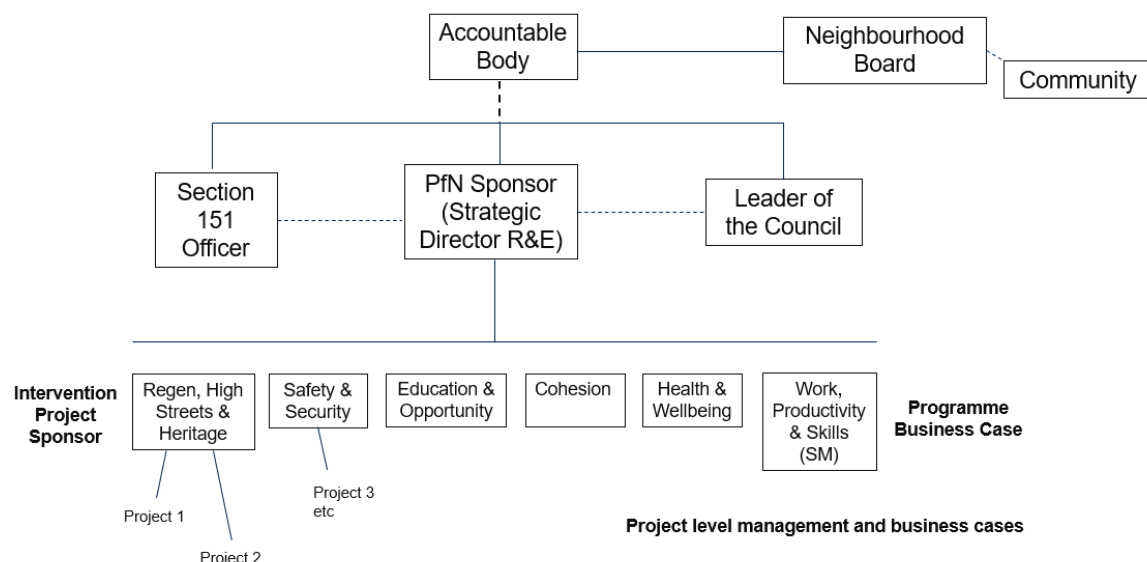
Given this funding initiative spans numerous service areas an overarching programme manager will be responsible for coordinating and delivering the plan as a whole however,



## Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan

specialist project leads and programme sponsors will be accountable for the individual work areas.

The below diagram sets out the overall delivery structure including crucially how the accountable body and the Neighbourhood Board will work together to carry out their individual functions and deliver on Rotherham's vision.



### 9. How programme will meet Best Value and Managing Public Money standards

The delivery of interventions will follow the Council's procedures, taking a proportional approach, in line with its own project gateway and Business Case methodology which complies with the HM Treasury Green Book.

As the accountable body the Council will act in line with its own Constitution employing its Financial Regulations, approval and variations processes as well as ensuring all projects and grants are in line with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

Where the Council leads procurement activities, these will be undertaken in compliance with all applicable procurement legislation and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

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		2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2026 - 30
<b>Regeneration, high streets and heritage</b>	Capital	£435,741	£650,741	£750,741	£385,741	£2,222,964
	Revenue	£192,857	£142,857	£142,857	£142,857	£621,428
	Total	£628,598	£793,598	£893,598	£528,598	<b>£2,844,392</b>
Interventions to be explored:						
Funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative initiatives						
Funding for improvements to town centres, neighbourhoods, and high streets, including capital spend and running costs						
Creating and improving green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments in the local area, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces						
<b>Safety and Security</b>	Capital	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Revenue	£105,000	£105,000	£105,000	£105,000	£420,000
	Total	£105,000	£105,000	£105,000	£105,000	<b>£420,000</b>
Interventions to be explored:						
Improved town centre management						
Initiatives to reduce burglary						
Design and oversight of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out' crime and encourage positive behaviour						
Policing intervention to target crime prevention in specific location, in particular town centres						
<b>Education and opportunity</b>	Capital	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Revenue		£77,778	£77,778	£77,778	£233,334
	Total	£0	£77,778	£77,778	£77,778	<b>£233,334</b>
Interventions to be explored:						
Support for community-based learning and development						
<b>Cohesion</b>	Capital	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Revenue	£0	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£300,000
	Total	£0	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	<b>£300,000</b>
Interventions to be explored:						
Measures to improve community cohesion						
Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society, youth and community groups						
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Capital	£360,000	£660,000	£2,300,000	£2,400,000	£5,720,000
	Revenue	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Total	£360,000	£660,000	£2,300,000	£2,400,000	<b>£5,720,000</b>
Interventions to be explored:						
Integration and co-location of health and wellbeing services						
Funding for local sport and activity facilities, events, teams and leagues, to foster community engagement and connection						
<b>Work, productivity and skills</b>	Capital	£0	£166,666	£166,666	£166,668	£500,000
	Revenue	£0	£62,500	£62,500	£62,500	£187,500
	Total	£0	£229,166	£229,166	£229,168	<b>£687,500</b>
Interventions to be explored:						
Developing and expanding existing local business support and networks for smaller business and social enterprises						
Skills provision tailored to local opportunities and skills gaps, such as those identified in an area's Local Skills Improvement Plan (England only)						
<b>Programme Management / Delivery</b>	Revenue	£63,000	£63,000	£63,000	£63,000	<b>£252,000</b>
<b>Total</b>		£1,156,598	£2,028,542	£3,768,542	£3,503,544	<b>£10,457,226</b>

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## Appendix 3

### 1. Consultation Methodology and Outcomes

The Plan for Neighbourhoods programme of interventions has been developed in consultation with communities and key stakeholders.

Local residents and a broad range of businesses and civil society organisations have been actively engaged to ensure diverse perspectives and lived experiences were captured from a wide cross-section of the community. This included:

- **Town centre businesses**, who contributed insights on local economic activity, safety, and infrastructure.
- **Rotherham Business Growth Board**, providing strategic input on business development and investment priorities.
- **Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce**, representing a broad spectrum of local enterprises and advocating for business needs.
- **Public, Private and Voluntary representatives on the Town Board and Neighbourhood Board**, who played a key role in shaping consultation priorities and ensuring alignment with local objectives.
- **Local residents**, providing first-hand knowledge of their neighbourhoods, including what works well and what needs improvement.
- **Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR)** played a central role in leading community engagement, drawing on their extensive network of voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations.
- **Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise community leaders** were recruited and trained to facilitate focus groups and participatory mapping sessions within their own communities. These groups included organisations working with:
  - Young people
  - Older adults
  - Ethnically diverse communities
  - People with disabilities
  - Faith-based groups
  - Local neighbourhood associations

This multi-channel approach enabled meaningful dialogue and ensured stakeholder perspectives were represented.

### Long Term Plan for Towns

A comprehensive consultation was undertaken between May and July 2024 which focused on establishing a baseline understanding of local priorities. Methods of engagement included:

- Targeted focus groups
- Digital survey
- On-street public events
- Facilitated workshops

The Place Standard Tool was used to gather perceptions across 14 key themes, highlighting areas such as influence and sense of control, safety, and care and maintenance as priorities for improvement.

Consultation outputs:

- 18 hours of stakeholder engagement
- 11 hours of on-street consultation
- Six-week online survey
- 552 consultation responses

### **Plan for Neighbourhoods**

Building on the Long-Term Plan for Towns foundation, a second phase of consultation was delivered in July and August 2025, deepening engagement with communities and the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. The Neighbourhood Board partnered with Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) to lead a tailored programme of community consultation, utilising their trusted relationships to reach underrepresented voices and grassroots organisations.

This collaborative approach reduced reliance on external consultants and instead focussed on building capacity locally.

VAR recruited and trained 16 local community leaders from VCSE groups to facilitate focus groups and participatory mapping sessions. These were designed to be inclusive and accessible, with adaptations made to the Place Standard Tool to support engagement across different age groups, languages, and abilities. A visual toolkit was also developed to support meaningful dialogue and idea generation.

This approach not only enriched the consultation but also built local capacity and left a legacy of empowered groups able to lead future engagement.

Alongside this, communities were able to provide feedback at pop-up consultation events and via an online survey.

Consultation outputs:

- 14 pop-up consultation events
- 39 hours of on-street consultation across the boundary area
- 22 focus group consultations

- 12 participatory mapping sessions
- 1 dedicated youth voice session
- Four-week online survey
- 567 responses to consultation

Across both phases, the consultation process was designed to be inclusive, representative, and locally driven. Over 1,000 individuals engaged in the consultation process. The insights gathered have also been summarised in ward-level reports, identifying key priorities and recommendations for local investment, ensuring that the voices of businesses, civil society, and communities are central to shaping the future of the town.

## 2. Consultation analysis

The consultation process revealed a range of interconnected priorities and concerns across Rotherham's communities. Trust and influence emerged as the lowest scoring theme. Many residents felt their voices were not being heard and called for clearer feedback mechanisms and greater transparency to demonstrate how their input informs decision-making.

A strong demand emerged for enhanced youth provision, with residents calling for safe, affordable, and informal spaces for teenagers to gather and engage in activities.

Issues of accessibility and inclusion were frequently raised, particularly the need for improved infrastructure such as dropped kerbs and better pavements, alongside enforcement against pavement parking. These barriers were seen to limit access to community facilities, green spaces, and social opportunities, especially for those with mobility challenges.

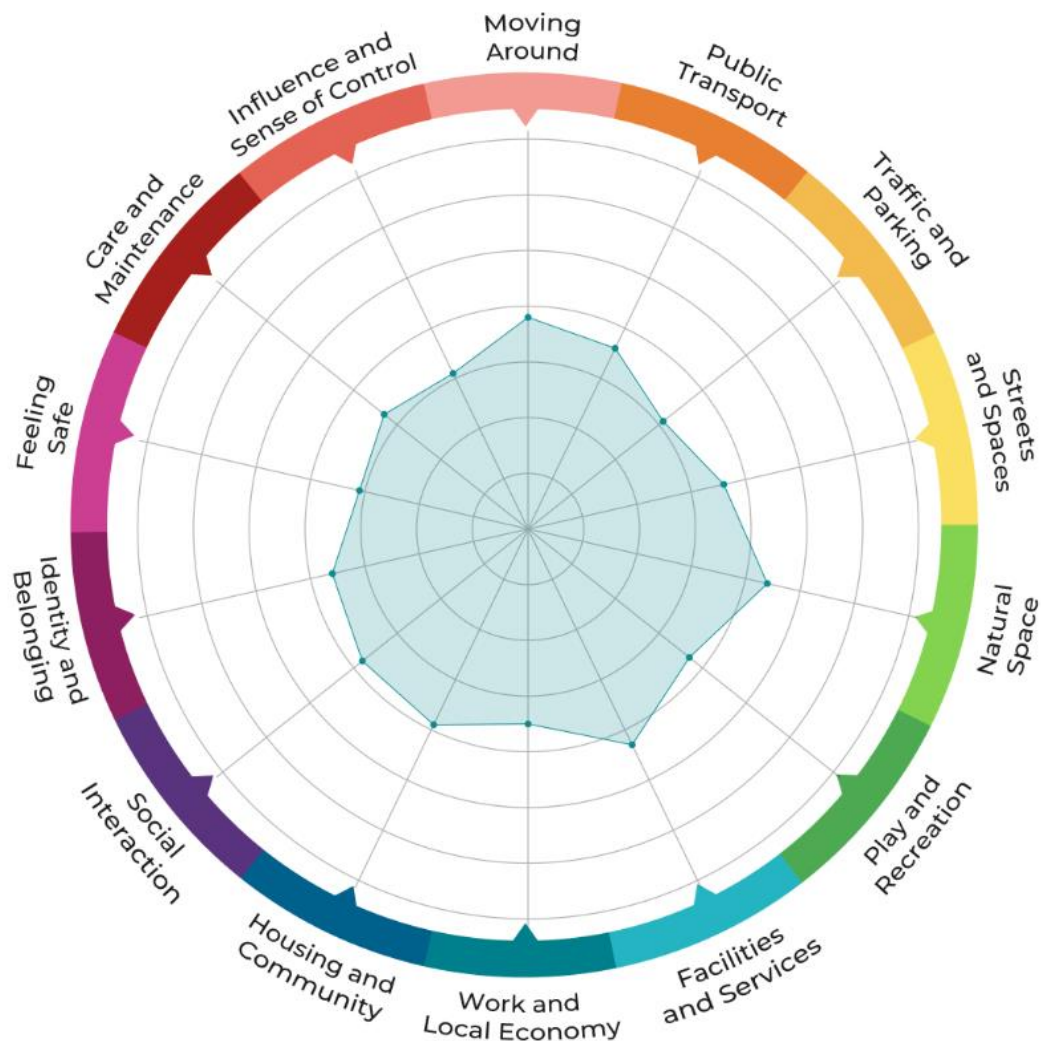
Safety and antisocial behaviour were recurring concerns, with reports of crime, theft, and intimidation. Residents expressed a desire for a more visible presence of police, wardens, and community ambassadors, as well as improved street lighting to enhance feelings of safety.

Feedback also highlighted a sense of local identity and pride, with appreciation for parks, heritage, and community spirit. However, some areas were perceived negatively, prompting calls for more positive promotion of Rotherham's assets and achievements.

Finally, in terms of care and maintenance, participants praised the efforts of volunteer litter pickers and local councillors, while also voicing frustration over persistent issues such as litter, fly-tipping, potholes, and inconsistent upkeep across neighbourhoods.

### 3. Place Standard Tool

This specialist visual tool was utilised throughout the consultation to provide a simple and accessible structure for rating each of the 14 place factors on a scale where 1 indicates lots of improvement needed and 7 indicates no improvement needed. This approach enables the tracking of changing attitudes and supports the evaluation of how public perceptions shift as interventions take shape over the next decade. The Place Standard spider diagram below illustrates the overall sentiment expressed throughout the consultation in relation to each of these topics.





#### 4. Priorities for intervention

The table ranks the place factors in order of priority based on an average of the ratings across the entirety of the consultation. Feedback is captured and quantified with 1 being the lowest and indicating the most intervention required, and with 7 indicating high satisfaction and little to no intervention being required. The scores were all within the range of 2.83 to 4.18.

Theme	Average Score	Common Feedback
Influence & Sense of Control	2.83	Lowest scoring theme. Residents don't feel listened to. While surveys and councillors are valued, people want clearer evidence that feedback leads to change.
Feeling Safe	2.91	Safety is one of the biggest concerns. Crime, antisocial behaviour, and intimidation make people feel unsafe, especially at night. CCTV and lighting are valued but seen as not enough.
Care & Maintenance	3.11	Volunteers and councillors are praised, but litter, fly-tipping, potholes, and inconsistent maintenance drag scores down.
Traffic & Parking	3.22	Parking is a major frustration, blocked drives, verge damage, and limited capacity in busy areas dominate feedback, though free parking is appreciated.
Work & Local Economy	3.25	New developments raise hope, but jobs are often low-paid or limited. Residents want more skilled employment and better promotion of opportunities.
Street & Spaces	3.32	Heritage and recent improvements valued, but many streets feel run-down and in need of better upkeep.
Identity & Belonging	3.37	Pride in heritage, diversity, and friendliness, but stigma and negative perceptions persist. Residents want more positive promotion of Rotherham.
Public Transport	3.48	Services are usually accessible and punctual, but frequency, reliability, and better information/timetables are common improvement asks.
Social Interaction	3.54	Libraries, parks, and community venues support social life, but there's a need for more inclusive, affordable, and accessible places to bring people together.
Housing & Community	3.59	New housing is recognised, but affordability is a big issue. Overcrowding in some areas and pressure on schools and GPs also highlighted
Play & Recreation	3.67	Parks and sports clubs are positives, but people want youth centres and safe spaces for teenagers. Issues with litter, vandalism, and antisocial behaviour in play areas.
Facilities & Services	3.71	Core services (schools, GPs, libraries) are praised, but more variety in shops and leisure is needed, plus youth-focused facilities.
Moving Around	3.87	Generally positive, but pavement parking and poor accessibility for mobility users are consistent concerns.
Natural Spaces	4.18	Strongest asset as parks and countryside are highly valued, with Clifton Park and Thrybergh often mentioned. Calls for better accessibility and more planting.

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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	
<b>Title: Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods</b>	
<b>Directorate: Regeneration &amp; Environment</b>	<b>Service area: RiDO</b>
<b>Lead person: Megan Hinchliff</b>	<b>Contact number: 01709 289207</b>
Is this a:	
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>
<b>If other, please specify</b>	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>Pride in Place is a UK government initiative that aims to empower local communities by providing them with long-term funding and tools to improve their areas and take control of their futures.</p> <p>This screening assesses the scope and delivery plan of the interventions as per Rotherham's proposed submission.</p> <p>The focus intervention areas of Rotherham's 10-year programme are:</p>

## Appendix 4

*Cohesion*

*Education and opportunity*

*Health and wellbeing*

*Regeneration, high streets and heritage*

*Safety and security*

*Work, productivity and skills*

A full equalities analysis (Part B) will become required once the specific detail of the interventions emerges.

### 3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Equality and diversity within the PiP programme will need to be considered in the context of each individual intervention, once details of the interventions emerge.

Where the interventions may have an impact on equality and diversity, it is proposed that a further Equality Screening will take place, focused on that individual project to identify and mitigate any potential impacts. Where necessary, a full Equality Assessment will take place. Intervention delivery plans will need to include taking into consideration protected characteristics.

For example, if a proposed intervention could result in road closures being a requirement to undertake some improvements, this could impact on transport routes across the affected local area and therefore the impact on the people with such protected characteristics as disability and age will need to be considered.

Where consultation and engagement occurs with communities through the scheme development and design process, equality and diversity will be included as a key theme of consultation, as outlined in the [consultation ODR](#), to ensure that a representative range of opinions and voices are heard and listened to.

- **Key findings**

Through an earlier consultation, by working with Neighbourhood Teams and Voluntary Action Rotherham, the project delivery team have ensured that residents' voices meaningfully contribute to the development of the interventions within the PiP programme. It is as crucial to continue the same two-way engagement with the residents throughout the 10-year implementation of the scheme.

In line with this identified requirement, the team will continue promoting the scheme widely across the defined boundary area and neighbouring communities, encouraging active participation and engagement from all stakeholders, with a strong emphasis on equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Following the consultation, finalisation of the Regeneration Plan and its submission to MHCLG the team will need to feed back to the community on how their input has influenced decision-making. This will demonstrate that the residents' contributions are valued and help to sustain engagement beyond the consultation period, fostering trust, long-term relationships and future collaboration.

Such public engagement with the proposed changes and interventions for the benefit of the community, especially where the impacts on equality and diversity are concerned, will support the effort to bring all the stakeholders on board, positive perception of the change and also, the sustainability of the intended positive outcomes.

The activities associated with interventions will be carefully planned to ensure minimum disruption to all users. Interventions will be designed to meet the requirements of different

people and communities, which will consider barriers in relation to protected characteristics. For example, public realm improvements will assess the requirement for tactile crossings, dropped kerbs and widening of footpaths.

Please refer to the '4-year investment plan' contained within Appendix 1 'Rotherham's Regeneration Plan' to the Cabinet report for more detail on the focus areas of interventions.

- **Actions**

We will undertake the following actions to ensure that the implementation of the scheme is conducted in a way which promotes equality, diversity and inclusion:

- Keeping the public aware of progress delivery through a diverse range of communication channels, which will be undertaken in an open and transparent way to encourage all to express their views and opinions honestly and openly.
- Ensure the focus on accessibility and inclusion during the detailed development of the content for each focus areas of intervention for Rotherham's 10-year programme:
  - Cohesion
  - Education and opportunity
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Regeneration, high streets and heritage
  - Safety and security
  - Work, productivity and skills
- Methods of communication and engagement will be tailored to suit different groups, for example, young people, elderly and minority communities.
- Following the conclusion of each investment period of the programme further in-depth public engagement will be undertaken to review the priorities and ensure that each subsequent intervention directly addresses the key needs of the benefitting communities.
- Any concerns raised by residents, businesses, pedestrians and other users will be taken into consideration. Stakeholders will be involved in planned activities prior to interventions commencing so that consideration can be taken and necessary measures put in place to mitigate disruptions where possible.
- Consultation will continue throughout the delivery of the 10-year programme to ensure its positive impact on equality and diversity and the tracking of changing attitudes as the interventions take shape over the next decade.
- Where interventions may have an impact on equality and diversity, it is proposed that a further Equality Screening will take place, focused on that individual project to identify and mitigate any potential impacts. Where necessary, a full Equality Assessment will take place.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

Following the submission of the Regeneration Plan containing the detail of interventions for investment period 1 to MHCLG at the end of November 2025

## Appendix 4

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	as above
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Ciara Jenkinson, Regeneration Strategy Manager

### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Megan Hinchliff	Regeneration Programme and Strategy Manager	October 2025

### 6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Date screening completed</b>	22/09/2025
<b>Report title and date</b>	Rotherham's Plan for Neighbourhoods  November 2025 submission
<b>If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	Cabinet meeting on 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

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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 the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Unknown	<p>At the current stage of the programme it's not possible to estimate the emissions from non-domestic buildings.</p> <p>The focus intervention areas of the 10-year programme are:</p> <p><i>Cohesion</i>  <i>Education and opportunity</i>  <i>Health and wellbeing</i>  <i>Regeneration, high streets and heritage</i>  <i>Safety and security</i>  <i>Work, productivity and skills</i></p> <p>A potential temporary increase in emissions may be assumed where the interventions see large gatherings of people in non-domestic buildings to deliver interventions, however, no emissions associated</p>	<p>The overall effect on emissions from non-domestic buildings across the borough is too complex to estimate.</p> <p>Main emission benefits will be accounted for as the detail of the specific interventions emerges.</p>	<p>All the interventions within the programme will be underpinned by the principles of sustainability and minimising the potential negative climate impact. For example, the sustainable transportation modes during the events would be encouraged, use of single-use items would be discouraged, minimising waste will be prioritised etc. The choice of venues will be guided by the proximity to the target audience to secure shorter travel.</p> <p>If any refurbishment related interventions are identified, the works would be carried out to the present-day standards and with the use of modern materials.</p>	<p>To be confirmed as the detail of the interventions emerges.</p> <p>More complex analysis of the impactful factors such as the venue-specific energy use, waste generated, etc.is not likely to be possible due to the limited resource and capacity.</p>

		<p>with construction or demolition are expected.</p> <p>No new buildings are likely to be erected within the programme, the detail of any proposed refurbishment (if any is not developed yet.</p>			
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	<p>At the current stage of the programme it's not possible to estimate the emissions from transport.</p> <p>The focus intervention areas of the 10-year programme are:</p> <p><i>Cohesion</i>  <i>Education and opportunity</i>  <i>Health and wellbeing</i>  <i>Regeneration, high streets and heritage</i>  <i>Safety and security</i>  <i>Work, productivity and skills</i></p> <p>Temporary increase in transport emissions may be assumed due to the travel to the events and activities necessary to deliver the interventions.</p> <p>The outcomes of the regeneration of local high</p>	<p>The overall effect on emissions from transport across the borough is too complex to estimate.</p> <p>Main emission benefits will be accounted for as the detail of the specific interventions emerges.</p>	<p>All the interventions within the programme will be underpinned by the principles of sustainability and minimising the potential negative climate impact. For example, the sustainable transportation modes during the events would be encouraged, use of single-use items would be discouraged, minimising waste will be prioritised etc. The choice of venues will be guided by the proximity to the target audience to secure shorter travel.</p>	<p>To be confirmed as the detail of the interventions emerges.</p> <p>Modelling of the generated emissions may potentially be possible based on the data on the numbers of people attending the events, meetings. etc. and making assumptions around car use, etc or collecting the data on the travel modes.</p>

		streets and other areas will likely increase their attractiveness to the local population and could potentially reduce the need to travel to other destinations, thus minimising the emissions associated with longer travel distances.			
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown	<p>Some level of waste generation can be assumed due to the travel to the events and activities necessary to deliver the interventions.</p> <p>Limited construction waste may be expected due to potential improvement and refurbishment works should such interventions be identified within the scope of the programme.</p>	<p>The overall effect on waste-related emissions across the borough is too complex to estimate.</p> <p>Main emission benefits will be accounted for as the detail of the specific interventions emerges.</p>	All the interventions within the programme will be underpinned by the principles of sustainability and minimising the potential negative climate impact. For example, the sustainable transportation modes during the events would be encouraged, use of single-use items would be discouraged, minimising waste will be prioritised etc. The choice of venues will be guided by the proximity to the target audience to secure shorter travel.	<p>To be confirmed as the detail of the interventions emerges.</p> <p>More complex analysis of the impactful factors such as the venue-specific energy use, waste generated, etc. is not likely to be possible due to the limited resource and capacity.</p>
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	At the current stage of the programme there is no intervention targeting domestic buildings.	n/a	n/a	n/a

Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	<p>The focus intervention areas of the 10-year programme are:</p> <p><i>Cohesion Education and opportunity Health and wellbeing Regeneration, high streets and heritage Safety and security Work, productivity and skills</i></p> <p>No significant construction schemes are expected to be delivered within this programme, which primarily focuses on non-construction related socio-economic and community interventions.</p> <p>Limited construction waste may be expected due to potential improvement and refurbishment works should such be identified within the scope of the interventions.</p> <p>Temporary increase in transport emissions (e.g. the construction machinery and contractors' vehicles) during the improvement /</p>	<p>The overall effect on constructions and development emissions across the borough is too complex to estimate.</p> <p>Main emission benefits will be accounted for as the detail of the specific interventions emerges.</p>	<p>All the interventions within the programme will be underpinned by the principles of sustainability and minimising the potential negative climate impact.</p> <p>For example, the refurbishment and renovation works (if any) will use Modern Methods of Construction designed to reduce waste and improve efficiency.</p> <p>The Council will look to promote active travel and reduce single occupancy car journeys.</p>	<p>RMBC will monitor works and ensure that the main contractor is complying with all relevant regulations.</p>
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		refurbishment works may occur should the relevant interventions be identified within the programme.			
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Increase	It is expected that some of the interventions may include the improvement and increase of soft landscaped areas hence some increase in the carbon capture through trees is assumed.	The overall effect on carbon capture across the borough is too complex to estimate.  Main emission benefits will be accounted for as the detail of the specific interventions emerges	All the interventions within the programme will be underpinned by the principles of sustainability and minimising the potential negative climate impact.	To be confirmed as the detail of the interventions emerges.  The data on the total area of landscaping related interventions and the trees planted will likely become available following the completion of the programme interventions.

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

Other emissions may be generated during the delivery of the programme, e.g. those associated with catering, use of materials such as paper, IT, however these are not expected to significantly differ from the existing levels of emissions generated in the course of work of the contributors to the programme.

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

The climate in Rotherham is already changing, with visible impacts throughout the Borough. Hotter summers are increasing the risk of extreme temperatures such as those experienced in July 2022, as wetter winters and more intense rainfall are increasing the risk of floods such as those in 2007, 2019 and 2023. More information on climate change impacts in Rotherham is available from:

<https://www.reports.esriuk.com/view-report/b8eb3cee8f764147a2cfcd69cf36238f/E08000018>

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

The climate impact of the PiP programme will be determined by the nature of each specific intervention. The detail of the interventions is yet to emerge. Some of possible interventions, e.g. creation of new or improvement of existing green spaces may directly contribute to the climate

resilience of the borough and its residents. Interventions, such as refurbishment and renovations will reduce the need of the future maintenance of improved areas and facilities. Improved community spaces, high streets etc. will increase the attractiveness of the local areas to the local population and therefore may reduce the distances people travel to engage in socio-economic and community/relationships building activities. Increased community cohesion, which is an expected outcome of the programme, can in itself indirectly contribute to positive climate outcomes and the empowerment of the local resident to look after the environment they live in.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Tanya Shvab Project manager Regeneration Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	The existing CIAs produced by the Regeneration Service have been reviewed to capture the climate impact as fully as possible at the current stage.
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.	N/A
Validation <i>Before submission to Assistant Directors for approval, completed Climate Impact Assessments must be returned by email to <a href="mailto:climate@rotherham.gov.uk">climate@rotherham.gov.uk</a> for validation by Climate Change Officers.</i>	<i>To be completed by Climate Change Officers.</i>  Tracking Reference: CIA 539  Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer