



Council

**Wednesday 16 July 2025
2.00 p.m.**

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council



WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

The Council is composed of 59 Councillors, who are democratically accountable to the residents of their ward.

The Council Meeting is chaired by the Mayor, who will ensure that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to respecting the rights and responsibilities of Councillors and the interests of the community. The Mayor is the Borough's first citizen and is treated with respect by the whole Council, as should visitors and member of the public.

All Councillors meet together as the Council. Here Councillors decide the Council's overall policies and set the budget each year. The Council appoints its Leader, Mayor and Deputy Mayor and at its Annual Meeting will appoint Councillors to serve on its committees.

Copies of the agenda and reports are available on the Council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain private information and these will be marked accordingly on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Council meetings. A member of the public may ask one general question in person which must be received in writing to the Chief Executive by 10.00 a.m. on the Friday preceding a Council meeting on the following Wednesday and must not exceed sixty words in length. Questions can be emailed to governance@rotherham.gov.uk

Council meetings are recorded and streamed live or subsequently uploaded to the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Mayor will confirm if the meeting is being filmed. You would need to confirm your wish not to be filmed to Democratic Services. Recording of the meeting by members of the public is also allowed.

Council meetings are open to the public, but occasionally the Council may have to discuss an item in private. If this occurs you will be asked to leave.

FACILITIES

There are public toilets, one of which is designated disabled with full wheelchair access, with full lift access to all floors. Induction loop facilities are also available in the Council Chamber, John Smith Room and Committee Rooms 1 and 2.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained via the ramp at the main entrance to the Town Hall.

If you have any queries on this agenda, please contact:-

Contact:- Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
governance@rotherham.gov.uk

Date of Publication:- 8 July 2025

COUNCIL

Wednesday 16 July 2025 at 2.00 p.m.

THE MAYOR (Councillor Rukhsana Ismail)
DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Haroon Rashid)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (John Edwards)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

BAUM-DIXON, Timothy J.
BLACKHAM, John M.
TARMEY, Drew S.

ASTON AND TODWICK

ALLEN, Sarah A.
BACON, Joshua

AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST

PITCHLEY, Lyndsay
TAYLOR, Robert P.

BOSTON CASTLE

ALAM, Saghir
HUSSAIN, Ashiq
YASSEEN, Taiba K.

BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD

DUNCAN, Elizabeth J.
REYNOLDS, Gregory

BRINSWORTH

CARTER, Adam J.
CARTER, Charlotte R.

DALTON AND THRYBERGH

BENNETT-SYLVESTER, Michael D.P.
RYALLS, Jodie

DINNINGTON

CLARKE, Amanda M.
CASTLEDINE-DACK, Sophie
HALL, Julia

GREASBROUGH

BERESFORD, Linda J.
ELLIOTT, Robert W.

HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST

BALL, Simon A.
STABLES, Lynda J.

HOOBER

BRENT, Rajmund E.
LELLIOTT, Denise
WILLIAMS, John

KEPPEL

CURRIE, Simon
Vacancy
GARNETT, Gillian S.

KILNHURST AND SWINTON (EAST)

CUSWORTH, Victoria
HARPER, Nigel

MALTBY EAST

SUTTON, Donna E.
TINSLEY, Adam J.

RAWMARSH EAST

HUGHES, Rachel E.M.
SHEPPARD, David

RAWMARSH WEST

BAKER-ROGERS, Joanna
STEELE, Brian

ROTHORPE

ADAIR, Terry
BAGGLEY, Jamie

ROTHORHAM EAST

AHMED, Angham S.T.
ISMAIL, Rukhsana B.
RASHID, Haroon

ROOTHERHAM WEST

JONES, Ian P.
KEENAN, Eve
MCKIERNAN, Cameron D.P.

SITWELL

BOWER, Michael A.
FISHER, David F.
THORP, Paul S.

SWINTON ROCKINGHAM

MONK, Gina
READ, Chris

THURCROFT & WICKERSLEY

COLLINGHAM, Zachary A.
COLLINGHAM, Thomas R.

WALES

BECK, Dominic E.
HAVARD, Marnie A.

WATH

COWEN, Sheila A.
JACKSON, David R.

WICKERSLEY NORTH

KNIGHT, Stuart
MARSHALL, Lynda
MAULT, James J.

Council Meeting Agenda

Time and Date:-

Wednesday 16 July 2025 at 2.00 p.m.

Venue:-

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

1. Announcements

To consider any announcements by the Mayor in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3(2)(ii).

2. Apologies for Absence

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

3. Minutes of the previous Council Meetings (Pages 7 - 66)

To receive the record of proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 16 May 2025 and 21 May 2025 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

4. Petitions (Pages 67 - 75)

To report on any petitions received by the Council and receive statements in support of petitions in accordance with Petitions Scheme and Council Procedure Rule 13.

5. 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.

6. Public Questions

To receive questions from members of the public who may wish to ask a general question of the Mayor, Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

7. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Mayor, to consider excluding the press and public from the meeting in relation to any items of urgent business on the grounds that private information is likely to be divulged.

8. Leader of the Council's Statement

To receive a statement from the Leader of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

9. Director of Public Health Appointment (Pages 77 - 80)

To consider the recommendation from the Senior Officer Appointments Panel in regard to the appointment of a Director of Public Health.

10. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update (Pages 81 - 106)

To receive an update on the activities of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny bodies in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.

11. Thriving Neighbourhoods - Updates from Ward Councillors from Anston and Woodsetts (Pages 107 - 108)

To receive updates from ward councillors from Anston and Woodsetts on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

12. Thriving Neighbourhoods - Updates from Ward Councillors from Aston and Todwick (Pages 109 - 110)

To receive updates from ward councillors from Aston and Todwick on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

13. Minutes of the Cabinet Meetings (Pages 111 - 132)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 19 May 2025 and 9 June 2025.

14. Audit Committee (Pages 133 - 143)

To note receipt of the Audit Committee minutes.

15. Licensing Board and Licensing Committee (Pages 145 - 159)

To note receipt of the Licensing Board Sub Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee minutes.

16. Planning Board (Pages 161 - 169)

To note receipt of the Planning Board minutes.

17. Staffing Committee (Pages 171 - 172)

To note receipt of the Staffing Committee minutes.

18. Standards and Ethics Committee (Pages 173 - 177)

To note receipt of the Standards and Ethics Committee meetings.

19. Members' Questions to Designated Spokespersons

To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11(5).

20. Members' Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairpersons

To put questions, if any, to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairpersons (or their representatives) under Council Procedure Rules 11(1) and 11(3).

21. Urgent Items

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.



JOHN EDWARDS

Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on
10 September 2025 at 2.00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING
16th May, 2025

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

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

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

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Resolved: That Councillor Rukhsana Ismail be elected Chairman of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing Municipal Year and that she be entitled to the style of Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

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

(Councillor Ismail assumed the Chair)

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

Resolved: That the Council tender its sincere thanks to Councillor Sheila Cowen for the excellent manner in which she has carried out all her duties as Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham. And that the best thanks of this Council be recorded for the kind and admirable way in which Councillor Rajmund Brent performed the duties of Mayor's Consort.

Mover: Councillor Steele

Seconder: Councillor Jackson

3. PRESENTATION OF THE PAST MAYOR'S PENDANTS

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

COUNCIL MEETING - 16/05/25

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Resolved: That Councillor Haroon Rashid be elected Vice-Chairman of the Rotherham Borough Council for the ensuing Municipal Year and that she be entitled to the style of Deputy Mayor by virtue of Section 245(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. APOLOGIES

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

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to record.

7. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CADETS

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

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

Representing the Army Cadets was:
Corporal Nicolas Wisniewski

Representing the Sea Cadets was:
Ordinary Cadet Henry David Aubeeluck

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

8. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

COUNCIL MEETING
21st May, 2025

Present:- The Mayor of Rotherham (Councillor Rukhsana Ismail) (in the Chair); Councillors Rashid, Adair, Ahmed, Alam, Allen, Bacon, Baggaley, Baker-Rogers, Ball, Baum-Dixon, Bennett-Sylvester, Beresford, Blackham, Bower, Brent, A. Carter, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Clarke, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Currie, Cusworth, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Foster, Hall, Harper, Hughes, Hussain, Jackson, Jones, Keenan, Marshall, Mault, McKiernan, Read, Reynolds, Ryalls, Sheppard, Stables, Steele, Sutton, Tarmey, Taylor, Thorp, Tinsley, Williams and Yasseen.

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

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on the passing of Lindsay Johnston, a former Councillor for Wingfield who served on the Council from May 1999 until May 2016. The Council observed a minute's silence in honour of the former Councillor.

The Mayor was delighted to announce the safe arrival of Councillors Adam and Charlotte Carter's new baby who was born just prior to the Annual Civic Council meeting on 16 May 2025. Members gave the new baby a round of applause.

The reporting of Mayoral Activities would commence from July 2025.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beck, Cowen, Garnett, Havard, Lelliott, Monk and Pitchley.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 9 April 2025.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 9 April 2025 be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Cusworth

12. PETITIONS

There were no petitions to consider.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to record.

14. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were 4 public questions:

1. Mr Mabbott: At the November 2024 Council meeting I asked whether there were any plans for the '2025 Children's Capital of Culture' to include an event about Gaza. I was told this would be considered and I would be updated. This has not happened. Could the Leader of the Council please provide an update and explain the lack of progress so far?

The Leader apologised that there had been no further correspondence but confirmed that the idea put forward by Mr Mabbott had been suggested. The Leader explained the process for developing the programme. Groups would submit proposals for consideration by both the Cultural Partnership Board and a Youth Programming Panel. These groups made the decision on what events were taken forward.

An Open Call for submissions first opened in summer 2024, and there had been occasional reminders on social media since then. To date, 36 had been received, 27 of which were approved to progress to full application. The Leader advised Mr Mabbott that should he know of a group who would like to submit a proposal, the Cultural Partnership could arrange for the Expression of Interest documentation to be sent by email.

In his supplementary question, Mr Mabbott stated that the inclusion of an event around Gaza would be a great opportunity as many young people had been involved in various protests and meetings about the conflict. Mr Mabbott had seen drawings, paintings, stories and a rap produced by young people which showed that they cared about this. It bothered them and they were not immune to what was going on. In light of this, Mr Mabbott asked if the diversity of the Rotherham community could be embraced?

The Leader stated that a diverse group of young people had been involved in putting the programme together. The Leader could not commit to specific events but if a group of young people wanted to make a suggestion, the team would be happy to talk to them about that and do something that was appropriate.

2. Mr Ashraf: Thousands of Rotherham and South Yorkshire taxpayers and SYPA scheme members have recently signed a petition for divestment of pension investments in Israeli government bonds, etcetera.

After I forward the information to you, can you give serious thought to what is possible for Rotherham Council to action in regard to the petition vis-a-vis SYPA, and reply with your considered response?

The Leader explained that he was happy to receive information from Mr Ashraf and then respond. However he was clear that in agreeing to review the information, the Council could only make recommendations to South Yorkshire Pensions Authority and it would be up to them whether they decided to accept them.

Mr Ashraf thanked the Leader for his response and for the response from Councillor Sutton to a supplementary question at the last Council meeting.

3. Mr Azam: Can you please confirm the current capacity at the following cemeteries:

- Maltby
- Wath
- East Herringthorpe - Muslim Section

Mr Azam was not present to ask his question and would receive a written response.

4. Mr Griffin: In respect of the Linkswood Park development in Dalton, is there an agreement in place (under s.38 of the Highways Act 1980 or otherwise) to ensure the roads will be constructed to an adoptable standard within a specified timeframe, without further unnecessary delays for completion, by the developer (Gleeson Homes)?

Mr Griffin was not present to ask his question and would receive a written response.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no such items that required the exclusion of the press and public from this meeting.

16. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader was invited to present his statement. He shared his concerns regarding the current situation at Liberty Steel. Liberty Steel had withdrawn their original restructuring plan which had been intended to maintain the viability of the speciality steel plants in Rotherham and Stocksbridge. There was still a legal process to run over the coming weeks, but the Leader stated that the potential inability to reach agreement with creditors in court was a matter of grave concern. Over 1500 employees across Rotherham and Sheffield would be rightly concerned about their employment. Earlier in the year, the South Yorkshire Mayor, Oliver Coppard, the Leader of Sheffield City Council,

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Councillor Tom Hunt and the Leader had met with the Business Minister Sarah Jones MP to share concerns about the future of the business. The Leader explained to the Chamber that the situation remained fluid and unclear, but he would be making further representations to the Government to seek to ensure that everything possible was done to protect the future of steel making in the borough. The Leader stressed that in an uncertain world, domestic resilience and sustainable supply chains were as important as ever. The country could no longer rely on imports and exports in the way it had previously done. The future of the Rotherham and Sheffield plants was therefore a matter of national significance. It was vital that everyone did what they could to ensure it was considered as such.

The Leader announced that Councillor Allen and Councillor Taylor would be stepping down from Cabinet at the conclusion of the meeting. He thanked them both for their hard work, commitment and dedication. The Leader subsequently announced his new Cabinet and the portfolio's they would be responsible for:

- Leader of the Council – Councillor Read
- Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor Cusworth
- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health – Councillor Baker-Rogers
- Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety – Councillor Alam
- Cabinet Member for Housing – Councillor Beresford
- Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces – Councillor Marshall
- Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy – Councillor Williams

The Leader highlighted significant activity from across the borough that had taken place since the last meeting:

- The opening of Vetro Lounge and the imminent opening of Signature Dish at Forge Island.
- A number of events had been held to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.
- The first of the baby packs had been delivered.
- The latest stage of the Rotherham Roads programme had been agreed.
- Work on the markets was gathering pace.
- The planning application for the new flood defences at Whiston had been submitted and would be considered in due course.

The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, Councillor Z Collingham, was invited to respond to the statement. He agreed with the comments made regarding Liberty Steel, stating that it was a massive employer and very important for domestic production. He also passed on his thanks to Councillor Allen and Councillor Taylor for their work on Cabinet.

Councillor Z Collingham paid tribute to the Times journalist, Andrew Norfolk who had sadly passed away. He had been a dogged journalist who asked difficult questions of the Council at a time when some people did not want to answer them. His refusal to give up was a big part of why, eventually, the truth behind and extent of Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham was revealed. The Government had declined in January to pursue a national inquiry, and at that time, Councillor Read had said that he was not convinced that it would have been effective or feasible. Since then Baroness Casey had been asked to conduct a rapid audit that was supposed to have concluded within three months, but this was still outstanding after five months. Provision had been made for five councils to conduct local inquiries but just last month, Oldham and others had asked for additional statutory powers that they felt they needed but this was being denied. Councillor Collingham asked the Leader if he felt that it was incumbent on authorities like Rotherham to contact the government and make strong representations that more be done and quicker, in order to support victims and survivors.

Councillor Collingham also referenced the apparent collapse of the Ultimate Battery Company Ltd which had been expected to bring around 500 jobs to the area. It had ceased trading and taken £5.2 million of SYMCA grants and loans with it which had now been written off. Councillor Collingham made a comparison to Vetro Lounge and Forge Island, stating that public money had been entrusted with a developer and private organisation.

Concerns were also raised that the South Yorkshire Mayor had appointed a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner to carry out his responsibilities, despite Mayor Coppard taking a pay increase to reflect those extra responsibilities. So now there were two people on two separate salaries doing that role. Councillor Collingham asked what actions the Leader would take to make sure that there were governance arrangements in place for these sort of things and to save money where possible and ensure public money was protected.

Councillor Collingham referenced the recent local elections that had taken place in other parts of the country and more specifically, Doncaster. The replacement of both Labour and Conservative Councillors with Reform Councillors showed that there had been a change in public views. The public wanted more action on issues like CSE, on wasted public spending and on other things like blanket solar farms in the countryside. Councillor Collingham stated that those priorities had now been made clear to himself and the Leader. He stated that the Conservative group had been making those arguments in Rotherham for the past four years. He

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therefore asked if the Leader would change what he was doing in anyway? Councillor Collingham stated that this was not aping Reform but listening to residents.

The Leader was invited to respond to Councillor Z Collingham. He confirmed that Louise Casey had been to visit the Council as part of the CSE rapid audit a number of weeks ago. She had spent a full day meeting with the Leader, senior staff, the EVOLVE team, the police and others. The report would contain her findings and the Leader was confident that she was dealing with the pertinent issues with all the certainty that was to be expected. The Leader stated that Baroness Casey was pleased to be able to reflect on the progress that had been made in Rotherham over the last 10 years. The Council had made representations to the Home Secretary in relation to the activities that were taking place in Rotherham. It had been made clear in the letter that the Council were ready to assist the government with any further work and information that they required in relation to the progress made. The Leader did not feel it appropriate to judge the safety of child protection in other local authorities. He did however feel that it was part of Rotherham's legacy that other local authorities, police forces, health authorities and other bodies approach to child protection had changed because of the horrors and lessons from Rotherham.

In relation to the Ultimate Battery Company, the Leader stated that there was always a risk in any set of business support grants like the kind that went to the Ultimate Battery Company. They were commercial enterprises, and the State would not always back winners. There was a careful selection process behind the decisions to make sure that those choices were informed. This was a different process to the Forge Island funding. Vetro Lounge had been provided with capital funding, but the Council would continue to own the assets, including tables and chairs. In relation to business support grants, there were a team of people at the Combined Authority who assessed the risks and the right way to spend the money. Their record was remarkably good in terms of allocating that funding.

The Leader then addressed the comments made about Reform UK. He acknowledged that Labour and the Conservatives had performed poorly in the local elections across the country. Elected Members that had lost their seats in Doncaster were well known to Rotherham Elected Members and they had been dedicated and effective public servants who were caught up in a wave of public opinion that was not created by them. The Leader had smiled at the suggestion that the only people across the country who had got the agenda ahead of the public was the Conservative Group on Rotherham Council. Plenty of other people felt that they were dedicated to delivering services for their residents. The Leader stated that it was right to hear people's upset and anguish – they had been crying out for change for some time and this could be seen in the Brexit vote and the numerous government changes. The Leader stated that his and the Labour group's approach was to be straight with the people of Rotherham. They had

been straight at the election about what they wanted to do, and they had set out a very clear plan on how that would be achieved in the four years that they had been elected for. Whilst the Leader agreed that concerns should be listened to, he disagreed that Reform policies were the way forward. He would not talk more about immigration or fly fewer flags or cut Council staff and services like the Reform Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire had proposed. The Leader did not think those policies would improve the lives of Rotherham residents and to say they would be a lie. Rotherham residents deserved better than that.

Questions on the Leader's statement were invited from all other Members. Councillor Currie placed on record his thanks to the outgoing Cabinet Members and his support for the incoming Cabinet Members.

Councillor Reynolds thanked the outgoing Cabinet Members for their work. In relation to CSE, Councillor Reynolds stated that he had watched a Channel 4 documentary that had mentioned three reports, the Jay Report, the Casey Report and another that had been commissioned by the Home Office. The Home Office report had been suppressed and Councillor Reynolds wanted to know if it was deliberately suppressed by a former Leader of the Council because of the conclusions it had drawn and asked whether he could have a copy. The Leader stated that subsequent reports referenced that report and further reports resulted from the Home Office report. All of the subsequent reports were still published on the Council's website. Additional information on the website would provide Councillor Reynolds with clarity around timings and what information was known when. The Leader confirmed that he did not have a copy of the documentation from the Home Officer and as such, could not provide it.

Councillor Steele asked if the Leader could contact the Secretary of State for Defence and local MP, John Healey, about keeping the much needed local jobs at Liberty Steele. The Leader confirmed he would work with whoever he needed to in order to secure the jobs.

17. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS OF THE COUNCIL, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the membership of Political Groups on the Council, the political balance and the entitlement to seats on, and the proposed appointments to Committees, Boards and Panels.

It was noted that Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 placed a duty on local authorities to set out the principles to be followed when allocating seats to political groups and for these principles to be followed when determining such allocation following formal notification of the establishment of political groups in operation on the Council. It was noted further that there was a requirement on local authorities to annually review the entitlement of the political groups to seats on the Committees of the Council.

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The report stated that the allocation of seats must follow 2 principles:

- a) Balance must be achieved across the total number of available seats on Committees; and
- b) Balance must be achieved on each individual Committee or body where seats are available.

There were three political groups in operation on the Council:

Labour

Leader – Councillor Read
Deputy Leader – Councillor Cusworth
(32 Members)

Conservative

Leader – Councillor Z Collingham
Deputy Leader – Councillor Bacon
(13 Members)

Liberal Democrat

Leader – Councillor Adam Carter
(3 Members)

There were 144 seats available on Committees, Boards and Panels and under the calculations the Labour Group were entitled to 80 seats, the opposition Group (Conservative) 32 seats and the Liberal Democrat Group 7 seats. The seats allocated to the non-aligned Councillors was 25 and the Council had previously enabled these Councillors to take seats on the various bodies as permitted by the Legislation.

Resolved:

1. That the entitlement of the membership of Council be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to Committees (as per the table at 3.2 and 4.2).
2. That approval be given to the appointment of Members to Committees, Boards and Panels, and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as detailed in the Mayor's Letter.
3. That approval be given to the appointment of Members to Joint Committees, as detailed in the Mayor's Letter:

Cabinet – 7L

Leader – Councillor Read
Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor Cusworth
Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health – Councillor Baker-Rogers

Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety – Councillor Alam
Cabinet Member for Housing – Councillor Beresford
Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces – Councillor Marshall
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy – Councillor Williams

Audit Committee – 3L, 1C, 1N-A

Councillor Baggaley (Chair)
Councillor Allen (Vice Chair)
Councillor McKiernan

Councillor Blackham

Councillor Elliott

Independent Members:
Alison Hutchinson
Michael Olugbenga-Bababola

Licensing Board – 11L, 5C, 1LD, 4N-A

Councillor Hughes (Chair)
Councillor Garnett (Vice Chair)
Councillor Adair
Councillor Brent
Councillor Harper
Councillor Monk
Councillor Pitchley
Councillor Steele
Councillor Sutton
Councillor Taylor
1 x Labour Vacancy

Councillor Thorp
Councillor T Collingham
Councillor Reynolds
Councillor Stables
Councillor Ball

1 x Liberal Democrat Vacancy

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Councillor Bower
Councillor Currie
Councillor Jones

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Licensing Committee – 8L, 3C, 1LD, 3N-A

Councillor Hughes (Chair)
Councillor Garnett (Vice Chair)

Councillor Steele
Councillor Sutton
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Brent
Councillor Harper
1 x Labour Vacancy

Councillor Ball
Councillor T. Collingham
Councillor Stables

1 x Liberal Democrat Vacancy

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Councillor Bower
Councillor Jones

Planning Board – 8L, 3C, 1LD, 3N-A

Councillor Mault (Chair)
Councillor Jackson (Vice Chair)
Councillor Adair
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Allen
Councillor Cowen
Councillor Duncan
Councillor Sutton

Councillor Fisher
Councillor Thorp
Councillor Bacon

Councillor Tarmey

Councillor Currie
Councillor Elliott
Councillor Hussain

Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) – 3L

Councillor Alam
Councillor Cusworth
Councillor Ismail

Staffing Committee – 3L, 1C, 1N-A

Councillor Alam (Chair)
Councillor Read (Vice Chair)
1 x appropriate Cabinet Member as determined by the matter to be considered

Councillor Z Collingham

Councillor Jones

Standards and Ethics Committee – 5L, 2C, 1N-A

Councillor Clarke (Chair)
Councillor Lelliott (Vice Chair)
Councillor Harper
Councillor Keenan
Councillor Monk

Councillor T Collingham
Councillor Hall

Councillor Beck

Parish Councillor Alan Buckley
Parish Councillor Monica Carroll
Parish Council Representative Vacancy

Independent Members:
Mrs. Adela Bingham
Ms. Kate Penney
Mr. Peter Edler
Vacancy x 2

Independent Persons:
Mr. Phil Beavers
Mr. David Roper-Newman

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 7L, 3C, 1LD, 1N-A

Councillor Steele (Chair)
Councillor Bacon (Vice Chair)
Councillor Allen
Councillor Baggaley
Councillor Brent
Councillor Keenan
Councillor McKiernan
Councillor Monk

COUNCIL MEETING - 21/05/25

Councillor Blackham
Councillor Tinsley

Councillor A Carter

Councillor Yasseen

Health Select Commission – 10L, 4C, 1LD, 3N-A

Councillor Keenan (Chair)
Councillor Yasseen (Vice Chair)
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Duncan
Councillor Garnett
Councillor Knight
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Brent
Councillor Adair
Councillor Harper
1 x Labour Vacancy

Councillor Baum-Dixon
Councillor Fisher
Councillor Reynolds
Councillor Thorp

Councillor Tarmey

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Councillor Havard

Improving Lives Select Commission – 10L, 4C, 1LD, 3N-A

Councillor Monk (Chair)
Councillor Brent (Vice Chair)
Councillor Garnett
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Ismail
Councillor Pitchley
Councillor Sutton
Councillor Adair
1 x Labour Vacancy

Councillor Blackham
Councillor T Collingham
Councillor Fisher
Councillor Reynolds

1 x Liberal Democrat Vacancy

Councillor Bower
Councillor Elliott
Councillor Ryalls

Co-optees

Lauren Hickey
Mike Hemmingway
James Newman

Improving Places Select Commission – 10L, 4C, 1LD, 3N-A

Councillor McKiernan (Chair)
Councillor Tinsley (Vice Chair)
Councillor Adair
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Allen
Councillor Cowen
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lelliott
Councillor Mault
Councillor Rashid
Councillor Taylor

Councillor Castledine-Dack
Councillor Stables
Councillor Thorp

Councillor C Carter

Councillor Beck
Councillor Jones
Councillor Sheppard

Introductory Tenancy Review Panel – 2L, 1C, 1N-A

Chair and Vice Chair to be drawn from members of the Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission or Improving Places Scrutiny Commission

Councillor Sutton (Chair)
Councillor Jackson (Vice Chair)

Councillor Tinsley

Councillor Ryalls

COUNCIL MEETING - 21/05/25

Joint Consultative Committee – 3L, 1C, 1N-A

Councillor Alam (Chair)
Councillor Cusworth (Vice Chair)

Councillor Steele

Councillor Z Collingham

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester

Health and Wellbeing Board – 2L

Councillor Baker Rogers (Chair)
Councillor Cusworth

Councillor Ismail (Observer)

JOINT AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board 1L

Councillor Read
Councillor Cusworth - Substitute

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Audit, Standards and Risk Committee 1L

Councillor Baggaley
Councillor Allen - Substitute

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1L, 1C

Councillor Steele
Councillor McKiernan - Substitute

Councillor Bacon
Councillor Baum-Dixon - Substitute

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority 1L, 1C

Councillor Taylor
Councillor Ball

South Yorkshire Pension Authority – RMBC Chair for 25/26 1L, 1C

Councillor Sutton (S41 responsibilities)
Councillor Fisher

South Yorkshire Pension Board –1L

Councillor Beresford

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel 1L, 1C

Councillor Harper
Councillor Baum-Dixon

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation Joint Committee 1L

Councillor Baker-Rogers

Seconder:- Councillor Cusworth

18. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - NEW COUNCIL PLAN AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Council Plan 2025-2030 for approval. The Council Plan had been recommended for approval to Council by Cabinet on 19 May 2025. The accompanying Year Ahead Delivery Plan had been approved at the same meeting.

In January 2022, the Council adopted a Council Plan for 2022-25, including a suite of performance measures. To enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve the commitments, annual Year Ahead Delivery Plans were developed, setting out the key activities to be delivered. The Council Plan came to an end in March 2025.

Informed by public consultation, a new Council Plan had been developed for 2025-30 and was attached at Appendix 1 of the report. The Council Plan was a key document which set out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. The Plan provided the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery. The Council Plan included a suite of performance measures and targets for monitoring purposes.

The Council Plan was framed around five outcomes:

- 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 learns.

Three cross-cutting policy drivers ran throughout the Council Plan, informing ways of working and helping the Council to achieve better outcomes:

- Expanding opportunities for all
- Recognising and building on our strengths to make positive change
- Focussing on prevention.

To enable the Council to work towards the Plan outcomes, a Year Ahead Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix 2, had been developed, setting out the key activities to be delivered over the next year (April 2025 – March 2026).

During the meeting Cabinet Members highlighted achievements relating to their portfolios from the previous plan and highlighted the outcomes that would be worked towards as part of the new plan:

Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy highlighted the vast improvements to the brought roads, the government investment that had been secured, the opening of the Forge Island development and the success of the Employment Solutions Team. The new Plan would cover the development of Wath Library, Riverside Gardens and Rotherham Market. £300k would be invested in community facilities and work would start on the Health Hub for the Town Centre. Support would be provided for up to 20 businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other principal high streets through the new 'shop units grants' programme.

Councillor Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, highlighted the millions of pounds of investment in Children's services and the high quality services provided by the Family Hubs network. The Children's Capital of Culture initiative was well underway and successful. Further, an additional 50 school places had been created for children with additional needs. Councillor Cusworth highlighted some of the activity in the new plan that would support Children and Young People. This included ensuring 90% of families registered their children with the Family Hubs network within 6 months of birth; the completion of the work on the Special Educational Needs and Disability Centre at the Eric Manns Building and the delivery of Independent Travel Training to at least 30 children and young people. Work would also be undertaken to improve play areas, improve the time taken to issue Education, Health and Care Plans and to deliver Baby Packs.

Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, noted the ambitious Council Homes Delivery Programme which had achieved over 650 new homes across the borough, against a target of 1000 by 2027. High quality homes had been delivered in the Town Centre. Work had also been done to reduce the number of homeless people staying in hotels. The Council

had also received the Northen Housing Award for Best Affordable Housing Development for the East Herringthorpe 'No Gas' Scheme. As part of the new Plan, a new Housing Allocation Policy would be agreed, and work would start or be completed on a number of new housing developments.

Councillor Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, welcomed the activities and themes within the new Council Plan. Reflecting on the previous plan she noted the success of the Baby Pack initiative and the improvements in Health Visitor checks and Adult Social Care visits. Key activities from the new Plan that were highlighted included supporting 1000 residents to set a quit smoking day; the start of work on the Town Centre Health Hub and improvements to Rothercare. Councillor Baker-Rogers also confirmed that the building work for the Castle View Day Service would be completed in 2026.

Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Finance and Safe and Clean Communities, highlighted the activities related to keeping residents safe such as agreeing a new Community Safety Strategy and tackling hate crime and anti-social behaviour. Work would also be undertaken to issue a minimum of 60 fixed penalty notices for fly tipping.

During the debate on the item, Councillor Thorp and Bacon raised concerns around the consultation. Councillor Thorp stated that the questions were put in a way so that the right answer was received. Councillor Bacon said that the consultation should have been more ambitious and should have been sent to more people. He questioned the level of investment in the town centre and why that was not being shared out across the borough. Councillor Bacon also asked if the new Cabinet Member with responsibility for transport would commit to sorting out dangerous roads.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that there was an error in the Plan. Thrybergh Country Park had not yet been awarded Green Flag status. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester did support the Plan but wanted to see more empowerment for neighbourhoods and a less risk averse approach to capital projects. He also supported the town centre investments but wanted to see more residential development in the town centre instead of on green spaces.

Councillor Reynolds asked for further information regarding the CCTV investments. The Leader explained that some of the CCTV was monitored by South Yorkshire Police in Doncaster. However all CCTV could be accessed from one location to help with efficient evidence collection.

The Leader confirmed that the reference should have been to Ulley Country Park and that would be corrected in the final version of the Plan. He agreed that lessons had been learnt in terms of capital project delivery and that he wanted to see more movement in that respect. In terms of

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land for residential development, due to changes in national policy, more land would need to be made available across the borough.

In responding to the comments on the consultation, the Leader stated that responses had been received from every high level postcode in the borough. He also stated that if Members had wanted more responses, they could have gone themselves and asked their residents to complete the consultation. The consultation had been online and through the post. In response to Councillor Thorp's question about "trade-offs" and whether this was an appropriate way to ask a question, the Leader stated that it had to be presented in this way because that was the way it worked in terms of service provision. The Leader also confirmed that he was proud of the work being done to regenerate the town centre.

Resolved:

That Council adopt the Council Plan 2025-2030.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Cusworth

19. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Consideration was given to the report which stated that the Council was required to appoint a Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. In addition the post was responsible for various other Proper Officer functions under the Council's Constitution including being the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. Full Council had this function under the terms of the Constitution and Legislation.

On 23 January 2025, Staffing Committee approved the recruitment process for the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service. A detailed recruitment process was undertaken, including technical interview, partner interview, and a cross-party Elected Member interview ahead of the Senior Officer Appointments Panel, which had led to the appointment of the new Chief Executive, John Edwards. It was also recommended that the Council appoint Mr Edwards as the Head of Paid Service.

The salary for the post of Chief Executive was £188,061. A returning officer fee was paid in addition to the above salary, where appropriate, and was a variable payment in accordance with the type of election.

The Council noted the 9 years exemplary service of the current Chief Executive, Sharon Kemp OBE, and formally thanked Ms Kemp for her dedicated service to Rotherham.

The Mayor asked those present to join her in wishing the Chief Executive well in everything she did going forward and also in thanking her for all she had done for the Council over the last nine years. Sharon had joined the Council during intervention and led the day-to-day management of the

Council, supported by the Strategic Leadership Team. In 2022 the Council was awarded LGC's "Most Improved Council" and again recognised in 2023 by the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge as "Impressive". These were all achievements that the Council were extremely proud of, and which would not have been possible without Sharon's commitment and leadership. The Chief Executive had also been shortlisted for the MJ Chief Executive of the Year award. This recognition highlighted her leadership, commitment to public service and dedication to improving Rotherham. The Mayor wished her every success for the awards ceremony.

Members from across the Chamber expressed their support for the appointment of John Edwards as Chief Executive. They felt he would bring the necessary experience and knowledge to continue improving the Council and Borough.

Members also wished to offer their thanks to Sharon Kemp for her service. They noted how she joined the Council when it was in a chaotic place. She had led from the front with professionalism, commitment and confidence. Members felt that she had been a champion for elected Members who always acted with diplomacy and bravery. The vast improvements to Council Services, specifically Children's Services and governance were commended.

Resolved:

That Council:

1. Appoints John Edwards to the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service (including Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer).
2. Formally records its thanks to current Chief Executive, Sharon Kemp OBE, for her 9 years dedicated service to Rotherham.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Z Collingham

Following the vote, the Mayor presented the outgoing Chief Executive, Sharon Kemp OBE, with a civic gift on behalf of the Council and Members joined the Mayor in a round of applause.

20. NOTICE OF MOTION - AMENDMENT OF THE FLAG AND LIGHTING UP PROTOCOL

An amendment to the original motion was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original Motion and, therefore, further to Procedure Rule 18(15) the amendment was incorporated into the Motion for debate (inclusions highlighted in bold italics).

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The original Motion was moved by Councillor Baum-Dixon and seconded by Councillor Z Collingham. The amendment was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Elliott.

The substantive motion was therefore:

This Council notes:

The flying of flags on Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) buildings has, on several occasions, caused significant controversy.

Decisions around which flags to fly have often unintentionally upset residents and various community groups, leading to unnecessary division.

These decisions have also consumed considerable Council time, officer resources and public funds that could have been better spent on delivering key services.

This Council recognises:

The intention behind flying flags has often been to show solidarity with countries, peoples, and causes.

However, this practice has now gone too far. What was once a symbolic gesture has become a source of conflict, with inconsistent and politically charged decisions causing angst and upset.

A consistent and neutral approach is now needed to restore clarity and unity, ensuring public buildings reflect locational identity and civic unity, rather than political or subjective choices.

This Council therefore resolves:

To ask officers to provide Cabinet with an amended Council Flag and Lighting Up Protocol for approval that:

1. Restricts the flying of flags on all RMBC buildings and sites to the following:
 - a) The Union Flag
 - b) The Flag of England (St George's Cross)
 - c) The Yorkshire Rose
 - d) The official Coat of Arms of Rotherham
 - e) ***All UK Armed forces flags, including those flown on nationally recognised days of commemoration or remembrance***
2. Withdraws from the current practice of flying any other flags, including in connection with specific events, causes, or international matters.

3. States that the Council acknowledges the importance of supporting causes and showing solidarity with global and local issues, but that it recognises this support and solidarity can be shown in other appropriate and inclusive ways that do not involve the use of flags on public buildings.

Final Statement:

This motion is not a rejection of any cause or group.

It is a measured response to reduce division, avoid unnecessary controversy, and return focus to core Council priorities.

A copy of the Council's current Flag and Lighting Up Protocol had been included in the agenda.

On being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

21. NOTICE OF MOTION - UPHOLDING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN GAZA

It was moved by Councillor Yasseen and seconded by Councillor Tarmey that:

That this Council notes:

- The ongoing concern of Rotherham residents about the continued attacks on Gaza, blocking of aid and suffering of the Palestinian people, as demonstrated in last year's petition signed by over 4,000 residents and the flying of the Palestinian flag outside the Town Hall.
- Rotherham residents have been campaigning tirelessly for a year and half demanding an end to the genocide in Gaza. Through protests, petitions, public meetings and community-led actions, they have consistently raised their voices in solidarity with the Palestinian people and called for justice, peace and meaningful political intervention.
- The ongoing genocide and humanitarian crisis in Gaza has resulted in the loss of over 50,000 Palestinian lives, mostly women and children, with entire families wiped out and communities reduced to rubble. The scale of devastation is unimaginable, with hospitals, schools and places of worship targeted, leaving a trail of destruction and trauma that will endure for generations.
- That more than 2 million people are now trapped in dire conditions, facing acute shortages of food, water, and medical aid. The deliberate use of starvation as a weapon of war is not only abhorrent but a clear violation of international humanitarian law.
- Recent findings that UK firms exported military items to Israel despite a suspension of certain arms export licences, raising concerns about compliance with international law.

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- Statements from UK MPs and organisations such as Amnesty International acknowledge that Israel's blockade of Gaza constitutes a breach of international law.
- Calls from MPs across party lines, urging the UK government to recognise the State of Palestine and with immediate effect demand the end of the genocide, and reassess its foreign policy stance.

That this Council believes:

- That international humanitarian law must be upheld and Israel should facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.
- That the UK government should ensure its foreign policy and trade practices do not contribute to violations of international law.
- That recognition of the State of Palestine could contribute to a just and lasting peace in the region.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Foreign Secretary and local Members of Parliament conveying the content of this motion, and requesting:
 - The Labour Government urgently calls for immediate international action to stop the genocide in Gaza.
 - The deliberate targeting of civilians, civilian infrastructure, use of starvation as a weapon, and mass destruction of infrastructure must end now.
 - Express their solidarity with all civilians affected by the conflict and support efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza.
 - Write to the UK government to review its arms export policies to ensure compliance with international law and prevent complicity in potential violations.
 - That the UK government formally recognise the State of Palestine, aligning with international consensus.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

22. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

Consideration was given to the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 April 2025.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked a question in relation to Minute 148 – Economic Inactivity Trailblazer. He asked if the percentage of economically inactive people in Rotherham was impacted by people having to move away for higher value jobs and education? Councillor Bennett-Sylvester also asked if the figures included carers and volunteers and whether those figures were being monitored.

The Leader explained that work was ongoing regarding the creation and development of high value jobs which were much needed in the borough. Pathways for residents into those jobs were being looked at. In terms of carers and volunteers, the Leader agreed that there were different categories, and it was a crude way of measuring. However, the headline numbers had improved. It was confirmed that the purpose of the scheme was to help those that wanted to work to get into work.

Resolved: That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 April 2025 be received.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

23. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Councillor Baker-Rogers provided an overview of the work being done by the Health and Wellbeing Board, particularly in relation to the development of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Resolved:- That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board be noted.

Mover: Councillor Baker-Rogers

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

24. LICENSING BOARD AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Board and the Licensing Committee be noted.

Mover: Councillor Hughes

Seconder: Councillor Beresford

25. PLANNING BOARD

Councillor Williams, the outgoing Chair of the Planning Board, placed on record his thanks to all members that had served on the Planning Board and all the officers that had supported the Board during his tenure as Chair.

Resolved:- That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Planning Board be noted.

Mover: Councillor Williams

Seconder: Councillor Mault

26. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

27. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There was one question:

Councillor Ball: Following the devastating 2022 Kiveton Park illegal waste site fire, which required a two-month multi-agency response and exposed critical safety failures, why has your Labour administration failed to enforce robust bylaws or secure additional SYFR resources to prevent future industrial blazes in Rotherham, and what immediate, measurable actions will you commit to at this meeting?

Councillor Ball was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

28. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

There were 19 questions:

1. Councillor Bacon: Given Aston & Todwick residents are paying ever increasing amounts in council tax, can the council ensure that it at least gets the basics right and empties the public bins?

Councillor Alam stated that yes, the Council were doing this.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bacon stated that no, the Council were not doing this. He stated that if the Council had extended their consultation, residents would have been able to state that. Councillor Bacon stated that it was clear that the Council were not emptying the bins as there had been reports in Aston, Swallownest and Brinsworth. He stated that the Cabinet Member should know this.

Councillor Alam explained that since 2020, the Council had increased the number of bins on the streets from 2,402 to 2,536, many of which were double the capacity of the original bins. During the same period, it had increased the frequency of street bin emptying which had resulted in a 73% decrease in reported complaints.

The Council were also taking robust action with over 4,500 littering tickets issued during the last financial year. Councillor Alam stated that whilst the Labour administration had been investing in frontline services, Councillor Bacon had been voting against it.

2. Councillor Bacon: What progress has been made on the PSPO for the Todwick - Aston A57 and other road safety concerns such as the Ulley/Treeton cross roads?

Councillor Taylor explained that officers were continuing to work with South Yorkshire Police on what the correct method of stopping the illegal car events was. It was not as simple as simply putting a notice on it. There were implications about going over the border into Bassetlaw. Councillor Taylor explained that the Council did not want to rush into a decision and

that decision be ineffective. This had happened in other parts of the country.

In relation to the Ulley/Treeton crossroads, Councillor Taylor confirmed he had been in numerous discussions and visits over the years, including a visit to the location with the local MP a few weeks ago. As Councillor Bacon was aware, the Council had to use criteria to prioritise the allocation of funding and, unfortunately, based on collision date, there were greater prioritises elsewhere. Congestion schemes had not been and were not currently a priority for government funding.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bacon referred to Councillor Taylor's comments regarding not making a hasty decision and stated that this situation had been going on for years. He asked if the incoming Cabinet Member could commit to reviewing the legislation around Public Space Protection Orders because Councillor Bacon felt that there was a clear case for a PSPO on the A57.

Councillor Taylor could not respond on behalf of the incoming Cabinet Member but did state that he used that road regularly and felt that Councillor Bacon was overblowing the situation. He stated that he was not dismissing the concerns and work was ongoing. Councillor Taylor referenced schemes in Bradford and London that had not worked and explained that the Council did not want to be in that position. Discussions were ongoing on finding the right solution.

3. Councillor Thorp: Can you confirm what procedure RMBC follow, once someone has missed a council tax payment. including the time frame before that debt is passed to any form of debt collection?

Councillor Alam explained that the Council had a robust process in place to address collection of a missed Council Tax payment.

The Council's process for addressing a missed Council Tax payment varied, as the dates available for liability order hearings were gained through agreement of the Magistrates' Court. As such the Council was not able to fully control the timeline. The Council held on file mobile phone numbers for most council tax accounts and the service endeavoured to use these before it resorted to the statutory enforcement notices, to try to minimise the number of cases taken through the liability order process. Where the Council did not hold a mobile number for that customer, it had no choice but to issue the statutory reminder notice.

Clearly the Council would try to ensure that everyone paid as quickly as possible, but if all else failed, it could take about 80 to 90 days after the missed payment date before enforcement agents were engaged.

Councillor Alam stated that it was a slightly complicated process, but he would be happy to provide Councillor Thorp with more detail in writing.

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In his supplementary question, Councillor Thorp asked for that written response. He also asked for confirmation that the Council did not just go straight to enforcement action.

Councillor Alam confirmed that he would provide the written response, and that enforcement action was a last resort.

4. Councillor Reynolds: We recently passed a motion stating, brown fields first, green fields last resort, for Solar Panels. How is this being enforced?

Councillor Taylor reminded Councillor Reynolds that the original motion resolved to:

adopt a political stance in favour of small, discrete, solar panel installations, supporting their installation on:

- *Rooftops of commercial, residential, and public buildings.*
- *Car parks through the development of solar canopies.*

And to encourage the use of brown field land for large-scale solar farms.

Councillor Taylor confirmed that the Council were also taking forward a number of its own solar installation schemes including rooftop installations at Wellgate Multistorey Car Park, Riverside House, Thrybergh Country Park and Rother Valley Country Park. There were also plans in the pipeline for other solar installation at Springwell Gardens, Swinton Customer Service Centre and Library and solar canopies at Riverside House and Drummond Street Car Parks.

The Council did offer a paid pre-application service and always encouraged developers to consider any available brownfield sites ahead of green field sites for these types of development.

Planning applications for renewable energy schemes on rooftops and car parks were also encouraged through pre-application discussions subject to other material planning considerations. However, Planning applications were determined on their own merits after having regard to national and local planning policy. Despite the “political stance” endorsed, there was no such national or local planning policy that would require a sequential test approach to any proposals for solar farms and so this was not something that could be given weight in the determination of a planning application.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Reynolds displayed a leaflet that was encouraging farmers to sell their land for solar panels at a rate of £1000 per acre. He asked what progress was being made on the brown field sites and whether the market would have solar panels installed. Councillor Reynolds also asked for a comparison between the cost of installation on brown field sites and on selling farmland to a private company with no interest in the country.

Councillor Taylor confirmed that solar panels would be installed on the markets. Regarding the leaflet, Councillor Taylor stated that commercial transactions between a farmer and a private company could not be controlled by the Council. It would be decision for the farmer to take on what benefitted them.

5. Councillor Reynolds: Why are we completely refurbishing the whole outdoor Market area – new block paving, new street furniture, etc. when around the corner is a firebombed gym or a pop-up park that shows no sign of popping soon?

Councillor Taylor explained that the Rotherham Markets & Library redevelopment was a key project in the regeneration of the town centre. It was the heart of retail provision and a community asset to be proud of. The Centenary Markets is over 50 years old and in need of a new lease of life. It was appropriate that the public realm was renovated around the markets area, so that there was a comprehensive approach to the regeneration. Councillor Taylor stated that to say this work should not be done because other areas also needed regeneration was quite ridiculous. Councillor Taylor also confirmed that other issues were being dealt with.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Reynolds asked how much it cost for the refurbishment of the outdoor market area and how much it would have cost to make the area boarded off look tidy.

Councillor Taylor stated that, in relation to Rhino's, of course the Council wanted to redevelop it. There was a Planning permission in place and the Council had also served a S215 notice on the owner of the pub which led to a successful prosecution in July 2024 which resulted in a fine of £1,848 being imposed by the courts due to non-compliance. Any further action was currently on hold due to the building going through probate but clearly the Council would do all it could to bring that site back into use.

The Snail Yard project had been underway since 2021 when the former Primark building was demolished. The project encountered difficulties when the appointed contractor went into administration. The project was now being delivered by the Council's own Highways Delivery Team and was due for completion this summer.

6. Councillor Tinsley: Will the Council commit to not purchase any properties on the Highfield Park development Maltby. Until further information from the Current EA investigation is released and any potential measures are put in place on the adjoining former Maltby Colliery Site?

Councillor Tinsley was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

7. Councillor Tinsley: What powers will the Street Safe Team have to deal with ASB. When they come into post later on this year?

Councillor Tinsley was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

8. Councillor Tinsley: With the implementation of software (confirm) for Regeneration and Environment. This saw a reduction in previous street bin schedules across the borough. Would you agree that bin scheduling should of remained at previous levels with a view to have increased or reduced the emptying of bins once we had relevant data and feedback?

Councillor Tinsley was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

9. Councillor Tinsley: Dust and detritus regularly blight Maltby roads due to being both a main throughfare to the cost and to the nearby motorway network. As well due to having both a nearby Quarry and the Maltby Restoration Site. Will the Council commit to regular proactive road sweeping. As the current road sweeping policy is to sweep roads once a year?

Councillor Tinsley was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

10. Councillor Currie: Last year we encouraged our hard-to-reach groups to be involved in the 'our places' neighbourhood all borough consultation , we only know that Keppel ward made the highest contribution, we would like to know the outcome of the survey including every answer to every question?

Councillor Read explained that a summary of the responses had been produced. He was seeking advice from the Information Governance Unit as to what information from the survey could be shared with members whilst still ensuring that GDPR was complied with.

In his supplementary, Councillor Currie explained that he was asking this question as the hard to reach groups were saying they were not being heard again. Councillor Currie asked if the responses from the Keppel ward could be shared with him so he could see if the responses by the hard to reach groups had been incorporated. He also wanted to know how much money would be spent in his ward because of all the work the ward members did to get consultation responses.

Councillor Read explained that the first part of the money had been allocated in line with the published Cabinet report. No further decisions had been made about how to spend the rest of that money. A further Cabinet report would come forward with that detail in the coming months.

11. Councillor Currie: Since the cabinet past the £200K investment into the 'black hut' community resource in Kimberworth park , we have been trying to get an assurance on a start date for the agreed work ,please could this date be given to all ward councillors ?

Councillor Read explained that a scope of works had been defined and a procurement package was to go to the market which was currently being prepared. Once the full procurement activity was concluded, it would define the timeline of works. Consultation and engagement would take place with the operators of the Black Hut and Elected Members once the timeline was known. All work was to be completed no later than the end of the financial year.

12. Councillor Ball: Labour insists that selective licensing is the solution to poor housing conditions, yet even after a decade of costly schemes, your own report admits continued high levels of property failure. Isn't it time to admit that punishing decent landlords while driving up rents for low-income families is simply failed Labour dogma?

Councillor Ball was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

13. Councillor Ball: Given that Rotherham has some of the worst health inequality outcomes in South Yorkshire, and your board has had years of Labour leadership, why should residents trust this Council to deliver on the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy when past performance has been so poor?

Councillor Ball was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

14. Councillor Ball: Rotherham received over £450,000 from Sport England to tackle inactivity, yet the borough still suffers from among the lowest physical activity levels in the region. Where has the money gone, and why should taxpayers believe this Labour Council will do any better with future grants?

Councillor Ball was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

15. Councillor Ball: With the Council admitting it had to subsidise failed selective licensing inspections from general funds, and facing rising costs, why are you not publishing a full audit of where nearly a decade's worth of licensing fees have gone? Is Labour once again hiding poor financial management from public view?

Councillor Ball was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

COUNCIL MEETING - 21/05/25

16. Councillor Ball: With £5 billion PIP cuts hitting Rotherham's 24,200 claimants, and your Deputy Leader resigning in protest, why haven't you opposed these reforms publicly as urged on 9 April 2025

Councillor Ball was not present to ask his question and as such would receive a written response.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11(8), the following questions were not put verbally at the meeting but would be responded to in writing:

17. Councillor Ball: Despite the Health and Wellbeing Board's focus on mental health, with only 31% of employment outcomes sustained via Individual Placement Support by December 2024, why has your administration failed to enhance job support for those with severe mental illness, and what urgent steps will you take?

18. Councillor Ball: The 9 April 2025 motion to condemn welfare cuts and protect Rotherham's 1,640 residents projected to fall into poverty was rejected, why are you prioritising political loyalty over the wellbeing of our most vulnerable?

19. Councillor Ball: Rotherham's £4.39m Household Support Fund allocation this financial year is a 12% cut from the previous £4.98m awarded under the last Government, despite rising poverty due to the winter fuel cuts, rising unemployment and upcoming disability payment reductions. How will you protect vulnerable residents from the impact of this reduced support during worsening economic hardship?

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Ref
CR/QC03/ADY

Direct Line:
(01709)822700

Please Ask For
Councillor Chris Read

29th May 2025

Dear Mr Azam,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025 (Q3)

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

Can you please confirm the current capacity at the following cemeteries:

- **Maltby**
- **Wath**
- **East Herringthorpe - Muslim Section**

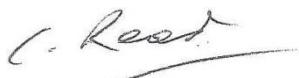
The current capacity at each cemetery is as follows: -

Maltby: 67 burial plots and 18 cremated remains plots
Wath: 47 burial plots and 39 cremated remains plots
East Herringthorpe Muslim Section: 49 Lined graves, 19 earthen graves, 46 baby graves

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council**

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Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street,
Rotherham, South Yorkshire. S60 2TH
membersupport@rotherham.gov.uk

30 May 2025

Councillor Simon Ball
Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21 May 2025

Thank you for your question at the Council Meeting on 21 May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

Following the devastating 2022 Kiveton Park illegal waste site fire, which required a two-month multi-agency response and exposed critical safety failures, why has your Labour administration failed to enforce robust bylaws or secure additional SYFR resources to prevent future industrial blazes in Rotherham, and what immediate, measurable actions will you commit to at this meeting?

Since the incident at Kiveton Park, we have undertaken the following in the Rotherham Borough:

- SYFR chaired several TCG Meetings with multi agency partners in early 2024. These considered learning from the incident, recovery for Kiveton and prevention of future incidents, amongst other elements.
- SYFR facilitated and undertook a full, multi-agency, formal debrief following the incident at Kiveton Park, where learning was identified through our SHOAL internal debriefing platform and appropriate actions allocated.
- Learning, specifically from Kiveton Park (and other waste fire incidents), has been shared within the wider internal service via our monthly Firefighter Snapshot.
- As a service we have qualified and continue to maintain the competence of 3 x specific Waste Tactical Advisor Officers, in order to effectively respond to future incidents.
- Within Rotherham District, we continue to undertake Site Specific Risk Inspections (SSRI) at Waste Sites, which are considered medium risk premises. Each watch must undertake 3 SSRIs per month (not waste specific) at a range of identified sites within Rotherham District.
- A medium risk SSRI would require one initial site visit, where the SSRI would be created and would include information such site plans, water supplies, operational considerations, tactical plans, risks, hazards etc. Following the creation of this document, a medium risk would require a review and update every three years.



- SSRLs have also been completed on units surrounding the Kiveton Park waste fire premises, on the same industrial estate.
- SYFR Business Fire Safety department have undertaken BFS Inspections on the Industrial Estate, following the incident.
- Waste fires are a theme on our Organisational Exercise Planner for 2025.

You were a member of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority between May 2022 and May 2024 so I expect you are aware of some of this work already.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Cameron McKiernan
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillor Linda Beresford – Cabinet Member for Housing

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: linda.beresford@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
LB/KS	01709 822422	Councillor Linda Beresford

12 June 2025

Councillor Tinsley
Via email: adam.tinsley@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Tinsley

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025. As portfolio holder with responsibility for housing since 22nd May I would like to formally respond to the question submitted which I have set out below along with my response.

Will the Council commit to not purchase any properties on the Highfield Park development Maltby. Until further information from the Current EA investigation is released and any potential measures are put in place on the adjoining former Maltby Colliery Site?

Any proposal to purchase any Section 106 Affordable Homes would be subject to the usual Council Business Case process and officer approvals, with Members' views taken into account as part of the final decision prior to entering into any contract to purchase homes.

As with all purchases of this nature, it is a contractual requirement that the Council's Housing Service is provided with evidence that all planning conditions related to the site and the homes being purchased have been fully complied with, so we should be confident about the local environment before any purchase are made.

That said, assuming those assurances are received, I think we'd all want to ensure that there were affordable properties benefitting local residents on that site, so you'll appreciate that's our starting point.

The Reserved Matters Planning Approval for this site is scheduled to be considered at a meeting of the Council's Planning Board in June.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Linda Beresford
Labour Member for Greasbrough Ward
Cabinet Member for Housing

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**Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance
& Community Safety**

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: cllrsaghir.alam@rotherham.gov.uk
Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

12 June 2025

Councillor Tinsley
Via email: adam.tinsley@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Tinsley

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

What powers will the Street Safe Team have to deal with ASB. When they come into post later on this year?

The Street Safe Team will be embedded in the Community Protection and Environmental Health team and will be able to utilise all legislation and powers available to them to address ASB which includes:

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 - enforcement of Public Spaces Protection Orders, Civil Injunctions, Community Protection Warnings and Notices, Criminal Behaviour Orders.

Environmental Protection Act 1990 - enforcement of noise, littering, and waste offences as well as vehicle nuisance.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety

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Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance & Community Safety

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: cllrsaghir.alam@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

12 June 2025

Councillor Tinsley
Via email: adam.tinsley@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Tinsley

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

With the implementation of software (confirm) for Regeneration and Environment. This saw a reduction in previous street bin schedules across the borough. Would you agree that bin scheduling should of remained at previous levels with a view to have increased or reduced the emptying of bins once we had relevant data and feedback?

There should not have been a reduction in street bin schedules, however the introduction of 'Confirm' showed that some local teams were not adhering to the correct schedules, resulting in additional unscheduled collections. This has now been addressed.

We have since instructed operatives to follow the schedule, to ensure the service can be adjusted where needed, based on accurate data and actual collection levels. The introduction of 'Confirm' has allowed the service to monitor when bins are getting full more often in order to adjust schedules based on evidence, to ensure maximum efficiency of the service.

Throughout the year, the service has been reviewing and adjusting bin levels across the borough and will continue to do so as needed to meet demand. As noted in my earlier response to Cllr Bacon, the investments in this service and the work of the team have seen reports relating to overflowing bins fall by 73%.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety

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**Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance and
Community Safety**

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: cllrsaghir.alam@rotherham.gov.uk
Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

12 June 2025

Councillor Tinsley
Via email: adam.tinsley@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Tinsley

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

Dust and detritus regularly blight Maltby roads due to being both a main throughfare to the cost and to the nearby motorway network. As well due to having both a nearby Quarry and the Maltby Restoration Site. Will the Council commit to regular proactive road sweeping. As the current road sweeping policy is to sweep roads once a year?

I can confirm that following the increases in schedules Maltby High Street, parts of Braithwell and Tickhill Road and Muglet Lane are cleaned once a week by the mini sweepers on the footpaths.

The current sweeping schedules are different dependent on which type of road.

A Roads are swept once per month – which includes roads such as Bawtry Road, Rotherham Road and Blyth Road.

B Roads are swept every 12 weeks - which includes roads such as Fish Pond Lane and Grange Lane.

C Roads are swept every 6 months – these are roads such as Peak Lane.

All these roads are being maintained to schedule.

The side streets are on a once-per-year schedule and again these remain on track to be completed by the end of the current year.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward and Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety

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Councillor Linda Beresford – Cabinet Member for Housing

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: linda.beresford@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
LB/KS	01709 822422	Councillor Linda Beresford

12 June 2025

Councillor Ball
Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Ball

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025. As portfolio holder with responsibility for selective licensing since 22nd May I would like to formally respond to the question submitted which I have set out below along with my response.

Labour insists that selective licensing is the solution to poor housing conditions, yet even after a decade of costly schemes, your own report admits continued high levels of property failure. Isn't it time to admit that punishing decent landlords while driving up rents for low-income families is simply failed Labour dogma?

At last month's Council meeting most Members present including all your colleagues agreed with the principle of selective licensing.

That's because your party colleagues, like us, agreed that proactive inspections of private rented properties are better than reactive ones, and in areas where category one hazards are common, they are also justified in protecting tenants.

And we should be clear about the question of cost too: The fees of the previous selective licensing scheme, if passed on to tenants in full, could only justify a rent increase of £8.68/month. Any rent increases beyond this level could not be attributed to selective licensing fees.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Linda Beresford
Labour Member for Greasbrough Ward
Cabinet Member for Housing

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**Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers – Cabinet Member for Adult
Social Care and Health**

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE
E-mail: joanna.baker-rogers@rotherham.gov.uk
Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
JBR/KS	01709 807943	Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers

26 June 2025

Councillor Simon Ball
Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your supplementary question at the Council meeting on 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

Given that Rotherham has some of the worst health inequality outcomes in South Yorkshire, and your board has had years of Labour leadership, why should residents trust this Council to deliver on the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy when past performance has been so poor?

I struggled a little with this question since so many of the policies that you have advocated for over the last decade has left Rotherham residents poorer, and our country more unequal.

Cardiovascular deaths, for example, fell steadily in Rotherham in the first decade of this millennium, then the Tories got in and the latest data we have has shown them higher than they were in 2010.

Suicide rates fell to an all-time low in Rotherham in 2010, but since then have been consistently two or three times higher.

Male life expectancy at birth rose steadily in Rotherham until 2010, but now stands lower than it did when the Conservatives came to office.

I'm proud of the work we're doing locally. The Health and Wellbeing Board over the last five years has had a strong track record of delivering outcomes for the residents of Rotherham, against the previous strategy's four bold aims and there are many examples of where impact has been seen:

For example:

- Agreeing a declaration to become a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough, including enhanced breastfeeding support within the Family Hubs and Start for Life program. Rotherham's breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks have improved by more than 5.5 percentage points in the four years since 2020/21
- Since emerging from the pandemic, Rotherham has outperformed the national average in terms of successful completion of alcohol and non-opiate drug treatment.
- RotherHive was launched in 2020 originally as a mental health resource, it has since significantly expanded and now provides a range of verified practical mental health and wellbeing information, support, and advice for adults in Rotherham.
- The 'With Me in Mind' children's mental health support teams trailblazer was implemented, and is now supporting children in 70% of Rotherham's schools.

These will be regularly presented to Health and Wellbeing Board for discussion and challenge and you'd be very welcome to come along and find out more.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Joanna Baker-Rogers
Rawmarsh West Ward
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers – Cabinet Member for Adult

Social Care and Health

Riverside House

Main Street

Rotherham

S60 1AE

E-mail: joanna.baker-rogers@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

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JBR/KS	01709 807943	Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers

26 June 2025

Councillor Simon Ball

Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your supplementary question at the Council meeting on 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

Rotherham received over £450,000 from Sport England to tackle inactivity, yet the borough still suffers from among the lowest physical activity levels in the region. Where has the money gone, and why should taxpayers believe this Labour Council will do any better with future grants?

Cabinet approved spend for the Sport England Place Expansion development grant on 17th March 2025, and at the time of the Council meeting we were 6 weeks into the project.

The most recent data for 2023/24 from the national Active Lives survey published 7th May 2025 does indeed model that Rotherham has lowest % of physically active adults in Yorkshire and the Humber and this was part of the rationale for investment by Sport England. To tackle physical inactivity requires a coordinated effort from a range of partners across Rotherham.

This survey data doesn't reflect the incredible achievements recently, such as continued growth in girl's football as a legacy of the Women's Euros, the high usage of our award-winning leisure centres, the efforts of Rotherham's School Games to engage, inspire and reach young people not engaged in sport and broaden their experiences and opportunities, and the hundreds of local people who volunteer weekly to support park runs and a range of community sports teams; what it does show is that for too many people in Rotherham, physical activity is not routinely embedded into their daily lives and average week.

To support people to live more active lives will mean changing the local social expectations around physical activity, facilitating it as a default standard, easy and enjoyable way to travel and spend time. This requires coordinated efforts across the system, embedding activity into health care, into work, into our local environments and inspiring and motivating opportunities to move more. As the Cabinet paper described, the development grant will support this ambition, such as an Active Hub to support people with long-term conditions to exercise safely and regularly, a project delivered by Flux to engage with communities to identify ways that they could be more active outdoors, Yorkshire Sport Foundation working with local communities to identify opportunities for local activity people want to be involved in and training for a range of front-line workers and volunteers. Ward Councillors can champion physical activity in their local neighbourhoods and explore opportunities to maximise them.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Joanna Baker-Rogers
Rawmarsh West Ward
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Linda Beresford – Cabinet Member for Housing

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: linda.beresford@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
LB/KS	01709 822422	Councillor Linda Beresford

12 June 2025

Councillor Ball
Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Ball

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025. As portfolio holder with responsibility for selective licensing since 22nd May I would like to formally respond to the question submitted which I have set out below along with my response.

With the Council admitting it had to subsidise failed selective licensing inspections from general funds, and facing rising costs, why are you not publishing a full audit of where nearly a decade's worth of licensing fees have gone? Is Labour once again hiding poor financial management from public view?

Selective licensing license fee income is ring fenced. It can only be spent supporting the declaration's objectives, within the scheme boundaries. The subsidy provided by the general fund over the course of this scheme has, in the main, been to address national wage inflation over the 5 years since the scheme was declared and the fees set.

Any money generated from license fees is spent directly on administering selective licensing. During the previous scheme, this provided the additional resources for a proactive inspection of all private rented properties which means over 2,200 inspections were undertaken. This resulted in officers identifying 1,406 properties that contained category 1 or significant category 2 hazards meaning that families in those 1,406 properties have been positively impacted and better protected as a result of the scheme.

Alongside the housing issues, 1,290 statutory notices and 1,262 additional notices have been served for wider management issues including statutory nuisance and poor garden condition, for example.

The previous scheme ended on 30th April 2025, the Council is required to, and will, publish within 12 weeks of the scheme ending:

- The total value of licensing fees
- The total costs associated with the scheme

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Linda Beresford
Labour Member for Greasbrough Ward
Cabinet Member for Housing

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Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Tel: (01709) 822700

E-mail: chris.read@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Our Ref: CR/KS **Direct Line:** (01709) 822700 **Extension:** 22770

Please Contact:
Councillor Chris Read

12 June 2025

Councillor Simon Ball
Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question to Council – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

With £5 billion PIP cuts hitting Rotherham's 24,200 claimants, and your Deputy Leader resigning in protest, why haven't you opposed these reforms publicly as urged on 9 April 2025?

As you will be aware, at our April meeting through the motion passed by Council, members across the Chamber including myself clearly and publicly expressed their 'serious concerns' regarding the Government's proposed changes to the welfare system and their impact on Rotherham's residents. Although I think you were absent from the meeting at the time I spoke in that debate, and I have subsequently taken the actions I said I would.

Perhaps you can inform members of a time when, as Leader of your group under the last Conservative government, you similarly took steps to prioritise local residents over the political interests of the Conservative Party? A written response would be acceptable.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers – Cabinet Member for Adult

Social Care and Health

Riverside House

Main Street

Rotherham

S60 1AE

E-mail: joanna.baker-rogers@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
JBR/KS	01709 807943	Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers

26 June 2025

Councillor Simon Ball

Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your supplementary question at the Council meeting on 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

Despite the Health and Wellbeing Board's focus on mental health, with only 31% of employment outcomes sustained via Individual Placement Support by December 2024, why has your administration failed to enhance job support for those with severe mental illness, and what urgent steps will you take?

The Council continues to support a range of initiatives that enables Rotherham residents including those with mental ill health, to achieve employment or increase their skills and readiness for employment and is committed to continue that support.

The Council continues to provide and now funds directly, the Employment Solutions service, which works with people with mental health concerns along with other needs. This enables residents to develop skills for employment along with gaining and sustaining employment. This service has been very successful, with over 3000 people having been supported by the Employment Solutions to date.

The IPS service commissioned by the Council's Public Health team (provided by the Employment Solutions team) provides specific support for people who have engaged with the drugs and alcohol service, and whose capacity to work is impacted by being in recovery from addiction. Performance data for year ending 2024/25 shows 'job starts' overachieving by 50% for this service.

There are other Council services which provide support people into work who have less severe mental health issues, these also help to prevent people developing more severe mental ill health.

For example:

WorkWell is a new service that will offer support for people aged 16+ to help address the number of people out of work and support long-term sick or disabled people to start, stay, and succeed in work through integrated work and health support.

Supported Employment, works with adults with disabilities and associated health needs.

Pathways – which provides support to enter training and/or employment for economically inactive residents.

Council services have direct links to a specialist IPS employment service (Working Win), provided by the Shaw Trust across South Yorkshire, which supports individuals who are accessing Community Mental Health services.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Joanna Baker-Rogers
Rawmarsh West Ward
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Tel: (01709) 822700

E-mail: chris.read@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Our Ref: CR/KS **Direct Line:** (01709) 822700 **Extension:** 22770

Please Contact:
Councillor Chris Read

12 June 2025

Councillor Simon Ball
Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question to Council – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

The 9 April 2025 motion to condemn welfare cuts and protect Rotherham's 1,640 residents projected to fall into poverty was rejected, why are you prioritising political loyalty over the wellbeing of our most vulnerable?

The Conservative / Liberal Democrat motion, which prioritised political posturing, was rejected by the meeting. However, a more illuminating and useful motion proposed by Cllr Yasseen was endorsed, with my support and that of the Labour Group. As I recall you were otherwise engaged at the time and didn't vote for either motion.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

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Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Tel: (01709) 822700

E-mail: chris.read@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Our Ref: CR/KS **Direct Line:** (01709) 822700 **Extension:** 22770

Please Contact:
Councillor Chris Read

12 June 2025

Councillor Simon Ball
Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question to Council – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 21st May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

Rotherham's £4.39m Household Support Fund allocation this financial year is a 12% cut from the previous £4.98m awarded under the last Government, despite rising poverty due to the winter fuel cuts, rising unemployment and upcoming disability payment reductions. How will you protect vulnerable residents from the impact of this reduced support during worsening economic hardship?

Through the Council's allocation of the Household Support Fund award, alongside the commitments made in its budget agreed in March, we will continue to be able to provide:

- Free school meals vouchers to eligible children and young people during the school holidays;
- Our local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme, which is expected to benefit around 14,400 households;
- 2,000 grants through the Council's energy support scheme;
- Support to young people leaving foster or local authority care and living independently in their own accommodation with their utility bills;
- Hampers to vulnerable families over the Christmas period; and
- Parcels of household items including cleaning / personal hygiene products to vulnerable households.

By making these investment decisions – including topping up the national funding because of the prudent choices Labour has made locally – we are able to provide the same level of support in 2025/26 as we did in 2024/25.

Some people will remember that in contrast to our approach, a few years ago you wanted to cut support with council tax to thousands of low paid households and instead use the money to subsidise a small number of homes with solar panels.

In addition, we have committed additional funds to support the borough's most vulnerable residents. In setting the budget for 2025/26, an additional £188k package of investment was agreed to support residents with the high cost of living. This included providing dedicated support through AGE UK and Citizens Advice Rotherham District to residents with the application process for Pension Credit. It also included funding to extend the successful Food Works initiative currently in operation in Sheffield into Rotherham, as well as doubling the budget for our successful school uniform scheme.

In contrast the budget proposal of Conservative members proposed to limit the Food Works investment to just one year.

The budget also agreed the funding to make our Employment Solutions service permanent, which supports people into, to stay in and progress in work. To date this has successfully supported some 1,700 people, of which 879 people have been supported into employment and 825 into training since October 2020.

Again, the Conservative budget proposal was to cut this by £350,000.

Meanwhile, through our recently agreed participation in the economic inactivity trailblazer, over 1,000 economically inactive residents will be supported, of which it is estimated that 400 will transition into employment in 2025/26 in the borough.

All of which is on top of existing arrangements that the Council has had in place for a number of years to support residents in crisis and to provide dedicated support and advice services.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 16 July 2025

Report Title

Petitions

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

John Edwards, Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Samantha Mularkey, Governance Advisor
01709 247916 or samantha.mularkey@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides Members with a list of all petitions received by Rotherham MBC since the last Council meeting held on 21 May 2025 and details which petitions will be presented by members of the public at this Council meeting.

This report is submitted for Members' awareness of the items to be presented to the Council meeting.

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Council receive the petitions listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report and the lead petitioners or their representatives be entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes per petition in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.
3. That the relevant Strategic Director be required to respond to the lead petitioners, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Friday 30 July 2025.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Petition to place a pelican crossing or zebra crossing on Station Road, Wath Upon Dearne

Appendix 2 – Petition regarding Road Safety on Birks Holt, Maltby

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Petitions

1. Background

1.1 The Council refreshed its Petition Scheme in May 2019, following its introduction in 2010 after legislative changes requiring local authorities to respond to petitions. Whilst the Localism Act 2011 repealed that statutory requirement, the Council has maintained its commitment to responding to issues raised by local people and communities in respect of matters within the Council's remit.

1.2 The current Petition Scheme sets thresholds for various routes that petitions can take through the decision-making process:-

- Up to 20 signatures – not accepted as a petition.
- 20 to 599 signatures – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and response by relevant Strategic Director.
- 600 to 1,999 signatures – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and referral to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for review of the issues, followed by response by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board setting out their findings and recommendations.
- 2,000 signatures and above – five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner followed by a 15-minute debate of the petition by the Council.

1.3 This report is submitted for information to detail the number of petitions received since the previous Council meeting held on 21 May 2025 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision-making processes.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The following petitions have been received which met the threshold for presentation to the Council meeting and for a response to be issued by the relevant Strategic Director:

Subject	Number of Valid Signatures	Lead Petitioner	Directorate
Petition to place a pelican crossing or zebra crossing on Station Road, Wath Upon Dearne	39 (plus 8 not valid)	Christine Jones	Regeneration and Environment
Petition regarding Road Safety on Birks Holt, Maltby	38 (plus 3 not valid)	Tina Bailey	Regeneration and Environment

2.2 The details of each petition can be found in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This report is submitted for information and Members are recommended to note the content and resolve that the petition received be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 This report is submitted for information in order to detail the petitions received by the Council since the previous Council meeting held on 21 May 2025. There are no consultation issues directly associated with this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Under the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme, these petitions will not be debated. They will be sent to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment to provide a written response.

5.2 The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment is required to provide a written response to the lead petitioners within 10 working days of the meeting. Responses are therefore due by Friday 30 July 2025.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly associated with this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications directly associated with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for either children and young people or vulnerable adults directly arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no specific equalities or human rights implications directly associated with this report.

11. Implications for Ward Priorities

11.1 There are no direct implications on ward priorities arising from the petition referred to earlier in this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no known implications for partners arising from the petition referred to earlier in this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 As this report is submitted for information, there are no risks associated with the presentation of information in respect of petitions received.

14. Accountable Officers

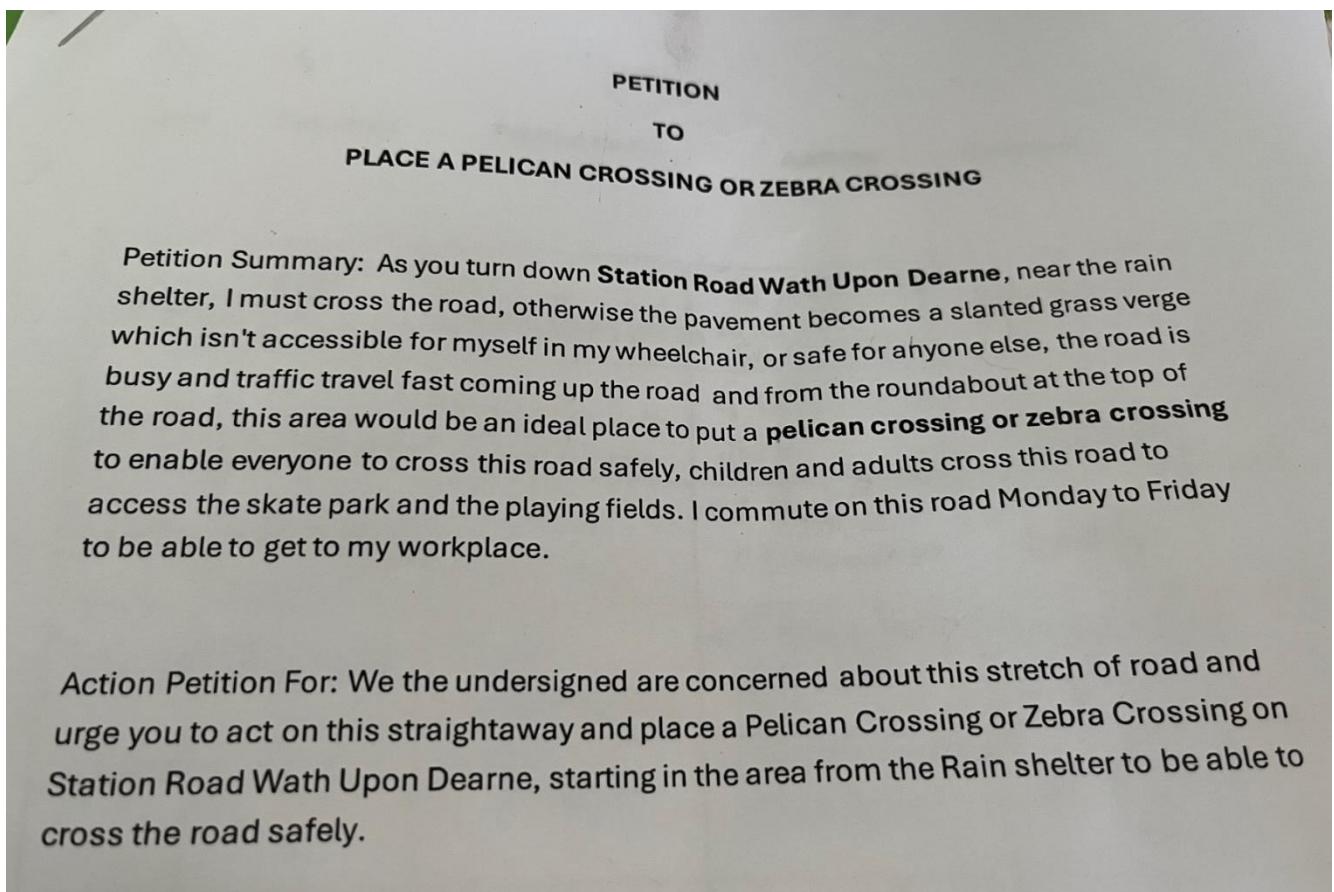
Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Report Author Samantha Mullarkey, Governance Advisor
01709 247916 or samantha.mullarkey@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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Appendix 1 – Place a pelican crossing or zebra crossing on Station Road, Wath Upon Dearne



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Appendix 2 – Petition regarding Road Safety on Birks Holt, Maltby

Road Safety Petition Birks Holt

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tina Bailey, and I am a resident of Birks Holt, Maltby. I am writing this petition following a traumatic and life-changing incident involving my young son, who recently sustained a serious facial injury after being struck by a vehicle. The accident happened because he was forced to step into the road due to a car parked on the pavement — a widespread and dangerous issue in our neighbourhood.

As a parent, the fear of your child being involved in an accident — and not being there when it happens — is unimaginable. It is every parent's worst nightmare to receive that call, to know your child has been hurt in a situation that could have been prevented. This event has had a lasting physical and emotional impact on our family, and it has highlighted how urgently road safety in Birks Holt needs to be addressed.

Our main concerns are:

- **Dangerous pavement parking** forcing pedestrians, including children and people with mobility difficulties, to walk on the road, exposing them to traffic risks.
- **Excessive vehicle speeds** through residential areas increasing the severity and likelihood of accidents.
- **Lack of community awareness and education** around road safety, speeding, and responsible parking.

Therefore We, the undersigned, urge Rotherham Borough Council to:

1. **Engage with the Birks Holt community** to understand residents' concerns, gather local evidence, and work collaboratively to raise awareness and educate the public about the dangers of pavement parking and the importance of responsible driving.
2. **Introduce speed reduction measures, with the possibility of 20mph zones**, throughout the Birks Holt area to lower vehicle speeds and reduce the likelihood and severity of future accidents.
3. **Tackle dangerous pavement parking** through enforcement, signage, and physical deterrents (such as bollards or restricted parking areas), ensuring pavements remain safe and accessible to pedestrians.

We are calling for meaningful action to protect our children, our families, and our community. No parent should have to experience the fear, helplessness, and pain that I have. We ask the Council to act now, before another avoidable tragedy occurs.

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 16 July 2025

Report Title

Director of Public Health Appointment

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)

Jenny Roodt, HR Business Partner

Jenny.Roodt@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Council is required to appoint a Director of Public Health. Full Council has been designated this function under the terms of the Constitution. The Council are requested to agree to the recommendation of the Senior Officer Appointments Panel which was established in accordance with the terms outlined in the Staffing Committee report dated 23rd January 2025.

Recommendations

1. That Council appoints Emily Parry-Harries to the post of Director of Public Health.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

The Constitution of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Appointment of the Director of Public Health

Director of Public Health Appointment

1. Background

- 1.1 Councils have a legal duty through legislation related to Public Health to improve the health and wellbeing of residents; reduce the differences in health outcomes between populations they serve and protect the health of local people.
- 1.2 On 23 January 2025, Staffing Committee approved the recruitment process for the Director of Public Health.
- 1.3 An appropriate recruitment process was undertaken which resulted in Emily-Parry-Harris being the preferred candidate to take the role as the Director of Public Health.
- 1.4 The appointment has been approved by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.
- 1.5 There is guidance on the requirements for this recruitment process issued on appointing directors of public health produced by Public Health England and this guidance has been followed throughout the recruitment process.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council has undertaken a robust recruitment process to arrive at the appointment of the Director of Public Health, ahead of the Senior Officer Appointments Panel.
- 2.2 The Senior Officer Appointments Panel made their final decision on 10 June 2025 and recommend Council formally appoint Emily Parry-Harries as its Director of Public Health.
- 2.3 The salary for the post of Director of Public Health is £99,174.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Council is required to appoint to the statutory role of Director of Public Health. It has done so through a fair and transparent recruitment and selection process.
- 3.2 Recruitment to the role has been undertaken by the Senior Officer Appointments Panel and is required to be ratified by Council in accordance with the Constitution.
- 3.3 The Council is required to have a Director of Public Health and has followed the appointment process which accords with legislation. No other options are available for the appointment of this role.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Consultation has taken place with the Leader and Chief Executive.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The date of commencement of the Director of Public Health is 1 September 2025.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The Director of Public Health is a budgeted post; therefore the current and future costs of this post are factored into the Council's financial planning.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The recruitment process has been undertaken in accordance with legislation, employment law and best practice. All other legal implications are covered within the main body of the report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 All HR implications have been considered throughout this process and a fair and transparent recruitment and selection process has been followed.

8.2 An appropriately rewarded workforce motivates employees and meets standards of fairness and equality required by employment legislation.

8.3 The Director of Public Health is an essential role within the local authority and has a statutory duty to seek assurance around the steps in place to protect the health of the population.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Director of Public Health will be responsible for ensuring that all public health services are central to Council activities. Using the best and most appropriate evidence, the Director will determine the overall vision and aims for public health in Rotherham.

9.2 The Director of Public Health will work closely with colleagues supporting children, young people and vulnerable adults to manage and deliver all relevant objectives.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Director of Public Health is required to ensure that the Public Health Service takes full account of all relevant Equalities and Human Rights duties and the needs of all communities and residents in every aspect of the work of the service. There are no equalities implications arising from the report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report, although appointing to the role of Director of Public Health will support continued leadership of the Council's strategies.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Director of Public Health will work with all agencies and partners to deliver the aims and objectives of the Council's and Partners' Public Health plans and programmes

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 By having regard to the detail of the report above in respect of meeting statutory requirements, any risk implications will have been mitigated. Consequently, there are no risks to be borne in mind in respect of the recommendation.

Accountable Officer(s)

Jenny Roodt, HR Business Partner

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	02/07/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	02/07/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	03/07/25
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Lynsey Linton	27/06/25
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	03/07/25
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health - Councillor Baker-Rogers	10/06/25

Report Author: Jenny Roodt HR Business Partner, Human Resources

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

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 16 July 2025

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update – July 2025

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Barbel Gale, Governance Manager

01709 807665 or barbel.gale@rotherham.gov.uk

Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor

01709 255601 or natasha.aucott@rotherham.gov.uk

Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Governance Advisor

01709 807267 kerry.grinsill-clinton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this report provides an update to Council of the activities and outcomes of Overview and Scrutiny activity at the Council.

It summarises the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the Select Commissions - Health (HSC), Improving Lives (ILSC) and Improving Places (IPSC).

Recommendations

That Council receive the report and note the updates.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 OSMB Work Programme
Appendix 2 HSC Work Programme
Appendix 3 ILSC Work Programme
Appendix 4 IPSC Work Programme

Background Papers

Constitution of the Council, Appendix 9 – Responsibility for Functions, Section 5 – Terms of Reference for Committees, Boards and Panels

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update – July 2025

1. Background

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules require a regular update to Council on the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Annual report was presented to Council in September 2024 and provided an overview of the operation of the overview and scrutiny select commissions.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This report is intended as a summary of highlights and outcomes and is an indicative rather than definitive account of recent scrutiny work, which aims to hold the Council and key partners to account for decision-making, policy development, and performance. The report summarises information that is already in the public domain regarding progress, changes, or improvements resulting from recommendations and feedback provided by councillors on scrutiny committees. These include Health Select Commission, Improving Lives Select Commission, Improving Places Select Commission, and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- 2.2 Although this report emphasises outcomes, it should be noted that scrutiny is chiefly a discursive process rather than a product. For further insight into the process of overview and scrutiny, the archive of public meetings webcasts, reports submitted for scrutiny, and minutes of discussions leading to recommendations are available on the Council's website.
- 2.3 The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023, as criteria to support the long/short listing of each of the commission's respective priorities:

Establish as a starting point:

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

Agree principles for longlisting:

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

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

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

3. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Update on activity:

3.1 Pre-decision Scrutiny:

3.1.1 Since the last update in April 2025, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in its pre-decision scrutiny work, has examined the following reports and made recommendations in advance of them being considered by Cabinet:

- New Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan
- Review of the Non-Residential Charging Policy
- Finance Update - June 2025
- Social Value Annual Report
- Employment Solutions 2025-26
- Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update 2024-25
- Ethical Procurement Policy
- Financial Outturn 2024- 25
- Treasury Management Outturn 2024-25
- May 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report

Further actions that arose from those pre-decision scrutiny discussions were that:

- OSMB requested a schedule of when bins were emptied in each ward of the authority, including details of how many times those bins have been missed and why they have been missed.
- OSMB requested that consideration be given to widening the consultation process for future significant projects:
 - A suggestion to consider utilising members in their ward capacity to support consultations.
 - A suggestion to consider the collection of consultees' postcodes to give an indication of which area of the borough they were from.
- OSMB requested further information from Housing, detailing what work was being undertaken to determine and mitigate any potential financial impacts of any delays in moving homeless people from temporary accommodation to more permanent accommodation.
- OSMB requested a briefing on the number of vacancies where recruitment to those vacancies was held for a period of time, listed by directorate and the potential impacts of delaying that recruitment process.
- OSMB would be provided with a list of all contracts that fall within the eligibility criteria for the Real Living Wage accreditation.

3.2 Other Scrutiny work update:

3.2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has also carried out other scrutiny work based on its Work Programme for 2025/26, which is attached as Appendix 1.

3.2.2 The Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, as always, covers a diverse range of topics within its remit.

3.3 Sub and Project Group work update:

3.3.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meetings, members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- Life Saving Equipment and By-laws:

Status: In Progress

Following a meeting with officers in May 2025, it was decided that further information regarding the equipment held and managed by the Council was needed along with the data around the number and locations of any incidents. It was agreed that this information would be provided within two months and a further meeting would be scheduled.

- Spotlight Review - Grass Cutting / Ground Maintenance

Status: Completed

A meeting was held at the start of June 2025, where members of the review group were given a presentation by officers which provided an overview and update relating to grass cutting and grounds maintenance. It gave members an overview of the weed control methods used and the wildflower schemes in place. Information was also included about their winter works and a cleansing update. The presentation provided members with the assurance needed and it was agreed that an off-agenda update would be provided to members of OSMB in twelve months' time.

- Spotlight Review - Agency Staff.

Status: Ongoing

Members have received a briefing as requested. Whilst this remains a topic of interest for OSMB, progressing of other reviews has taken priority.

Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc) update:

- Employment Solutions Team

Status: Completed

- The performance information relating to the Employment Solutions Team, was included in the report considered for pre-decision Scrutiny at the meeting held on 4th June 2025.

Items for Future Consideration update:

The items listed for future consideration remain on the work programme as place holders, to be considered if appropriate.

- Future Rothercare Model - A progress report was to be provided in twelve months to OSMB following the implementation of the new technology enabled care delivery model, which was agreed by Cabinet in October 2024. This would be due for presentation in April 2026.

4. Health Select Commission – Update on activity:

4.1 Scrutiny work:

4.1.1 Since March 2025, the Health Select Commission (HSC) has scrutinised the following reports and made recommendations in line with its Work Programme for 2025/26 which is attached at Appendix 2:

- The Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) Centre Development (TRFT)
- The 18 Week Waiting Time Challenge (TRFT)
- The Adult Mental Health Pathway
- The Adult Contact Team Referral Pathway (Adult Social Care)
- Health Hub Development (pre-decision scrutiny)

4.1.2 At the next meeting of the Commission in July, members will scrutinise the following items:

- The ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) Peer Review
- The Healthwatch Annual Report

4.1.3 The Work Programme for the Health Select Commission, as always covers a diverse range of topics within its remit. It also draws on items referred to it for attention by the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), where the Health Select Commission is represented by its Chair.

4.2 Sub and Project Group work:

4.2.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the Health Select Commission meetings, members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) Quality Account
- The Yorkshire Ambulance Service Quality Account
- The Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust Quality Account
- The Access to Contraception Review

- South Yorkshire Cancer Alliance/Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Fourth Lung Clinic Workshop

4.2.2 The following additional pieces of work have been progressed and are due to be delivered:

- Social Prescribing Member Session
- Menopause Workshop

5. **Improving Lives Select Commission – Update on activity:**

5.1 Scrutiny work:

5.1.1 Since the last update in April 2025, the Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) has scrutinised the following reports and made recommendations in line with its Work Programme, which is attached at Appendix 3:

- Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027 progress update

5.1.2 At the next meeting of the Commission in July, members will scrutinise the following items:

- The Children's and Young People's Services Performance Report
- The Revised Elective Home Education Policy (pre-decision scrutiny)

5.2 Pre- decision Scrutiny

5.2.1 The Improving Lives Select Commission has carried out the following pre-decision scrutiny work since the last update and made recommendations in advance of them being considered by Cabinet:

- Family Prosperity Strategy (pre-decision scrutiny) - Members advised that they felt that the Strategy successfully highlighted the activity in Rotherham, to address child poverty and support children and families experiencing poverty. The Commission recommended that further information be included in the Strategy about how support for children and families experiencing poverty could be accessed.
- Draft Kinship Local Offer (pre-decision scrutiny) - The Commission recommended that the draft Kinship Local Offer be reviewed to include the following:
 - Additional information into specific sections of the draft Kinship Local Offer, such as further information on trauma and adding hyperlinks to the specific policies referenced in the document.
 - A short leaflet be developed to sit alongside the Kinship Local Offer, which would include an overview of the support available and would signpost people to the Kinship Navigators.

- That the language used in the draft Kinship Local Offer is reviewed to ensure it would be accessible to all, including young people.
- Additional information into specific sections of the draft Kinship Local Offer, such as further information on trauma and adding hyperlinks to the specific policies referenced in the document.

5.3 Sub and Project Group work:

5.3.1 The Commission completed a scoping session for the proposed review of “Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Children Currently Missing Education” and members were asked to volunteer to be part of the review group. Members were asked at the June 2025 meeting to express interest in being part of the review, and it is anticipated that the first review group meeting will be held in the coming weeks.

5.4 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the Improving Lives Select Commission meetings, members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- Additional activity in the form of a workshop, which focused on Safeguarding Children from Radicalisation (including an update on the Prevent Programme) and keeping children safe in education (including an update on the activities that arose and were completed from the disorder in August 2024).
- A work programming session following the June meeting, to discuss and agree statutory items, annual items and items outstanding from the previous work programme. The items are awaiting date confirmation before being scheduled onto specific meeting dates. The Commission is awaiting the OSMB work programming meeting to complete their work programme for the 2025-2026 municipal year.

6. Improving Places Select Commission – Update on activity:

6.1 Scrutiny work:

6.1.1 The Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) has carried out the following scrutiny work based on its Work Programme for 2025/26, which is attached as Appendix 4.

6.1.2 In the current municipal year, the IPSC has scrutinised reports and made recommendations on:

- Independent Review of the Muslim Burial Provision in Rotherham
- Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy
- Housing Strategy 2022-25: Action Plan Update/ Final Report
- Tenant Scrutiny Review on Tenancy Health Checks

6.2 Sub and Project Group work:

6.2.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the IPSC meetings, members are in the process of carrying out the following work:

- School Road Safety Review:

Status: Ongoing

The initial scoping meeting was held in January 2025, where information was requested on the following aspects:

- The School Streets initiative.
- Enforcement powers, what powers sit where and what equipment was available to assist with this.
- Reporting mechanisms for Crossing Operatives.
- Responsibility for recruitment of Crossing Operatives.
- Number of reported near misses and enforcement actions.
- What Traffic Regulation Orders were in place.
- School travel plans and drop off zones.
- Potential funding opportunities.

School Crossing Patrol falls under the Deputy Leader's portfolio, which has the priority 'Every Child Arrives at School Safely and Ready to Learn', which links with a range of other facilitators such as transport, walking buses, and routes to schools.

When seeking information on the aspects above, it came to light that a similar meeting with the same service leads aiming to achieve similar outputs was already in existence. Working as one group will assist in achieving a better understanding of all outputs, operational opportunities as well as challenges. It will be a more efficient and effective use of both Elected Members' and Officers' time and look to coordinate our overall approach to children, in relation to road safety.

An initial meeting with Councillor Cusworth, Councillor Williams (as Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy), Councillor Tinsley, (as Chair of the Review Group), and the Assistant Director Property & Facilities Services was held on 23 June 2025.

6.3 Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc) Update:

- Street Safe Team - Off-Agenda Briefing in the autumn – This would be to provide an update on the recruitment process along with information on the role.
- Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements in the autumn - Off-Agenda Briefing – This would be to provide an update on how this was progressing.

- Rural Strategy - Briefing Note followed by Spotlight Review if required.
- Update on the impact of 'Awaab's Law' – This will be for the commission to consider the impact on the Council of any implications associated with the introduction of 'Awaab's Law'.

Awaab's Law was passed as part of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023. The law set time limits for social landlords to address hazards like damp and mould in residents' homes. While the law was in effect, its phased implementation was scheduled to begin in October 2025.

6.4 Items for Future Consideration Update:

Consideration of the Our Places Fund and the outcome of the Waste Policy pilot have been added as a result of recommendations from previous meetings.

7. Options considered and recommended proposal

7.1 The report is submitted for information.

8. Consultation on proposal

8.1 The report is submitted for information.

9. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

9.1 The report is submitted for information.

10. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly arising from this report.

11. Legal Advice and Implications

11.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

12. Human Resources Advice and Implications

12.1 There are no Human Resource implications directly arising from this report.

13. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

13.1 There are no implications for Children, Young People, or Vulnerable Adults directly arising from this report.

14. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

14.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications directly arising from this report.

15. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

15.1 There are no climate or emissions implications directly arising from this report.

16. Implications for Partners

16.1 There are no implications for partners directly arising from this report.

17. Risks and Mitigation

17.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	07/07/2025
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	03/07/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	03/07/25
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive	30/06/2025

Report Authors:

Barbel Gale, Governance Manager
01709 807665 or barbel.gale@rotherham.gov.uk

Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor
01709 255601 or natasha.aucott@rotherham.gov.uk

Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Governance Advisor
01709 807267 kerry.grinsill-clinton@rotherham.gov.uk

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Appendix 1 - Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2025-26

Chair: Councillor Brian Steele
Governance Manager: Barbel Gale

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

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

Establish as a starting point:

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

Agree principles for longlisting:

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

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

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

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision Review of the Non-Residential Charging Policy - Pre-decision Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 4 June 2025	Finance Update - June 2025 - Pre-decision Social Value Annual Report - Pre-decision Employment Solutions 2025-26 - Pre-decision Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 2 July 2025	Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update 2024-25 - Pre-decision Ethical Procurement Policy - Pre-decision Financial Outturn 2024- 25 - Pre-decision Treasury Management Outturn 2024-25 - Pre-decision May 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Tuesday 9 September	Progress update on the implementation Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-2025

2025	Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 8 October 2025	Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 12 November 2025	Leader Q&A - to be scheduled after Council plan on the agenda. Complaints Annual Report Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Tuesday 13 January 2026	Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 4 February 2026	Question and answer session, Mayor Coppard, South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority. Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 11 March 2026	Modern Slavery Transparency Statement - Annual Refresh Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 8 April 2026	Progress update on the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Substantive Items for Scheduling	
January 2026 & July 2026	Leader Q&A - to be scheduled after Council plan on the agenda.
Feb-26	Question and answer session, Mayor Coppard, South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority.
Jul-26	Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision
Apr-26	An update on progress following the implementation of Waste Service Route Optimisation programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months.

Apr-26	An update on the progress following the implementation of the Street Safe Team programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months.
Reviews for Scheduling	
In progress	A spotlight review - Life-saving equipment and related byelaws
On going	Spotlight Review - Agency Staff
Completed	Spotlight Review - Grass Cutting / Ground Maintenance
Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc)	
Completed	A report be provided to OSMB within three months detailing the performance information for the Employment Solutions Team.
Sep-25	A briefing to be provided to OSMB detailing information on the number of vacancies where recruitment to those vacancies was held for a period of time, listed by directorate and the potential impacts of delaying that recruitment process.
Items for Future Consideration	
Apr-26	Future Rothercare Model

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Appendix 2 - Health Select Commission – Work Programme 2025-2026

Chair: Cllr Keenan
Governance Advisor: Kerry Grinsill-Clinton

Vice-Chair: Cllr Yasseen
Link Officer: Scott Matthewman

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

Establish as a starting point:

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

Agree principles for longlisting:

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

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

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

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
26-Jun-25	Adult Contact Team Referral Pathway (Adult Social Care) Health Hub Nominate Representative to Health, Safety and Welfare Panel
31-Jul-25	ADASS Peer Review Healthwatch Annual Report How Did We Do - Adult Social Care Local Account (For Information Only)
02-Oct-25	Physical Activity for Health (Sport England) TRFT Annual Report (can be converted to workshop if public meeting space needed) Access To Contraception Review Outcome and Recommendations (To be confirmed) Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2026–2029 - Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Likely to be addressed via a workshop due to timing of Cabinet Meeting) Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030 (For Information Only)
20-Nov-25	Mental Health Strategy - Pre-Decision Scrutiny (To be confirmed) Place Partners Winter Planning (To be confirmed) Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report (To be confirmed)

	<p>Unpaid Carer's Strategy - Pre-decision scrutiny. (Likely to be addressed via a joint workshop due to timing of Cabinet Meeting)</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report (For Information Only)</p>
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22-Jan-26	<p>Director of Public Health's Annual Report (For Information Only)</p>
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26-Mar-26	<p>Cancer Alliance Lung Clinic Update</p> <p>SDEC (TRFT) Implementation Update</p> <p>NHS 10 Year Plan - Local Implications (To be confirmed)</p>
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14-May-26	<p>NHS 10 Year Plan - Local Implications (To be confirmed)</p>
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Substantive Items for Scheduling

TBC	Armed Forces Covenant - GPs commitments

Reviews for Scheduling

Early 2025/26 municipal year	Access to NHS Dentistry - Review (to follow conclusion of Access to Contraception)

Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc)

Likely September 2025	Menopause Workshop
Likely October 2025	Unpaid Carer's Strategy Workshop.
Likely November 2025	Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2026–2029 - Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Likely to be addressed via a workshop due to timing of Cabinet Meeting)

Items for Future Consideration

TBC	Learning Disabilities Update (Castle View)
TBC	Primary Care Network (PCN) Development
TBC	Immunisation Programme Commissioning Changes
TBC	Nitrous Oxide Abuse - Health and Community Impacts

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**Appendix 3: Improving Lives Select Commission –Summary Work Programme
2025/26**

Chair: Councillor Monk
Governance Advisor: Natasha Aucott

Vice-Chair: Councillor Brent
Link Officer: Kelly White

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

Establish as a starting point:

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

Agree principles for longlisting:

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

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

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

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
17-Jun-25	<p>Draft Kinship Local Offer - pre-decision scrutiny</p> <p>Closed session following meeting to discuss and draft 2025-2026 work programme</p>
22-Jul-25	<p>CYPS Performance Report 2024-2025</p> <p>EHE Revised Policy</p>
16-Sep-25	<p>CAMHS Update (Joint with C& V-C of HSC)</p> <p>Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report-Cabinet in October (date TBC, may move to another meeting)</p>

Date TBC	Family Help Update- Refreshed Action Plan and New Government Guidance (pre-decision scrutiny via off-agenda briefing or workshop).
04-Nov-25	CPPB Annual Report 2024-2025 (date TBC, may move to another meeting)
Date TBC	Unpaid Carers Revision of the Strategy- Workshop (Joint with HSC)
02-Dec-25	
10-Feb-26	
17-Mar-26	
28-Apr-26	Domestic Abuse Strategy Progress Update (date TBC, may move to another meeting)

Substantive Items for Scheduling

Date TBC (end of 2025)	Revision of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy- Cabinet in February 2026.
Date TBC	Counter Extremism in Schools- updates on the Building Bridges Together Project and the Together for Tomorrow Project

Reviews for Scheduling

On-going	Identifying and addressing the impact of trauma on children finding it difficult to access education (awaiting first meeting)

Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc)

Visit/ workshop	RPCF Update- RPCF vision and plans, voice of the community and the impact of the work completed with partners.
Workshop	Family First Partnership Programme- pre-decision scrutiny- Workshop
Potential workshop	Support available for women who have had one or more child removed, following cessation of PAUSE Project.
6 monthly upddate-	IGA update via Cabinet Member

Items for Future Consideration

Date TBC (awaiting inspection)	Ofsted Inspection Outcome (including any action plans/ improvements)
Date TBC (awaiting inspection)	Youth Justice Service update/ HMIP Inspection Outcome (including any action plans/ improvements)
Date TBC- end of 2025/ early 2026	The Revision of the Neglect Strategy (SCP)
Date TBC- 2026	Education Attainment - Children Missing Education Update (EHE, exclusions, part-time timetables, children missing education etc)

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Appendix 4 - Improving Places Select Commission – Work Programme 2025-26

Chair: Cllr Cameron McKiernan
Governance Manager: Barbel Gale

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

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

Establish as a starting point:

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

Agree principles for longlisting:

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

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria, e.g.

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

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
Tuesday 10 June 2025	Independent Review of the Muslim Burial Provision in Rotherham Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy Housing Strategy 2022-25: Action Plan Update/ Final Report Nominate representative to the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 8 July 2025	Tenant Scrutiny Review on Tenancy Health Checks Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 2 September 2025	Selective Licensing Plan for Neighbourhoods (Long term plan for Towns) Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 21 October 2025	Allotments Annual Update Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 16 December 2025	Bereavement Services Annual Report Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 27 January 2026	Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 10 March 2026	Climate Emergency Annual Report Work Programme 2025-2026

Substantive Items for Scheduling

TBC	Nature Recovery Strategy - South Yorkshire Mayor Combined Authority
Sep-27	Rotherham Gateway (Mainline & Tram Train) Station
TBC	Housing Strategy for 2025-28

Reviews for Scheduling

In Progress	Scrutiny Review - School Road Safety

Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc)

Autumn	Street Safe Team - Off-Agenda Briefing
Autumn	Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements - Off-Agenda Briefing
TBC	Briefing Note followed by Spotlight Review if required - Rural Strategy
TBC	Update on the impact of 'Awaab's Law'

Items for Future Consideration

TBC	Consideration of the Our Places Fund
TBC	Outcome of waste policy pilot.
TBC	Reviewing emailed topics for scrutiny in conjunction with OSMB

ANSTON AND WOODSETTS WARD

Covering North Anston, South Anston, Thorpe Salvin and Woodsetts



Councillor Timothy Baum-Dixon



Councillor Drew Tarmey



Councillor John Blackham

16th July 25

Report to Council

Ward Priorities

1. Represent all areas of our community.
2. Make people feel safe
3. Cleaner streets, lanes and open spaces and protect the environment.
4. Improvements to our public transport and roads system
5. Develop initiatives to support local businesses.
6. To support local community and voluntary organisations.

How we agreed the priorities

Priorities were identified by using a range of engagement opportunities to ensure we were able to listen to all the views of people from across the ward, particularly those people living within our smaller rural communities. We also talked to our parish councils, partner organisations and services as well as analysing ward data. This helped us understand what issues were most important to the people that we serve

How the ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

The priorities centre on 'working with' communities and placing them at the heart of all we do. We help to empower people, using a strengths-based approach to improve outcomes and support the most vulnerable. Our priorities aim to create opportunities for everyone, but especially the young and elderly. They also help build a local infrastructure that supports residents and helps to realise the shared ambition of healthier, happier communities that are safe and welcoming.

Some current projects

Cross border rural crime initiative

Farmers and residents within the ward voiced concerns over a rise in rural crime, including theft, wildlife offences, and antisocial behaviour (ASB). These issues have been exacerbated by the use of off-road and quad bikes, often linked to broader criminal activity such as drug trafficking and organised wildlife crime. The destruction of farmland by illegal off-road vehicles and the targeting of agricultural machinery have been particularly damaging, both economically and emotionally.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/anston-and-woodsetts-ward

ANSTON AND WOODSETTS WARD

Covering North Anston, South Anston, Thorpe Salvin and Woodsetts



Councillor Timothy Baum-Dixon



Councillor Drew Tarmey



Councillor John Blackham

In response to these concerns, joint work with Dinnington ward members and South Yorkshire Police has resulted in: -

- **Increased Patrols:** South Yorkshire Police committed to enhancing rural patrols, particularly through the ORBIT team, which has proven effective in deterring illegal off-road activity
- **Improved Reporting Channels:** Residents were encouraged to report all incidents, no matter how minor, to build a clearer picture of rural crime patterns.
- **Future Engagements:** Further meetings and community engagement events are planned to maintain momentum and ensure ongoing collaboration.

The cross-border meeting marked a significant step forward in addressing rural crime within the ward. We continue to work in partnership with the police, parish councils, residents and the farming community, for a safer and more secure rural environment

CCTV in Thorpe Salvin

Overview - In a significant step toward enhancing community safety, we worked with Thorpe Salvin Parish Council to install a new CCTV system throughout the village.

Community Consultation and Support - detailed discussions took place with Thorpe Salvin PC, Elected Members, Neighbourhoods, Street Lighting and the CCTV team as well as local residents to assess the need and feasibility of a CCTV scheme. A community survey and public meetings revealed strong support for the project, particularly considering recent thefts and burglaries in the area.

Funding and Contributions - The project was made financially viable through a combination of Parish Council funds and a £5,000 contribution from Elected Members via their ward budget

Installation Details - The CCTV system comprises four high-definition cameras strategically mounted on steel lamp posts at key entry and exit points of the village: Worksop Road, Common Road, Ladyfield Road, Harthill Road. These locations were selected to maximize coverage while adhering to installation requirements, such as using existing streetlamp power supplies and avoiding private property surveillance.

Crime Reduction and Community Impact - The primary goal of the CCTV system is crime prevention and detection. While the system is not monitored 24/7, footage is accessible to RMBC and South Yorkshire Police when a crime is reported or suspected. Early feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive. Many have expressed relief and satisfaction, noting a renewed sense of security and community well-being.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/anston-and-woodsetts-ward

ASTON AND TODWICK WARD

Covering Aston, East Swallownest and Todwick



Councillor Sarah Allen



Councillor Joshua Bacon

16th July 25

Report to Council

Ward Priorities

1. Develop and support initiatives around road safety and transportation.
2. Opportunities to engage, improve and support local businesses.
3. Develop and support initiatives around crime, community safety, particularly in hot spot areas.
4. Develop and support initiatives to improve the local environments e.g. community clean-up days or support for litter picking groups or improve green spaces
5. Support initiatives to help and improve mental health, wellbeing, loneliness and isolation of tenants/residents of all ages within the community.

How we agreed the priorities

We listened to and engaged with people, partners, and communities, ensuring everyone had the opportunity to be involved. We did this by using an online survey, workshops, focus groups and attending and organising events such as drop-ins at Aston Library, a Health and Wellbeing event and a community safety event at Todwick. We analysed the data alongside insights from services and profiles to identify the things that mattered most to people, as well as local need, ambitions and aspirations.

How the ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Priorities centre on 'working with' communities, placing them at the heart of all we do. We help to empower people, using strengths-based working to improve outcomes and support the most vulnerable. Our priorities aim to create opportunities for everyone, but especially the young and elderly and helps build a local infrastructure that supports them and helps to realise the shared ambition of healthier, happier communities that are safe and welcoming.

Partnership Working

Partnership working has been important in the Aston and Todwick ward, and with Aughton and Swallownest ward we hold a quarterly thriving Network meeting. This gives us the opportunity to connect and to find out about other services and projects. We work with a diverse range of partners from different sectors, as well as services across the Council. Partners include the Parish Councils, Police, primary schools, Aston Academy, Rotherfed, Housing, Libraries, Aston Tara, VAR, local community groups and businesses.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/aston-and-todwick-ward

Progress so far

1. Develop and support initiatives around road safety and transportation.

What we've done:

- A57 – through the CAP we supported police and partner initiatives to mitigate car meets, racing and ASB. This includes police and partner operations, upgrading CCTV and signage and investigating feasibility of a PSPO.
- A57 Todwick Roundabout improvements – options study to improve congestion and safety.

2. Opportunities to engage, improve and support local businesses

What we've done:

- The Towns and Villages Fund upgraded the shopping area in Todwick as well as the entrance of the village which is accessed straight off the A57.
- Due to concerns raised about the lack of post office and banking facilities an application has been submitted for a Banking Hub at Todwick.

3. Develop and support initiatives around crime, community safety, particularly in hot spot areas.

What we've done:

- Promoted the reporting of crime and ASB through articles in our e-bulletin, leaflet drops and door knocking in hotspot areas such as the A57.
- Pop-up community safety events with neighbourhood watch.
- The installation of CCTV in hotspot areas, including working with Todwick Parish Council in supporting their plan for further CCTV in the village.

4. Develop and support initiatives to improve the local environments e.g. community clean-up days or support for litter picking groups or improve green spaces.

What we've done:

- Improved refuse collection and clean ups alongside the A57
- Delivered environmental improvements and workshops on the Florence Ave green space.
- Supported bulb and tree planting projects
- Children's workshop to make bird feeders and boxes.
- Woodcarving event.
- Repainting of the post-box in Aston.

5. Support initiatives to help and improve mental health, wellbeing, loneliness and isolation of tenants/residents of all ages within the community.

What we've done:

- Funded social activities, sports, workshops and local celebrations through CLF including the much-loved Aston Carnival and a Community Christmas tree at Todwick
- Promoted the use of neighbourhood centres to encourage usage, and engaged with tenants and residents through Aston Tara,
- Provided access to information, advice and support by holding events such the Loving Life event at Aston Library.
- Commissioned the Community Pantry Van' at Todwick and Hepworth Drive

THE CABINET
19th May, 2025

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allen, Baker-Rogers, Cusworth and Taylor.

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

153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

154. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was one question from Mr Hussain who stated that he kept attending Cabinet and asking for progress updates on the contract negotiations between the Council and Dignity but was getting no answers. He stated that there was no movement, and the Council had confirmed at the last liaison group meeting that there had been no further progress. Mr Hussain stated that spaces were running out and he asked what the Council were doing about it.

Bal Nahal, Head of Legal, Registrars and Bereavement Services, explained that the Assistant Director of Legal, Registrars and Bereavement Services was still negotiating the contract and there were weekly discussions taking place. The Leader explained that he understood Mr Hussain's frustration but due to the commercial sensitivity of negotiations it was not always possible to provide updates however he could confirm that negotiations were still ongoing.

Mr Hussain asked if the Council could commit to a date by which the negotiations would be completed. The Muslim community needed certainty in relation to the number of spaces available. Mr Hussain also referenced the abandoned building in East Herringthorpe Cemetery. He believed that this was the responsibility of the Council and not of Dignity. Mr Hussain therefore asked if the building could be refurbished and brought back into use.

The Leader agreed to provide a written response regarding the building in East Herringthorpe Cemetery. He could not commit to providing a date by which the negotiations would be complete. The Leader did confirm that the required service was still being carried out at all cemeteries across the borough.

155. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

During the meeting it was agreed that the following amendments would be made to the minutes:

Minute 148 – Economic Inactivity Trailblazer – Paragraph 6: change the “Go Get Britain Working Initiative” to the “Get Britain Working Initiative.”

Minute 149 – Household Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document – Paragraph 1: remove “Consideration was given to the report which.”

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 April 2025, as amended, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

156. 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.

157. REVIEW OF THE NON-RESIDENTIAL CHARGING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the proposed review of the Non-Residential Charing Policy. The Policy was last reviewed in 2019 and focused on ensuring ongoing compliance with charging regulations and to ensure equity in approach to charging for all who received services and required a financial assessment. A review by legal officers had highlighted the need for a joint non-residential and residential charging policy. Therefore, it was proposed that a new Adult Care Charging Policy be produced that combined the two.

The aim of the report was to seek approval to produce and then carry out a consultation on a new Adult Care Charging Policy. It would set out the options available for the Council to consider, including options for the financial assessment. An initial review had been undertaken on the current Non-Residential Charging Policy and had identified three areas for consideration. The report referred to the current policy, when benchmarked against other authorities in the region.

The three areas for consideration were:

The Minimum/maximum charge - Currently Rotherham Council had in place a maximum charge of £689 per week per individual for non-residential charges. Of the other Councils in South Yorkshire, only Sheffield currently had a maximum charge. The current minimum assessed contribution was £1 per week for Rotherham. There were

currently nine people who paid the maximum charge. Removing this could generate an additional £3,300 a week.

The option was to remove the maximum charge so as to charge up to the full cost of the care, and to retain the minimum charge of £1 per week.

Introduction of an administrative charge for organising care for self-funders - Currently Rotherham Council organised care for self-funders if requested to do so without charging. Both Barnsley and Doncaster charged an administrative fee to do this. Self-funders were customers who had capital assets over £23,250 (or £46,500 as a couple) or customers who had chosen not to be financially assessed. There were currently 224 customers who fell into this category. An annual charge of £350/yr could increase income by over £70,000 a year. The option was to introduce an annual charge to self-funders to organise their care, estimated at circa £350 a year.

Inclusion of all disability benefits in the financial assessment - Currently in Rotherham the process for carrying out the financial assessment took into consideration only the lower or middle rate of Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance, and the standard rate of Personal Independence Payments where services were only received during daytime hours; this was the case even where the service user was in receipt of the higher and enhanced rates of these payments.

There were currently 2,713 non-residential customers, of which 1,291 received a high-rate disability benefit. A sample of 39% would generate an additional £11,000 a week so the full cohort was likely to be significantly higher. The option was to include all legally admissible income when the financial assessment was completed. It was not recommended that this option be included in the consultation because of the detrimental and disproportionate impact on people with the highest care and support needs.

Consultation was to be carried out with stakeholders through an online questionnaire and face to face sessions over a 12-week period. This consultation would be planned for summer commencement 2025, with letters being issued prior, to advise service users of their opportunity to feed back.

The outcome of the consultation exercise would inform the future joint residential and Non-Residential Charging Policy for Adult Social Care subject to further Cabinet approval by the end of 2025.

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

Resolved:

That approval is given to consult on a new Adult Care Charging Policy, that includes both non-residential and residential charging and will include consideration of the following areas:

1. The removal of the maximum charge for non-residential care, while maintaining the minimum charge of £1. **Recommended.**
2. The introduction of an administrative charge for organising care for people who fund their own care. **Recommended.**
3. The inclusion of all disability benefits when carrying out non-residential financial assessments for services. **Not Recommended.**

158. NEW COUNCIL PLAN AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which presented the new Council Plan 2025-2030 and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2025-2026. Informed by public consultation, the new Council Plan had been developed for 2025-30 and was attached to the report at Appendix 1. The Council Plan was a key document which set out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. The Plan provided the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents could hold the Council to account for delivery. The Council Plan included a suite of performance measures and targets for monitoring purposes.

Between September and November 2024, a programme of public consultation and engagement took place to support the development of the new Council Plan. This included online and postal surveys, focus groups (internal and external), and a series of short interactions and engagement at a number of events and locations across the Borough. There were 214 online and postal surveys returned and over 1,950 interactions in total across all methods of engagement. A summary of the consultation and key findings was attached at Appendix 3 and was available on the Council website.

Informed by this programme of public and stakeholder engagement, the new Council Plan for 2025-30 'Forging Ahead' set out the ambition for the Borough, including medium-term priorities and actions, building on and taking forward commitments made by elected members to the Rotherham community. The Council Plan was framed around five outcomes:

- 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 learns.

Three cross-cutting policy drivers ran throughout the Council Plan, informing ways of working and helping the Council to achieve better outcomes:

- Expanding opportunities for all
- Recognising and building on our strengths to make positive change
- Focussing on prevention.

To enable the Council to work towards the Plan outcomes, a Year Ahead Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix 2, had been developed, setting out the key activities to be delivered over the next year (April 2025 – March 2026). There were 116 priority actions, milestones and measures alongside a further twelve social care measures in the Year Ahead Plan.

To ensure that the Council Plan was managed effectively, six-monthly progress reports would be produced for Cabinet and made publicly available. The reports would include progress in relation to the actions in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, performance data relating to associated performance measures and case studies. The progress reports would have annual updates on the long-term measures of success as the majority of these were published annually. It was proposed that the first Council Plan 2025-30 mid-year progress report, covering the period April 2025 to September 2025, be reported to Cabinet in January 2026.

During the meeting Cabinet Members highlighted achievements relating to their portfolios from the previous plan and highlighted the outcomes that would be worked towards as part of the new plan:

Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy highlighted the vast improvements to the brought roads, the government investment that had been secured, the opening of the Forge Island development and the success of the Employment Solutions Team. The new Plan would cover the development of Wath Library, Riverside Gardens and Rotherham Market. £300k would be invested in community facilities and work would start on the Health Hub for the Town Centre. Support would be provided for up to 20 businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other principal high streets through the new 'shop units grants' programme.

Councillor Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, highlighted the millions of pounds of investment in Children's services and the high quality services provided by the Family Hubs network. The Children's Capital of Culture initiative was well underway and successful. Further, an additional 50 school places had

been created for children with additional needs. Councillor Cusworth highlighted some of the activity in the new plan that would support Children and Young People. This included ensuring 90% of families registered their children with the Family Hubs network within 6 months of birth; the completion of the work on the Special Educational Needs and Disability Centre at the Eric Manns Building and the delivery of Independent Travel Training to at least 30 children and young people. Work would also be undertaken to improve play areas, improve the time taken to issue Education, Health and Care Plans and to deliver Baby Packs.

Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, noted the ambitious Council Homes Delivery Programme which had achieved over 650 new homes across the borough, against a target of 1000 by 2027. High quality homes had been delivered in the Town Centre. Work had also been done to reduce the number of homeless people staying in hotels. The Council had also received the Northern Housing Award for Best Affordable Housing Development for the East Herringthorpe 'No Gas' Scheme. As part of the new Plan, a new Housing Allocation Policy would be agreed, and work would start or be completed on a number of new housing developments.

Councillor Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, welcomed the activities and themes within the new Council Plan. Reflecting on the previous plan she noted the success of the Baby Pack initiative and the improvements in Health Visitor checks and Adult Social Care visits. Key activities from the new Plan that were highlighted included supporting 1000 residents to set a quit smoking day; the start of work on the Town Centre Health Hub and improvements to Rothercare. Councillor Baker-Rogers also confirmed that the building work for the Castle View Day Service would be completed in 2026.

Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Finance and Safe and Clean Communities, highlighted the activities related to keeping residents safe such as agreeing a new Community Safety Strategy and tackling hate crime and anti-social behaviour. Work would also be undertaken to issue a minimum of 60 fixed penalty notices for fly tipping.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), who advised that the recommendations be supported. Concerns had been raised around the consultation process, the lack of prominence of children's services in the consultation and overflowing bins. Additional concerns were raised around how to engage with the South Yorkshire Mayor. As a result of the discussions, OSMB requested:

- A schedule of when bins were emptied in each ward of the authority, including details of how many times those bins have been missed and why they have been missed.
- That consideration be given to widening the consultation process for future significant projects including:

- A suggestion to consider utilising members in their ward capacity to support consultations.
- Another suggestion to consider was the collection of consultees postcodes to give an indication of which area of the borough they were from.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Recommend to Council that the Council Plan 2025-30 be approved.
2. Agree the Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2025-26.
3. Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2026.

159. ROTHERHAM ROADS PROGRAMME 2025/26

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the current strategy for the management and maintenance of Rotherham's Highways and the positive impact the recent Council funding had had on the highway network. The report also described the current performance, both in terms of the condition of Rotherham's highways and in terms of the delivery of highways maintenance services.

The additional investment in Rotherham's roads was making a real improvement to the highway network. This was evidenced by the improvement in the condition of the estate roads and classified network and a continued reduction in the number of potholes reported and highway claims received against the Council.

Prior to the meeting an updated version of Appendix 1, the Rotherham Highway Repair Programme 2025-26, had been circulated. During the meeting, the Assistant Director of Community Safety and Street Scene highlighted the positive impact of the investment in the highway network. The previous additional investment in the maintenance of unclassified roads had seen the condition of the unclassified network improve to better than National Average. The Department for Transport's current published National Average condition for unclassified roads showed 17% required repair in March 2024 (most current). In the same month Rotherham's unclassified road Network was reported as 12.69% requiring repair. The Council's unclassified network was over 770km long and the percentage of the unclassified network that required repair was currently measured at 11.1% (December 2024).

Members had been invited to provide their suggestions regarding which unclassified roads in their wards they would like to see repaired. Nominations received by 31 March 2025 had been assessed against the

matrix criteria and those meeting the criteria were included on the Indicative Highway Repair Programme.

The Leader noted that significant investment and resulting progress on this matter.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:-

1. Agree the strategic approach to the management and maintenance of Rotherham's Highways and approve the Indicative Highway Repair programme.
2. Agree that a delegation be provided to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment to approve - in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy - any further amendments required to the Indicative Highway Repair programme.
3. Agree that for any additional in year funding provided to deliver highways repairs, the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, may utilise that funding in accordance with the strategic approach to the Management and Maintenance of Rotherham's Highways as laid out in this report.

160. 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.

161. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cabinet would be held on Monday 9 June 2025 at 10.00am.

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, Cabinet recorded its thanks to Councillor Allen and Councillor Taylor who would be stepping down from Cabinet on 21 May 2025. The Leader stated that both had served with distinction in what was a very hard job. Councillor Steele expressed his thanks to the outgoing Cabinet Members, on behalf of himself and of Overview and Scrutiny.

THE CABINET
9th June, 2025

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marshall.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was one public question from Mr Azam. He asked for confirmation regarding which Cabinet Member now had responsibility for bereavement services and he offered to take them for a tour of the cemeteries like he had previous Cabinet Members. Mr Azam also asked for a progress update on the negotiations between the Council and Dignity. He was very concerned that burial space was running out but there were no confirmed plans for further development. Phase 1 of the development had been expected in 2025, but no plans had yet been approved. He asked how the matter could be moved forward.

The Leader confirmed that Councillor Beresford now had responsibility for Bereavement Services. Councillor Beresford confirmed that she would like to accept Mr Azam's offer of a tour.

Phil Horsfield, the Assistant Director of Legal, Elections and Registration Services, confirmed that negotiations were still ongoing and that the discussions being held were robust. The outcome of the negotiations would impact the plan for future development which was why those plans had not yet been confirmed. Mr Horsfield reiterated what had been said in previous meetings, explaining that the Council would ensure that there was always land available for burials.

Mr Azam confirmed he would contact Councillor Beresford. He also referenced the Independent Equalities Review of Bereavement Services Provision that had been undertaken by Kaushar Tai. This report was due to be discussed at the Improving Places Select Commission on 10 June 2025. Mr Azam stated that he believed the report was a missed opportunity and asked if it would be presented to Cabinet along with costs and actions regarding what needed to be done and what commitments the Council would make.

Mr Horsfield explained that an action plan would be developed as a result of the report. Any future investment would be subject to the usual procedure rules that the Council operated under.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 May 2025 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. 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.

5. UPDATE ON THE FAMILY HELP STRATEGY IN RELATION TO THE FAMILIES FIRST PARTNERSHIP (FFP) PROGRAMME GUIDE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the published guidance relating to the Families First Partnership Programme. Approval was requested for the governance structure for the management, oversight and scrutiny of the Families First Partnership Transformation Programme, in accordance with the requirements of the Families First Partnership Programme Guide, Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and the Children's Social Care: national framework.

Agreement was also sought to delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Lead Member, Children and Young People and the Assistant Director Financial Services to determine the use of the new Children's Social Care Prevention Grant in line with the expectations set out in the Families First Partnership Programme Guide.

The Families First Partnership (FFP) programme guide published in March 2025 provided clear expectations for safeguarding partners to transform how support and protection were provided to families, focusing on early intervention and prevention to avoid crisis situations. It emphasised a whole-family approach, bringing together multi-disciplinary professionals to support families in overcoming challenges and remaining together. The programme also involved greater family network engagement and stronger multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The programme guide was not statutory guidance and did not replace existing statutory guidance, including Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: or the Children's social care: national framework. Four chapters set out the vision for transformation in family support, to rebalance the system away from crisis intervention and toward earlier help and support; delivery expectations for Family Help, multi-agency child

protection and Family Group Decision Making and key principles and system enablers and the national delivery support offer.

The Council had been allocated £2.083m children social care prevention grant in 2025/26. The grant was ringfenced for direct investment in additional prevention activity for children and families through the implementation of Family Help and Child Protection reforms. The grant was to be used alongside the existing Children and Families grants (inclusive of Supporting Families funding), which would enable continuation of existing prevention services.

In accordance with the draft grant determination letter, the £2.083m funding was to be used for the following activities:

1. Transformation – the Council was allowed to spend (as one-off and/or set up costs) a proportion of the funding (maximum of 30%) on transformation activity to increase readiness for system change, which would include the following: (1) establishing a transformation team including but not limited to a strategic lead, a senior project transformation lead, a project manager, secondment opportunities for key partners and commissioning, finance, HR and performance resource. (2) Buy-in dedicated resource from partners e.g. health, police, education, voluntary sector, such as secondment arrangements, to support the development of the delivery plan.
2. Service Design – the grant funding was allowed to be used for (1) undertaking a joint family help needs analysis to inform new service delivery models; (2) stakeholder engagement (with local partners) to co-produce and design new service delivery models and strengthen multi-agency working and safeguarding arrangements. A diverse range of service users and practitioners were expected to be engaged in the co-design process.
3. Service Delivery - the grant was expected to be used across the full breadth of preventative services, including Early Help, Family Help, Family Networks, and child protection. Service delivery costs were expected to include additional workforce and commissioned services to enable the Council to offer new and updated services for families and children, which met the policy principles set out in the Programme Guidance. Paragraphs 2.7 to 2.12 provided an indication of some of the key service changes expected from April 2025 to March 2026 and beyond.

A further update on the delivery of Phase 2 of the Early Help Strategy: Family Help including the Families First Programme Transformation, would be brought to Cabinet in November 2025.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the expectations outlined in the Families First Partnership Programme Guide issued in March 2025.
2. Agree to the establishment of the governance structure for the management, oversight, and scrutiny of the Families First Partnership Transformation Programme and delegate approval of Terms of Reference to the Chief Executive in Consultation with the Leader and the Lead Safeguarding Partners.
3. Approve the use of the new Children's Social Care prevention grant to deliver transformation activity (30%), increased direct delivery of family help (50%), practice development, workforce development and ICT development (15%) and children and family voice (5%) as described in 2.15.
4. Delegate authority in line with recommendation 3 (above) to the Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Lead Member for, Children and Young People and the Assistant Director Financial Services.
5. Agree to receive a further update in November 2025 detailing the progress towards the expectations outlined in the Families First Partnership Programme Guide and expenditure of the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant.

6. FINANCE UPDATE - JUNE 2025

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update to Cabinet on a number of financial matters. The report was provided as an interim update for Cabinet, following on from the approval of the Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 report at Council on 5 March 2025 and in advance of the Financial Outturn 2024/25 report and May Financial Monitoring 2025/26 report to be submitted to Cabinet in July 2025. An update was also provided on the Council's administration of the Local Council Tax Support Top-Up payments.

The Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25 submitted to Cabinet on 10 February 2025 was based on the financial monitoring position as at December 2024, which outlined that the Council anticipated an overspend of £3.1m. This forecast position was also outlined in the Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 report which was submitted to the same Cabinet meeting and to Council on 5 March 2025. The overspend was to be funded from Reserves as approved at Council as part of the Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 report. However, the report noted that the Council's intention was to further improve that outturn position in the remainder of the financial year, if possible, to help reduce the call on reserves.

The actual financial outturn position reflected an overspend of £0.3m for the financial year 2024/25. This position included a final overspend of £12.8m across the core directorates services, however, the directorate overspend was partially offset by the planned £6.9m corporate budget risk contingency within Central Services approved within the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2024/25. Taken with savings delivered from the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, the final underspend in Central Services was £12.5m, which reduced the Council's overall outturn to a £0.3m overspend. This was an improvement of £2.8m from the December Financial Monitoring reported to February Cabinet, as service areas delivered savings ahead of year-end, maximised grant allocations, improvements in income were recognised and the Council generated further savings in Treasury Management. The main reasons for the improvements in the Directorate outturn position were set out in paragraph 2.1.4 of the report.

Council approved, as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report on 5 March 2025, continuation of Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme to run during 2025/26. The scheme would provide an additional award during 2025/26 of up to £126.12 additional support to low income households most vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills. The application of the scheme included all those becoming eligible up to and including 31 March 2026. The 2025/26 scheme had commenced and at the time the report was written, a total of £1.486m had been awarded across 14,632 accounts, with 12,681 of these accounts being reduced to nil. Those bill payers in receipt of this award had been provided with a Council Tax bill that showed the top up support from the Council along with a letter explaining the reason for the award.

The estimated scheme costs were between £1.7m and £1.9m. As agreed in the Budget Report to Council 5 March 2025, this would be funded by a combination of the Household Support Fund for 2025/26 and the Local Council Tax Support Grant Reserve. The 2024/25 Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme provided additional support of up to £121.96 to low income households most vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills. A total of £1.696m had been awarded across 17,422 accounts with 10,684 being reduced to nil in 2024/25.

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:-

1. Note the update on the revenue budget financial outturn 2024/25.
2. Note the Council's progress on the delivery of the Local Council Tax Support Top Up payment.

7. STREET SAFE TEAM

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the progress and plans for the new Street Safe Team in Rotherham Town Centre and the principal towns. This initiative aimed to provide a welcoming presence for visitors to the area. The team would undertake a broad range of duties which would include signposting or providing information to the public as well as identifying and addressing issues in relation to the general street scene, such as littering, by enhancing the existing enforcement presence. The service was also aimed at enhancing community safety and improving perceptions of safety in town centres. The report highlighted the importance of collaboration, continuous training, and community engagement in achieving the goals of the Street Safe initiative.

In March 2025, as part of the 2025/26 Budget, Council approved the revenue investment to create a new Street Safe Team. The new team represented a significant investment with 10 new front-line officers fulfilling brand new roles alongside the required management resources. This would be embedded within the Community Protection and Environmental Health Team, working in partnership with a range of internal and external partners across Rotherham Town Centre and the principal towns of Maltby, Dinnington, Wath and Swinton.

In addition to the proactive visible and engaging presence, the Team would also support directly the delivery of a range of Community Protection and Environmental Health services within specific neighbourhoods, including enforcement and regulation, providing regulatory advice and guidance while supporting the delivery of projects aimed at prevention and early intervention, specifically:

- Provide a dedicated resource which will enforce Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) and wider relevant legislation including the Environmental Protection Act.
- Contribute towards the improvement of efforts to address anti-social behaviour and feelings of safety in and around the town centres.
- Proactively network, support and intelligence gather from partners and other RMBC town centre services and resources.
- Provide a visible presence in the target locations, focus upon priorities and determine a working pattern to ensure appropriate coverage for daytime, evening and weekend issues.
- Identify and report issues in the areas the Team are deployed.
- Provide advice and guidance when approached by members of the public.
- Contribute to the delivery of the Town Centre Strategy.

Paragraphs 2.9 to 2.15 of the report detailed the recruitment and training proposals. The induction programme for new enforcement officers was designed to ensure thorough preparation, integration, and support for the new Team members who would be delivering new functions. The induction would span seven weeks, covering essential training, practical experience, partner collaboration, advanced skills, legal and technical training, and independent patrols. The programme aimed to equip officers with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to perform their duties effectively and learning and development would continue to be reviewed and delivered as part of continuous professional development.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the proposed implementation plan.
2. Commit to receiving a further update in March 2026 once the Team has had time to be established and operational.

8. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Consideration was given to the report which presented the nominations received for appointments to outside bodies. Outside bodies were external organisations which had requested that the Council appoint a representative to them. Outside bodies had separate governance structures to the Council. Appointments to outside bodies could be an important mechanism for community leadership, partnership and joint working and knowledge and information sharing.

The Council's Constitution stated that Cabinet was responsible for the appointments to Outside Bodies. This report presented the nominations received and recommended the appointment of the nominees to the various organisations and partnerships. Details of the appointments were attached in Appendix 1 to the report.

During the meeting the Leader confirmed the following:

- Councillor Sheppard was to be appointed to the vacancy on Rotherham Allotment Alliance.
- Councillor Baker-Rogers was to be appointed to the vacancy on the Local Government Association – General Assembly.
- Councillor McKiernan was to be appointed to the vacant role of Director at the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Agree that councillors be appointed to serve on outside bodies, as detailed on the schedule in Appendix 1 and as updated at the meeting.
2. Agree that any in year changes are delegated to the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Leader of the Council.

9. SOCIAL VALUE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which presented an update on progress towards the priorities set out in the Council's Social Value Policy, including the amount of social value committed and delivered through Council contracts. Priorities were also set for the following 12 months. Since the last annual report in March 2024, good progress had continued to be made in achieving the aspirations set out in the Policy. Social value commitments now stood at £32m and, importantly these commitments were increasingly translating into delivery with the validated social value delivered totalling £12.3 million.

The National Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) framework, developed by the National Social Value Task Force, provided a clear definition of social value and a corresponding measurement tool for transparent and robust reporting. The Council had selected measures from the National TOMs that would positively impact the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the Rotherham community. These TOMs focussed on Employment and Skills, directing suppliers to deliver additional benefits in this area.

Appendix 1 provided details of the measures that the Council's suppliers had committed to and delivered against on contracts procured and awarded between December 2019 and November 2024. Highlights were set out in section 2 of the report.

The Council achieved accreditation as a Living Wage employer from the Living Wage Foundation in September 2021. In 2024, this status was successfully retained for a third year. As a result, the Council continued to display the Real Living Wage logo in its communications and publicity materials. Currently, the Council ensured that all its staff received the Real Living Wage, which stood at £12.60 per hour. Additionally, the Council was committed to extending this standard to all in scope contracts.

The amount of Council expenditure being spent locally had continued to increase from £77.2m in 2022/23 to £105.5m in 2023/24. This was an increase of £28.3m or 36.7%. Whilst a greater absolute amount of council expenditure was being spent locally, the proportionate share of expenditure had decreased from 27.9% in 2022/23 to 24% in 2023/24.

The annual social value showcase for 2024 took place in July, attracting 67 attendees, including 38 from the private sector and 29 from the public sector. The event featured several workshops covering key issues such as supply chain opportunities and bidding for public sector contracts.

The Rotherham UKSPF social value project saw Go4Growth and Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber deliver a series of events and interventions in 2024/25 to support local businesses. Details of these were set out in paragraph 2.8.1 of the report. Appendix 3 included several case studies that helped to bring some of the activity described in the report to life and described the real life impact on residents and communities.

The key actions for 2025/26 built on the progress made in 2024/25. This included advancing the community wealth-building aspirations set out in the Social Value Policy, as well as continuing the partnership programme with anchor organisations, and delivering further staff training, particularly aiming to ensure that social value commitments were delivered through effective contract management. This was supported by investment from the Council's budget and further funding that had been secured from UKSPF, which would also enable continuation of the work with local businesses delivered by the Chamber and Go4Growth. Work would continue on:

- Employee ownership
- The development of anchor networks
- Upskilling Council Staff
- Supporting local businesses

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:-

1. Receive the annual report, noting the social value commitments along with outcomes delivered.
2. Approve the use of the new national TOMs (Themes, Outcomes, measures) as detailed in Appendix 2.
3. Approve that the key priorities for 2025 include:
 - a. Continuing the work on employee ownership.
 - b. Delivering the partnership social value action plan with Social Value Portal, working towards the delivery of increased social value commitments across Rotherham's anchor network.

- c. Delivering further support to local businesses through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund social value project.
- d. Upskilling Council staff through training initiatives and one-to-one support.

10. CULTURAL STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the progress made by the Local Cultural Partnership Board in delivering against the Cultural Strategy since 2018. It also set out the proposed process for the renewal of the Strategy, including related consultation.

At the time of writing the Strategy, Rotherham was approximately 10% behind the national average for participation in physical activity, the arts, museums and libraries. Consequently, the Strategy set out an overarching goal to 'get more people active, creative and outdoors, more often', in order to address lower participation numbers in cultural activities and because of the benefits of participation to improving social, health and economic outcomes. Physical activity levels amongst adults were now 8.6% under the national average and 7.3% behind the Yorkshire and Humber average, demonstrating modest improvement over time. Six years later, the data sample size had been reduced on the current Active Lives Survey and some organisations questioned its validity. Furthermore, data was no longer collated in the same way for Arts engagement, so it was not possible to compare like-for like.

As part of the renewal process, the Cultural Partnership Board would explore the feasibility of recreating the Active Lives survey as was conducted in 2019 to provide a comparable set of figures. If this was not possible, then there was a significant range of alternative metrics now in use, within the control of local partners, which enabled the Council to explore trends and evidence progress.

The Strategy was categorised into 7 "Game Changers" in order to simplify its target work areas and provide structure for its achievements.

These were:

1. A Vibrant Heart
2. Amazing Events
3. Adventures In Rother Valley
4. A Great Place for Wentworth and the Dearne Valley
5. Vital Neighbourhoods
6. Turning Passion into Profession
7. Children's Capital of Culture

Paragraphs 2.2 to 2.8 of the report provided details on the successes against each of the Strategy targets.

The Strategy noted that the Cultural Partnership Board would need to make the best use of resources, reacting positively and swiftly to changing needs and demands, securing new investment from funders who shared the Borough's vision. To date, external investment secured included:

- Increased Arts Council England investment from £136,470 in 2017/18 to £2.8m in 2024/25.
- £2m in ACE Creative People & Places investment.
- £19.2m LUF for leisure economy development.
- £3.3m from Sport England.
- £2,549,454 contributing to total project costs of £3,586,330 (126 different projects) from The Football Foundation.
- Increased average annual investment from Historic England from
- £19,688 prior to 2019, to £448,251 from 2019 to 2024 – securing a total of £2,689,503 in that period.

In addition, organisations within the Cultural Partnership such as Wentworth Woodhouse, Gullivers and Grimm and Co had brought in significant inward investment, contributing to jobs and growth and driving up opportunities to participate.

Renewal of the Strategy would need to begin before the end of 2025 in order to provide sufficient lead in to create a new strategy before the end of 2026. In light of the progress made in delivering the Strategy to date, the Cultural Partnership Board members were of the view that the renewal process for the new Strategy would be straightforward due to the achievements set out under each of the 'Gamechangers' in sections 2.2 to 2.8, and the metrics established for the current Strategy, particularly in areas of joint working such as Children's Capital of Culture. This suggested that the Cultural Partnership Board and its related networks had the knowledge and expertise to produce a credible update. This would avoid the need for significant additional resource to pay for consultants. The proposed timetable for the renewal of the Strategy was set out in Section 5 of the report. Details of the proposed consultation process were set out in paragraph 2.13. It was confirmed that the finalised Strategy would be provided back to Cabinet in September 2026 for endorsement.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the achievements of the current Cultural Strategy 2019 – 2026.
2. Note that the Cultural Partnership Board will develop a new Cultural Strategy for 2027 – 2034.

3. Note the proposal to undertake consultation in support of the creation of a new strategy.

11. STREET CLEANSING AND FLY TIPPING IMPROVEMENTS

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the progress towards the implementation of the new investment into Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping improvements. With the funding approved in the 2025/26 budget, the team was aiming to improve rural verge and principal township gateway cleanliness and maintenance and increased management of key activities in the service such as data analysis, deployment of resources, performance management and proactive proposals for prevention and deterrent measures around littering and fly tipping. The report focused on the need for the posts, areas to be targeted, anticipated outcomes and the timeline to implementation. This initiative would help towards delivering a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Borough.

The team currently consisted of four operatives and through the investment that number would be doubled, providing four extra staff within the operational team. The Team at a high level would:

- Provide an additional dedicated resource to the Council's Rural Verge Maintenance Team and will operate on Rural verges at a different time of the year to the current schedule.
- Focus on Principal Township Gateway cleansing and maintenance on a newly developed schedule so the Borough is cleaner and greener.
- Proactively clearing fly tipping when active in Traffic Management restricted areas while working on a maintenance schedule.
- Proactively providing littering and fly tipping intelligence to Officers and Community Protection colleagues.
- Provide a more visible presence along Rotherham's key rural verges and Principal Gateways.

The two additional new Officer posts for performance management would support zonal and Boroughwide operations across a range of grounds and maintenance and cleansing activities and increase key management functions.

The Assistant Director for Community Safety and Street Scene confirmed that recruitment had been successful and it was hoped that the new officers would be in post by July 2025.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note the progress to date and commit to receiving a further update in April 2026 once the team has had time to be established and is fully operational.

12. EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS 2025-26

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the core targets and milestones for the Employment Solutions Service in 2025-26. The Employment Solutions Service was set up in 2020 to deliver a European Social Fund (ESF) Employment Support programme and then latterly from January 2024, both the ESF and Inspire projects merged to be delivered as a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) employment support programme. The programme ran until 31 March 2025. Overall, since October 2020 the Employment Solutions Service has delivered 4 employment support programmes, resulting in over 892 people entering employment and 849 into education and training.

Given the success of the employment support programmes and ongoing uncertainty regarding the sustainability and size of the UKSPF, the decision was taken by Council on 5 March 2025 as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 to fund the service permanently by committing £718,000 per year for the service to continue to support local residents into work or training. With this funding secured, the Employment Solutions Service would continue to offer an integrated programme of bespoke pre-employment activity designed to support unemployed residents and residents on low incomes to access the labour market or improve their earning capacity.

In setting output targets there was a recognition that the Employment Solutions Service would support delivery of the wider Pathways 2 Work programme which was agreed by Cabinet in April 2025. The outputs were yet to be agreed and were subject to a Cabinet decision. As the Employment Solutions Service was no longer reliant on grant funding for the service offer, it was the intention to streamline and refocus on client groups that were not supported via other grant funded services. A series of milestones were detailed at Appendix 3.

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet note the proposed Employment Solutions targets and milestones for 2025-26.

13. 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.

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 7 July, commencing at 10.00am.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
17th June, 2025

Present:- Councillor Baggaley (in the Chair); Councillors Elliott and McKiernan and Michael Olugbenga-Babalola (Independent Person).

Also in attendance was Michael Green (Grant Thornton, External Auditors).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen and Blackham and Alison Hutchinson (Independent Person).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute No. 10 (Internal Audit Progress Report Appendix G) and Minute No. 12 (Adult Services, Housing and Public Health Strategic Risk Register) as defined in those paragraphs indicated below of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH MARCH, 2025

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 11th March, 2025.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

5. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN AND PROGRESS UPDATE

Michael Green, Engagement Lead and Key Audit Partner (Grant Thornton) presented the 2024/25 External Audit Plan. Local authorities faced many challenges; the pandemic along with the cost of living crisis had left local governments with economic, social and health challenges to address, and, despite the best efforts of local authorities, financial pressures were affecting the scale, range and quality of council services provided to local residents.

The report covered the key issues both for the national and local contexts.

The areas of significant risk were the same as in previous years, centring around management over-ride of controls, closing valuation of land and buildings including Council dwellings and valuation of defined benefit pension fund net asset/liability balance. A further risk had been identified this year, "other risk", relating to the implementation of the new accounting standard IFRS16 which came into force on 1st April, 2024.

Materiality was calculated on a similar principle as previous years but if items went above those thresholds they would be considered separately within the audit.

No risks of significant weakness had been identified.

On receipt of the Council's financial statements, Grant Thornton had commenced their external audit procedures and would continue through the summer. It was expected to submit the audit findings (ISA260) report and value for money report to the November meeting of the Audit Committee.

Audit fees were set by PSAA as part of their national procurement exercise. Grant Thornton had been awarded the contract with effect from 2023-24. The scale fee set out in the PSAA contract for the 2024-25 audit was £417,703. However, it was noted that there may be an additional fee charged based on the increased audit requirements relating to the review of the Council's implementation of the newly applicable IFRS16 leases accounting standard which was not included within the PSAA scale fee for 2024-25.

It was noted that the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, on 18th December, 2024, had announced the launch of a strategy to overhaul the local audit system in England. The proposals were also laid in Parliament via a Written Ministerial Statement.

The Government's intention was to streamline and simplify the local audit system, bringing as many audit functions as possible into one place and also offering insights drawn from audits. A new Local Audit Office would be established. Building on the recommendations of Redmond, Kingman and others, the Government would ensure the core underpinnings of the local audit system were fit for purpose.

Grant Thornton welcomed the proposals which were much needed and essential to restore trust and credibility to the sector. They were keen to work with the MHCLG, existing sector leaders and the Local Audit Office as it was established to support a smooth transition to the new arrangements.

Rotherham was in a really good position having already produced its financial statement well ahead of the majority of other local authorities enabling the external auditor to commence their work. Grant Thornton aimed to report the ISA260 and auditor's annual report on value for money arrangements to the November Audit Committee meeting and confident of concluding the audit and issuing the audit opinion by the end of the 2025 calendar year ahead of the February 2026 backstop date.

Although it was a "new" external audit team, Greg Charnley, Audit Senior Manager, in the past had worked with Rotherham's Finance team. All had trained within the company's public sector contracts section.

It was difficult to predict what the additional fee would be at the present time as it would depend upon the extra work required. Some local authorities would be straight forward and others have complex arrangements in place.

Resolved:- That the update and the audit plan be noted.

6. PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024/25

Consideration was given to a report presented by Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance, which introduced the draft Statement of Accounts, which had been published on the Council's website on 9th June 2025. This was slightly later than the original date of 31st May, 2025 allowing for effective quality and assurance checks to be performed, however, it complied with the 30th June statutory deadline for the publication of draft accounts. The period for local electors to exercise their rights for the public inspection phase had commenced on 10th June, 2025 and would end on 21st July, 2025, then follow on to the external audit phase of the process.

It was proposed that the final accounts would be produced by the end of September 2024. However, Grant Thornton had indicated that, due to capacity constraints, it was likely to be late November or early December for the completion of the audit of the accounts.

The Statement of Accounts included 4 appendices, the first was the narrative report, which was a more user-friendly summation of the Council's financial position, which covered the key areas of the accounts. Appendix 4 showed the Council's response to enquiries from Grant Thornton with regard to issues that informed their audit risk assessment. The areas covered included fraud, laws and regulations and accounting estimates.

The accounts had been produced in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice including full implementation of the new lease accounting standard, IFRS16, for the first time in 2025/25.

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It was noted that the Audit Committee had had a training session on the Statement of Accounts prior to the meeting.

Resolved: That the draft unaudited 2024/25 Statement of Accounts be noted.

7. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024-25

Consideration was given to the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the 2023/24 financial year as presented by Simon Dennis, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager. This was published alongside the Council's Statement of Accounts on 9th June, 2025. The paper briefly set out the process that was followed to construct this AGS.

A process to gather assurances and evidence to support the AGS was led by the Corporate Governance Group which included the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services, the Assistant Director of Legal Services, the Head of Internal Audit and the Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager. The draft AGS was then reviewed by the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services, the Assistant Director of Legal Services, the Chief Executive and the Leader.

Each Strategic Director had overseen a self-assessment of governance within their Directorates comprising of a self-assessment form based on the Principles and Sub-Principles in the Code of Corporate Governance by each Assistant Director as well as a review and update of the detailed issues raised in the 2023/24 AGS. Each Strategic Director and Assistant Director was also required to submit a Statement of Assurance based on the information arising from their review of current and previous governance issues. These were then reviewed by the Corporate Governance Group also considering which issues were of sufficient significance to require reporting in the AGS.

The AGS outlined the governance arrangements in place throughout the year and how their effectiveness was monitored. The AGS also recognised the improvements made in the Council's governance arrangements throughout the financial year as well as highlighting areas for further development in 2025/26.

The document was very similar to that submitted last year, however, the issue of equal pay had been included. In line with other local authorities, Rotherham had been contacted with concerns regarding the approach and implementation of its systems for ensuring that there were no pay differentials. The Council continued to have dialogue with the relevant Trade Unions and with other local authorities to ensure awareness of the emerging regional and national picture.

It was noted that the document would be submitted to the Committee again when the External Auditor's conclusion on the statutory financial statements were received. At that point the AGS would be checked to ensure there were no other significant issues for inclusion and the document would be signed off by the Leader and Chief Executive.

An update was provided on Property and Facilities Services with regard to staffing/recruitment and the improvement plan.

Resolved: That the draft 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement be noted.

8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2024-25

Consideration was given to the Annual Treasury Management Report, presented by Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance, which was the final treasury report for 2024/25. Its purpose was to review the treasury activity for 2024/25 against the Strategy agreed at the start of the year. The report also covers the actual Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

The Council received an Annual Treasury Strategy Report in advance of the 2024/25 financial year at its meeting on 28th February, 2024, and the Committee received a mid-year report at its meeting on 26th November, 2024, representing a mid-year review of treasury activity during 2024/25. In addition, quarterly updates were received by Audit Committee on 26th September, 2024 and 11th March, 2025.

This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The Council was required to comply with both Codes through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Appendix 1 of the report submitted gave a summary of the Prudential Indicators for the Council.

The underlying economic and financial environment remained difficult for the Council to predict. Inflation had fallen back from historic highs in recent years and the Bank of England had started to cut interest rates. However, the cost of long term borrowing from PWLB had increased during the years. The main challenge with regard to investments related to concerns over investment counterparty risk. This background encouraged the Council to continue maintaining investments short-term and with low risk counterparties.

During 2024/25 the Council continued to pursue its short-term borrowing strategy in line with advice from its Treasury advisers. Borrowing was taken only as needed and would be refinanced in the next few years.

This had resulted in a significant increase in the net under borrowed position. The Council would continue to monitor the interest position with a view to taking out further long term borrowing if there were dips in the long term borrowing rates but currently was utilising short-term borrowing to cover immediate borrowing need in anticipation of lower rates in the future.

Taken together, the reduced borrowing need, additional returns on investments, and further slippage on the Council's Capital Programme had enabled the Council to transfer £8m underspend on the 2024/25 Treasury Management budget to support the Council's 2024/25 overall outturn position.

The report also included a table showing debt repayments during 2024/25 to other local authorities as had been requested by previous Audit Committee Members.

It was noted that the report would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 7th July, 2025.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Cash flow was managed on a daily basis with debts maturing and repaid in accordance with the agreed terms
- Assurance given that all borrowing was in line with the Treasury Management planning and cash flow management
- Regular Treasury Management meetings were held where the cash flow position was reviewed/forecast for the coming months

Resolved:- That the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators outturn position, as set out in Section and Appendix 1 of the report submitted, be noted.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which provided a summary of Internal Audit work completed during 1st February to 30th April, 2025, and the key issues that had arisen.

The plan attached as part of the report showed the position up to the end of April 2025, the progress of the 2024/25 audit plan, the reports finalised between February and April 2025 and performance indicators for the Team. Since the last report there had been 3 audits postponed to 2025/26 and 3 audits removed from the plan.

Internal Audit provided an opinion on the control environment for all systems or services which were subject to audit review. The report detailed the audit opinions and a summary of all audit work concluded in the last quarter. 10 audits had been finalised since the last Audit

Committee, one of which had received Substantial Assurance, 4 received Reasonable Assurance opinion and 5 Partial Assurance.

A review of the current performance indicators was detailed in Appendix D, post-audit questionnaires and results included at Appendix E and the Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan at Appendix F. Appendix G set out details of the Internal Audit responsive audit work completed.

It was noted that work continued to progress implementation of the new Global Internal Audit Standards. However, it was noted that since the last meeting, CIPFA had indicated that their fee would be in excess of that previously quoted for the undertaking of a full assessment (Minute No. 89 of 11th March 2025 refers). No further work was required with regard to the adjustment of cost to comply with the Council's procurement rules.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised/discussed:-

- The Internal Audit recommendations for Finance and Customer Services were monitored on a regular basis
- The deferred recommendations for Finance and Customer Services and Children and Young People's actions had now been completed
- In all 6 cases, of the Regeneration and Environment deferred actions it was the first time they had been postponed and were due at the end of July
- In response to a question on the KPI 'Audits completed within planned time', it was difficult to estimate how long an audit would take particularly if one had not been done previously and a number of factors impacted on the time taken .

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken since the last Audit Committee, 1st February to 30th April, 2025, and the key issues that have arisen from it be noted.

(2) That the performance objectives of Internal Audit and the actions being taken by audit management in respect of meeting the performance objectives be noted.

(3) That the Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene, be invited to the September meeting of the Audit Committee to discuss the outcome of the Home to School Transport Service audit.

(Appendix G was considered in the absence of the press and public in accordance with Paragraph 7 of the Act (information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime).)

10. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which provided information on the role of Internal Audit; the work completed during 2024/25 and highlighted the key issues that had arisen therefrom. It provided the overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the adequacy of the Council's control environment, risk management and governance. It also provided information regarding the performance of the Internal Audit function during 2024/25.

Based upon the Internal Audit work undertaken and, taking into account other internal and external assurance processes, it had been possible to complete an assessment of the Council's overall control environment. In the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit, the Council had overall an adequate framework of governance, risk management and control. A higher proportion of partial/no assurance audit reports had been issued during the year and it was on this basis that the effectiveness of the framework was considered to have diminished as some weaknesses, evidence of non-compliance with controls or ineffective controls had been identified. It was important to note that most partial/no assurance opinions had arisen in cases where management had proactively requested audit assurance in response to identified concerns reflecting a strong awareness of areas needing improved oversight or enhanced compliance with internal controls. The work undertaken during the year had clearly focused on the key risk areas of the Council and was targeted to specific areas of concern.

The report included:-

- Legislative requirements and Professional Standards
- The Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the control framework, risk management and governance
- Resources and audit coverage during the year
- Summary of audit work undertaken during 2024/25, including both planned and responsive/investigatory work
- Summary of other evidence taken into account for control environment opinion
- Summary of audit opinions and recommendations made
- Internal Audit performance indicators

Audits were carried out in all areas of the Council during the year with the overall level of control found in audits to be good. 68% of audits resulted in a Substantial or Reasonable Assurance opinion, however, the proportion of Partial opinions had increased during 2024-25 compared to 2023/24.

During 2024-25, 210 recommendations (91 in 2023-24) were made to improve the internal control, risk management and governance arrangements across the Council. Of these, 32 (3 in 2023-24) were in the highest category (red).

The Head of Internal Audit was confident that the 2025-26 Internal Audit plan would be delivered with the resources there currently was.

Resolved:- (1) That the work undertaken during the 2024-25 financial year and the key issues that had arisen therefrom be noted.

(2) That the overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control within the Council be noted.

(3) That the Committee's satisfaction with the effectiveness and efficiency of the Internal Audit function be noted.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE PRESENTATION - ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director Children and Young People's Services, presented a report providing details of the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate.

The Directorate level Risk Register currently had 22 risks items listed reflecting the significant scale and scope of the Directorate. 3 new risks had been added to the Directorate risk register from Service level risk registers:-

- ACHPH-R49 – Deliver a balanced budget for 2025/26
- ACHPH-R51 – NHSE being disestablished and ICB 50% reduction in running costs. Impact on the delivery of Adult Social Care/Local Authority services both operationally and financially
- ACPH-R50 – Ensure sufficient nursing EMI beds are available in care homes to increase system flow, support admissions from the community and increase patient choice

2 risks had been removed from the register. The Corporate Strategic risk register currently included 2 ACHPH Directorate risks (ACHPH-R7 and ACHPH-R50) with ACPH-R51 being added at the next update.

Managing risk within the Directorate was subject to a 5-step approach – identify, evaluate, management, monitor, review and report with a robust risk management process in place to ensure appropriate governance and assurance was in place across all service areas of the Directorate. A scheduled programme of reviewing and updating Service and Directorate-level risk registers across the Directorate was led by risk leads for each Service and co-ordinated by a Service Improvement and Governance officer.

Risk registers were in place for each Service area to document their Service level risks which were formally monitored and reviewed at Senior Management Team meetings on a minimum monthly basis. The Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) had scrutiny and oversight of Service and Directorate-level risk registers with monthly briefings where risks were reviewed and, where necessary, could be escalated to the next strategic level for inclusion on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register.

All Directorate Managers (M2 and above) were required to undertake mandatory risk management training. A number of staff from across the Directorate had also completed the accredited Institute of Risk Management training during the current year.

Ian was thanked for his attendance.

Resolved:- That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

(Appendix 1 was considered in the absence of the press and public in accordance with Paragraph 3 of the Act (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information/financial information)

12. CHILDREN'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE AUDIT REPORT UPDATE

Polly Hamilton, Assistant Director, Culture, Sport and Tourism, presented a report regarding the actions taken/implementation of the recommendations made relating to the Partial assurance rating by Internal Audit on the Children's Capital of Culture governance and procurement for the programme of events.

At the request of the Chief Executive, the audit was added to the 2024/25 audit plan and completed in January 2025. The overall objective had been to provide assurance on the Council's roles and responsibilities for the delivery of effective governance and procurement for the Children's Capital of Culture programme of events.

7 recommendations for implementation had been made as a result of the audit all of which were now complete.

A follow-up audit was scheduled for August 2025.

Discussion ensued with the following issues clarified:-

- No issues had arisen since the implementation of the programme decision making framework. All Children's Capital of Culture staff members had completed a Declaration of Interest form and the risk assessment had been completed by the Head of Service. There were no issues arising from this which had led to a contract being refused.

- Widening access. At the heart of the Children's Capital of Culture activity programme was the Traineeships strand, supporting skills and talent. This had enabled the employment of over 120 trainees aged between 16-25 years who were being hosted by a range of organisations across the Borough. Each traineeship involved working with that organisation on activities related to it and work with other trainees and organisations towards delivery of the Children's Capital of Culture activities. The recruitment process of trainees had been designed to be very open and inclusive and young people were encouraged to engage, including those with protected characteristics such as disability, ethnicity and neurodiversity. As a result of the Equalities Impact Assessment and the corporate priority to support young people in care, funding had been ringfenced to enable care-experienced young people to secure traineeships.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

13. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee for July 2025 to June 2026. The plan showed how the agenda items related to the objectives of the Committee. It was presented for review and amendment as necessary.

It was noted that there may have to be a review of the September and November proposed agenda items due to the excessive number of items for the latter meeting.

Resolved:- That the Audit Committee forward work plan, as submitted, be approved subject to the reordering of the September and November meetings.

14. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral.

15. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to be considered.

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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
7th May, 2025

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester and Steele.

CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) BY MARIO'S MINI MARKET LTD. FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS BRITANIA INN SHOP SITUATED ON LINDLEY STREET, EASTWOOD, ROTHERHAM, S65 1RT

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003) for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of premises known as Britania Inn Shop situated on Lindley Street, Eastwood, Rotherham S65 1RT.

The applicant, Mario's Mini Market Ltd., was seeking authorisation to allow:-

- Retail sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises only. The application was seeking authority for the sales to take place between 11:00 hours and 23:00 hours on every day of the week

The premises were described in the application as a shop with a ground floor and no outside seating area.

The applicant had offered 15 management control conditions in the application.

Consultation on the application had been carried out in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council procedure. At the end of the consultation period, all of which were opposed to the grant of the application, representations had been received from 3 Responsible Authorities.

The applicant, Mr. Marion Tancos, was in attendance.

3 of the Responsible Authorities, South Yorkshire Police, the Council's Public Protection Unit (Environmental Health) and Trading Standards as well as the Licensing Authority, had made representations to the application. The Sub-Committee heard representations from Mrs. D. Kraus (Principal Licensing Officer) together with Alan Pogorzelec (representing the Licensing Authority), Inspector John Crapper (South Yorkshire Police) and Catherine Lunn (representing Community Protection and Environmental Health).

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The objections of South Yorkshire Police were based on all 4 licensing objectives i.e.:-

- Prevention of crime and disorder.
- Public safety.
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm.

and raised the following concerns:-

- The locality had previously had issues with anti-social behaviour attracting street drinkers who congregated in the area drinking alcohol, vaping and taking drugs
- The applicant's suitability to operate a licensed premise
- Numerous calls made to South Yorkshire Police during the course of summer 2024 including a group of 50-60 people under the influence of drink congregated outside the premises, sat on chairs blocking the pavement; intimidating men sat outside the shop drinking, drinking in the public park opposite the shop
- In October 2024 reports received that Mario's was selling alcohol without a licence. Officers had observed people outside the premises drinking alcohol and on entering the shop had found a keg of beer attached to a pump used for dispensing drinks. The 2 members of staff had directed the officers to a gentleman, Lukas Tancos, who was not in the shop at the time. He was later interviewed and pleaded guilty for offering alcohol for unlicensed sale
- A further visit was made in December 2024 due to reports of the premises selling/storing fireworks without the appropriate authority from the Fire Service. Alcohol was again found as well as prescription medicines some of which were Class C drugs. An investigation was being conducted jointly with Trading Standards into the latter which had not yet concluded
- The whole of Eastwood was subject to a Public Spaces Protection Order in order to maintain good order and decrease anti-social behaviour in the locality

The objections of the Licensing Authority were based on 3 of the licensing objectives i.e.:-

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Protection of children from harm
- Public nuisance

and raised the following concerns:-

- Despite not currently licensed, the premises had come to the attention of the Licensing Team due to alcohol related anti-social behaviour and disorder
- Licensing Officers had visited the premises on numerous occasions with the proprietor/person in charge (who was the applicant) being given a clear direction that alcohol must not be sold as there was no licence in place
- The advice appeared to have been disregarded evidenced by the prosecution of the applicant by South Yorkshire Police for the offence of exposing alcohol for sale by retail
- The Licensing Service was aware of the involvement of other regulatory bodies within the Council that had undertaken enforcement action as a result of activities that had taken place at the premises
- During the time that all the concerns of the Responsible Authorities were taking place, Mr. Marion Tancos was a director of Mario's Mini Market Ltd. with Lukas Tancos present when many of these activities took place/was manager of the shop
- The Licensing Authority had no confidence that Mr. Tancos was a responsible person to ensure that the licensing objectives were upheld or that any of the conditions attached to the licence would be adhered to
- The premises had been visited by a Licensing Enforcement Officer at the time concerns were expressed and advice given in respect of the licensing objectives and the requirements for the sale of alcohol but would appear that the advice was not understood/disregarded

The objections of the Community Protection Unit were based on 2 of the licensing objectives i.e.

- Prevention of crime and disorder.
- Prevention of public nuisance

and raised the following concerns:-

- Complaints received from residents in April 2024 regarding noise and anti-social behaviour from the commercial premises
- Out of Hours Team had witnessed large gatherings of people outside the premises listening to music and drinking alcohol on 2 occasions in June 2024
- Visit by South Yorkshire Police on 28th June, 2024, where alcohol had been seized
- Following calls from residents to the Out of Hours Team on 23rd September and 4th October, 2024, and a visit was made on 31st October, 2024, a large group of youths were witnessed setting off fireworks in the village area
- The Police carried out a visit to the premises on 4th November, 2024, and seized a large quantity of fireworks, alcohol and counterfeit cigarettes

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- Phone calls from residents continued throughout November 2024 regarding the premises stating continued anti-social behaviour and street drinking around the shop
- Food Safety and Trading Standards had attended the premises on 26th November, 2024, and found food safety issues for which a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice was served. Illicit alcohol, cigarettes, E-cigarettes and medication were also seized and the property closed for the food hygiene issues
- The Unit had no confidence that the premises would operate legally or cease behaviour to cause alarm and distress for local residents

The objections of the Trading Standards Service were based on 3 of the licensing objectives i.e.

- Prevention of crime and disorder.
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm

and raised the following concerns:-

- The premises had been under investigation for the sale of fireworks without a licence, selling alcohol without a licence, selling illicit tobacco, illicit vapes and selling prescription drugs (some of which were classed as Class A) since November 2024
- As part of Operation Dark Nights, South Yorkshire Central Neighbourhood Team had attended the premises on 1st November, 2024, and seized:-
Cigarettes – 460 sticks, 23 packets – street value £345.00
Alcohol – 18 bottles, 9 cans – street value £410.00
Fireworks – street value £1,845.00
Street value for total seizure £2,600.00
- The tobacco items were not fit for the UK market. The business owner did not have an Economic Operators Licence to enable the buying of tobacco to sell; a requirement of HMRC
- The alcohol was seized as the premises, nor the business owner, had a licence to sell alcohol.
- Fireworks were seized as the premises did not have the required licence by South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to store and sell fireworks. The seized fireworks should not be sold on the UK market as they are banned and not fit under product safety UK Regulations
- A further visit on 26th November, 2024, revealed that the premises were continuing to serve illicit tobacco (both cigarettes and vapes) as well as many foreign medications on the shelf for sale as well as a large container full of foreign medications priced up for sale
- A search had found further concealed illicit cigarettes within a cupboard to the rear of the store as well as alcohol and counterfeit branded accessories

- During the search the hygiene of the shop came into question and cockroaches found. There was also food stock being stored in the toilet, blocked fire exit with store stock, non-UK label food, out of date products and many more offences
- Items seized during the visit had totalled £19,439.07
- As a result of the enforcement activity on 1st and 26th November, 2024, the Local Authority had moved forward with a Closure Order (17th December 2024)
- Sheffield Magistrates Court on 18th December, 2024, had ruled that the premises should be closed for 3 months
- On 21st March, 2025, under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, a Community Protection Warning was served on Mr. Marion Tancos, Named Director, since 23rd April, 2023, and the Sole Director since 24th November, 2024, on Companies House for the business known as Mario's Mini Market currently trading from Britania Inn Shop, 1 Lindley Street, Eastwood, Rotherham. The behaviour highlighted in the warning was to cease with immediate effect and the warning was in place indefinitely
- The premises and the Sole Director of Mario's Mini Market, Mr. Marion Tancos, remained under investigation in respect of potential offences of fraudulent trading, supplying counterfeit tobacco products, supplying tobacco products that did not meet the requirements for standardised packaging, supplying tobacco products that did not meet the requirement for combined health warnings and selling tobacco products without an Economic Operator ID Code

The Sub-Committee was advised by Legal Services that there were ongoing legal investigations. Mr. Tancos had not been summoned in relation to any as yet but advised that the Sub-Committee's questioning should relate to the content of the report submitted.

In response to questions, the applicant provided the following information:-

- He apologised for what had happened in the past; they had not known how to run a business and had done it as they would have done in their home country and not followed the legislation here. They had now learnt from the Council and Police that they had to abide by the rules
- They would try their best to run the business and follow the rules
- The entrance to the shop would be from Lindley Street and exit from Selborne Street
- Mr. Andrej Cica was in the process of applying for a Personal Licence to Derby City Council, the city where he lived
- Mr. Lukas Tancos was his son
- Advice had been given to the people working in the shop but they did not understand the language
- Mr. Tancos had been given advice on putting the management controls together for the application form

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- There would be 4 CCTV cameras – 1 monitoring 24 hours outside the premises, another monitoring the tills, another the shop floor and the last one covering the storage area
- Mr. Tancos would be providing the training to staff and he would be at the premises most of the time
- He would not allow groups of people to congregate outside the premises
- Mr. Tancos had now moved and lived on Pembroke Street
- Mr. Tancos claimed that no-one had told him that they needed a licence to sell alcohol
- During the period the shop was closed they had learnt how to run it
- The medication that had been on sale in the shop had been bought from Slovakia where they were available without prescription
- Mr. Tancos had only been involved with the shop since June 2023 and had visited once a month and had carried out the deliveries. He had taken on the role of being in charge in November 2024 and from when it had re-opened (21st March 2025) he had been there every day.
- Mr. Marion Tancos had been a director on paper of Mario's Mini Market. Mr. Lukas Tancos had left the company in November 2024
- There were now new staff at the shop
- Mr. Tancos did not understand a number of the management controls contained on the application form i.e. Challenge 25, keeping of an incident log

Resolved:- That the application, as amended, for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of premises in respect of premises known as Britania Inn Shop situated on Lindley Street, Eastwood, Rotherham S65 1RT be refused.

LICENSING BOARD
13th May, 2025

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Beresford, Adair, Bennett-Sylvester, Bower, Brent, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Garnett, Harper, Jones, Monk, Steele, Stables, Sutton and Thorp.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

2. LICENSING SERVICE UPDATE 2024/25

Consideration was given to the report, presented by the Licensing Manager, which provided detailed performance in relation to the Licensing Team's performance against the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Performance Framework for 1st April, 2024 to 31st March, 2025, as well as an overview of the general performance of the Service.

The report also sought the views of the Board on some proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (which would be the subject of formal consultation later in the year).

The Licensing Manager guided the Licensing Board through the detail in the report and provided further information on the areas of:-

- The number of on the spot inspections of taxis
- The percentage of taxis found to be compliant with the licensing regime during on the spot inspections
- Performance against the Licensing Service Performance Management Framework
- The performance of the Council's Licensing Team in relation to quality assurance and administrative aspects of the Service

In addition to the above, the report also detailed some of the current challenges being faced by the Service, outlined key areas of work and introduced the upcoming partial review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy with regard to clarification on the vehicle age and emissions requirements and amendment to vehicle signage and driver identification. Both of these aspects will be the subject of formal consultation later in 2025.

The report provided a summary of enforcement action that had taken place between April 2024 and March 2025 including details of actions taken by Enforcement Officers along with enforcement actions taken by other officers within the Licensing Service and the outcomes of Licensing Board Sub-Committee hearings. It highlighted:-

- 121 vehicles and drivers had been inspected of which 97% of vehicles (97%) and 94% (114) of drivers were found to be compliant with licensing requirements
- The vehicle non-compliance related to missing signage, absence of a first aid kit and failures of vehicle lights. All of the defects that were identified were rectified the same day
- Driver non-compliances related to the failure of the driver to wear their ID in the required manner. All of the drivers had their ID badge in their vehicle, and the non-compliances were rectified immediately (except in one case where the driver went home for his badge and then returned to the inspection site within 15 minutes).
- Targets had been set against 16 performance measures of which 2 were off target
- There were an additional 4 measures that were being monitored but no target set
- Between 1st April, 2024 and 31st March, 2025, 15 appeals had been listed for consideration by the Magistrates Court in relation to decisions made by Licensing Officers and/or Licensing Board Sub-Committee (13 related to driver matters and 2 to an operator licence). One of the appeals had been withdrawn by the appellant prior to the hearing and another discharged by way of a Consent Order. Of the remaining 13 appeals, 8 had yet to be finally determined by the Court, 5 had been considered resulting in the Court finding that the Council's course of action was correct and the appeals dismissed
- Recruitment and staff retention was a continuing issue with 5 vacancies within the Licensing Team
- The Service was in the process of seeking a replacement to the existing IT systems and working closely with colleagues within the Council's ICT and Procurement Teams to ensure a suitable replacement system was obtained at the earlier opportunity
- Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy was renewed in 2023 with many of the new requirements implemented throughout 2024. Although the revision was significant, the Council has committed to undertake a further review this year as stated above

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Enforcement Officer roles were generic and did not cover particular geographical areas
- Licensing Enforcement Officers would carry out unannounced inspections of vehicles and drivers in 5 ways:-
 - officers would visit a taxi rank and carry out unannounced checks
 - go to a private hire operator base and request the operator to call in a certain number of vehicles
 - wait with Home to School Transport Officers at schools and carry out checks on vehicles transporting a child/ren to school

- usually in conjunction with the Police, cars flagged down and an inspection carried out at the roadside
- whilst out conducting other duties Enforcement Officers may carry out an inspection on a vehicle that was dropping off a passenger
- The Police could stop any vehicle that travelled on the highway within their district e.g. South Yorkshire Police could stop a taxi that was displaying Wolverhampton City Council taxi licence plates. However, who would be the enforcing authority to deal with any compliance issues that arose and what standard would they be applying i.e. Rotherham or Wolverhampton. Discussions were ongoing with local MPs on the issue of out of town vehicles working in the town
- Work was ongoing to resolve the wearing of ID badges that satisfied the Council's licensing conditions/the law/the drivers with passengers still able to see that the driver was licensed
- The Council, in conjunction with the National Crime Agency, used the Public Interest Immunity Test in the Magistrates and Crown Courts, for cases where there was extremely sensitive information that agencies did not want the person concerned to be aware of. This had now been adopted by other local authorities
- Someone who had been under investigation by the National Crime Agency and had been discharged from the investigation/released without conviction and then applied for a taxi driver licence, contact would be made with the Agency for further information as to why the decision to discontinue was made. Consideration would then be given when in receipt of the full information
- There were strong links with South Yorkshire Police, National Crime Agency and Children and Young People's Services, however, the links with Adult Social Care needed to be strengthened. PILOT (Person in a Position of Trust) focussed on protecting adults from harm, neglect or abuse and a referral was made when there were concerns about a person in a position of trust. Rotherham had now amended their PIPT process to include taxi drivers
- Other local authorities would share any information they had but sometimes there was a delay given pressures of work
- The carrying of vacancies did impact on the Team's workloads
- Consideration be given to revising the stretched 100% target for a licence to be determined within 3 working days of all required checks being completed

LICENSING BOARD- 13/05/25

- Work was taking place on updating the local knowledge test for potential taxi drivers and to revised signage with proposed generic Council branded door signs with the same for plates and badges
- The Vehicle Age Policy would be updated to show cars registered from 1st September, 2016 in order to comply with the 10 year requirement

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

- (2) That training for Licensing Board Members be carried out internally by Licensing Officers, together with Legal Advisors, and include case studies pertinent to Rotherham.
- (3) That the monthly update be sent to the licenced taxi drivers also be sent to Licensing Board Members for information.

LICENSING COMMITTEE
13th May, 2025

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Beresford, Bennett-Sylvester, Bower, T. Collingham, Garnett, Harper, Jones, Monk, Stables and Steele.

1. LICENSING ACT 2003 - STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report introduced by Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager, which detailed how Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 required a Licensing Authority to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy which set out the principles it proposed to apply in exercising functions under the Act. The Statement of Licensing Policy must be reviewed and republished at 5 yearly intervals.

The current Statement of Licensing Policy was published in 2020 and, therefore, was now due for the 5 year review. The Cumulative Impact Policy was reviewed in 2023 and was, therefore, not due for further review until 2026.

The Council's Licensing Service had carried out informal consultation with partners, local licence holders and members of the public to identify any areas within the current Policy that would benefit from development. The feedback had been used to formulate an ambitious draft Policy that was considered to strike an appropriate balance between the need to promote a thriving licensed trade within the Borough whilst ensuring that any negative impacts of licensable activity were kept to an absolute minimum.

The draft Policy was submitted to Cabinet in April 2025 (Minute No. 150 refers) for review and approval prior to the commencement of a period of statutory consultation. As part of the consultation process, this report gave the opportunity for the Licensing Committee to formally respond to the consultation.

The licensed entertainment and hospitality industry was a major provider of full time, part time and casual employment and made a significant contribution to the local economy. It fulfils an important social and community role, providing facilities for both residents and businesses and provided vital support for related sectors such as retail and tourism.

As of December, 2024, the number of licensed premises in Rotherham was:-

Club licensed to sell alcohol e.g. working men's club	51
Premises licensed to sell alcohol e.g. pub, shop, restaurant	682
Premises licensed for late night refreshment e.g. late night takeaway or regulated entertainment (without alcohol)	124

The Statement of Licensing Policy sought to strike a balance between the need to encourage a vibrant, dynamic and responsible entertainment industry as part of the regeneration of the Borough whilst ensuring that the Licensing Objectives specified in the Act were sufficiently promoted i.e.:-

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The promotion of public safety
- The protection of children from harm
- The prevention of public nuisance

The way that licensable activities were managed on site could often influence the wider issues that arose through the sale and supply of alcohol or the provision of late night refreshment. The draft Policy included sections relating to specific aspects of the licensed economy. It was expected that the inclusion of these sections within the Policy would encourage applicants and licence holders to adopt best practice and clearly set out the Council's expectations with regard to the activities that took place at licensed premises.

It was recognised that many of the principles outlined were aspirational and it would be made clear within the Policy that, although the Council had certain expectations of licensed premises in the Borough, the principles within the Policy would only be mandated if they were required to prevent one or more of the Licensing Objectives from being undermined.

Despite the limitations of the Licensing Act and Statement of Licensing Policy, it was considered important the Council provided appropriate best practice guidance and encouraged local licence holders to go beyond the minimum that was required with the ultimate aim of ensuring that licensed premises were safe and enjoyable places to be and that the activities that took place had minimal negative impact on local communities and the wider environment.

Key new additions to the draft Policy included:-

- Specific policies with regard to the Licensing Objectives
 - Additional information and advice regarding the obligations that licences premises had with regard to, for example, the prevention of general crime and disorder, counter terrorism (including Martyn's Law) and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults
 - Details of good practice which was believed would assist promotion of the Licensing Objectives e.g. making adequate provision for the welfare of customers, management of smoking/vaping, minimisation of waste, rehearsal of written contingency plans and enhanced safeguarding practices (such as the appointment of a "safeguarding champion" at the premises)

- Premises specific policies
 - Expectations/requirements applicable to licensed premises will vary depending on the nature of the premises themselves. It would, therefore, set out specific areas relevant to each class of premises and make clear that the Council expects applicants and licence holders to consider these matters when submitting an application/managing their premises
- Promoting equality and inclusion in licensed venues
 - Encourage applicants and licence holders to further improve the experiences of all communities within licensed venues. It would include the provision of inclusive and transparent policies/procedures, accessible venues and regular training for staff on equality and inclusion
- Promotion of environmental best practice
 - Simple practical suggestions on how premises could improve their environmental performance would be detailed in the Policy e.g. use of online menus, reusable drinking vessels
- Safety of women in licensed venues
 - The adoption of good practice would be encouraged to keep women safe when using licensed premises including Ask for Angela, Walksafe (and similar schemes) along with training for staff and regular testing procedures to ensure that they were being effectively implemented within the premises
- Core hours policies
 - The Policy set out a number of core hours that were applicable to each type of licensed premises making it clear that applications for licences outside of those hours would not necessarily be refused but that the Council would expect applicants to provide more detail on the steps they would take to minimise the impact on the local area
- Clarification of roles, responsible and guidance
 - The Policy set out the responsibilities of licence holders, applicants, Council and partners as well as providing guidance to members of the public so they felt confident raising concerns relating to licensed premises and were aware of the opportunities within and the limitations of the Licensing Act 2003 when it came to addressing concerns with regard to licensed premises
- Large events
 - The Policy would include specific guidance for large events taking place at outdoor venues, sports stadia, arenas etc. with a capacity of more than 2,000 persons. It would strongly encourage involvement with those with an interest in large events in the Borough e.g. Rotherham Safety Advisory Group. It would

recognise the benefits of large events but clarify the expectation that applicants and licence holders would give additional consideration to security, counter terrorism, safeguarding, traffic management, welfare facilities etc.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Discussions had been ongoing with local businesses for sometime with regard to Martyn's Law. The Licensing Service had been engaging with licenced premises/Pub Watch and putting on safeguarding training events, distribution of information and raising awareness on what it was envisaged it would mean for licensed premises. It was hoped greater clarity would be available now that it had received Royal Assent. The larger events that were seeking a licence had already engaged with Rotherham Safety Advisory Group
- Including 'Ask Angela' in the revised Policy would illustrate how seriously the Council took the scheme. Licensing did not have the ability to force businesses to undertake certain levels of training and relied on them wanting to take those steps
- It was suggested that the Licensing website set out the 4 licensing objectives that those wishing to raise objections/complaints needed to address

It was noted that the formal consultation process was underway with the final report being submitted to Cabinet in September 2025 for consideration and agreement of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2025.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy be noted.

(2) That the Chair of the Committee provide a formal response to the consultation on behalf of the Committee highlighting the support.

LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
19th May, 2025

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester, Harper and Monk.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor T. Collingham.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester recognised applicant Mr. S.H. from his previous employment, therefore, left the room and did not take part in the discussion.

48. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

49. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to four applications for the grant of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. M.H., S.H. Y.H. and B.M. and one review of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. A.S.

Messrs. S.H., Y.H., B.M. and A.S. were in attendance at the hearing. Mr. M.H. was in attendance together with a legal representative and a Hackney Carriage representative.

Resolved:- (1) That the applications for the grant of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences for Messrs. M.H. and Y.H. be refused.

(2) That the applications for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence for Messrs. S.H. and B.M. be granted.

(3) That Mr. A.S. be issued with a warning with regard to the appropriateness of conversations with passengers and the purpose of the audio recording facility.

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PLANNING BOARD
15th May, 2025

Present:- Councillor Williams (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Adair, Ahmed, Currie, Elliott, Fisher, Tarmey and Thorp.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Baker-Rogers, Cowen, Keenan and Mault.

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

79. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

80. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

82. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 1ST MAY, 2025

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 1st May, 2025, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

83. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS (INFORMATION ATTACHED)

There were no site visits or deferrals recommended.

84. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure Mr. Widdowson (Objector) attended the meeting and spoke about the application below:-

Alterations to roof and construction of additional floor to accommodate 5 No. new flats at second floor level at Cafe Sport, 11 Station Street, Swinton for Mr. M. Armstrong (RB2025/0401)

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A statement was also read out on behalf of Ms. A. Henderson (Objector).

(2) That application RB2025/0401 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

85. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

PLANNING BOARD
12th June, 2025

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Allen, Bacon, Cowen, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Hussain, Jackson, Sutton, Tarmey and Thorp.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Adair and Currie.

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

1. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

2. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sutton declared a personal interest in application RB2024/0841 (reserved matters application details of landscaping, scale, external appearance and layout for the erection of 185 dwellinghouses including discharge of conditions 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 23, 30, 31 reserved by outline RB2022/1638 at land north of Tickhill Road, Maltby for Homes by Honey) on the grounds of objecting to this application prior to coming a member of the Planning Board. She left the meeting whilst discussion took place and did not take part or observe the vote.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY, 2025

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 15th May, 2025, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

5. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferrals recommended.

6. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the applications below:-

- Reserved matters application details of landscaping, scale, external appearance and layout for the erection of 185 dwellinghouses including discharge of conditions 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 23, 30, 31 reserved by outline RB2022/1638 at land north of Tickhill Road Maltby for Homes by Honey (RB2024/0841)

Mr. J. Pearce (Applicant)
Councillor A. Tinsley (Objector)

- Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 11 (2010) at 2 & 3 Parkstone Place South Anston for Messrs Wild & Stanley (RB2025/0333)

Mr. B. Anderton (Agent on behalf of the Applicants)
Mr. C. Wild (Applicant)
Mrs. T. Stanley (Applicant)
Mr. T. Pask (Supporter)
Mrs. T. Walters (Supporter)

Statements were also read out on behalf of the following who were also supporters to the application:-

Councillor T. Baum-Dixon
Mr. A. Stafford
Mr. A. Singh-Bhatti

- Change of use to Craft Ale & Coffee House (Sui Generis) at 263 Wickersley Road Brecks for Mr A Marples (RB2025/0338)

Mr. A. Marples (Applicant)
Ms. C. Suter (Objector)
Ms. K. Killeen (Objector)

(2) That with regards to application RB2024/0841:-

(a) The Council enter into a satisfactory Legal Agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- 25% of the total number of dwellings to be provided on site for affordable housing provision in accordance with the approved plans.
- Education Contribution in line with the Council's adopted formulae towards Secondary/SEND resource within the local area.

- A commuted sum of £500 per dwelling towards sustainable travel encouragement.
- A commuted sum of £181,557 towards improvements to sports facilities for the local community.
- A commuted sum of £40,000 towards the provision of a cycle link between the application site and Glencairn Close.
- Establishment of a Management Company to manage and maintain the areas of Greenspace on site.

(b) subject to the satisfactory signing of the legal agreement, the Council resolves to grant planning permission for the proposed development subject to the reasons for grant and conditions listed in the submitted report, an amendment to Condition 1 from Revision D to Revision E on the Amended Boundary Treatment and an additional condition relating to timeframes to read:-

06

The footpath/cycle path shown on the approved plan shall be completed and open for use in accordance with timescales to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason

To ensure a provision of a footpath/cycle link to promote sustainable travel.

(3) That application RB2025/0333 be refused for the reason adopted by Members at the meeting and as listed in the submitted report.

(4) That application RB2025/0338 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting, subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to an amendment to Condition 5 regarding to the timings of deliveries to the premises, an amendment to Condition 6 including the words "and activity" having "proposed use" and for an additional condition to be included relating to excluding hours for recycling disposal. Conditions to now read:-

05

There shall be no deliveries/refuse collection to the premises outside the hours of 08.30hrs until 20:00hrs Mondays to Sundays.

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Reason

To safeguard the amenities of the occupiers of nearby properties in accordance with RMBC Policy SP52 and parts 12 & 15 of the NPPF.

06

The proposed use of the premises shall only take place indoors as outlined in the Existing & Proposed Plans, Elevations, Proposed Site Plan & Site Location Plan, dated March 2025 (Drawing No. A25-06-01 - Revision P1). No mobile commercial facilities or seats or tables shall be placed outdoors.

Reason

To safeguard the amenities of the occupiers of nearby properties in accordance with RMBC Policy SP52 and parts 12 & 15 of the NPPF.

12

No disposal of recyclable waste at the rear of the premises shall take place between 20.00hrs and 08.30hrs

Reason

To safeguard the amenities of the occupiers of nearby properties in accordance with RMBC Policy SP52 and parts 12 & 15 of the NPPF.

(Councillor Sutton declared a personal interest in application RB2024/0841 (reserved matters application details of landscaping, scale, external appearance and layout for the erection of 185 dwellinghouses including discharge of conditions 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 23, 30, 31 reserved by outline RB2022/1638 at land north of Tickhill Road, Maltby for Homes by Honey) on the grounds of objecting to this application prior to coming a member of the Planning Board. She left the meeting whilst discussion took place and did not take part or observe the vote)

7. REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, REGENERATION AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

Consideration was given to the report of the Report of the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transportation Service which provided details of how at the Planning Board on 21st November, 2024 two 100MW battery storage facilities RB2024/0321 and RB2024/0063 were recommended for approval on the basis that very special circumstances had been demonstrated to overcome the harm by reason of inappropriateness and the harm to the openness of the Green Belt.

Planning Board Members subsequently refused both applications for the following reasons:-

01

The Council considers that the proposed battery storage facility would represent inappropriate development in the Green Belt, would have an adverse impact on the openness of the Green Belt, and would not safeguard the countryside from encroachment. The applicant has failed to demonstrate very special circumstances to justify this inappropriate development and the harm caused to the openness of the Green Belt, and any other harm. As such, the proposal is considered to be contrary to Local Plan Policies CS4 'Green Belt' and SP2 'Development in the Green Belt' as well as the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

02

Green Lane by virtue of its restricted width and lacking in separate pedestrian facilities is inadequate to cater for the proposed construction traffic associated with the battery storage facility. As such the proposal would be detrimental to both highway and pedestrian safety.

The applicants for both applications have now appealed the refusals and the Planning Inspectorate was looking to consider both appeals jointly by way of a Public Inquiry. Both appellants now argue that the sites fell within the Government's new 'Grey Belt' definition (NPPF revision 12th December 2024) which had been introduced since the original decision and that the battery storage facilities no longer represented inappropriate Green Belt development.

The report now submitted assessed the appellants' assertion and whether the sites did represent 'not inappropriate' Grey Belt development within the Green Belt.

The highways reason for refusal on both appeals were not affected.

Details of the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework were shared with the Planning Board and specifically where it introduced significant changes concerning Green Belt land, notably the formalisation of the Government's "Grey Belt" concept. Specifics were provided on the detail set out in Paragraph 155 where it was stated:-

"The development of homes, commercial and other development in the Green Belt should also not be regarded as inappropriate where all the following apply:-

- a. The development would utilise grey belt land and would not fundamentally undermine the purposes (taken together) of the remaining Green Belt across the area of the plan;
- b. There is a demonstrable unmet need for the type of development proposed;
- c. The development would be in a sustainable location, with particular reference to paragraphs 110 and 115 of this Framework; and

- d. Where applicable the development proposed meets the 'Golden Rules' requirements set out in paragraphs 156-157 below."

In terms of the NPPF it stated that "For the purposes of plan-making and decision-making, 'grey belt' is defined as land in the Green Belt comprising previously developed land and/or any other land that, in either case, does not strongly contribute to any of purposes (a), (b), or (d) in paragraph 143. 'Grey belt' excludes land where the application of the policies relating to the areas or assets in footnote 7 (other than Green Belt) would provide a strong reason for refusing or restricting development."

It was noted that the sites were not considered to be previously developed land, as defined in the NPPF, but were 'any other land' in accordance with Paragraph 143 and its purposes and Footnote 7 relating to sprawl, merging of towns and setting of historic towns.

In this instance, the land to be developed did not fall within, or directly affect, any of the designations referred to in Footnote 7.

On this basis the application sites were considered to be in the Grey Belt. Notwithstanding this view, paragraph 155(a) of the NPPF noted the development should not fundamentally undermine the purposes (taken together) of the remaining Green Belt across the area of the plan. In this instance, the remaining purposes of the Green Belt, set out in paragraph 143 of the NPPF were considered relating to safeguarding the countryside from encroachment and to assist in urban regeneration.

Whilst the appeal sites were considered to meet Paragraph 155(a) for the proposals to be considered as 'not inappropriate' development they must also satisfy all of the criteria from (a) to (d).

In satisfying the criteria it was noted the Council's original Planning Board reports went into significant detail as to the need for the development in terms of achieving net zero and supporting the National Grid's transition to renewable energy. As such it was considered there was an unmet need for this type of development. This was reflected in several appeal decisions where Inspectors have accepted that there was such a need for this type of development.

It was also noted the battery storage facilities were designed to be unmanned with engineers visiting occasionally to ensure the plants were safe and working efficiently. As such there was no conflict with 155(c) or (d) as the "Golden Rules" did not apply in this case.

When considering the implications for the Council's grounds for refusal at appeal for RB2024/0063 and RB2024/0321, the assessments have concluded that both developments were on Grey Belt land and did not represent inappropriate development within the Green Belt.

With this in mind, the Council's first reason for refusal on both applications no longer stood and the Council would not be able to defend such a reason for refusal as part of the appeal process. It was, therefore, recommended that the first reason for refusal on both applications be withdrawn and that the Council accepted that the scheme did not represent inappropriate development within the Green Belt under the revised NPPF.

On this basis the Council still intended to defend the highway reason for refusal on both applications at appeal.

In accordance with the right to speak process, the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the report:-

Mrs. V. Bryan (Objector)
Mr. A. Frost (Objector)

The Planning Board having carefully read the report and listened to the presentation by officers, accepted the decision was difficult.

The Planning Board expressed frustration at the changes made to the NPPF by the Government on 12th December, 2024 and the redesignation of the land from "Green Belt" to "Grey Belt" meaning the Council could effectively only defend the highways reason for refusal at appeal.

Resolved:- (1) That with regards to RB2024/0063 the Council withdraws the reason for refusal citing inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

(2) That with regards to RB2024/0321 the Council withdraws the reason for refusal citing inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

8. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

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STAFFING COMMITTEE
19th May, 2025

Present:- Councillor Alam (in the Chair); Councillors Read and Jones.

Apologies were received from Councillors Z. Collingham.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2025

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th February, 2025.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th February, 2025 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

25. 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.

26. RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY AND FACILITIES SERVICES

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Assistant Director for Human Resources which set out proposals to recruit and appoint to the post of Assistant Director, Property and Facilities Services on a permanent basis.

Staffing Committee approval was, therefore, sought to agree plans to immediately begin the selection process and in accordance with usual process for the appointment of Assistant Directors, refer the matter to the Senior Officer Appointments Panel.

Details of the renumeration package were set out in detail as part of the report. Although there was no intention to amend the grade of the post, local benchmarking information was included for transparency at Appendix 1.

It was proposed that the temporary postholder would continue in the role until a permanent appointment was made.

The Chief Executive noted that there had been a number of changes across asset management in recent years such as an increase in the number of capital assets owned by the Council and legislative changes.

STAFFING COMMITTEE - 19/05/25

Following clear improvements across the across the Property and Facilities Services directorate it was felt that this post had to be made permanent.

Members fully supported the proposals and noted the significant progress so far. Councillor Jones asked for further clarification on the benchmarking and a comparison of the number of buildings the postholders were directly responsible for.

Resolved:- (1) That the request to fill the post of Assistant Director, Property and Facilities Services on a permanent basis be approved.

(2) That a referral be made to the Senior Officer Appointments Panel to undertake the recruitment process.

27. URGENT BUSINESS

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

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
12th June, 2025

Present:- Councillor Clarke (in the Chair); Councillors T. Collingham, Hall, Harper, Keenan, Monk along with Mrs. M. Carroll (Parish Council Representative) and also Mrs. A. Bingham and Mrs. K. Penney (Independent Members).

Also in attendance were Mr. P. Beavers and Mr. D. Roper-Newman (Independent Persons).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beck and Lelliott.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for (Minute Nos. 8 and 9 (Whistleblowing and Complaints) on the grounds that the appendices to those reports involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH, 2025

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th March, 2025 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer seeking a review by the Committee of the Code of Conduct.

The Model Code of Conduct as provided by the LGA remained as it was drafted in 2020. The Monitoring Officer had, therefore, reviewed the Code of Conduct and was happy with its current content. However, the Committee may suggest any amendments they feel would be beneficial.

More recently, however, the Government sought views on introducing measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime in England, partly to ensure consistency of approach among Councils in addressing breaches of their Member Code of Conduct. One of the issues consulted upon was the possible introduction of a mandatory minimum Code of Conduct for local authorities in England, as opposed to the current optional model code.

Whilst consultation had taken place there was no imminent decision.

The Committee's views were now sought on the current version as adopted by the Council in May 2021.

The Committee expressed frustration as to how the Code of Conduct had no real influence over Town and Parish Councillors and the difficult judgements over compliance in the absence of any sanctions. There was no legal requirement for Town and Parish Councils to adopt the model Code and were advised that if in doubt contact should be made with the Monitoring Officer.

Acknowledging the challenges Elected Members did have a right to privacy, but this was balanced against the public's right to know and their own responsibilities as public figures. While they were entitled to personal space and confidentiality like any individual, certain aspects of their private lives may be relevant to their public role and subject to scrutiny.

The importance of raising standards was emphasised and the National Association of Local Councils had introduced the Civility and Respect Pledge to start a culture change in the Town and Parish Council sector to eradicate bullying, harassment and intimidation. Town and Parish Councils were encouraged to sign up enabling them to demonstrate their commitment to addressing poor behaviour and fostering positive changes that supported civil and respectful conduct. Whilst some in Rotherham had signed up to the Pledge there were many who had not.

The Committee wished to see standards of behaviour improve across Town and Parish Councils and sought assurance that relevant training was offered and undertaken and serious consideration was given to the adoption of the Civility and Respect Pledge. It was suggested that a friendly reminder via Clerks was circulated.

Resolved:- (1) That following a review of the Code of Conduct no amendments were suggested.

(2) That the Monitoring Officer contact all the Parish Clerks to highlight the importance of signing up the National Association of Local Council's Civility and Respect Pledge to eradicate bullying, harassment and intimidation in the Town and Parish Council sector.

5. CIVILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE

Consideration was given to a report by the Deputy Monitoring Officer which set out the objectives of and the resources available to Members through the LGA's Civility in Public Life campaign.

The LGA's Civility in Public Life campaign started at the time of the Committee on Standards in Public Life report into Ethical Standards in Local Government. One of the main focuses initially for the campaign was to provide a Model Code of Conduct as a direct response to one of the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life report.

Due to the type and nature of the complaints received by the Council it was felt timely and appropriate to provide a reminder to members of this Committee, as to the ambit and content of the Civility in Public Life campaign and the resources available therein. It was, therefore, proposed that a summary of the resources available through the Civility in Public Life campaign be provided to all locally elected Members to assist in their role as councillor, in particular around standards and conduct.

In light of the Council and the Standards and Ethics Committee having a statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct, it was suggested the Monitoring Officer circulate the materials referred to within this report as this could only contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct.

The Committee welcomed any opportunity to uphold and promote the high standards of conduct and as such suggested details also be included in the Members' Newsletter as well as details circulated to all Town and Parish Clerks. If possible links on the website should be provided in the Standards and Ethics area, along with any induction materials or correspondence provided where new local councillors are elected.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer circulate to Borough members a summary of the resources available as set out in this report via the Members newsletter and provide the same information to Town and Parish Councils via Clerks.

6.

RESPECT AND CIVILITY PLEDGE

Consideration was given to a verbal update by the Deputy Monitoring Officer which outlined the project by the National Association of Local Councils. The Civility and Respect Pledge was for Town and Parish Councils to sign up to and help tackle poor behaviour and promote culture change.

Town and Parish Councils were encouraged to sign up and once completed, would receive support and access to various resources. By signing the Pledge, Town and Parish Councils agreed they would treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles.

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To date only thirteen Town and Parish Councils in Rotherham had signed up to the Pledge (46%). Whilst training was voluntary it would be good practice if information was again circulated to Town and Parish Councils encouraging them to sign up and the benefits of doing so outlined.

Resolved:- (1) That the update be received and the contents noted.
(2) That details and a link be again circulated to Town and Parish Council Clerks.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Further to Minute No. 29 of the meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee held on 13th March, 2025 the Deputy Monitoring Officer provided an update on mechanism for selecting nominees for the Town and Parish Councils through the Yorkshire Local Councils Association. This process was ongoing so an update report would be provided to the next meeting.

In respect of the two vacant Independent Members of the Committee these positions would be advertised in due course.

Resolved:- That the update on the membership be received and noted.

8. A REVIEW OF CONCERNS RAISED PURSUANT TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report and appendix presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, which provided an overview of the Whistleblowing cases which have been received over the past year.

Particular reference was made to the appendix to the report which set out clearly the description of the concerns received and action taken.

Resolved:- That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters be noted.

9. REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, detailing the progress with the handling of complaints relating to breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Town and Parish Councillors. The report listed the current cases of complaint and the action being taken in respect of each one.

Reference was made to each related case and recommended outcomes/actions identified were highlighted and any questions answered.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

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

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