



Council

Wednesday 22 April 2026
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:- **14 April 2026**

COUNCIL

Wednesday 22 April 2026 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 (OBE)
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
GARNETT, Gillian.S
HARRISON, Tony

KILNHURST AND SWINTON (EAST)

CUSWORTH, Victoria
HARPER, Nigel

MALTBY EAST

SUTTON, Donna E.
TINSLEY, Adam J. (BEM)

RAWMARSH EAST

HUGHES, Rachel E.M.
SHEPPARD, David

RAWMARSH WEST

BAKER-ROGERS, Joanna
STEELE, Brian

ROTHER VALE

ADAIR, Terry
BAGGALEY, Jamie

ROTHERHAM EAST

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

ROTHERHAM 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 22 April 2026 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 - 84)

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meetings of the Council held on 14th January and 4th March and of the extraordinary meeting held on 13th March, 2026, and to approve the accuracy thereof.

4. Petitions (Pages 85 - 93)

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. Nominations - Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2026-27 Municipal Year

To consider nominations and approve the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2026-27 Municipal Year.

10. Overview and Scrutiny Update (Pages 95 - 120)

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 for Greasbrough (Pages 121 - 122)

To receive updates from ward councillors from Greasbrough on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

12. Thriving Neighbourhoods - Updates from Ward Councillors for Hellaby and Maltby West (Pages 123 - 124)

To receive updates from ward councillors from Hellaby and Maltby West on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

13. Notice of Motion - First Citizen - Strengthening Public Confidence in Civic Leadership (Pages 125 - 126)

To be moved by Councillor Yasseen and seconded by Councillor Bower.

14. Notice of Motion - Lighting Columns - Cut unnecessary red tape so that our streets can have floral displays, Christmas decorations, poppies, and CCTV (Pages 127 - 128)

To be moved by Councillor A Carter and seconded by Councillor C Carter.

15. Minutes of the Cabinet Meetings (Pages 129 - 181)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 19th January, 9th February and 16th March, 2026.

16. Audit Committee (Pages 183 - 206)

To note receipt of the Audit Committee minutes.

17. Health and Wellbeing Board (Pages 207 - 221)

To note receipt of the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes.

18. Licensing Board Sub-Committee (Pages 223 - 237)

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

19. Planning Board (Pages 239 - 251)

To note receipt of the Planning Board minutes.

20. Staffing Committee (Pages 253 - 256)

To note receipt of the Staffing Committee minutes.

21. Standards and Ethics Committee (Pages 257 - 264)

To note receipt of the Standards and Ethics Committee minutes.

22. 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).

23. 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).

24. 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
15 May 2026 at 2.00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING
14th January, 2026

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

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

101. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor invited Members to give a round of applause to the following Rotherham residents who had been honoured in the King's New Years Honours list:

- Paul Elliott (Chuckle Brother) had been awarded the MBE for charitable services as an ambassador for Marie Curie.
- Liz Ballard had been awarded the OBE for services to the environment as former Chief Executive of Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust.
- Councillor Adam Tinsley had been awarded the BEM for services to the community in Maltby.
- Jane Elizabeth Shore had been awarded the BEM for services to the community in Wickersley.
- Dominic Hurley had been awarded the BEM for services to charity.

The Mayor also invited members to congratulate Councillor Williams and his wife Rachel on the birth of their baby girl.

A full list of mayoral engagements was set out in Appendix A to the Mayor's Letter.

102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bacon, Ball, Ryalls, Sutton and Williams.

103. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 5th November, 2025.

COUNCIL MEETING - 14/01/26

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 5th November, 2025, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

104. PETITIONS

Consideration was given to the report which set out the petition that had been received since the last meeting. The petition asked the Council to install a point of safe crossing, such as a pelican crossing on the A6089 in Brampton Bierlow as a matter of urgency. It had 100 valid signatures. Mr. Hickman, the Lead Petitioner, attended the meeting and spoke to his petition. The petition would be responded to by the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment within 10 working days of the meeting.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the relevant Executive Director be required to respond to the lead petitioners, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Wednesday, 28th January 2026.

105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester and Councillor Harper declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. 109 (HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2026-27) on the grounds of being a Council tenant and having a partner who was a Council tenant respectively and were granted a dispensation to vote.

Councillor Cusworth declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 109 (HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2026-27) on the grounds that a family member was a Council tenant. She remained in the Chamber and voted on the matter.

106. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was one question from T:

Do you accept that the one totally consistent aspect of RMBC's culture since 2015 has been extensive efforts to silence victims, survivors and those who stand up for victims and survivors?

As T did not attend the meeting, a written response would be provided.

107. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items that required the exclusion of the press and public.

108. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader also wished to pass on his congratulations to Councillor Tinsley on receiving the British Empire Medal. He noted how diligent and dedicated he worked across the community. The Leader also offered his congratulation to the other Rotherham people in the honours list.

The Leader acknowledged the incredible hard work and dedication of so many people in achieving the Ofsted Outstanding rating for Rotherham's Children's Services. He stated that it had been a long journey but the hard work and commitment from social workers, practitioners, leaders and partners had been reflected in the Outstanding rating. The Leader particularly thanked Councillor Cusworth and her predecessor former Councillor Gordon Watson, noting that being Cabinet Member for Children's Services was an incredibly difficult job with a special burden. There was always more work to do and the Council would never be complacent.

In the week prior to the meeting, the Department for Transport awarded Rotherham green light status in relation to potholes. This was in part due to the £50million of additional capital investment that had been made by the Council and also due to the progressive approach that Richard Jackson and his team had taken.

Finally, the Leader referenced the announcement by Government which confirmed the release of funding for the development of the Council's Rotherham Gateway Station proposal. The announcement also positioned Rotherham at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse Rail plans. The Leader stressed the importance of having mainline train services back in Rotherham as it brought with it new opportunities. It also meant that as the new business space and investment opportunities along the Don Valley Corridor were developed, it would show that Rotherham was open for inward investment from across the country and beyond.

The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, Councillor Z. Collingham, was invited to respond. He placed on record his congratulations to all involved in gaining the Outstanding rating for Children's Services in Rotherham. He noted that transformation of the Service had clearly been needed following the intervention by Government Commissioners in 2015. The result of that transformation was excellent news for Rotherham children and families. He paid tribute to partners, officers and leaders who had worked hard to achieve this.

Councillor Collingham asked the Leader about the ever increasing costs of children's residential care and home to school transport. He asked what plans were in place to make sure the financial demands on those services did not impact on the demands of other services. He also sought reassurances that all planned works due to start in 2026 in Maltby, Dinnington and Wath would start this year.

COUNCIL MEETING - 14/01/26

Councillor Collingham raised concerns regarding how the performance of the Street Safe team would be monitored but was happy for the Leader to respond to the question submitted by Councillor Bower on this subject under Minute No. 121.

Finally, the Leader of the Majority Opposition group referenced the U-turns made by the Labour Government and asked if the Leader was willing to U-turn when things, particularly in relation to investments, went wrong and recognise when the wrong decisions had been made.

The Leader was invited to respond to Councillor Z. Collingham. In relation to children's residential care and home to school transport, he explained that work was already underway to address those pressures. Rotherham had bucked the national trend in reducing the number of children in residential care but the costs continued to rise. The 12 most expensive placements in Rotherham cost £10million. The Council had undertaken a huge programme of work creating in-house residential care and continued to work on the Fostering Service. Work also continued on Early Help and Prevention. In relation to home to school transport, it was confirmed that additional investment meant the shortfall was the smallest it had been for a number of years. The Council would be dependent on what came out of the Government SEND reforms but the priority had to remain on ensuring those children had safe transport.

The Leader was confident that the regeneration schemes would commence in Maltby, Dinnington and Wath within a matter of weeks.

In relation to investments, the Leader stated that he was happy with the work the Street Safe Team had already undertaken, particularly in relation to helping rough sleepers. He also stated that it was right to look at where the evidence led in terms of the performance of investments.

Questions on the Leader's statement were invited from all other Members.

Councillor Sheppard welcome the news regarding the Northern Powerhouse Rail plans. He asked how this could be used to provide new skills opportunities for Rotherham residents, with a particular focus on further education.

The Leader explained that there were 2 aspects to the development that could provide new skills opportunities. The first was the construction of the new station and infrastructure which went with that and the second was the opportunities that would come from the best connectivity to other areas across the north. Through procurement processes, the Council would expect local people to be employed in delivering the site. As the proposals progressed, conversations would take place with Rotherham College on how students could be involved in construction and operational matters. Conversations would also take place with SYMCA regarding career's advice and linking this to the new opportunities that would be accessible further afield.

Councillor Reynolds offered his congratulation on the Ofsted inspection outcome. In relation to children's residential homes, he noted that he had visited an in-house residential home and had been very impressed with the staff and the nature of the home. He asked how the Council was balancing the cost of these homes with the needs of the children. Councillor Reynolds was also pleased with the progress on potholes.

The Leader explained that the first duty the Council had was to make sure the needs of the children were met.

Councillor Currie noted the good leadership and governance of the Council, and highlighted the good practices clearly being shown in the Children and Young People's Service. He asked if best practice was being shared between Directorates and Services across the Council, specifically with the Waste Collection Team as residents were still experiencing many issues with this service.

The Leader agreed that the bin service needed to improve capacity and reliability and the Cabinet Member and Service were working on that as a priority. Work was also ongoing in terms of sharing best practice between services.

Councillor Brent placed on record his thanks to all involved in the improvements to Children's and Young Peoples Services.

The Leader thanked Councillor Brent for his comments. He explained that it was important for politicians to set the right environment in order to allow officers, and therefore Services, to succeed.

109. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

Further to Minute No. 90 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 15th December 2025, consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2026/27 and proposed increases in housing rents, non-dwelling rents and other service charges. It was proposed that Council dwelling rents be increased by 4.8%.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) recorded all expenditure and income relating to the provision of Council housing and related services, and the Council was required to produce an HRA Business Plan setting out its investment priorities over a 30-year period.

From the 1st April 2026, the Government would implement a 10-year Social Rent Settlement. This was the Government's Policy on the annual increase for social housing rents. The 10 year settlement set the maximum rent increase at the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as of September the year prior plus 1%. The 10 year rent settlement had given

greater certainty on the level of forecast income to fund the HRA Business Plan, going forward. It would enable longer term planning for investment, delivery of services and growth. The rent settlement was part of the Government's plan for the future of social housing which promised to enable local authorities and housing associations to deliver thousands of new affordable homes to meet need and drive up the safety and quality of existing homes.

The proposed 2026/27 HRA Business Plan incorporated the Council's commitments to continue and extend the Council's Housing Delivery Programme, alongside significant additional investment to support decency and thermal efficiency in existing Council homes. The Plan included provision for £1.329bn investment in the housing stock over 30 years, an increase of £350m compared to the 2025/26 plan. This was alongside continuing to fund day-to-day housing management, repairs and maintenance costs. £122.9m would be invested to deliver an estimated 500 further Council homes by 2037/38, in addition to the £90.9m that was earmarked to support the current Housing Delivery Programme which is on track to deliver 1,000 homes by summer 2027.

Alongside providing the draft HRA budget for 2026/27, the report recommended proposed levels for housing rents, non-dwelling rents, District Heating charges and other service charges for 2026/27. It was recommended to Council that dwelling rents be increased by 4.8% and up to £2 per week (equivalent to CPI+1% and up to £2 per week rent convergence). This was dependent upon a Government decision expected in January 2026, which would clarify the approach to social rent convergence.

During the meeting, the Cabinet Member explained that a correction to Appendix 4 was required. It stated that garage rents would be increased from £6.56 per week to £6.76 per week for Council tenants. It should have stated that the rent would increase to £7.21 (10%) as correctly stated in paragraph 2.7.23 of the main report. Similarly, the garage rents for non-Council Tenants line in Appendix 4 should have stated that rents had been increased by 10%, from £7.88 to £8.67, as correctly stated in the report.

Some Members expressed concerns regarding rent convergence. Others supported the ambition in the business plan and were supportive of proposals to build a further 500 homes on top of the 1,000 Council homes already planned. The Cabinet Member agreed to raise the issue of off-road parking for Council homes and the distribution of HRA funds in a meeting with officers. Members on all sides of the Chamber had praised the Cabinet Member for the work she had done since taking over the Housing Portfolio.

Resolved:

That Council:

1. Approve the proposed 2026/27 HRA Business Plan.
2. Note that the Business Plan will be reviewed annually to provide an updated financial position.
3. Agree that Council dwelling rents are increased by 4.8% and, dependent upon the Government announcement in January 2026, implement a policy of rent convergence. Allowing rents for social housing properties that are currently below the Government-calculated formula rent to increase by an additional £2 per week in 2026/27. If convergence is capped below £2 that will be the level applied.
4. Agree that the Council should retain the policy of realigning rents on properties at below formula rent to the formula rent level when the property is re-let to a new tenant.
5. Agree that affordable rents are calculated at relet, based on an individual property valuation.
6. Agree that affordable rents are increased by 4.8% in 2026/27.
7. Agree that shared ownership rents are increased by 5% in 2026/27.
8. Agree that charges for communal facilities, parking spaces, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities are increased by 3% in 2026/27.
9. Agree that charges for garages are increased by 10% in 2026/27.
10. Agree that the District Heating unit charge per kWh remains at 13.09 pence per kWh.
11. Agree that the decision to reduce the price of District Heating Charges during 2026/27 be delegated to the Service Director of Housing in conjunction with the Service Director of Financial Services following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing. The delegation would only be used to respond to a change in Government policy or a significant change in the Ofgem price cap that has the effect of a lower unit price.
12. Approve the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2026/27 as shown in Appendix 8.

Mover: Councillor Beresford

Seconder: Councillor Alam

COUNCIL MEETING - 14/01/26

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester requested that his vote in favour of the resolutions be minuted.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester and Councillor Harper declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. 109 (HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2026-27) on the grounds of being a Council tenant and having a partner who was a Council tenant respectively and were granted a dispensation to vote.

Councillor Cusworth declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 109 (HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2026-27) on the grounds that a family member was a Council tenant. She remained in the chamber and voted on the matter.

110. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this report provided an update to Council on the activities and outcomes of Overview and Scrutiny activity at the Council. It summarised 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). The updated work programmes for each were attached as appendices.

Councillor Steele, in moving the report, highlighted that 40 substantive items had been considered across all Commissions since the last update in July 2025. There had been 16 opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny and 3 workshops. One reviewed had been completed in relation to Access to Contraception. Two reviews were ongoing, and Councillor Steele was going to look into the By-Laws review as he was unhappy with the length of time it was taking to conclude. One item had been called-in, and 3 site visits were planned for early 2026. There continued to be strong engagement with partners, officers and the public along with good attendance and engagement from Members. Planning was underway for the Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

Councillor Blackham in seconding the report thanked all Members and officers involved in the scrutiny process. He also thanked Councillor Steele for his leadership.

Resolved:

That Council receive the report and note the updates.

Mover: Councillor Steele

Seconded: Councillor Blackham

111. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR DALTON AND THRYBERGH

Further to Minute No. 55 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th November 2018, consideration was given to the Ward update for Dalton and Thrybergh as part of the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy. An update report had been provided as part of the agenda and each Ward Member was invited to speak.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester moved the report. He informed Members that Councillor Ryalls was unable to attend the meeting due to a serious family emergency. He placed on record his thanks to Councillor Ryalls who he credited with restoring the trust of residents in reporting issues in the Ward to the Council. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester also wished to record his thanks to the officers who worked in the Dalton and Thrybergh Ward, particularly Jo Talbot and Nicola Hacking and the Area Housing Officers.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester expressed his support for neighbourhood working and the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy. Councillor Ryalls had planned to speak about Strengths Based Working, but this would instead be distributed by a memo. Members for Dalton and Thrybergh were very excited by the prospect of Strength Based Working and working with residents to achieve more than before. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester referenced the Love Where You Live Scheme and the work done by Wayne Munro-Smith. He applauded the work done in Dalton and Thrybergh on litter picking but for going further and getting more litter bins. There were also more snow wardens now.

Councillor Elliott seconded the report.

In response to a question, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that walkabouts with the Chief Executive had been useful, and he reiterated that the information regarding Strength Based Working, due to be presented by Councillor Ryalls, would be provided in a memo.

Resolved:

That the update report be noted.

112. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR DINNINGTON

Further to Minute No. 55 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th November 2018, consideration was given to the Ward update for Dinnington as part of the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy. An update report had been provided as part of the agenda and each Ward Member was invited to speak. Due to recovering from illness, Councillor Hall declined the invitation and was happy for her Ward colleagues to give the presentation.

COUNCIL MEETING - 14/01/26

Councillor Castledine-Dack moved the report and stated that regeneration of Dinnington High Street had been the main focus. The project was aimed at making the town centre and markets a more vibrant and attractive place for residents. Construction was set to begin in 2026 with the burned-out building to be demolished in the coming weeks. Work was also underway to support other areas within the Dinnington Ward. Councillor Castledine-Dack stated that Neighbourhood Officers had supported quarterly meetings for local businesses which had improved communication and collaboration to drive economic growth. Social media training sessions for businesses had been funded and delivered. Town Centre Anti-Social Behaviour and Flytipping had been an issue, but Councillors were working with the Police to tackle this. Fixing the roads had been a major priority. A footpath project was underway in Laughton Common.

Councillor Clarke seconded the report and announced the Councillors had been pleased to support Dinnington Rugby Club with new kit and equipment to support young players. Due to concerns raised regarding Nitrous Oxide canisters in the Health Select Commission, this was now an agenda item for the Safer Neighbourhoods Priority Group. Councillors continued to work closely with litter picking groups and the Parish Council. The Citizens Advice Bureau was now running weekly session in Dinnington Library, and this was very welcome. Councillor Clarke reported that young people in Dinnington were very happy and proud of the improvements made to Chestnut Grove Park. Prior to Christmas, 3 separate power outages had been experienced in Dinnington alongside serious criminal activity. This had been extremely challenging for local businesses. Councillor Clarke welcomed the positive impact the Street Safe Team would bring and thanked Ward colleagues, officers and partners for their work on these issues.

The Community Leadership Fund had been used to fund a workshop for traders and business owners in Dinnington. The Air Cadet building had reopened in time for their 40th anniversary. A new Standard and celebration event was supported by CLF funding. The Festival of Remembrance was a particular highlight for Councillor Clarke.

The Ward Members thanked Andrea Peers and Sam Kendal for their hard work in the Dinnington Ward.

In response to a question it was confirmed that the Ward Members worked well with the Parish Council.

Resolved:

That the update report be noted.

113. NOTICE OF MOTION - RESTORING RAIL AND TRAM TRAIN SERVICES FOR SWINTON, ROTHERHAM, AND DONCASTER - ENSURING RELIABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

It was moved by Councillor Cusworth and seconded by Councillor Monk that:

Summary/Background:

This Council notes:

- That train timetables serving Swinton Interchange and Rotherham Central to Doncaster and return were halved during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- That despite the lifting of restrictions, these timetables have not been fully restored, leaving communities with fewer, less reliable services.
- That this reduction disproportionately impacts residents who rely on rail for work, education, and leisure, undermining efforts to promote sustainable travel and economic growth.

Impact on Tram Train Services - Prior to the pandemic, Swinton enjoyed three trains per hour, complemented by 3 tram trains at Rotherham Central, providing a service approximately every 10 minutes into Sheffield. Currently, the timetable has been significantly reduced, with just one train from Leeds, one from Doncaster, and 2 tram trains. This results in a fragmented and inconvenient timetable, making public transport less attractive and reliable for residents.

That this Council believes:

- That Rotherham should not be facing reductions in its public transport provision, and that reliable heavy and light rail services are the minimum that our residents deserve.
- That accessible, dependable public transport is a cornerstone of social and economic inclusion.
- That restoring full services is essential to support local communities, reduce car dependency, and meet climate commitments.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Call on train operating companies and the Department for Transport to urgently reinstate pre-pandemic service levels between Swinton Interchange, Rotherham Central, and Doncaster, including both heavy rail and tram train services.
2. Work with regional partners, including the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, to press for investment in rail and tram train services that meet the needs of residents and reflect the importance of frequent, reliable public transport.

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

114. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

Consideration was given to the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 15th September 2025 and 20th October 2025.

Resolved:

That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 17th November 2025 and 1th5 December 2025, be received.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

115. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Resolved:

That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee be noted.

Mover: Councillor Baggaley

Seconder: Councillor Allen

116. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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

117. 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 Garnett

118. PLANNING BOARD

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Mault

Seconder: Councillor Jackson

119. STAFFING COMMITTEE

Resolved:

That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Staffing Committee be noted.

Mover: Councillor Alam

Seconder: Councillor Read

120. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There were 2 questions:

1. Councillor Yasseen: How SYPA reconciles any claim of “responsible investment” with the absence of publicly available reporting that shows:

- how stewardship decisions are made,
- when escalation is used or rejected, and
- how SYPA holds asset managers to account when they vote against Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) backed resolutions?

Councillor Beresford, one of Rotherham’s representatives on South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, explained that:

- Both SYPA and Border to Coast published Responsible Investment (RI) policies, including corporate governance and voting guidelines, on their websites.
- Quarterly Responsible Investment update reports were presented at full Authority meetings (which were both webcast and published online).
- Voting reports for Border to Coast equity funds and stewardship-related reports were available on Border to Coast’s website.

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- SYPA reported against the 12 Principles of the UK Stewardship Code and became a signatory in 2025. The Code was voluntary and being a signatory to the Code demonstrated an investor's commitment to stewardship and providing transparent reporting on the stewardship they undertook on behalf of their clients and beneficiaries. Border to Coast was also a signatory to the Stewardship Code.

Councillor Beresford understood that Border to Coast's voting records generally aligned with LAPFF recommendations; any deviations were reported with rationale to SYPA and partner funds. If there were specific issues Councillor Yasseen wished to raise, Councillor Beresford was happy to do this on her behalf.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen stated that the documents referenced were very technical and vaguer than presented. She asked if SYPA could commit to publishing, on an annual basis, a summary of its engagement with LAPFF, a breakdown of how SYPA voted on the forum's alerts, and explicit information on whether the pensions fund has diverged its decision making from the forum in terms of escalation of recommendations.

Councillor Beresford confirmed that a written response would be provided.

2. Councillor Yasseen: Following major incidents such as the Kiveton Industrial Estate fire and the Merseyside BESS fire, has South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority been consulted on emergency access, water supply and containment of contaminated run-off for the proposed Rotherham solar farm?

Councillor Taylor, designated spokesperson for Rotherham on South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, explained that the Authority were not consulted on this as they were not a statutory consultee and the developer was under no obligation to seek their views. However, Councillor Taylor confirmed that the Service was aware of the Whitestone proposals and it would remain active in accessing the relevant risks. It would also make any necessary representations.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen stated that she appreciated that it was not a statutory consultee but asked if the Fire Authority could reassure residents that the risks to public health, air quality and local water courses would be monitored.

Councillor Taylor stated that it was common practice for developers to contact the Fire Safety Officers for advice but this advice was not required to be recorded. In light of the number of queries received in relation to solar panels and battery storage systems, the Fire Service were producing a factsheet to aid members of the public.

121. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

There were 21 questions:

1. Councillor C. Carter: From reviewing the letter sent to parents and guardians regarding school admissions it does not make clear the schools which are in catchment and the map on the Council website to find this information is very clunky. Why is this?

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People explained that, while the mapping tool was widely used, recent feedback suggested that it could feel clunky for the end user, and so officers would review the tool and consider how to add clearer guidance to improve the user experience.

In her supplementary, Councillor C. Carter stated that some other local authorities included the catchment schools on the letter sent to parents. She asked if this could be done in Rotherham.

The Cabinet Member agreed to hold a meeting with Councillor C. Carter and officers to look into this proposal. She also encouraged all Members to contact her if they came across any similar issues.

2. Councillor Bower: Which performance indicators will be used to measure the effectiveness of the new Street Safe team?

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety explained that the team was now deployed across the Town Centre and principal towns and would be operating between 8.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. from the beginning of February now that recruitment and onboarding was almost complete, with just one post remaining vacant.

The Team's most valuable work could not be captured by numbers alone: already in the short time they had been deployed, the teams had supported victims of domestic abuse, responded to individuals in mental health crisis, and provided early intervention and signposting for many, to prevent harm. These actions build trust, improved wellbeing, and strengthened community resilience. The Council would capture these impacts through case studies and feedback from residents and partners, ensuring the full picture of the Team's contribution was understood.

The effectiveness of the new Street Safe team would be measured through a mix of related performance indicators and wider impacts. Specific indicators of relevance were the levels of:

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- anti-social behaviour
- enforcement outcomes such as fixed penalties, legal notices and legal action,
- footfall, and levels of community engagement.

The Council would continue to monitor public confidence through surveys and feedback, and review partnership outcomes with agencies like the police and housing services.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bower stated that some of the impacts referenced could not be related directly back to the Street Safe Team. He was concerned that scrutiny was being conducted on a “vibes” basis and not on hard data. He asked what hard data could be used.

The Cabinet Member explained that feedback from residents, local business and the service was vital to assessing the impact of the team. A range of data would be used to do that.

3. Councillor Reynolds: How many brownfield sites were actually considered by the Whitestone solar project?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

4. Councillor Reynolds: When did the Council become involved, informed that consultation on this project would be happening?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

5. Councillor Reynolds: Before the current site [Whitestone] was identified what involvement had RMBC had in arriving that this was the best possible solution and the only option worthy of progress?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

6. Councillor Reynolds: I have not found anyone who supports this plan anywhere in Rotherham. So if the electorate is totally against it will the Labour majority in RMBC please come back with proposals to resolve this matter and stop the democratic process becoming compromised to a point where people feel completely overlooked and never listened to?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

7. Councillor Thorp: Under Towns and Villages funding the Stag area got £150,000 but as the project started there was a problem, as the department running this TV funding found out there were plans to build another much needed cycle lane, so part of the work planned never happened, so where did this Fund go to 18 months on still no answers.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

8. Councillor Thorp: On Thursday January the 8th another apology for missed bin collections was sent out sighting vehicle breakdowns, well if you don't run a waste collection along good business practice like Biffa or any other waste company dose what do you expect and also excessive tonnage of waste due to the festive period, was this an early April Fool's joke.

The Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces explained that this period had been challenging, with cold-weather breakdowns and more trips to the tip needed than usual due to Christmas waste, and that was a problem that had been faced by other councils too. The Council had, rightly, diverted some of their drivers onto gritting during the particularly cold spell since Christmas. There is only so much capacity. The Cabinet Member appreciated the frustration this caused residents and stated that was being taken seriously. The Council had active recruitment campaigns and were bringing in additional staff, which was helping to restore capacity, and it would continue to do so.

In his supplementary, Councillor Thorp asked to be provided with the data on how many times bins had not been collected due to excessive waste over the Christmas period for the last 10 years.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that a written response would be provided.

9. Councillor Thorp: Why are we considering moving changing the Easter school term break to be a fixed date instead of when the Easter Christian festival is, determined from the first full moon after the spring equinox so, the first full moon after the 21st of March. This has been like this for decades why change. We are a Christian country act like one.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People explained that Rotherham had moved to a fixed Easter holiday calendar in 2022, in line with Sheffield and Doncaster Councils. This change was introduced to provide greater consistency and certainty

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for families, schools, and employers when planning term dates. Under the traditional system, Easter could fall anytime between late March and late April, which often caused significant variation in school holiday patterns year to year. It was known that uneven term lengths caused disruption to children's educational progress.

A fixed-date approach helped reduce disruption, while still allowing schools and communities to celebrate Easter as a religious festival. For children and young people, this provided a more predictable school year, supporting continuity in learning. It also helped families plan activities and childcare well in advance, which could contribute to a more positive holiday experience, and on some occasions could help Rotherham families to get cheaper holidays.

Bank Holidays, including Good Friday and Easter Monday, continued to be observed within the fixed holiday period, ensuring that families could still enjoy traditional celebrations without impacting the stability of the school calendar.

The Cabinet Member did state that the consultation remained open and Members had been feeding in their views.

10. Councillor Thorp: Yorkshire Water had another water main burst at Worrygoose Island over Christmas. The grass and plantings that cost in excess of £20,000 according to RMBC have been destroyed; the grass is compressed sand and tyre tracks all-over the Island and across the planting. How is RMBC going to replace the destruction to the Island at no cost to the tax-payer.

The Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces explained that Yorkshire Water had recently carried out repair works on a burst main on Worrygoose Island and caused consequential damage to the surface planting. Yorkshire Water would be required to return to complete the reinstatement of the damaged landscaping at their cost when weather conditions allowed.

In his supplementary, Councillor Thorp asked if any of the damage caused by vehicles was the fault of RMBC.

The Cabinet Member explained that some minor damage had been caused to the grassed areas by Council vehicles when installing and removing the Christmas tree. This had already been scheduled for repair in early spring.

11. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: The Rothbiz article "Transport funding diverted to Rotherham Gateway Station project" inferred funding was set to be diverted from areas such as the Mushroom Roundabout. Is the station being built at the expense of continued congestion on the A630 in Dalton?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

12. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: What has been the cost of deploying parking enforcement officers at Forge Island since October and what is the estimated loss of revenue from parking charges since the Arc cinema opened?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

13. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: It is welcome that the siting of temporary accommodation units or crash pads is more evenly distributed across the Borough than in 2023. What has changed in the way properties are allocated in the past 3 years to create a more even spread?

The Cabinet Member for Housing explained that a new Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy was introduced in 2023 to better manage our increasing portfolio of temporary accommodation, strengthening the framework for placement decisions and alignment to household needs.

In 2024, the Council further increased the provision of temporary accommodation to 173 to provide more appropriate, sustainable, and cost-effective options for households (including families) where temporary accommodation was unavoidable. In making these changes, the Council had enabled a wider geographic distribution of placements and reduced reliance on unsuitable or costly provision.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that he had been critical of the numbers in the past as the most deprived areas had a disproportionately high number of crash pads compared to other Wards. However, they were now more evenly spread across the Borough. A concern that Councillor Bennett-Sylvester had was that it was difficult to contact officers if there were any issues with crash pads. He asked if a 7 minute briefing could be arranged for Members to set out how referrals could be made and who could be contacted at the Council if there were issues relating to the crash pads.

The Cabinet Member explained that use of the crash pads usually involved multiple agencies, so she understood the difficulties in working out who to contact. She agreed to arrange a 7 minute briefing.

14. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: We are seeing several businesses in the Howard Street using the public highway to display goods in a variety of forms and cooking food. Is this allowed?

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The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

15. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: What are the requirements for community groups and leaders to participate in decision making for Pride in Place funding?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

16. Councillor Yasseen: Why did Council not require/guide the solar farm developers to hold consultation events within the directly affected villages (Brampton-en-le-Morthen, Harthill, and Todwick) rather than primarily outside these communities, ensuring local residents most impacted had accessible opportunities to engage and provide feedback on the solar farm proposals?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

17. Councillor Yasseen: Will the Council explicitly record in its report that the solar farm proposal would take Best and Most Versatile (BMV) productive arable farmland, conflicting with:

- Government's planning policy & ministerial guidance to avoid BMV land & prioritise brownfield/lower-grade land,
- Government's Land Use Framework
- Local food security aims,

Therefore urge the Labour Government to better protect the Borough's best farmland?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

18. Councillor Yasseen: Has the Council commissioned or reviewed an independent assessment of the environmental and agricultural impacts of losing approximately 4,700 acres of productive Rotherham farmland to the proposed solar farm development, including effects on soil quality, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and local food production?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

19. Councillor Yasseen: What consideration has been given to the loss of local heritage and landscape character, particularly where parts of the proposed solar farm site are recorded in the Domesday Book and include listed buildings and public rights of way?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

20. Councillor Yasseen: Given Whitestone's electricity will be sold at gas linked market rates, offering no reduction to residents in household bills while profits flow to overseas investors, what concrete local benefits such as guaranteed jobs, business rates retention, or ring-fenced community funding will the council demand for residents to justify supporting the scheme in any form?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

21. Councillor Currie: With the recent Government statement on pavement parking ,what will the Council be doing to ensure that the secondary legislation is introduced in 2026?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy was not present at the meeting to answer and as such, a written response would be provided.

122. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

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COUNCIL MEETING
4th March, 2026

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, Cowen, Currie, Cusworth, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Garnett, Hall, Harper, Harrison, Hughes, Hussain, Jackson, Jones, Keenan, Lelliott, Marshall, Mault, McKiernan, Monk, Pitchley, Read, Reynolds, 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>

123. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor invited all present to observe a minute's silence in memory of former Mayor and Councillor Terry Sharman, who had served on the Council from 1973-2015, and former Councillor Peter Thirlwall, who served on the Council from 2002-2011. The Mayor also wished those observing Ramadan, Lent and Holi all the best.

Throughout the meeting, Members expressed their condolences to the families of former Mayor and Councillor Sharman and former Councillor Thirlwall.

124. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beck, Knight and Ryalls.

125. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sheppard declared a personal interest in Minute No. 127 – Recommendation from Cabinet – Budget and Council Tax 2026-27 and Medium Term Financial Strategy - on the basis that there were proposals relating to Selective Licensing Areas and he lived in a Selective Licensing Area. As this was a personal interest, Councillor Sheppard took part in the debate and voted on the item.

126. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

127. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2026-27 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Further to Minute No. 122 of the Cabinet Meeting held on 9th February 2026, the proposed Budget and Council Tax for 2026/27 was presented to Council for approval. This was based on the Council's Final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27, budget consultation and the consideration of Directorate budget proposals. A review of the financial planning assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) had also been undertaken.

In moving the proposals, the Leader thanked Cabinet Members, the Finance Team and the Chief Executive for their work on the budget proposals. He particularly thanked Councillor Alam for his dedication and support as Cabinet Member for Finance. He noted the difficulties the Council had faced due to austerity under the former Conservative Governments and the difficult decisions that had been taken, namely the closure of buildings, the loss of jobs and the retreating of Services.

The Leader stated that, as of March 2026, nearly one in 4 councils with Social Care responsibilities in England needed Exceptional Financial Support. Bills in North Somerset, Shropshire and Worcestershire were going up by 9%.

As part of the proposals, Council Tax in Rotherham would be increased by 3.95% (including a basic Council Tax increase of 1.95% and an Adult Social Care precept increase of 2%.) This was below the Government's cap for the seventh successive year and lower than Reform-led Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Kent, Lincolnshire, and North and West Northamptonshire's, lower than Conservative-led North Yorkshire, and Liberal Democrat-led Hull and East Riding Councils. The Leader stated that this was a responsible decision and the result of a Labour Government backing communities. Rotherham had received £14 million more than anticipated from the Government last year, with an additional £9 million more this year and a further £10 million more over the next 3 years as part of the Final Settlement.

The Leader highlighted some of the proposals within the budget, including the creation of a new team to support high street businesses, backed by £25,000 for each of Wath, Dinnington, Swinton and Maltby and the Town Centre to support promotional activities, events and locally identified needs. The next round of Shop Unit Grants would receive over £600,000 from the Local Growth Fund. The Roadside Cleaning Team would be increased again, and additional staff would be employed at Household Waste sites, supporting the on-site re-use shop and reducing the waste into landfill. The price of Household Bulky Waste Collections would be frozen.

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In relation to Selective Licensing, the Leader explained that 60% of respondents to the consultation agreed that environmental issues were a problem in Selective Licensing areas. As such, a dedicated team was proposed to support these communities with such issues. A capital investment was also proposed to make physical improvements.

Other proposals included additional staffing to keep Rother Valley Country Park safe and in a good condition. A new fit-for-purposes building at Ulley Country Park would be in place and the running track at Herringthorpe would be replaced. £750,00 would be invested in the next phase of improvements to children's play areas. A pilot scheme would be introduced, halving the price of swimming for people aged over 65 to go swimming.

The Leader explained the proposals related to helping families and children. These included introducing thousands more universal youth work places and 10,000 more places in holiday activity clubs. An investment would be made into additional Educational Psychology Services to ensure children got access to much needed support earlier.

In summing up, the Leader stated that the choices made in the Labour Group's budget proposals had been made to ensure fairness. They were about supporting families, tackling unemployment, helping communities flourish and improving the quality of life in the Borough.

In seconding the budget, Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety, also thanked Cabinet colleagues, Members of the Budget Working Group, Councillor Steele and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and officers, particularly Judith Badger, Rob Mahon and John Edwards. He referenced the major reforms the Labour Government had implemented in relation to the Fair Funding Review. The revisions to the Settlement had enabled proposals which would allow for investment in communities after years of austerity imposed by previous Governments. The Rotherham Labour administration would not allow the most vulnerable to be left behind and the budget, therefore, put families first.

Referencing the budget consultation, Councillor Alam stated that this had helped decide the key priorities. These included investing in more opportunities for children and young people, thriving neighbourhoods, a cleaner Borough and nobody being left behind. Councillor Alam was also pleased that investment was proposed in Internal Audit and cyber security.

The Capital budget focused on community infrastructure, highways, better and safer roads along with facility upgrades. The Council Tax increase proposed (3.95%) was the lowest in the Yorkshire Region. Councillor Alam stated that he was proud to support a budget that brought communities together and promoted equality, opportunity and social justice.

Two notices of amendment had been received in relation to the Budget and Council Tax 2026-27 proposals.

The first was moved by Councillor Adam Carter and seconded by Councillor Tarmey on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group:

That the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report be accepted as proposed, with the exception of the following amendments:

COUNCIL TAX PROPOSALS

Reduce the proposed Council Tax increase from 3.95% to 2.93%, with the proposed 2.93% increase being made up of a basic Council Tax increase of 0.93% and a 2% increase through the Adult Social Care precept (ringfenced for Adult Social Care).

The reduction in the proposed Council Tax will create a funding shortfall of £1.417m in 2026/27, £1.474m in 2027/28, and £1.532m in 2028/29.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

1. Remove the capital investment proposal for the Strategic Acquisitions Fund, that was approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, approved at Council in March 2025, this will reduce the 2026/27 Capital Budget by £2m in total.
2. Remove the capital investment proposal for the Selective Licensing Community Impact, this will reduce the 2026/27 to 2029/30 Capital Budget by £500k in total.

PROPOSED REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS

1. Remove the revenue investment proposal for the Street Safe Team, this will reduce the Council Budget from 2026/27 onwards by £570k p.a but will require a one-off payment estimated at £87k in 2026/27 to address notice periods and redundancies for 10 FTE's currently in post.
2. Reduce the revenue Budget for the Employment Solutions Team by £359k, this will reduce the Council Budget from 2026/27 onwards by £359k p.a but will require a one-off payment estimated at £133k in 2026/27 to address notice periods and redundancies for 12 FTE's currently in post.
3. Remove the revenue investment proposal for the Events Team, this will reduce the Council Budget from 2026/27 onwards by £119k p.a.

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4. Remove the revenue investment proposal for Selective Licensing Community Impact, this will reduce the Council Budget from 2026/27 onwards by £362k p.a.
5. The removal of the proposed capital investment for the Strategic Acquisitions Fund of £2m in total, will release revenue Budget savings of £75k in 2026/27 and £150k in 2027/28 onwards.
6. The removal of the proposed capital investment for the Selective Licensing Community Impact of £500k in total, £100k in each year of 2026/27 to 2030/31, will release revenue Budget savings of £10k in 2026/27, £20k in 2027/28, £50k in 2028/29.
7. The overall impact of these Budget proposals will create a gap in 2026/27 of £142k and surpluses of £106k in 2027/28 and £77.5k in 2028/29, overall a net surplus of £42k across the period. This net surplus be transferred to the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve.

In moving the amendment, Councillor Adam Carter thanked the Council's Finance Team for their support. He stated that he was proud that the Liberal Democrat Group was once again proposing the lowest Council Tax proposal in Rotherham. With many Reform, Labour and Conservative Council's around the country failing on their promises to cut or minimise tax rises, Councillor Carter was pleased to propose the Liberal Democrat's inflation busting budget.

He stated that the proposals were simple. The Liberal Democrats did not think it appropriate for the Council to focus on more events in the Town Centre when they kept failing to empty the bins properly or on time. They did agree with the thrust of supporting young people and had, therefore, kept those proposals in their budget. Councillor Carter stated that the proposals in relation to Selective Licensing had, however, been removed in their amendment. The Liberal Democrats did not think it was fair that funding from general taxation of all residents should be used to fund this policy.

In summing up, Councillor Carter stated that the Liberal Democrats proposals were simple: cut some of the unnecessary expenditure; keep money in resident's pockets; support the most vulnerable; and make Council Tax as low as possible.

In seconding the amendment, Councillor Tarmey stated that there was a lot in the Labour budget proposals that he could support. He welcomed the 3 year funding plan from Central Government but explained that more needed to be done to ensure a proper sustainable funding package that would serve the needs of local government for decades.

Councillor Tarmey was proud of the Liberal Democrat proposals to increase Council Tax by the lowest amount of the 3 groups. The proposals would continue to support the poorest families and the older people, but wasteful spending would be removed. This included the Street Safe Team who were not value for money, the investment in Selective Licensing which led to inflated rents for the poorest residents and the Employment Solutions Team which was not cost effective. He echoed Councillor Carter's view that the focus should be on the basics like emptying the bins, not a larger events team.

Members were invited to speak on the Liberal Democrat amendment.

Councillor Currie questioned the approach that the lowest Council Tax was the best option. He stated that Council Tax should be appropriate for the level of investment needed to move forward and that he could not support this amendment as it removed all of the good investment for the Town Centre and residents.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester expressed concerns that the amendment removed support for areas that most needed it and did not do right by staff. He stated that it would put extra pressure on people and make it harder for people to do their existing jobs when they needed more support. This would impact the Town Centre and have ripple effects on anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Williams stated that it felt like the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition days again with both groups proposing cuts to vital public services, making public sector redundancies and withdrawing support services. He gave his support to the Council's Employment Solutions Team which supported residents back into training and work and, therefore, benefitted the local economy. Since April 2025 to January 2026 over 500 residents had engaged with the Service. Councillor Williams was also concerned about the proposal to remove the capital investment in the Strategic Acquisition Fund as this would take money away from the Rotherham Gateway Station project. This project was vital to improve transport and wider regeneration in Rotherham, and this was reflected in the Government's recent Northern Powerhouse Rail announcement. Councillor Williams stated that he would not be supporting this amendment as he would not stand by and watch the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives cut funding away from this vital project.

Councillor Beresford rejected the idea that the poorest in the Borough were being negatively impacted by Selective Licensing. She stated that at least one of the areas covered by Selective Licensing fell into the top 10 most deprived areas in the country. The consultation showed that people in these areas wanted solutions to wider problems like anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping and the proposals to invest into enforcement would help. Councillor Beresford felt it important that the concerns raised in the consultation should be listened to and, therefore, encouraged

COUNCIL MEETING - 04/03/26

others to vote against the amendment which proposed removing the relevant investments.

Councillor Zach Collingham stated that it did not appear that the Liberal Democrat Group had spent much time on their proposals. He supported the restraint on Council Tax, stating that the Labour proposals were overreaching. He did criticise the lack of imagination in the amendment and stated it was just a list of cuts with no positive proposals included. Given the lack of investment, he did not think the sacking of staff could be justified. Councillor Collingham explained that initiatives such as the Street Safe Team needed to be able to run their course in order to demonstrate to the Labour Group that they had failed. This could not be done when the work had barely started.

Councillor Steele stated that he would be voting against this amendment as it would put people out of work, would not invest in the Town centre or in Rotherham businesses.

Councillor Marshall spoke in defence of the Events Team investment proposals. The contribution of tourism to the local economy continued to grow and the Rotherham Show welcomed a record number of visitors in 2025. The demand for events was growing and, therefore, funding and staffing needed to grow as well. Councillor Marshall explained that she would be voting against the amendment as it removed the investment needed in the Events Team.

Councillor Baum-Dixon stated that the amendment was a list of reductions without a clear strategy for how the Borough should move forward. However, due to the smaller Council Tax rise and the removal of wasteful spending, he did feel that it was an improvement on the budget Labour had proposed.

Councillor Baker-Rogers explained that Council Tax should be set so that it was affordable, prudent and allowed for an improved quality of life for residents. She stated that residents in Band A properties would get an extra 25 pence a week under the Liberal Democrat proposals as opposed to the Labour proposals and she questioned what could be done with that, saying that it was short-sighted. She also criticised the proposals to remove the Employment Solutions Team, questioning why the Liberal Democrats wanted to make people redundant when they were helping those furthest from the employment market into training and employment.

Councillor Alam spoke in support of the Street Safe Team, stating that they were already delivering tangible results across the Borough. He stated that it was a vital service that needed to be supported, not removed. As such, he would not be supporting the amendment.

In opposing the amendment, Councillor Read stated that footfall in the Town Centre was up by one million visits in the last 2 years. This was in part due to regeneration activity, the increase in events, and in recent

months, the Street Safe Team who worked to make it a better and safer environment. He listed some of the work that had been undertaken by the Street Safe Team and stated that sacrificing that for 25 pence per week was not acceptable.

Councillor Charlotte Carter spoke in support of the amendment. She stated that the Employment Solutions Team cost the Council an astronomical amount and that if it was such a good scheme, Central Government would have invested in it. The Liberal Democrats did not believe that pretend police with no powers were the solution. Councillor Carter disagreed with Councillor Collingham that projects should be given time to fail in order to teach Labour a lesson. She stated this was a waste of residents' money. Further, she stated that Selective Licensing had failed for 10 years and given the Council's poor track record; it should not be investing more money from general taxation. In relation to events, Councillor Carter agreed that events were good for Rotherham but stated that the basics, like emptying bins, had to come first.

Councillor Jones did not support the amendment due to the removal of investment in Selective Licensing enforcement. He stated that this was much needed in order to stop residents being exploited. He also supported further investment in the Events team which would increase footfall and, therefore, support local businesses. Councillor Jones questioned how the Liberal Democrat proposal to make 12 people unemployed would help reduce unemployment as stated. He also stated that the Street Safe Team acted as a deterrent which would help safety.

Councillor Cusworth spoke about a number of successful events that had been held in Rotherham such as the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show at Wentworth Woodhouse in 2025, the Reytons Concert in 2024 and the Women's Euros in 2022. She also spoke about a number of free local events for families and young people. Councillor Cusworth explained that she was very proud of these events and of the proposals to invest further. As such she would be voting against the amendment.

The second amendment was then moved by Councillor Zach Collingham and seconded by Councillor Baum-Dixon on behalf of the Conservative Group:

That the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report be accepted as proposed, with the exception of the following amendments:

COUNCIL TAX PROPOSALS

Reduce the proposed Council Tax increase from 3.95% to 3.00%, with the proposed 3.00% increase being made up of a basic Council Tax increase of 1% and a 2% increase through the Adult Social Care precept (ringfenced for Adult Social Care).

The reduction in the proposed Council Tax will create a funding shortfall of £1.320m in 2026/27, £1.372m in 2027/28, and £1.427m in 2028/29.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

1. Increase the Pride in Place (PIP) Programme by £1.188m for 2026/27 to provide further investment into areas of the Borough that are not covered by the 2 Government PIP programme funds. This increased financial investment will be funded by £721k of surplus Recovery Grant Uplift funding announced within the Final Financial Settlement, borrowing requiring £27.9k per annum of revenue to cover the financing costs and £188k savings generated from these Budget proposals.
2. Increase the Roads, Footways and Highway Drainage Repairs to 2029 programme by £1m to provide further investment in the Borough's Roads and Footways for 2026/27. This increased financial investment will be funded by borrowing requiring £75k per annum of revenue to cover the financing costs.
3. Deliver the Ward Road Safety Plans investment of £160k all in 2026/27, rather than across 2026/27 and 2027/28. This proposal brings forward financial investment funded by borrowing, a year earlier than planned, as such there is an additional revenue impact of £8k in 2026/27 over the position within the existing Budget proposals.
4. Increase the proposed investment in the Transportation Minor Works Programme Extension by £81k per annum from 2026/27 to 2028/29. This increased financial investment will be funded by borrowing requiring £8.1k in 2026/27, £16.2k in 2027/28 and £24.3k in 2028/29 of revenue to cover the financing costs.
5. Increase the Pedestrians Crossings Programme by £268k for 2026/27. This increased financial investment will be funded by borrowing requiring £26.8k per annum of revenue to cover the financing costs.
6. Increase the Structures 2026/27 Maintenance Programme by £300k to allow for a feasibility study and delivery of a solution to be undertaken for options to address flooding at the Wickersley underpass. This increased financial investment will be funded by borrowing requiring £22k per annum of revenue to cover the financing costs.
7. Provide £50k of capital funding in both 2026/27 and 2027/28 for a Community CCTV Fund to finance community bids for the installation of CCTV in villages, towns and urban districts to meet demand from communities, alone or on a match-funded basis. This increased financial investment will be funded by borrowing

requiring £7.5k in 2026/27 and £15k per annum of revenue to cover financing costs from 2027/28 onwards.

8. Earmark £2m of the Council's Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve to create a new Strategic Acquisitions Fund Reserve. This will provide greater capacity to make key strategic acquisitions for regeneration across the Borough as required.
9. Remove the Selective Licensing Community Impact Capital Budget. This will reduce planned borrowing by £100k each year from 2026/27 to 2028/29 and £200k in 2029/30. This will reduce borrowing costs by £10k in 2026/27, £20k in 2027/28, £50k in 2028/29.

PROPOSED REVENUE BUDGET INVESTMENTS

1. Earmark £165k in 2026/27, £163k in 2027/28 and £141k in 2028/29 to cover the financing costs of the proposed increases to the Capital Programme as referenced above Capital section.
2. Reduce the revenue investment proposal for Supporting Our High Streets by £119k from 2026/27 onwards, reducing the volume of officers proposed from 3 to 1. Rename the proposal Supporting Rotherham Business, with the 1 officer to provide targeted support specifically to small and medium-sized businesses, such as those operating from the Borough's industrial estates in Dinnington, North Anston and on Greasbrough Road.
3. Reduce the revenue investment proposal for Expanding the Healthy Holidays Programme by £263k from 2025/26 onwards, reducing the number of additional placement to 2,500.
4. Remove the Over 65's Discounted Swimming revenue investment proposal. This will release a saving of £200k in 2026/27.
5. Reduce the revenue Budget for the Employment Solutions Team by £359k, this will reduce the Council Budget from 2026/27 onwards by £359k p.a. but will require a one-off payment estimated at £133k in 2026/27 to address notice periods and redundancies for 12 FTE's currently in post.
6. Remove the Community Wealth Building revenue budget investment agreed as part of the 2024/25 Budget and Council Tax Report. This will release savings of £120k from 2026/27 onwards.
7. Reduce the £360k Baby Packs revenue budget investment agreed as part of the 2024/25 Budget and Council Tax Report by half to £180k and remove the £50k increase to this Budget proposed in the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27. Together this reduces the Councils Budget by £230k per year from 2026/27 onwards.

8. Remove the Selective Licensing Community Impact revenue budget investment proposal. This will release savings of £362,000 from 2026/27 onwards.
9. Remove the Household Waste Recycling Centre Investment (HWRC) revenue budget investment proposal. This will release savings of £129k per year from 2026/27 onwards.
10. Reduce revenue expenditure on subscriptions across the Council by 15%; £37k from 2026/27 onwards.
11. Increase the Budget in Property and Facilities Services by £50k per annum to support the recruitment of a dedicated officer to directly project manage the future of the Bailey House building and the former Regal Cinema on Corporation Street.

In moving the amendment, Councillor Zach Collingham stated that the Conservatives were offering a budget that benefitted every resident in the Borough; respected the taxpayer whilst protecting the genuinely vulnerable and invested in the fundamentals such as roads, town and communities rather than posts and programmes with no clear outcomes. The Conservative amendment proposed to reduce the Council Tax burden; accelerate regeneration and investment across the Borough; and move further and faster on road safety and infrastructure. It would restore balance between supporting the vulnerable and respecting taxpayers whilst focussing spending on results rather than bureaucracy.

He stated that it was imperative not to add to the burden caused by the cost of living crisis. It was therefore proposed that a 3% Council Tax increase be approved, as opposed to the 3.95% proposed by Labour. This would be a signal to residents that the Council understood the pressures faced. Councillor Collingham explained that the Pride in Place programme funding would be increased by over £1million to support areas not covered by the Government's scheme. £2million of the reserves would be earmarked for a wider Strategic Acquisition Fund which would provide greater capacity to make key strategic acquisitions for regeneration across the Borough as required. The Selective Licensing investments would be removed as Selective Licensing was designed to pay for itself. Councillor Collingham criticised the slow stewardship of certain piecemeal projects.

Road Safety was a key priority in the Conservative amendment. This included infrastructure, potholes, broken pavements and dangerous crossings. A further £1million would be invested in this work under the Conservative proposals. Councillor Collingham called for the Ward Safety Plans to be fast-tracked, enabling road safety schemes across the borough in one year rather than 2. Funding was to be doubled for minor works over the next 2 years and for pedestrian crossings.

The Conservative proposals suggested changes to schemes to target the most vulnerable as opposed to universal offerings. Healthy holiday placements would be extended but proportionately. Baby packs would continue to be provided but only to those who really needed them. Councillor Collingham did not believe that the Council could afford to subsidise swimming for the over 65's, at a cost of £200,000, particularly when they were, on balance, better off than any other demographic in the Borough.

Councillor Collingham was critical of the Street Safe Team, stating that they cost over £500,000 to carry the elderly's shopping. He also criticised the proposal regarding business officers and why that was need. The previous round of the Shop Grants Scheme had been run by one person and there was no need to change this. Instead of the 4 Business Support Officers, the Conservative amendment proposed employing one targeted officer who would support small and medium-sized businesses. Additionally, they would employ one officer to take charge of the Bailey House and Regal Cinema plans.

In summing up, Councillor Collingham stated that the Conservative proposals made different choices. It was about the Council delivering the simple things, treating residents with respect, fixing the roads, streets and neighbourhoods and avoiding flashy initiatives with no clear outcomes.

In seconding the amendment, Councillor Baum-Dixon stated that it invested in the Borough whilst keeping more taxpayers' money in their own pocket. It was better for taxpayers to spend money with local businesses, in local services and communities rather than it coming into the Council and being lost in programmes, initiatives and teams that delivered little in return.

Councillor Baum-Dixon criticised the proposals relating to the new business advisors, stating that businesses did not need a small army of Council appointed advisors, who had never run a business themselves, telling them what to do. The Council should instead work at removing the barriers that obstructed businesses. He explained that small and medium sized enterprises on industrial estates and trading parks were the real engines of growth and jobs and that was where the Council needed to focus. Further, he expressed concerns regarding Community Wealth and Employee Ownership as this was particularly complex.

Instead of these schemes, Councillor Baum-Dixon believed that the Council should be focussing on the basics such as road safety, potholes, dangerous crossings and broken pavements. Works such as these kept getting held up with reviews, consultations etc. It was time to stop waiting and start fixing.

Further, Councillor Baum-Dixon was critical of the proposals relating to Household Waste Recycling Centres, stating that residents did not need recycling shops or greeters. This would slow everything down, increase queues and cause traffic.

In conclusion, Councillor Baum-Dixon stated that the Conservative amendment focused on practical outcomes rather than expanding bureaucracy. It replaced delay with action and bureaucracy with delivery and results.

Members were invited to speak on the Conservative amendment.

Councillor Williams stated that it was the same old Conservative ideas: cutting funding; cutting and scaling down services; and cutting support from children and families. He referenced the cuts to the Healthy Holiday programme and the Baby packs scheme along with the cuts to the Employment Solutions Team and High Street business support. Councillor Williams stated that the amendment would negatively impact children, newborns, families, the unemployed, high street businesses and the over-65's.

In relation to his portfolio of Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, Councillor Williams was critical of the proposals to remove support for local high streets in Swinton, Wath, Dinnington, Maltby and the Town Centre, instead replacing that support with one officer to support the thousands of Small and Medium Enterprises across the whole Borough. He asked how that was practical and expressed his pride in the Labour proposal to provide dedicated support backed by £25,000 for each area. Regarding the Pride in Place scheme, Councillor Williams explained that it was the Conservative Government that set the boundary for what areas would be included. He asked what steps the Conservative Councillors had undertaken to raise their concerns then. A decade of investment was underway in relation to roads across the Borough and the Labour proposals included £2.75 million to support this.

Councillor Lelliott objected to the assumption that the business advisors would not know how to run a business. Whilst she supported the suggestion of an officer for Small and Medium Enterprises, she stated that that should be in addition to the advisors, not in place of them. In relation to the discount for over-65's swimming, she explained that the state pension was £230 per week and after rent, bills, food and other essentials that did not leave a lot for recreational activities. She stressed the importance of activities such as swimming for both mental and physical health. Councillor Lelliott disagreed with always focussing on money rather than social value, which she stated could be seen in the Conservative proposals for reducing the Baby Pack Scheme and Healthy Holidays clubs. Expanding the clubs would only result in benefits for children and young people. Councillor Lelliott encouraged Conservative Councillors to visit the clubs and see the good work that was being done and to talk to residents who struggled to afford such things.

Councillor Sheppard did not support the amendment and claimed it was short-sighted. The Baby Packs Scheme would cost more to administer if it was not a universal offering. A new team would have to be established to administer this process which would go against the Conservatives claims that they did not want to create extra teams. He was also critical of the proposals to remove investment from the Household Waste Recycling Centres, stating that it was a good investment for the environment and for the pockets of residents.

Councillor Clarke was critical of the proposals to slash the expansion of the Healthy Holidays programme by 75%. She spoke of her personal experience of visiting these clubs and seeing the benefit it brought to young people. She stated that expanding the scheme was not a fanciful waste of money but a worthwhile investment that delivered evidenced based public health benefits for families.

Councillor Cusworth explained that Labour in Rotherham were committed to giving every child in Rotherham the best start in life. She stated that the Conservative amendment would not help all, but just some. She explained the benefits of the Baby Pack Scheme, particularly how the pack connected families to support. The Universal nature of the scheme meant families did not fall through the cracks, there was no stigma and it reached families that might not otherwise engage.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester agreed with some of the points made by the proposer and seconder of the amendment. He agreed that there was a cultural problem at the Council regarding the excessive time taken to deliver projects. He agreed that the Pride in Place scheme was divisive and left out areas that needed help and support. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester agreed that over-65's should not be the priority for discounted swimming, and he was concerned this was done by Labour simply to appeal for votes in the 2028 elections.

However, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester did not support the cuts to holiday clubs, stating that demand was outstripping support. Cuts to schemes such as this would have a real long term negative impact and as such, he could not support the amendment. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester did thank the Conservatives for proposing different ideas for debate rather than just cuts.

Councillor Currie echoed the comments made by Councillor Clarke in relation to the holiday clubs. He stated that he could not support an amendment that proposed cuts to this scheme or to the Baby Packs scheme. Councillor Currie did support some of the inclusions in the amendment but felt they could be additions rather than replacements. Overall, however, he felt that the amendment was an attack on the vulnerable and an attack on helping people be healthy and having a good start in life.

Councillor Tarmey questioned who the amendment was actually helping. He stated that £500,000 was being taken away from the Borough's children and from the over-65's. He stated that the Conservatives were opposed to Labour's business advisors offering advice to high street shops but supported having an officer providing advice to Small and Medium Enterprises that had not asked for that advice.

Councillor Marshall spoke in support of the proposal to give over-65's discounted swimming. She stated that the pilot scheme would initially run for one year and would aim to improve activity levels, reduce loneliness and reduce some of the demand on Adult Social Care Services. Regarding Household Waste Recycling Centres, Councillor Marshall stated that the investments would reduce the need for agency staff and provide new opportunities for upcycling.

Councillor Ball spoke in support of the amendment. He stated that over-65's did not need discounted swimming as they got enough exercise taking their bins in and out. He explained that the amendment was about reducing the proposed Council Tax increase from 3.95% to 3% and shielding hard working families from unnecessary burdens and investing where it counted. This included investing in roads, footways, Ward safety plans and pedestrian crossings. Investments would also be made in drainage to prevent flooding in places like Wickersley. An investment of £50,000 in community CCTV would make communities safer.

Councillor Reynolds stated that national Government and local government could not create jobs. They could create the right atmosphere and environment to help, however, he was critical of the approach to Baby Pack funding.

Councillor Hughes stated that the Conservative Group operated with an "I'm alright Jack" attitude and they did not care about issues that did not impact them. She explained that it was for individual families to register for a Baby Pack, not for Councillors to decide who was worthy of getting one. It was about collective responsibility and looking after those in society that needed it. Councillor Hughes said the amendment was an attack on the most vulnerable.

Councillor Baker-Rogers highlighted that, of the 11 bullet points under the heading "proposed revenue budget investments" in the amendment, 9 started with either remove or reduce. She stressed the health benefits of the discounted swimming proposals, and she questioned the sense in cutting the Employment Solutions Team.

Councillor Read referenced Councillor Baum-Dixon's comments regarding the re-use shop at Household Waste Recycling Centre's slowing down traffic. He stated that this had not been a consideration because handing-down items and upcycling, was an important part of how the world worked and it should be encouraged. He criticised Councillor Collingham for belittling the Street Safe Team for helping the elderly carry their shopping.

Councillor Read also disputed Councillor Collingham's comments that the Council had found itself with some funding. He stated that this did not happen by accident and was about choices. He did not believe that the choices the Conservative Group had made in their amendment were good enough for Rotherham residents.

Councillor Steele stated that he would not be supporting the amendment. He said that the Conservatives did not help anyone but themselves and this had been throughout history. Councillor Steele said the proposals took away instead of helping.

As per the Council's Constitution, the votes on the amendments took place in reverse order of receipt.

The first vote was on the Conservative amendment. On being put to the vote, it was lost.

The Liberal Democrat amendment was then put to the vote and was lost.

As no amendment had been carried, the substantive motion submitted by the Labour Group was opened for debate.

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, stated that he was proud of the positive commitments and investments in the Labour proposals. He referenced the £80,000 of funding per year for 2 years to develop Road Safety Plans for every Ward. £260,000 would support the Council's Pedestrian Crossing Programme alongside the pieces of work already underway to design five additional pedestrian crossings. Councillor Williams highlighted the work to improve Treeton Crossroads, and this had been a road safety concern for some time.

Councillor Currie was supportive of the investments in litter picking and he asked how litter picking volunteers could be brought together. He also referenced the combination of The Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant, Local Stop Smoking Services Grant, Individual Placement and Support Grant and the Swap to Stop programme into one Public Health Grant. Councillor Currie welcomed the investment in the Housing Revenue Account but queried what could be done regarding parking on grass verges. He also expressed his support for the Town Centre events and requested that Rotherham By The Sea be brought back.

Councillor Ball stated that this was not a Labour budget as it did not protect working people from higher taxes. He stated that Sir Kier Starmer had said Council Tax would not increase but the Rotherham Labour group was proposing a near 4% increase. Councillor Ball said the Conservative amendment was about support without excess whereas Labour's budget broke promises. He questioned why taxes had to go up when more

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funding had been received. Councillor Ball objected to Asylum Seekers being given gym memberships and tax payers money being used for this.

Councillor Thorp did not think the business advisors were needed or wanted and he questioned the numbers around the discounted swimming proposals.

Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces, highlighted various proposals relating to her portfolio. This included the replacement of Herringthorpe Athletics Track, upgrades to the building at Ulley Country Park and roadside cleaning. She encouraged all to attend the St George's day event in Clifton Park in April.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester responded to the comments made by Councillor Ball and stated that if he wanted people, such as Asylum Seekers, to integrate into society, you had to give them access to society. In relation to the budget proposals, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester referenced the upkeep of communal areas on Housing Revenue Account land. He stated that the upkeep was funded by the HRA but many residents that benefitted from these services no longer paid rent into the HRA. He asked if any kind of long term budget strategy could be developed in terms of moving this into the General Fund.

Councillor Zach Collingham stated that the Labour proposals overreached on Council Tax and did not deliver the funding needed to see wider regeneration or road improvements across the Borough as a whole. It did not address the issues regarding the length of time taken to deliver projects and would result in wasteful spending. Councillor Collingham looked forward to holding the administration to account over this.

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing, thanked all Members for supporting the proposals in relation to the Welfare Rights Service. The continuation of funding for this Service by the Council would allow specialist welfare benefits advice to be provided to those residents experiencing a cancer diagnosis. Councillor Beresford asked Councillor Bennett-Sylvester to contact her outside of the meeting regarding the specific piece of HRA land referenced and she would look into the matter.

Councillor Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health, expressed her support for the budget as it did what a Council was supposed to do. It looked to improve the quality of life of residents, no matter their age, where they lived or their individual needs.

Councillor Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, spoke in support of the budget. She stated that it brought clear benefits to families across Rotherham and was a family friendly budget. The expansion of the Healthy Holidays programme and increase in school uniform support would ease financial pressure on families whilst helping children access healthy food and essential clothing. Additional investment in universal youth work and new youth service

vehicles would improve outreach, reduce anti-social behaviour and provide safe, positive opportunities for young people in all communities. Councillor Cusworth also highlighted improvements at Crowden Outdoor Education Centre.

Councillor Baum-Dixon did not think the budget proposals demonstrated a wise use of public money. Whilst he believed that the vulnerable should be helped, the Council had to learn to step away when it was not needed and leave people to make their own decisions. Councillor Baum-Dixon stated that this was an over-reach and the Council were getting involved in things they would be better off staying out of.

Councillor Steele stated that this was a budget to help people. Whilst the Conservatives offered cuts, the Labour Group offered support and a commitment to look after people. He acknowledged that these Services cost money and this money was raised through taxation, but he believed the budget proposed was fair.

Councillor Pitchley spoke of her own experience of swimming when recovering from a stroke and how beneficial that was. She stated that it was sad that some stroke survivors would not have been able to continue with the swimming therapy due to the cost and she, therefore, supported the proposals to make swimming more affordable. Councillor Pitchley stated that support should be given to those that needed it and the inclusive nature of the support proposed throughout the budget meant any stigma associated with asking for help would be removed.

The Leader was invited to respond to the debate as mover of the proposals.

In response to Councillor Currie, the Leader confirmed that a celebration event for litter pickers was planned for the summer. He acknowledged the issues regarding parking on grass verges but stated this was difficult to address. However, in relation to parking near shops and the planning process, the Leader confirmed that he and Councillor Williams would come back to Councillor Currie if there was anything that could be done. He could not commit to bringing back the Rotherham By The Sea event.

The Leader stated he would not take any lessons on Labour principles from Councillor Ball. He stated that Councillor Ball was closely associated with the former MP for Rother Valley who had seemed outraged that support would be put in place to help people with cancer access additional financial support.

There was no easy answer to Councillor Bennett-Sylvesters concerns around HRA funding for communal spaces, but he would keep asking the questions.

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In relation to Councillor Baum-Dixons comments about donating to charity, the Leader stated that whilst this was a worthwhile endeavour, it did not address the points made by Councillor Pitchley that many people did not have the confidence to ask for help, did not know where to ask for help and felt embarrassed about asking for help. It was those people that the Labour budget sought to help.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, and the Council's Constitution, a recorded vote was taken for this item, on the proposals as set out in the report, as follows:

For: Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Alam, Allen, Baggaley, Baker-Rogers, Bennett-Sylvester, Beresford, Brent, Clarke, Cowen, Currie, Cusworth, Duncan, Elliott, Garnett, Harper, Hughes, Ismail, Jackson, Jones, Keenan, Lelliott, Marshall, Mault, McKiernan, Monk, Pitchley, Rashid, Read, Sheppard, Steele, Sutton, Taylor and Williams. (35)

Against: Councillors Bacon, Ball, Baum-Dixon, Blackham, A. Carter, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Fisher, Hall, Harrison, Reynolds, Stables, Tarmey, Thorp, Tinsley and Yasseen. (18)

Abstention: Councillors Bower and Hussain. (2)

Resolved:

That Council:

1. Approves the Budget and Financial Strategy for 2026/27 as set out in the report and appendices, including a basic Council Tax increase of 1.95% and an Adult Social Care precept increase of 2%.
2. Approves the extension to the Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme, that will provide up to £131.44 of additional support to low income households accessing the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme. It will support those most financially vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills as described in Section 2.5.15.
3. Approves the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2028/29, as described within Section 2.6.
4. Approves the Reserves Strategy as set out in Section 2.8 noting that the final determination of Reserves will be approved as part of reporting the financial outturn for 2025/26.

5. Delegates authority to the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport in consultation with the Service Director of Financial Services and Cabinet member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to approve the specific detailed allocations and use of the Local Plan Reserve.
6. Notes and accepts the comments and advice of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer), provided in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as to the robustness of the estimates included in the Budget and the adequacy of Reserves for which the Budget provides as set out in Section 2.14.
7. Notes the feedback from the public and partners following the public consultation on the Council's budget for 2026/27 which took place from 28 November 2025 to 9 January 2026, attached as Appendix 5.
8. Approves the proposed increases in Adult Social Care provider contracts and for Direct Payments as set out in Section 2.4.
9. Approves the proposed approach and increases in Children's Social Care costs as set out in Section 2.4.23.
10. Approves the revenue investment proposals set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 2.
11. Approves the proposed revenue savings set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 4.
12. Approves the Council Fees and Charges for 2026/27 attached as Appendix 7.
13. Approves the application of the Business Rates Reliefs as set out in Section 2.10, in line with Government guidance.
14. Approves the use of the additional £10m Recovery Grant Uplift announced as part of the Final Financial Settlement 2026/27 to address the Budget gap of £9.3m in 2028/29 and provide £0.7m further investment into the Council's Roads Programme in 2026/27.
15. Approves the proposed Capital Strategy and Capital Programme as presented in Section 2.12 and Appendices 3A to 3F.
16. Approves the Treasury Management matters for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 9 of this report including the Prudential Indicators, the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Investment Strategy.

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17. Approves the continuation of the principles and measures adopted since April 2020 to make faster payments to suppliers on receipt of goods, works and services following a fully reconciled invoice as described in Section 2.11.
18. Approves the procedure for Budget allocations for the Community Leadership Fund as set out in Section 2.9.
19. Approves that the Capital Programme Budget continues to be managed in line with the following key principles:
 - (i) Any underspends on the existing approved Capital Programme in respect of 2025/26 be rolled forward into future years, subject to an individual review of each carry forward to be set out within the Financial Outturn 2025/26 report to Cabinet.
 - (ii) In line with Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules 7.7 to 7.11 and 8.12, any successful grant applications in respect of capital projects will be added to the Council's approved Capital Programme on an ongoing basis.
 - (iii) Capitalisation opportunities and capital receipts flexibilities will be maximised, with capital receipts earmarked to minimise revenue costs.

Councillor Sheppard declared a personal interest in Minute No. 127 – Recommendation from Cabinet – Budget and Council Tax 2026-27 and Medium Term Financial Strategy - on the basis that there were proposals relating to Selective Licensing Areas and he lived in a Selective Licensing Area. As this was a personal interest, Councillor Sheppard took part in the debate and vote on the item.

128. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2026-27 MUNICIPAL YEAR AND INDICATIVE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2027-28 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Consideration was given to a report, submitted in accordance with the rules of procedure as detailed in the Council's Constitution, that set out the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

Council were also asked to note the indicative Calendar of Meetings for 2027/28. This would be brought back to Council in March 2027 for formal approval.

Resolved:

1. That the Calendar of Meetings for the 2026-27 Municipal Year be approved.

2. That the Indicative Calendar of Meetings for the 2027-28 Municipal Year be noted.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

129. RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFFING COMMITTEE - PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2026-27

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27, attached at Appendix 1, for approval. The Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 was received by the Staffing Committee on 9th February 2026, alongside the request to recommend to Council.

Councillor Currie asked if details of the employer contribution pension cuts and their implications would be taken to Staffing Committee. Councillor Alam stated that a written response would be provided.

Resolved:

1. That Council approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27 (Appendix 1) as recommended by Staffing Committee on 9th February 2026.

Mover: Councillor Alam

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

130. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

**COUNCIL MEETING
13th March, 2026**

Present:- The Mayor of Rotherham (Councillor Rukhsana Ismail) (in the Chair); Councillors Rashid, Adair, Alam, Baggaley, Baker-Rogers, Ball, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Beresford, Blackham, Bower, Brent, A. Carter, Clarke, Z. Collingham, Currie, Elliott, Fisher, Garnett, Harper, Jones, McKiernan, Monk, Read, Reynolds, Ryalls, Steele, Sutton, Tarmey, Taylor, Thorp, Tinsley and Williams.

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

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

131. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, A. Carter, C. Carter, T. Collingham, Duncan, Hall, Hughes Jackson, Keenan, Lelliott, Marshall, Mault, Pitchley and Stables.

132. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

In accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Minute No. 80 of the Council meeting held on 5th November, 2025, it was before the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to admit Christine Lunn MBE as an Honorary Freewoman of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham.

The Mayor began the meeting by introducing Mrs. Lunn MBE and welcoming her guests. She explained that to be granted the title of Honorary Freeman/Freewoman of the Borough was a mark of distinction upon the person that the Council wished to honour.

It was confirmed that Christine Lunn MBE had been awarded the Freedom in recognition of her outstanding service to Children and Young People across the Borough as a Foster Carer with over 50 years' service and in recognition of fostering over 250 young people.

It was noted that the proposal had been endorsed by the Mayor, the Leader of the Council and the leaders of the Opposition Groups.

The Mayor read the following citation:

Members, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, and pursuant to a resolution passed at the Council meeting held on 5th November 2025, the Council hereby admits:

Mrs. Christine Lunn MBE as an honorary Freewoman of the Borough of Rotherham.

Members joined the Mayor in congratulating Mrs. Lunn MBE on the award.

Mrs. Lunn MBE was then invited to sign the Roll of Honorary Freewomen along with the Mayor and Chief Executive of the Council. She was then presented with the framed illuminated address and pendant.

Mrs. Lunn MBE responded by stating that it had been one of the greatest privileges of her life to provide a safe place with plenty of love for so many children. She was honoured to be part of the story of the children and babies that had shared her and her husband Pete's home and family life. Mrs. Lunn expressed her pride at continuing to have long lasting relationships with some of the children that she had cared for over the years.

The Mayor confirmed that a civic reception would be held for Mrs. Lunn MBE, her guests and Members following the conclusion of the meeting.

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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| CR/LH | (01709) 822700 | 22700 | Councillor Chris Read |

23rd January 2026

T

Dear T

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question to Council on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

Do you accept that the one totally consistent aspect of RMBC's culture since 2015 has been extensive efforts to silence victims, survivors and those who stand up for victims and survivors?

I do not. From the moment councillors chose to invite Alexis Jay to undertake her review, through to the support for Operation Stovewood and the partnership Trauma and Resilience approach, the establishment of support services for victims and survivors and the recommissioning of these in line with the views of those service users, through to the workings of the Evolve team, at each turn our intention has been to hear from – and more importantly to learn from – victims and survivors of CSE.

That has certainly been a difficult thing for some individuals who have been part of the council over those twelve years, and we will not have got everything right. Doubtless our successors will not get everything right in the future either. But repeated independent, external assessment has seen that there has been a sea change in the council's approach.

Because we acted, dozens of perpetrators of child sexual abuse have faced justice and more will do. Hundreds of survivors of CSE have received support and counselling that they would not otherwise have been able to access. And thousands of children are safer in Rotherham today.

The Council does not claim to have all the answers to tackling child exploitation, there is always more to do to keep children and young people safe from predatory exploiters. However, our focus remains on listening to, and learning from, our children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families in trying to eradicate this awful abuse of those who are most vulnerable.

Accordingly, as I said when you attended council in November, I am more than happy to receive representations for you, or to discuss your concerns further. You have not made contact with me during that time, but if you wish to do so then that offer of course stands.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

Councillor Donna Sutton – South Yorkshire Pension Authority**Spokesperson**

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Please Contact:
Councillor Donna Sutton

2 February 2026

Councillor Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

Via email: taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Yasseen

Question at Council – 14th January 2026

Thank you for your supplementary question raised at the Council meeting on 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

Could SYPA commit to publishing, on an annual basis, a summary of its engagement with LAPFF, a breakdown of how SYPA voted on the forums alerts, and explicit information on whether the pensions fund has diverged its decision making from the forum in terms of escalation of recommendations?

Firstly, apologies for the delay in responding. The SYPA Investment Team has been engaging with our pool manager, Border to Coast, on this topic to understand what could be provided. Border to Coast is responsible for voting and engagement activity on SYPA's behalf.

We will be able to provide a summary of how Border to Coast voted relative to LAPFF. As the majority of Border to Coast's votes are aligned with LAPFF's, it is likely that we will report this on an exception's basis – highlighting the differences and providing supporting narrative on why there was a difference of opinion. We propose to include this within our quarterly Responsible Investment reporting to the Authority, rather than on an annual basis.

With regards to reporting on escalation – the nature of engagement is long-term and involves multiples stages, many of which could be classed as escalation to varying degrees. Hence the accompanying narrative to any engagement is really the key factor. Our quarterly Responsible Investment reports therefore aim to provide summaries and case studies of engagement activity, including where escalation has taken place.

We would note that certain voting topics can be subjective in nature - and we wouldn't necessarily see it as a red flag when Border to Coast's and LAPFF's thinking occasionally diverges. We appreciate that this is a point of interest though.

I'd also be very happy to have a conversation on any of this if that would be useful.

Yours sincerely

D Sutton

Councillor Donna Sutton
South Yorkshire Pensions Authority Spokesperson

**Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy**

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21st January 2026

Cllr Greg Reynolds
Elected Member

Via email: greg.reynolds@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Reynolds,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

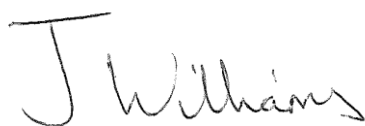
Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

How many brownfield sites were actually considered by the Whitestone solar project?

As you are aware, the application for Whitestone Solar Farm will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate as it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. I can advise you that there is no specific national planning policy requirement to consider Brownfield sites first and the Council does not have this information available. However, the Council's Planning service have requested that the applicant address this point regarding their assessment of Brownfield sites within their final Environmental Statement which they will need to submit to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Development Consent Order.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper

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20th January 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

Via email: paul.thorp@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Thorp,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

Under Towns and Villages funding the Stag area got £150,000 but as the project started there was a problem, as the department running this TV funding found out there were plans to build another much needed cycle lane, so part of the work planned never happened, so where did this fund go to 18 months on still no answers.

I can advise that the Towns & Villages works to Stag Roundabout comprised of:

- Planting to Stag roundabout and the outer environs.
- Footpath resurfacing around Stag roundabout including the vehicle access crossings to entrances to the shop forecourts.
- Planting and Christmas tree installation to Worrygoose roundabout.
- Resurfacing to the footway on Worrygoose Lane and the vehicle access crossing to the shops, and installation of street furniture.

As there was a conflict with a planned transportation scheme to extend the cycleway, the planting works planned for the outer environs of Stag roundabout were omitted from the project. All other works were completed, and the total project cost exceeded the original allocation of £150k, therefore the funding was not reallocated elsewhere but instead used to complete this project.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper

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Councillor Lynda Marshall – Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces

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Our ref

LM/LH

Please Contact

Cllr Lynda Marshall

Direct Line

01709 822465

4th February 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

Via email: paul.thorp@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Thorp

Question at Council – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your supplementary question at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January 2026 where you asked to be provided with the data on how many times bins had not been collected due to excessive waste over the Christmas period for the last ten years.

I can advise that whilst we do not hold that specific information, there is a member session arranged for the 12th February 2026, where an overview will be provided in relation to service disruptions.

I hope you are able to join the session on the 12th February.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Lynda Marshall

Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces

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21st January 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

Via email: Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

The Rothbiz article "Transport funding diverted to Rotherham Gateway Station project" inferred funding was set to be diverted from areas such as the Mushroom Roundabout. Is the station being built at the expense of continued congestion on the A630 in Dalton?

I would like to reassure you that there was no funding for a Mushroom Roundabout improvement scheme planned from this pot of funding.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper**

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21st January 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

Via email: Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

What has been the cost of deploying parking enforcement officers at Forge Island since October and what is the estimated loss of revenue from parking charges since the Arc cinema opened?

I can advise that the civil enforcement officers deployed at Forge Island are part of our existing team, so the only additional costs have been approximately £6,000 of additional overtime for early starts. In terms of lost revenue, the Council was always planning to introduce charges mid-year and always expect it to take a while for those parking to adjust their habits - as such, it's very difficult to estimate the lost income. We are working to have the system up and running as soon as possible.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper

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23rd January 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

Via email: Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

We are seeing several businesses in the Howard Street using the public highway to display goods in a variety of forms and cooking food. Is this allowed?

I can advise that in some cases the use of public highway to display goods is allowed. The use of the public highway to extend the business operation of adjacent premises would require planning permission for a change of use and consent from the Highway authority, unless the area is part of the forecourt of the premises who are using it. The term 'forecourt' is an additional area that is owned or leased by a business and is usually in front of the premises.

However, there are no forecourt areas on Howard Street and planning permission has not been granted for any use of the highway for the display of goods or cooking food other than associated with the outdoor market. If these displays are causing problems, then I am happy to refer them to officers for further consideration.

Class 6 of the Advertisement regulations also grants consent to display notices, signs and advertisements to draw attention to any commercial services, goods for sale, or other services available at the premises.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper**

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21st January 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

Via email: Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

What are the requirements for community groups and leaders to participate in decision making for Pride in Place funding?

I can advise that the Pride in Place initiative emphasises the role that community groups and leaders can play in revitalising their communities.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published the Pride in Place prospectus on 3rd December 2025. This document clarified roles and responsibilities and provides information for community groups and Neighbourhood Boards and now makes clear the role of MPs and the Local Authority.

The Neighbourhood Boards are the required mechanism to act as a conduit into communities, taking responsibility for engaging with communities and involving them in decision making. The prospectus stipulates that Boards should aim to become a community-led delivery vehicle within three years of the programme start date.

The role of the Local Authority is to support Neighbourhood Boards in the creation of their Pride in Place Plan, and to act as the Accountable Body for the programme funding. The Council will continue to offer its support in facilitating meetings of the Board and establishing the Board as a delivery vehicle.

The role of the MP is more prominent in the new prospectus, and they will lead the process of forming the Neighbourhood Board and selecting the Chair.

Work is now underway in the two Pride in Place areas in Rotherham to create the Neighbourhood Boards, which are required to have majority membership from local communities in those areas.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor John Williams

Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper

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20th January 2026

Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

Via email: taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

Why did Council not require/guide the solar farm developers to hold consultation events within the directly affected villages (Brampton-en-le-Morthen, Harthill, and Todwick) rather than primarily outside these communities, ensuring local residents most impacted had accessible opportunities to engage and provide feedback on the solar farm proposals?

I can advise that prior to the public consultation events, the Council's local planning authority and Neighbourhoods team were consulted on the statement of community consultation. It was considered that the number and location of the proposed public drop-in sessions were sufficient to meet the consultation requirements for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects as defined in the Planning Act and included, amongst others, both Harthill and Todwick.

As I understand it, events were held at 8 different locations between 2nd and 15th October, including both Harthill and Todwick.

The Council will be responding to the Development Consent Order when it is submitted and will have an opportunity to respond to the Planning Inspectorate on the adequacy of consultation at this time.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper**

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20th January 2026

Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

Via email: taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

Will the Council explicitly record in its report that the solar farm proposal would take Best and Most Versatile (BMV) productive arable farmland, conflicting with:

- ***Government’s planning policy & ministerial guidance to avoid BMV land & prioritise brownfield/lower-grade land,***
- ***Government’s Land Use Framework***
- ***Local food security aims,***

Therefore, urge the Labour Government to better protect the borough’s best farmland?

I can advise that a chapter within the applicants’ Environmental Statement considers agricultural land classification across the whole site. The local planning authority will therefore undertake its own technical aspects of the planning process, including the production of a Local Impact Report. This process must be undertaken impartially, in line with the requirements of planning rules, in order to protect the integrity of the process, and these issues, including the use of the Best and Most Versatile (BMV) productive arable farmland will form part of its response to the Development Consent Order in its local impact report.

Nevertheless, as you are aware the Council did take the step of passing a motion at our previous Council meeting on the 5 November 2025 which will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate when the DCO is submitted. The motion resolved to:

1. Express its view that the current Whitestone proposal does not enjoy the support of this Full Council.
2. Calls on the developer to heed the views of the Borough's elected representatives at all levels, withdraw their current proposal, hear the voices of local residents, and significantly scale back any future proposals.
3. Support steps to ensure that local communities are fully informed about the process should a Planning application be made, to ensure that local views, experience and expertise can be heard throughout.

In addition, as the motion noted, members on all sides of the chamber have written to the applicant expressing their concerns and the Leader has raised the issue in a letter to Ministers.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor John Williams

Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper

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20th January 2026

Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

Via email: taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

Has the Council commissioned or reviewed an independent assessment of the environmental and agricultural impacts of losing approximately 4,700 acres of productive Rotherham farmland to the proposed solar farm development, including effects on soil quality, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and local food production?

I can advise that the Council will consider these issues as part of the local impact report and as the Development Consent Order has not yet been submitted, work on the local impact report has not yet commenced.

The Council will be consulting appropriate experts to provide an independent and specialist assessment on these issues to inform the local impact report.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper

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20th January 2026

Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

Via email: taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

What consideration has been given to the loss of local heritage and landscape character, particularly where parts of the proposed solar farm site are recorded in the Domesday Book and include listed buildings and public rights of way?

I can advise that initial comments on the draft Environmental Statement have been provided to the applicant, which considers heritage matters and public rights of way considerations.

Further discussions will take place between the developer and the local planning authority before the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO). The aim of these meetings is to address the concerns raised by the local planning authority on the draft Environmental Statement which include, amongst other things, matters relating to local heritage and public rights of way.

Furthermore, the Council will respond to these and other issues in its local impact report when the DCO is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper

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20th January 2026

Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

Via email: taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

Given Whitestone's electricity will be sold at gas linked market rates, offering no reduction to residents in household bills while profits flow to overseas investors, what concrete local benefits such as guaranteed jobs, business rates retention, or ring-fenced community funding will the council demand for residents to justify supporting the scheme in any form?

I can advise that the applicant has suggested that there will be a community fund available should the Development Consent Order (DCO) be approved. No details of this have been submitted to date and the local planning authority cannot demand any form of community funding to enable support for the scheme as it is not considered necessary in planning terms.

The local planning authorities' role in considering a National Significant Infrastructure Project is limited to that as a statutory consultee and the submission of a local impact report.

The Planning Inspectorate, as the decision maker, will consider any proposal put forward by the developer as part of a legal agreement or the DCO.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper**

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21st January 2026

Cllr Simon Currie
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Currie,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 14th January. I have set out your question and my response below.

With the recent government statement on pavement parking, what will the council be doing to ensure that the secondary legislation is introduced in 2026?

Following the Government's announcement in response to the 2020 public consultation 'Pavement Parking: Options for Change' on 8th of January 2026, I can advise that the response demonstrates the government's commitment to improve transport users' experience, ensuring that our roads and pavements are safe, reliable and inclusive while recognising that Local Leaders know their communities best, so they are in the strongest position to meet local needs effectively.

The Council already has its own pavement parking policy in place, and in some parts of the borough TROs are already in place to prevent this. If you have specific areas of concern, please don't wait for the new legislation, let me know and we can consider these. I must say though that we will only put restrictions in place where these enjoy the support of local residents.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor John Williams
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy / Ward Councillor for Hooper

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Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

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

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

12th March 2026

Councillor Simon Currie
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Currie

Council Meeting – 4th March 2026

Thank you for your question at Budget Council on Wednesday 4th March 2026, where you asked if details of the employer contributor pension cuts and their implications would be taken to Staffing Committee.

I can advise that the reduction in the employer's contribution rate will have no impact on the pensions that Council employees receive or on the rate that they pay into the SYPA through their salary.

I've set out below the key difference between the employer's rate and the employee's rate for your information.

Employer's Contribution Rate:

The employer's contribution rate is reviewed every 3 years by the SYPA and is set to ensure that the SYPA holds sufficient funds to pay out its liabilities now and in the future. Those liabilities being paying out the pensions of members of the scheme as they fall due.

If the SYPA funding position shows that the fund is in deficit the rate will be increased, if the fund is in surplus then the rate will be decreased. In this instance the SYPA is over 140% funded, so it has sufficient funds to cover its liabilities 1.4 times. This is a very strong surplus and as such the Council working with the SYPA have reached a proposal to reduce the Council's contribution rate by 5.2%.

Employee's Contribution Rate:

The employee contribution rate is set nationally for Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS).

Local authority employee pension contributions are set based on annual pensionable pay bands, typically ranging from 5.5% to 12.5%. The Council does not control these rates and the proposed changes to the employer's contribution rate have no impact on these employee's contribution rate.

Therefore, given the above, I can confirm that there isn't a need for this to go through Staffing Committee.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



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

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 22 April 2026

Report Title

Petitions

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

No

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

John Edwards, Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Samantha Mullarkey, Governance Advisor
01709 247916 or samantha.mullarkey@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 ordinary Council meeting held on 14 January 2026 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 Executive Director be required to respond to the lead petitioners, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Thursday 7 May 2026.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Grant Licensed Taxi Drivers access to bus lanes across Rotherham

Appendix 2 – Improved Road Safety and School Crossing - Thorpe Hesley Primary School

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

PetitionsPetitions

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 Executive 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 ordinary Council meeting held on 14 January 2026 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision-making processes.

2. Key Issues

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

| Subject | Number of Valid Signatures | Lead Petitioner | Directorate |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Grant Licensed Taxi Drivers Access to Bus Lanes across Rotherham | 59 | Councillor Simon Ball | Regeneration and Environment |
| Improved Road Safety and School Crossing - Thorpe Hesley Primary School | 117 | Katie Dawson | Regeneration and Environment |

- 2.2 The details of these petitions can be found in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report.

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 petitions 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 ordinary Council meeting held on 14 January 2026. 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 Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment to provide a written response.

5.2 The Executive 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 Thursday 7 May 2026.

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 petitions referred to earlier in this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no known implications for partners arising from the petitions 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 – Grant Licensed Taxi Drivers access to bus lanes across Rotherham

We the undersigned petition the council to amend local traffic regulations to permit licensed taxi drivers, both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, to use designated bus lanes throughout the borough. This change would align Rotherham with best practices in sustainable and efficient urban mobility, benefiting our community without compromising the priority given to buses.

I, Councillor Simon Ball, on behalf of residents, licensed taxi drivers, and regular users of public transport in Rotherham, respectfully present this petition to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Currently, bus lanes in Rotherham are reserved exclusively for buses and, in some cases, cyclists, leaving taxis to navigate congested general traffic. I urge RMBC to introduce a policy allowing licensed taxis full access to these lanes during operational hours, subject to clear signage and enforcement to prevent misuse. This could be implemented via Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), similar to those used elsewhere in South Yorkshire.

Evidence from Neighbouring Authorities

Rotherham should not lag behind its South Yorkshire neighbours in supporting vital public transport services. A review of policies in nearby councils reveals a clear trend towards inclusion:

- Sheffield City Council permits taxis to use bus lanes and gates, recognising them as essential public transport alongside buses, cycles, and authorised vehicles. This policy extends to both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, fostering smoother traffic flow in a comparable urban setting.
- Doncaster Council explicitly allows “permitted taxis” to use bus lanes where indicated by signage, alongside buses and cycles, during restricted hours. This exemption is enforced to ensure compliance while prioritising mobility for taxi users.
- Barnsley Council, by contrast, restricts bus lanes to buses and occasionally cyclists, with no provision for taxis despite long-standing requests from the local trade dating back to at least 2013. This outdated approach highlights an opportunity for Rotherham to lead regionally by adopting a more progressive stance.

By granting access, RMBC would harmonise regulations across the Yorkshire and Humber region, reducing cross-border confusion for drivers and passengers alike.

Key Benefits of Allowing Taxi Access to Bus Lanes

Permitting licensed taxis into bus lanes would deliver tangible advantages for Rotherham’s residents, economy, and environment. These include:

1. **Faster and More Reliable Journeys:** Taxis could bypass congestion, shortening travel times during peak hours, crucial for commuters, shift

workers, and those attending medical appointments for example at Rotherham Hospital.

2. Enhanced Accessibility for Vulnerable Groups: Elderly residents, disabled passengers, and families with young children rely heavily on taxis as a flexible alternative to buses. Quicker access would improve independence and reduce isolation, aligning with RMBC's inclusive mobility goals.
3. Reduced Overall Congestion and Emissions: By keeping taxis moving, fewer vehicles would idle in general lanes, easing pressure on the road network and lowering carbon emissions through more efficient routing supporting Rotherham's net-zero ambitions.
4. 4. Economic Boost for the Local Taxi Trade: Rotherham's licensed drivers provide an essential service, transporting numerous passenger trips annually. Streamlined operations could lower operational costs, potentially stabilising or reducing fares while sustaining jobs in a vital sector.

These benefits are evidenced in councils like Sheffield, where taxi access has contributed to smoother public transport integration without increasing bus delays.

Call to Action

I call upon RMBC to convene a public consultation within the next three months to explore this policy change, engaging taxi representatives, bus operators, and residents. A pilot scheme on high-traffic corridors would allow data-driven evaluation, ensuring any implementation is evidence-based and reversible if needed.

Rotherham deserves a modern transport system that values all forms of public mobility. By acting now, RMBC can enhance connectivity, support local businesses, and position our borough as a forward-thinking leader in South Yorkshire.

I urge you to respond positively to this petition and commit to progress.

Appendix 2 – Improved Road Safety and School Crossing - Thorpe Hesley Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs S Hewitt

Thorpe Hesley Primary School
Upper Wortley Road, Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham, S61 2PL
Tel: 0114 2570153
@thorpehesleyprimaryrotherhamch.uk/
Email: THPOffice@ncl.ac.uk

Petition for Improved Road Safety and School Crossing

To: Rotherham MBC Road Safety

Lead Petitioner: Katie Dawson, Operations Officer Thorpe Hesley Primary School

Subject: Urgent Request for Enhanced Road Safety Measures On Brook Hill, Thorpe Hesley.

We, the undersigned, are parents, guardians, residents, and concerned members of the community who care deeply about the safety of children and pedestrians around Thorpe Hesley Primary School. The current school crossing point on Brook Hill, present significant risks to our children, families, and staff due to:

- High traffic volume
- Insufficient visibility and signage for drivers
- Lack of adequate speed control measures
- Limited protection for pedestrians at the present crossing point

Our Concerns:

Children are among the most vulnerable road users. Every day, they navigate busy roads to reach school, often without the necessary infrastructure to ensure their safety. The current crossing point on Brook Hill poses a risk and issues with accessibility for wheelchair users and families with prams and pushchairs.

The current crossing point does not meet the standards required to protect them from harm.

We Request the Council to:

1. Upgrade the existing school crossing to a safer, more visible design (e.g., zebra crossing with flashing lights or a signal-controlled crossing).
2. Install clear signage and road markings to alert drivers to the school zone.
3. Implement speed reduction measures, such as speed bumps or a reduced speed limit during school hours.
4. Consider additional safety features, such as crossing guards or barriers, where appropriate.

Why This Matters:

Improving road safety around schools is not just a precaution—it is a necessity. Every child deserves to travel to and from school without fear of traffic accidents. By taking action now, the council will help prevent potential tragedies and create a safer environment for everyone.

We urge you to prioritize this issue and work with the community to implement these changes as soon as possible.



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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 22 April 2026

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update – April 2026

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)

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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 – April 2026

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 2025 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 September 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:

- Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update
- November 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report
- Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Update
- Rotherham Baby Packs: Outcomes and Future Commissioning
- Inclusion Strategy and Annual Report
- Budget and Council Tax Report 2026-27
- Best Start Plan 2026-2029
- Transport Capital Programme 2026/27
- Community Governance Review
- Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27
- Crisis and Resilience Fund
- Climate Emergency Annual Report

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

- November 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report:
Information as to whether any work is done by CYPS to look to commission services from not-for-profit organisations, which may help in mitigating the impact of constant price increases from private sector providers, be provided. (in response to a question from Cllr Monk).
- Rotherham Baby Pack: Outcomes and Future Commissioning:
OSMB receive an update in twelve months, via a method of delivery to be determined, detailing the number of Baby Packs issued, broken down by ward, to enable effective monitoring of geographical take-up and to support efforts to improve engagement in areas of higher deprivation across the borough.
- Inclusion Strategy and Annual Report:
That OSMB receive a follow-up report in twelve months, via a method of delivery to be determined, which clearly demonstrates how the strategy and its associated actions have been embedded and provides direct reporting against each individual action.
- Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy:
OSMB recommends the Council review and refines its approach to producing reports, ensuring that they are clearer, more concise, and easier to read. Streamlined reporting will also help to reduce

printing requirements, contributing to lower costs and supporting the Council's work to improve its carbon footprint.

- Crisis and Resilience Fund:
OSMB asked that confirmation be provided of whether the Crisis Payments would be a payment to the tenant or to the landlord and sought clarification regarding whether the free school meal entitlement was in operation for those children who were home educated.

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.

3.2.3 Other items that have been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are:

- Question and Answer session with the Leader of the Council
- Medium-Term Financial Strategy Update
- Access to Contraception Review Report
- Question and answer session, Mayor Coppard, South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority

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:

The group met to confirm the status of the 2022 motion on life saving equipment and related bylaws, concluding that the motion had already been discharged and the current review had inadvertently duplicated earlier work.

3.4 Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. information briefing, workshop etc) update:

- Waste Service Route Optimisation (Joint with IPSC):

An update on progress following the implementation of Waste Service Route Optimisation programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months via a method of delivery to be determined.

- Street Safe Team (Joint with IPSC):

An update on the progress following the implementation of the Street Safe Team programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months via a method of delivery to be determined.

- Replacement of refuse vehicles:

Information briefings to be provided to give an update on the procurement of the new refuse vehicles and progress against the target for renewal of the fleet. These briefings should be split to represent the different phases of the programme.

- Public on-street bin collections:

An information briefing to be provided regarding the emptying of public bins. This information should include details of how overflowing bins can be reported, how often collections are scheduled for and how those are monitored, what joint arrangements are in place with Parish Council's, if any, and a list of the locations of bins under RMBC management, if available.

- IT Systems:

Workshop to be arranged for members of OSMB to understand what IT systems the Council is using, what the purpose of those systems is, are those systems as up to date as possible, how updates to those systems are managed, how the Council is using artificial intelligence (AI), is the Council using outdated technology, and was the Council spending too much or too little in this area.

- Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme:

Agreed that an information briefing be provided to share the details of the commissioned VCSE organisations and their geographic reach with members of OSMB.

3.5 Items for Future Consideration update:

3.5.1 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 May 2026.

- Town Centre Developments (Forge Island, Markets & Library Redevelopments (Joint with IPSC):

An initial site visit to be arranged to consider a midterm evaluation of the Market's redevelopment including a briefing detailing information on construction costs, the retention of market traders along with information on the plan for encouraging new businesses.

- Energy Efficiency:

An information briefing to be provided to members of OSMB and IPSC to provide information on the energy efficiency retrofits in social housing. This should cover aspects such as the feasibility and prioritisation of upgrades to heating systems and insulation across the borough. It would include details on how these retrofits align with the Council's net-zero goals, what potential funding was available to support this and timescales for implementation.

4. Health Select Commission – Update on activity

4.1 Scrutiny work:

4.1.1 Since January 2026, 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:

- Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) Annual Report and Strategic Plan 2025-2028:

Members scrutinised the RSAB Annual Report 2024/25 and Strategic Plan 2025–2028, which described performance during the previous year and set out its objectives over the next three years. Members sought assurances that the system was able to respond to increasing safeguarding activity and sustain reduced risk reported over time; that training, workforce capacity and multi-agency arrangements remained effective; that voice, advocacy and engagement with seldom-heard groups was robust; and that learning from reviews, data on abuse and neglect, and forward-looking commitments in the strategic plan translated into measurable improvements, clear accountability and deliverable timescales.

- Access To Contraception Review Report:

Members reflected on the report prepared by the working group drawn from the Health Select Commissions membership and considered the recommendations and broad ambitions it outlined. The Commission supported the recommendations and long-term broad ambitions as described at Paragraph 6 of the review report presented to them, and its subsequent presentation to OSMB and Cabinet.

- South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Cancer Alliance Lung Clinic Update:

Members scrutinised the update report and supporting presentation provided by South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Cancer alliance, further to the briefing members received in May 2025. A small group of Health Select Commission members, along with Counterparts from Barnsley also benefitted from a joint site visit to the clinic which provided valuable operational insights and helped to inform and focus the discussions.

The Commission sought assurances that the temporary joint Lung Clinic was safely improving service resilience, access and patient experience without disadvantaging Rotherham patients. Discussions considered the clinic's ability to strengthen clinical cover, maintain local treatment, and deliver patient and staff satisfaction, whilst acknowledging and exploring known challenges such as parking, public transport and IT issues. Members noted that a full 12-month evaluation will guide any long-term strategic and operational decisions and encouraged the replication of identified good practice across other clinical disciplines where that could be of benefit.

- Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) Centre Implementation Update:

Members scrutinised the update presentation provided by The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) further to the original proposals being presented to the Commission in March 2025. A small group of Health Select Commission members benefitted from a site visit to the Centre which provided valuable operational insights and helped to inform and focus the discussions.

The Commission sought assurances that the new SDEC Centre is easing pressure on the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (commonly referred to as A&E) and improving safe, timely patient flow. Discussions reflected that the SDEC, funded through a £7m national investment, is expanding front-door capacity, supporting "right clinician, right place" care, showing rising attendances and early improvements in 4-hour performance, and receiving positive patient feedback. More detailed operational impact and broader outcome data will be evaluated after 12 months.

- TRFT (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust) Annual Report:

Members reflected on TRFT's successes and challenges over the previous 12 month, building on the Commissions consideration of the Trust's Quality Account in April 2025. Members sought reassurances in respect of digital innovation and its impact on exclusion, health inequality initiatives, on patient experience improvements, community service expansion and financial sustainability.

- 4.1.2 Since the last update to Council, the Health Select Commission have also received the following reports for information to enhance understanding of

the strategic landscape and support agenda planning and work programming considerations:

- Director of Public Health's Annual Report
- Confirmation of Supplementary Public Health Grants for 2026/27 - Cabinet Report

4.1.3. At the next meeting of the Commission in May 2026, members will scrutinise the following items:

- NHS 10 Year Plan - Local Implications incorporating NHS Neighbourhood Health Services
- Adult Social Care CQC Inspection Outcome
- Menopause Review Report

4.1.4. The Work Programme for the Health Select Commission 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:

- SDEC (Same Day Emergency Care) Centre Site Visit

On 24 February 2026, Councillors Brent, Fisher, Harper and Thorp attended the SDEC Centre at Rotherham Hospital to experience the investment in facilities and the impact the establishment of the facility was having on patient experience and operational effectiveness across Primary and Emergency Care. Members commented how much added value the site visit brought to their understanding of the impact of the facility, and the operating environment in general and are keen to undertake site visits in relation to future scrutiny items where they present a similar opportunity to add value.

- Joint Lung Clinic Site Visit:

On 19 March 2026, Councillors Brent, Clarke, Garner, Harper and Harrison attended the Earl of Scarborough Suite at Rotherham Hospital where the Joint Lung Clinic is based, in company with representatives from Barnsley Council's scrutiny function to experience the impact the establishment of the facility was having on patient experience and operational effectiveness connected with their care. This site visit informed subsequent discussions when the associated item was considered at the 26 March 2026 Health Select Commission meeting as detailed above. Members commented how much added value the site visit brought to their understanding of the impact of the facility, and the

operating environment in general and are keen to undertake site visits in relation to future scrutiny items where they present a similar opportunity to add value.

- **Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032 Consultation:**

The service has liaised with the Health Select Commission and agreed a date in late April for formal early engagement in consultation in relation to the development of the 2027-2032 Adult Social Care Strategy. The Commission recognises that this offers a meaningful opportunity for Members to put forward views and help shape the Strategy that will support Rotherham residents into the next decade.

- **Quality Accounts:**

Contact has been received from Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust (RDaSH) and The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) regarding their 2025-26 Quality Accounts which are expected to be with the Health Select Commission for review and formal response during April 2026. Contact is awaited from Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) regarding the same.

5. Improving Lives Select Commission – Update on Activity

5.1 Scrutiny Work:

5.1.1 Since the last update the Improving Lives Select Commission at its February 2026 meeting focused on key areas relating to:

- **Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Update** – Members received a verbal update following the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board meetings held on 9th December 2025 and 3rd February 2026.
- **OFSTED Inspection Outcome** – Members received the outcome of the Inspection of Children’s Services (ILACS) by Ofsted in November 2025. This was a judgement Short Inspection, and the Local Authority received an Overall Effectiveness grade of Outstanding. All sub-categories also received a grade of Outstanding with the exception of ‘the experiences and progress of Care Leavers’, which received a Good. There were two improvement actions, both related to Care Leavers.
- **Educational Attainment Update** – Members received a report which provided a comprehensive overview of Education and Inclusion performance in Rotherham for the 2024/25 academic year. It built on the detailed Education Performance Outcomes briefing to present the information in a format tailored and highlighted where outcomes were improving and where concerted action was required. It framed performance through the lens of improving life chances, tackling inequalities (disadvantage, SEND and ethnicity) and strengthened inclusion across the system.

5.1.2 At its March 2026 meeting the Commission also considered in detail:

- Community Recovery Fund - Children's Services - Members received the report and presentation which provided a detailed update on the delivery of the Community Recovery Fund projects in Children and Young People's Services over the past 12 months. The programme had been delivered by a range of organisations including direct delivery by Rotherham Council services, direct delivery by the voluntary sector and a grants budget which would allow for further solutions to be co-created and co-designed with community groups and prioritised as part of an overall co-ordinated approach.

Members welcomed the update and the positive information that was shared.

- Children Not in School Update – Members received the report and associated appendices which provided in-depth information and assurance regarding activity in relation to Children Not in School in Rotherham to enable the Commission to receive an update regarding this area of work. The Elective Home Education, and Exclusions dashboard also provided a breakdown of the characteristics of the respective cohorts to enable further scrutiny.

A positive discussion took place which allowed Members to fully explore the detail and ask questions.

- SACRE Annual Report 2024/25 – Members received the Annual Report of the Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) for the academic year 2024–2025, which summarised advice to statutory bodies, the standards and quality of Religious Education (RE) and collective worship in Rotherham schools, the work of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), and SACRE's contribution to wider Council priorities.

The report highlighted strengthened membership (notably secondary RE specialists), successful CPD and interfaith engagement, progress towards reviewing the local Agreed Syllabus, and one determination (Thornhill Primary School).

Members noted the Annual Report and endorsed the forward actions for 2025–2026, including enhanced subject leader support, the South Yorkshire RE Conference and development of school visits/visitors' guidance.

The work programme is attached at Appendix 3.

5.2 Pre- Decision Scrutiny:

5.2.1 A pre-decision scrutiny session suggested at the March meeting had now been agreed with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. This Board made up of young people have reviewed their programme of work

and were developing their own strategy to underpin their agreed priorities going forward and had invited Improving Lives Select Commission to contribute. This will take place with several Improving Lives Members and be incorporated as part of the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board on 28th April 2026 at 4.00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

5.3 Sub and Project Group Work:

- 5.3.1 At the March 2026 meeting a progress report was received on the ongoing review about the impact of secondary school policies on school attendance levels and ensuring an education for vulnerable children and/or trauma experienced children and how this impacted the Council's broader duties of safeguarding and school attendance.

In January 2026 a questionnaire was sent to all secondary schools in the borough to seek background information relating to how they supported children who were vulnerable or have experienced trauma. Despite repeated attempts by officers only a small number of responses were received.

The Chair of Improving Lives placed on record her thanks to the schools that did respond. The information provided was extremely useful and, in some cases, very detailed, thus providing a high level of assurance that those schools were operating in a trauma-informed way. The schools were to be written to directly to thank them for their responses and congratulate them on their work.

The lack of engagement did mean that continuing with the review was not possible at this time. However, a Cabinet Member working group was being explored with a range of partners and if this proceeded then Members of Improving Lives and Health would be invited to join and contribute.

5.4 Items for Future Consideration Update:

The meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 28th April 2026 would include on its agenda:

- Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Update.
- Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report 2024-2025.
- Child Exploitation Strategy Update.

6. Improving Places Select Commission – Update on activity

6.1 Scrutiny work:

- 6.1.1 Since January 2026. 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 IPSC has scrutinised reports and made recommendations on:

- Flooding Alleviation Update:

Members of IPSC were provided with an update on the Council's ongoing Flood Risk Management works across the borough, along with detail on the six priority Flood Alleviation Scheme Projects. This included the Whiston Brook scheme, which received Cabinet approval in January 2026 for the allocation of £3 million from Strategic CIL funding.

- Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report:

Members of IPSC received an update from the Head of Neighbourhoods on progress on the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and the Neighbourhood Working model over the course of the year 2024-2025.

IPSC Members made recommendations that: 1) a regular six-monthly update be provided to IPSC on the work of the Town Centre Strategic Group and the Town Centre Operational Group; and 2) service work to create an easy to read, accessible summary document for public distribution, providing an annual summary of the Impact of Neighbourhood Working across the borough.

- Review of Events 2025-26

Members received an update from the Events team, and a representative from partner agency Flux, on the programme of borough-wide events that had taken place over the last year, including the range of events that ran throughout the Children's Capital of Culture year.

Members congratulated service on delivering a wide range of successful events and on ambitions for the year ahead. Members provided feedback that improvements could be made in the future with regard to increased community engagement and better communication to publicise events.

- Draft Playing Pitch Strategy:

This item provided Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny prior to presentation of the strategy to Cabinet in April. Members welcomed the thorough review of playing pitch facilities across the borough and the opportunities for improvement. Members were particularly impressed by the innovative portfolio work being carried out by the Sports Team with the Football Foundation in relation to 3G football pitches.

Members endorsed the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy to go forward to Cabinet for approval. Members also requested that service return to IPSC once the strategy was underway to provide an update on the work

done with sporting governing bodies, partners and organisations to ensure that access to pitches is inclusive across the borough and that appropriate community use agreements are in place.

6.2 Pre-decision Scrutiny:

As set out above, at the March meeting, IPSC Members had opportunity to consider the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy prior to it being presented to Cabinet for approval in April 2026. IPSC endorsed the Playing Pitch Strategy to go forward to Cabinet for approval.

In late April 2026, IPSC Members will also get the opportunity to be involved in pre-decision scrutiny and co-production work on the Draft Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy (see below).

6.3 Sub and Project Group work:

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

- School Road Safety Review:

This review continues to progress. A number of productive and informative meetings have taken place over the last few months, and the review group have considered a range of issues that impact on school road safety, including crossing patrol and enforcement. It is hoped that a meeting with representatives from SYMCA (including the Active Travel Commissioner) can be arranged in the near future and the Governance Advisor will work with Members of the review group to pull together recommendations.

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

- Market/Library Redevelopment Site Visit:

The site visit to the Market/Library redevelopment took place on the afternoon of Tuesday 10 February 2026 with the following Members of IPSC and OSMB - Cllrs Steele, McKiernan, Tinsley, Jones and Thorp (in place of Cllr Bacon). Cabinet Members Cllrs Williams and Marshall also attended, along with officers from Regeneration & Environment. The visit provided a very useful insight for Members into current progress on the development and how the site will look and flow once finished. It is anticipated that IPSC Members will have the opportunity to attend the relevant OSMB meeting, once a further update on the redevelopments is due to Cabinet in May 2026.

- Draft Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy Workshop:

It is planned to host a workshop for IPSC and wider Members at the end of April to provide for collaboration and co-production on the draft

Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy. This new strategy will demonstrate how council services and partners will continue the support they provide to Ward Members in their community leadership role. This will lead onto work on a new Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy later in the year.

6.5 Items for Future Consideration Update:

At the next scheduled meeting of IPSC on 21 April 2026, Members will have opportunity to scrutinise the following items:

- Allotments Annual Update
- Update on Pride in Place

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 | 14/4/2026 |
| Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer) | Judith Badger | 13/4/2026 |
| Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer) | Phil Horsfield | 13/4/2026 |
| Service Director of Human Resources (if appropriate) | N/A | N/A |
| Head of Human Resources (if appropriate) | N/A | N/A |
| The Executive Director with responsibility for this report | Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement | 13/4/2026 |
| Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member | N/A | N/A |

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

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2025-26

Chair: Councillor Brian Steele
Governance Manager: Barbel Gale

Vice-Chair: Cllr Joshua Bacon
Link Officer: Phil Horsfield

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 | Responsible Officer | Agenda Item |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Wednesday 7 May 2025 | Sharon Kemp / Jo Brown | Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision |
| | Ian Spicer | Review of the Non-Residential Charging Policy - Pre-decision |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| | Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions |
| Wednesday 4 June 2025 | Judith Badger / Rob Mahon | Finance Update - June 2025 - Pre-decision |
| | Sharon Kemp / Jo Brown | Social Value Annual Report - Pre-decision |
| | Ian Spicer / John Holman | Employment Solutions 2025-26 - Pre-decision |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions | |
| Wednesday 2 July 2025 | John Edwards / Jo Brown | Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update 2024-25 - Pre-decision |
| | Judith Badger | Ethical Procurement Policy - Pre-decision |
| | Judith Badger / Rob Mahon | Financial Outturn 2024- 25 - Pre-decision |
| | Judith Badger / Rob Mahon | Treasury Management Outturn 2024-25 - Pre-decision |
| | Judith Badger / Rob Mahon | May 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions | |
| Tuesday 9 September 2025 | Andrew Bramidge / Simon Moss / Fiona Fletcher | Progress update on the implementation Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme |
| | Barbel Gale | Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-2025 |
| | Judith Badger / Rob Mahon | July 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Andrew Bramidge / Emma Ellis | Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028 - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Judith Badger / Kevin Fisher | Investing in our Community Facilities - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions | |
| Wednesday 8 October 2025 | Andrew Bramidge | Rotherham Employment & Skills Strategy - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Andrew Bramidge | Selective Licensing Policy - Pre-decision scrutiny - joint with IPSC |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| | Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions |
| Wednesday 12 November 2025 | Judith Badger & Rob Mahon | Medium Term Financial Strategy Update - Pre-decision scrutiny. |
| | Craig Cornwall, Lewis Coates & Andrew Bramidge | General Enforcement Policy - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Andrew Bramidge/Sam Barstow | Call-In - Selective Licensing |
| | Fiona Boden | Complaints Annual Report |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions | |
| | Lindsay Wynn & Rob Mahon | 2026/27 HRA Business Plan & Rent Setting - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Judith Badger | Inclusion Strategy and Annual Report – Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Andrew Bramidge | Library Strategy – Pre-decision scrutiny |

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| Wednesday 10 December 2025 | Simeon Leach & Andrew Bramidge | Rotherham Employment & Skills Strategy - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| | Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions |
| Tuesday 13 January 2026 | John Edwards | Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update - Pre-decision |
| | | Leader Q&A - to be scheduled after Council plan on the agenda. |
| | Judith Badger & Rob Mahon | November 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report – Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Andrew Bramidge & Andy Duncan | Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Update – Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Judith Badger & Rob Mahon | MTFS Presentation |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions | |
| Tuesday 3 February 2026 | Judith Badger & Fiona Boden | Inclusion Strategy and Annual Report - Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| | Ian Spicer | Rotherham Baby Packs – Outcomes and Future Commissioning - Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| | Kerry Grinsill-Clinton | HSC - Access to Contraception Review Report |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions | |
| Wednesday 4 February 2026 | | Question and answer session, Mayor Coppard, South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority. |
| | Judith Badger & Rob Mahon | Budget and Council Tax Report 2026-27 - Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| Wednesday 11 March 2026 | Andrew Bramidge / Nat Porter | Transport Capital Programme 2026/27 – Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| | Nicola Curley / Helen Sweaton / Niall Devlin / Alex Hawley | Best Start Plan 2026- 2029 – Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| | Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions |
| Wednesday 8 April 2026 | Andrew Bramidge | Climate Emergency Annual Report - Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| | Mike Thomas | Community Governance Review – Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| | John Edwards | Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27 – Pre-decision Scrutiny |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions | |
| Wednesday 6 May 2026 | Jayne Metcalfe | Progress Update on Future Rothercare Model |
| | Ian Spicer | Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026 2031 - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Andrew Bramidge | Rotherham Markets and Libraries - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Andrew Bramidge | Selective Licensing Community Impact - Pre-decision scrutiny |
| | Barbel Gale | Work Programme |
| | Each Governance Advisor | Work in progress from Select Commissions |
| Barbel Gale | Forward Plan of Key Decisions | |
| Substantive Items for Scheduling | | |
| July 2026 | | Leader Q&A - to be scheduled after Council plan on the agenda. |
| Jul-26 | John Edwards | Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision |
| Sep-26 | Kevin Fisher & Judith Badger | Investing in our Community Facilities - An update report be provided in 12 months to include the updated condition survey results, where available. |
| Expected September 2026 | Mat Dyson | Children's Commissioners Takeover Challenge |
| Nov-26 | Andrew Bramidge / Simon Moss / Fiona Fletcher | Progress update on the implementation of the Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme - The programme will be a good way through year 2, therefore members will receive an update on both year 1 outcomes, year 2 developments and target forecasts. |
| Reviews for Scheduling | | |
| Completed | Sam Barstow | A spotlight review - Life-saving equipment and related byelaws |
| Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. Information briefing, workshop etc) | | |
| Autumn 2026 | Andrew Bramidge | An update on progress following the implementation of Waste Service Route Optimisation programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months via a method of delivery to be determined. |
| Autumn 2026 | Andrew Bramidge | An update on the progress following the implementation of the Street Safe Team programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months via a method of delivery to be determined. |

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|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Sep-26 | Andrew Bramidge | Replacement of refuse vehicles: Information briefings to be provided to give an update on the procurement of the new refuse vehicles and progress against the target for renewal of the fleet. These briefings should be split to represent the different phases of the programme. |
| June / July 2026 | Andrew Bramidge / Sam Barstow | Public on street bin collections: Information briefing to be provided regarding the emptying of public bins. This information should include details of how overflowing bins can be reported, how often collections are scheduled for and how those are monitored, what join arrangements are in place with Parish Council's, if any, and a list of the locations of bins under RMBC management, if available. |
| TBC | Luke Sayers | IT Systems: Workshop to be arranged for members of OSMB to understand what IT systems the Council is using, what the purpose of those systems is, are those systems as up to date as possible, how updates to those systems are managed, how the Council is using artificial intelligence (AI), is the Council using outdated technology, and was the Council spending too much or too little in this area. |
| TBC | Fiona Fletcher | Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme: Agreed that a briefing be provided to share the details of the commissioned VCSE organisations and their geographic reach with members of OSMB. |
| Items for Future Consideration | | |
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| Cross Commission scrutiny opportunities | | |
| Ongoing | Andrew Bramidge | Town Centre Developments (Markets & Library Redevelopments) - visit completed February 2026. Opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny via OSMB when update submitted to Cabinet. |
| TBC | Ian Spicer/Sarah Clyde | Energy Efficiency: An information briefing to be provided to members of OSMB and IPSC to provide information on the energy efficiency retrofits in social housing. This should cover aspects such as the feasibility and prioritisation of upgrades to heating systems and insulation across the borough. It would include details on how these retrofits align with the Council's net-zero goals, what potential funding was available to support this and timescales for implementation. |
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Appendix 2:**Health Select Commission – Work Programme 2025-2026****Chair: Cllr Keenan****Vice-Chair: Cllr Yasseen****Governance Advisor: Kerry Grinsill-Clinton****Link Officer: Emily Parry-Harries**

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 tight 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 | Responsible Officer | Agenda Item |
|--|---|--|
| 26-Jun-25 | Jayne Metcalfe, Cllr Baker-Rogers Simon Moss, Gilly Brenner and Cllr Williams Governance Advisor | Adult Contact Team Referral Pathway (Adult Social Care) Health Hub Nominate Representative to Health, Safety and Welfare Panel |
| 31-Jul-25 | Dania Pritchard, Cllr Baker-Rogers Kym Gleeson Cllr Clarke | ADASS Peer Review Healthwatch Annual Report Yorkshire Cancer Research White Rose Report Update |
| 12-Sep-25 | Governance Advisor | Access to Contraception Evidence Gathering Session |
| 16-Sep-25 | Governance Advisor, Cllr Keenan | Menopause Workshop |
| 23-Sep-25 | Governance Advisor | Access to Contraception Evidence Gathering Session |
| 02-Oct-25 | Gilly Brenner, Cllr Baker-Rogers Bob Kirton, Helen Dobson Jackie Scantlebury, Cllr Baker-Rogers Dania Pritchard, Cllr Baker-Rogers Alex Hawley, Cllr Baker-Rogers | Physical Activity for Health (Sport England) TRFT Annual Report Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025–2028 How Did We Do - Adult Social Care Local Account (For Information Only) Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030 (For Information Only) |
| 08-Oct-25 | Governance Advisor | Access to Contraception Evidence Gathering Session |
| 20-Nov-25 | Holly Smith, Cllr Baker-Rogers Steph Watt, Emily Parry-Harries Cllr Baker-Rogers | Draft Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy 2026-29 - Pre-Decision Scrutiny Place Partners Winter Planning Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report (For Information Only) |
| 28-Nov-25 | Jacqueline Clark, Katy Lewis and Joanne Bell | Unpaid Carer's Strategy Workshop |
| 22-Jan-26 | Jackie Scantlebury, Moira Wilson, Cllr Baker-Rogers Governance Advisor, Cllr Keenan Emily Parry-Harries | Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report and Strategic Plan 2025-2028 Access To Contraception Review Report Director of Public Health's Annual Report (For Information Only) |
| 26-Mar-26 Extended Meeting (4pm - 7pm) | Jo Evans, Julia Jessop and Mark Tuckett Bob Kirton, Jodie Roberts Ian Spicer, Councillor Baker-Rogers | Cancer Alliance Lung Clinic Update SDEC (TRFT) Implementation Update Confirmation of Supplementary Public Health Grants for 2026/27 - Cabinet Report (For Information) |

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|------------------------------|--|---|
| 14-May-26 | Joanne Martin, Bob Kirton, Simon Langmead and Emily Parry-Harries | NHS 10 Year Plan - Local Implications incorporating NHS Neighbourhood Health Services |
| Extended Meeting (4pm - 7pm) | Ian Spicer, Councillor Baker-Rogers Governance Advisor, Cllr Keenan | Adult Social Care CQC Inspection Outcome Menopause Review Report |

Substantive Items for Scheduling

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Reviews for Scheduling

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| 2026/27 municipal year | | Access to NHS Dentistry - Review (to follow conclusion of the Menopause Report) |
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Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc)

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Jan 2026 | Jayne Metcalfe, Kirsty Littlewood | AI Implementation in Adult Social Care (Adult Contact Team Referral Pathway) Update - Off Agenda Briefing. (Circulated 12/01/2026) |
| April/May 2026 | Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Cllr Keenan | Quality Accounts |
| 28 April 2026 | Cllr Baker-Rogers, Kirsty Littlewood, Dania Pritchard | Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032 Consultation |
| | | |
| | | |

Items for Future Consideration

| | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| TBC | TBC | Learning Disabilities Update (Castle View) |
| June/July 2026 | Simon Langmead | Primary Care Network (PCN) Development |
| June/July 2026 | TBC | Immunisation Programme Commissioning Changes |
| Sep-26 | Garry Parvin | Consultation/Co-production engagement with HSC re All Age Autism Strategy Refresh |
| Early-Mid 2027 | Garry Parvin | All Age Autism Strategy Pre-Decision Scrutiny |
| Sept/Oct 2026 | Cllr Baker-Rogers, Gilly Brenner, Carole Foster | Physical Activity for Health (Sport England Main Bid and progress update) |
| TBC | Bob Kirton | ERCP Reintroduction at TRFT |
| Nov-26 | Cllr Baker-Rogers, Dania Pritchard | Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032 Pre-Decision Scrutiny |
| Sept/Oct 2027 | Cllr Baker-Rogers, Holly Smith, Scott Matthewman | Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy - Mid point review of delivery |
| Summer 2026 | Cllr Williams, Simon Moss, Gilly Brenner | Health Hub Development Phase 2 |
| | | |

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

Chair: Councillor Monk

Governance Advisor: Natasha Aucott/ Debbie Pons

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 | Responsible Officer | Agenda Item |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 17-Jun-25 | Monica Green/ Chris Macdonald | Draft Kinship Local Offer (pre-decision scrutiny) |
| | N/A | Closed session following meeting to discuss and draft 2025-2026 work programme |
| 22-Jul-25 | Helen Sweatton/ Anne Hawke | CYPS Performance Report 2024-2025 |
| | Niall Devlin/Sarah Whitby | Elective Home Education Revised Policy (pre-decision scrutiny) |
| 16-Sep-25 1 substantive agenda item | Helen Sweatton | CAMHS Update including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual update on children's social, emotional and mental health- updates on all provision for children with SEMH needs, CAMHS services including pathways, interventions and waiting lists, and support children are able to access from wider provisions such as the education and voluntary sector. • Neurodiversity Update- service update, Choice and the Peer Support Service. |
| 04-Nov-25 | Stuart Williams | Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2028 Update |
| | Niall Devlin/ Cary- Anne Sykes | Revised SEND Sufficiency Strategy- pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet in February 2026)- will also include a progress update on the SEND Inspection areas for improvement. |
| 28-Nov-25 | Scott Matthewman/ Jacqueline Clarke | Unpaid Carers Strategy Workshop (HSC Workshop with ILSC invited due to young carers aspect) |
| 02-Dec-25 | Nicola Curley | Fostering Transformation Programme incorporating the update on the Response to the Prevention of Future Deaths Report |
| | Chris Macdonald/ Darren Downs | Rotherham Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Annual Assurance Report 2024-2025 |
| 10-Feb-26 | Nicola Curley | Ofsted Inspection Outcome |

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|
| | Niall Devlin | Educational Attainment Update |
| 17-Mar-26 | Kelly White | Community Cohesion Projects Update- Building Bridges Together Project and the Together for Tomorrow Project Update |
| | Niall Devlin | Children Not in School Update (including EHE, CME, exclusions, attendance and part time provision). |
| | Niall Devlin | SACRE Annual Report 2024-2025 (for information) |
| 28-Apr-26 | Sam Barstow & Niall Devlin | Safeguarding Children From Radicalisation (Prevent Programme Update and Keeping Children Safe in Education Update) |
| | Stuart Williams | Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report 2024-2025 |
| | TBC | Child Exploitation Strategy Update |

Substantive Items for Scheduling

| | | |
|----------|-----|---|
| Date TBC | TBC | Revised Neglect Strategy- For Information only (2026 onwards) |
|----------|-----|---|

Reviews for Scheduling/ on-going

| | | |
|-----------|-----|--|
| Cancelled | N/A | Reviewing the impact of secondary school policies on school attendance levels and ensuring an education for vulnerable children and/or trauma experienced children |
|-----------|-----|--|

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

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Early 2026 | RPCF - Jayne Fitzgerald | Rotherham Parent Carers Forum Update - RPCF vision and plans, voice of the community and the impact of the work completed with partners. Visit and workshop. |
| TBC | Cary-Anne Sykes | SEND Threshold of Needs Document Update - Workshop |
| Early 2026 | TBC | Support available for women who have had one or more child removed, following cessation of PAUSE Project. Potential workshop. |
| March/April 2026 | Polly Hamilton | Childrens Capital of Culture Workshop- Impact and Legacy for Children and Young People. |

Items for Future Consideration

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|
| TBC (awaiting inspection) | TBC | Ofsted Inspection Outcome (including any action plans/ improvements). |
| TBC (awaiting inspection) | TBC | Youth Justice Service update/ HMIP Inspection Outcome (including any action plans/ improvements), |
| October 2026 onwards | TBC | Kinship Local Offer Progress Update. |
| July 2026 onwards | Sam Barstow | Domestic Abuse Strategy Update. |

Improving Places Select Commission – Work Programme 2025-26**Chair: Cllr Cameron McKiernan****Vice-Chair: Cllr Adam Tinsley BEM****Governance Advisor: Kristianne Thorogood****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 tight 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 | Responsible Officer | Agenda Item |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Tuesday 10 June 2025 | Chris Willis | Independent Review of the Muslim Burial Provision in Rotherham |
| | John Holman, Sarah Watts | Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy |
| | Governance Advisor | Housing Strategy 2022-25: Action Plan Update/ Final Report |
| | Governance Advisor | Nominate representative to the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel |
| Tuesday 8 July 2025 | John Holman, Luke Chamoun, Levi Karigambe | Tenant Scrutiny Review on Tenancy Health Checks |
| | Governance Advisor | Work Programme 2025-2026 |
| Tuesday 2 September 2025 | John Holman, Sarah Watts, Garry Newton | Housing Strategy 2025-2030 |
| | Andrew Bramidge, Emma Ellis | Review of Selective Licensing 2020-2025 |
| | Simon Moss, Megan Hinchliff | Plan for Neighbourhoods 2025-2035 |
| | Governance Advisor | Work Programme 2025-2026 |
| Wednesday 15 October 2025 | Andrew Bramidge, Emma Ellis | Selective Licensing - Joint with OSMB |
| Friday 17 October 2025 | Governance Advisor | School Road Safety Review - initial meeting |
| Tuesday 21 October 2025 | John Holman, Sarah Watts, Garry Newton | Housing Strategy 2025-2030 - Draft Action Plan |
| | Simon Moss, Lorna Vertigan | Pride in Place Programme for Rotherham Central (previously Plan for Neighbourhoods) 2025-2035 |
| | Governance Advisor | Work Programme 2025-2026 |
| Thursday 4 December | Paul Walsh/Cllr Beresford | ASB Workshop (Housing/Tenancies) @ Town Hall |
| Tuesday 16 December 2025 | Phil Horsfield / Bal Nahal / Ashleigh Wilford | Bereavement Services Annual Report |
| | Governance Advisor | Work Programme 2025-2026 |
| Tuesday 27 January 2026 | Kyle Heydon, Richard Jackson | Flooding Alleviation Update |
| | Martin Hughes | Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report |
| | Governance Advisor | Work Programme 2025-2026 |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Tuesday 10 March 2026 | Chris Siddall/Rachel Stothard Polly Hamilton/Leanne Buchan Governance Advisor | Draft Playing Pitch Strategy Review of Events 2025-26 Work Programme 2025-2026 |
| Tuesday 21 April 2026 | Polly Hamilton Simon Moss/Lorna Vertigan Governance Advisor | Allotments Annual Update Update on Pride in Place Programme Work Programme 2025-2026 |
| Substantive Items for Scheduling | | |
| Summer 2026 | Sarah Clyde | Update on Housing Stock Survey |
| Autumn 2026 | Simon Moss | Town Centre Strategy |
| Spring/Summer 2026 | Andrew Bramidge | Local Nature Recovery Strategy - South Yorkshire Mayor Combined Authority |
| Jun-26 | Sarah Clyde | Housing Strategy Action Plan Annual Report |
| Late 2026/early 2027 | Andrew Bramidge | Rotherham Gateway - Mainline & Tram/Train station |
| Reviews in Progress | | |
| In Progress | Governance Advisor & Kevin Fisher/Lucy Hudson | Scrutiny Review - School Road Safety |
| Potential Off-Agenda Briefings | | |
| Apr-26 | Chris Paddock/Martin Hughes | Draft Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy - pre-decision workshop |
| Autumn 2026 | Andrew Bramidge | Street Safe Team - Off-Agenda Briefing (joint with OSMB) providing an update on progress following the implementation of the Street Safe Team. |
| Autumn 2026 | Andrew Bramidge | Waste Service Route Optimisation - Off-Agenda Briefing (joint with OSMB) providing an update on progress following implementation of the programme |
| Potential Site Visits | | |
| Completed | Simon Moss, Lorna Vertigan | Market/library redevelopment - see below, joint with OSMB item/visit |
| Mar-26 | Andrew Bramidge | Rother Valley Country Park - new Waterfront café/centre development |
| Items for Future Consideration | | |
| Late 2026/early 2027 | Andrew Bramidge / Sam Barstow | Outcome of waste policy pilot. |
| Jun-26 | | Nominate representative to the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel |
| Cross Commission scrutiny opportunities | | |
| Ongoing | Andrew Bramidge | Joint with OSMB - Town Centre Developments (Markets & Library Redevelopments) - visit completed February 2026. Opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny via OSMB when update submitted to Cabinet. |
| TBC | Ian Spicer / Sarah Clyde | Joint with OSMB - Energy Efficiency: An off-agenda briefing to be provided to members of OSMB and IPSC to provide information on the energy efficiency retrofits in social housing. This should cover aspects such as the feasibility and prioritisation of upgrades to heating systems and insulation across the borough. It would include details on how these retrofits align with the Council's net-zero goals, what potential funding was available to support this and timescales for implementation. |

GREASBROUGH WARD

Covering Greasbrough, Wingfield,
Rockingham and Munsbrough



Councillor Linda
Beresford



Councillor Robert
Elliott

Report to Full Council

April 2026

Ward Priorities

1. Address **YOUR** concerns in relation to road safety and traffic
2. Address **YOUR** concerns in relation to Crime / ASB
3. Improve facilities for **OUR** young people
4. Support events bringing people / communities together
5. Improve the environment **YOU** live in

How these priorities were agreed

Priorities were agreed in June 2024 using a range of methods. We engaged in neighbourhoods, talking to organisations / partners and community groups. Officers presented data providing both insights from services and community profiles. This wide-ranging approach helped us to identify things that mattered most to people and local need, ambitions and aspirations.

How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

The priorities centre on 'working with' communities and placing them at the heart of all we do – hence the emphasis on **YOU / YOUR**. We aim to empower people, using a strengths-based approach to improve outcomes and support the most vulnerable.

Partnership Working

Partnership working is paramount. It underpins our role and has brought people together to solve problems, take community action and celebrate successes. We work with a diverse range of partners from different sectors, as well as services across the Council and neighbouring wards.

Progress so far

1. Address **YOUR** concerns in relation to road safety and traffic

We work closely with RMBC Transport officers who regularly provide us with updates at our Ward Briefings. Works include:-

- Metal Bollards - installed outside The Crown to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement.
- 20mph Zones - implemented on Church St, Coach Rd and Croft St. Speeds were reduced following these changes - all day mean average reduced from 29mph to 16.2mph
- Vehicle Activated Sign - installed on Fenton Rd to advise drivers if they are driving over the speed limit

www.rotherham.gov.uk/greasbrough-ward

2. Address YOUR concerns in relation to Crime / ASB

We work closely with South Yorkshire Police and RMBC officers who again regularly provide us with updated at our Ward Briefings.

- Walkabouts – various walkabouts have been undertaken with Housing Officers, Neighbourhood Team and the local Policing team.
- Bleed Kit – installed at Greasbrough Park funded by Ward Councillors alongside existing defibrillator to enhance public safety in local area.

3. Events to bring people / communities together

We have supported numerous community groups and events. These include -

- VJ Day event in August 2025 - Friends of Greasbrough Parks arranged this well attended event in partnership with Neighbourhoods Team. CLF helped fund the event
- Remembrance Sunday in November 2025 - around 800 people attended the event in Greasbrough.
- Christmas Light switch on - an annual event, very well attended by local residents. School children switch on the lights, with Thorpe Hesley brass band playing carols
- We are also working with Flux to provide activities in the Ward. Craft sessions have provided residents the opportunity to learn different techniques but more importantly, to come together, chat over a cup of tea and meet other people.
- Coach trips have also been arranged, well attended, encouraging friendship.

4. Improve Facilities for OUR Young People

We are engaging with Rockingham School Council to explore the potential installation of play equipment in the local area.

5. Improve the environment YOU live in

We work closely with RMBC Green Spaces and partners to improve local sites.

- Greasbrough Park – 6th Year with Green Flag status. It is one of only a few parks in Rotherham to have this status. It is the only park that is not managed by the Council and is looked after by Friends of Greasbrough Parks and volunteers. We have funded the group through our Community Leadership Fund to enable them to purchase plants and shrubs to add colour to the park for everyone to enjoy.
- Town Lane – hedges/shrubs were removed and replaced with fencing. This project was funded through Ward Housing Budget
- Skip day in Munsbrough - enabled local residents to dispose of household rubbish, unwanted furniture and garden debris supported by the local Housing Officers.

And a final word on working in partnership

Without involvement from local community groups / individuals and local partners we would not have made the achievements we have, so a big THANK YOU to everyone.

HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST WARD

Covering Cliff Hills, Hellaby, Hooton Levitt
and West Maltby



Councillor Simon
Ball



Councillor Lynda
Stables

Report to Full Council

April 2026

Ward priorities

- 1: Protecting and improving the local environment
- 2: Develop and support initiatives to increase community and individual wellbeing
- 3: Identify and support initiatives that improve community safety road safety and vehicle crime.
- 4: Celebrating local and cultural Heritage

How these ward priorities were agreed

We have developed our priorities through direct engagement, partnership working and local data.

- **Listening to residents** – Through attendance at community groups, local events and regular ward surgeries, we have identified priorities and responded to local concerns.
- **Working with partners** – We have worked with council services, Police and partner organisations to coordinate action and address local issues.
- **Using data** – We have used ward data and local intelligence to target support effectively.

How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Our work supports the aim of creating healthier, safer and more connected communities.

We have done this by working directly with residents, responding to local need and supporting inclusive community activity across the Ward.

Partnership Working

We have worked proactively with council services, Police and community organisations to deliver local improvements. We have also organised multi-agency events and engagement sessions within neighbourhoods, improving access to support and enabling quicker responses to issues.

Progress to date

Priority 1: Protecting and Enhancing Our Local Environment

- We have delivered practical improvements to local spaces and supported community pride.
- Conducted regular walkabouts with Council services, South Yorkshire Police and partner organisations.
- Initiated and delivered a street-signage improvement project involving local schoolchildren.
- Delivered bulb, tree planting sessions and environmental activities in partnership with Woodland Rangers.

Priority 2: Improving Community and Individual Wellbeing

- We have provided targeted support to enhance wellbeing and reduce isolation.
- Delivered year-round wellbeing sessions and events in community venues.
- Distributed winter-warm packs to vulnerable residents.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/hellaby-and-maltby-west-ward

HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST WARD

Covering Cliff Hills, Hellaby, Hooton Levitt and West Maltby



Councillor Simon Ball



Councillor Lynda Stables

- Allocated ward funding for personal safety items, home-security equipment and community resources.
- Delivered free family activities and supported school-holiday programmes.

We have also strengthened local community activity by:

- Funding weekly wellbeing and social groups.
- Coordinating partner involvement, including Fire Safety Officers and Age UK.
- Supporting community events such as Halloween activities and Lost Chord sessions.
- Introducing and delivering the Ward Community Christmas Tree as an annual event.

We have supported community connection and skills by:

- Supporting dementia-friendly sessions and local community events.
- Funding adult learning equipment, including sewing machines for Maltby Library.
- Securing STEM investment at Redwood Academy. See photo with vice Principle and students ready to learn, wearing CLF funded safety goggles and lab coats and Capital funded science benches and stools.

Priority 3: Community Safety, Road Safety and Vehicle Crime

We have worked closely with partners to improve safety and respond effectively to concerns.

- Supported the installation of bollards on Laburnum Parade.
- Conducted regular walkabouts with Police, Highways and Council officers.
- Raised resident concerns with regional leaders, including the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.
- Funded personal and home-security equipment.
- Delivered community safety information sessions.

Priority 4: Celebrating Local and Cultural Heritage

- We have supported activities that bring residents together and celebrate local identity.
- Supported Lost Chord dementia-friendly music sessions.
- Delivered seasonal community events, including Halloween, Christmas and our upcoming St George's Day event.
- Supported the Great Alzanas project with Flux Rotherham, culminating in a large community festival celebrating local heritage.

Conclusion

Over the past two years we have focused on delivering real and visible improvements across the Ward. Through direct engagement with residents, effective use of available funding and strong partnership working, we have turned local priorities into practical outcomes. From enhancing local spaces and supporting vulnerable residents, to establishing new community traditions such as the Ward Community Christmas Tree, our work has been centred on making a meaningful and lasting difference. We will continue this approach to ensure our communities remain strong, connected and proud of where they live.

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| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| NOTICE OF MOTION | Date of Council Meeting: 22/04/26 |
| | Mover: Councillor Yasseen |
| | Seconder: Councillor Bower |
| | Title of Motion: First Citizen - Strengthening Public Confidence in Civic Leadership |

This Council notes that:

1. The offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are civic roles, constitutionally intended to be non-political civic roles, with those appointed the 'First Citizens' of the borough. In this capacity, they are expected to represent the whole Council and all Rotherham residents, reflecting the whole borough rather than any individual political group.
2. National civic guidance and established local government practice expect holders of these offices to act in a fair, impartial and non-partisan manner while undertaking their duties.
3. The Council's Constitution provides for an open nomination and annual election process, but does not prescribe how political groups or non-aligned members should approach these appointments.
4. In practice, the absence of any agreed cross-party and non-aligned members convention or protocol means that the outcome of Mayor and Deputy Mayoral nominations is determined by the majority political group through its voting majority
5. This has created a disconnect between:
 - the stated expectation of political neutrality, and
 - the perception that the 'First Citizen' role is controlled through party-political majority.
6. A number of local authorities have addressed this tension through agreed cross-party arrangements, including provision for non-aligned members
 - rotation systems between political groups (e.g. Worcester City Council)
 - proportional or agreed sharing arrangements (e.g. Bury Metropolitan Borough Council)
 - or cross-party civic pairings in practice (e.g. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council).
7. These approaches strengthen public confidence by ensuring that the office of 'First Citizen' visibly reflects Rotherham and the whole Council, rather than any single political group or non-aligned member.

That this Council believes that:

1. Civic roles must not only be politically neutral in function but also be seen to be neutral in how they are allocated.
2. Reliance solely on majority voting, without any balancing convention, risks:
 - undermining the perceived independence of the 'First Citizen' role,
 - reducing a civic office to a political outcome, and
 - weakening public confidence in the integrity of our civic institutions
3. Ensuring fairness in civic appointments is not about advantage for any group, but about upholding the dignity, integrity and credibility of the office itself.
4. An inclusive approach to the Mayoralty and Deputy Mayoralty would:
 - better reflect the diversity of representation within the chamber,
 - demonstrate institutional maturity, and
 - align this Council with recognised good practice across local government.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Request the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders and non-aligned members, to develop and present options for a formal cross-party protocol, inclusive of non-aligned members governing the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
2. Ensure that these options include:
 - a rotation model between political groups and non-aligned members
 - a proportional or agreed allocation framework and
 - a presumption against continuous control of the Deputy Mayoralty by one political group without cross-party agreement.
3. Require that proposals explicitly consider examples of good practice from other councils and inclusive approaches to civic appointments, including Worcester City Council and Bury Metropolitan Borough Council.
4. Receive a report with recommendations ahead of the next Annual Council meeting, with a view to either:
 - adopting a formal protocol, or
 - incorporating agreed arrangements into the Constitution.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| NOTICE OF MOTION | Date of Council Meeting: 22/04/26 |
| | Mover: Councillor Adam Carter |
| | Seconder: Councillor Charlotte Carter |
| | Title of Motion: Lighting Columns - Cut unnecessary red tape so that our streets can have floral displays, Christmas decorations, poppies, and CCTV |

This Council notes that:

- The use of hanging baskets, seasonal displays of poppies around Remembrance Sunday, festive decorations, and community-installed features contributes significantly to civic pride, local identity, and the visual appeal of Rotherham's towns and villages.
- Such initiatives are often supported and delivered in partnership with parish councils, community groups, and volunteers, demonstrating strong local engagement and ownership.
- The installation of CCTV and associated infrastructure on street lighting columns plays an important role in promoting public safety and deterring crime.
- Street lighting columns provide a practical and efficient means of hosting these enhancements throughout the year.

This Council further notes that:

- Current requirements for structural assessments of street lighting columns, including the associated costs, are increasingly being passed on to external organisations such as parish councils and community groups.
- These costs and administrative burdens risk discouraging or preventing local initiatives, placing valued community-led enhancements under threat.
- Smaller parish councils and voluntary groups may lack the financial capacity to meet these requirements, leading to inequality in the ability of communities to participate.

That this Council believes that:

- The benefits of these installations to community wellbeing, safety, and local pride outweigh the current bureaucratic and financial barriers.

- A more proportionate and supportive approach is needed to ensure that community groups are not disincentivised from contributing to the borough's environment.
- Residents of Rotherham want Rotherham Council to be facilitating these displays wherever possible.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Request that the Cabinet review the current policy regarding structural assessments for attachments to street lighting columns, with particular regard to:
 - The financial burden placed on parish councils and community organisations;
 - Opportunities for the Council to provide support, guidance, or funding assistance;
 - The development of a proportionate, risk-based approach to assessments.
2. Request that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider adding this issue to its future work programme, in order to:
 - Examine the impact of current policies on community participation;
 - Explore best practice from other local authorities;
 - Make recommendations to ensure a fair, sustainable, and enabling framework.
3. Reaffirm its support for community-led initiatives that enhance the borough's streetscape, improve safety, and foster civic pride.

THE CABINET
19th January, 2026

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

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Williams.

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

99. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present at the meeting and no questions submitted in writing.

100. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**Resolved:**

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

101. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Minute No. 105 (Council Homes Housing Delivery Programme Report January 2026 Update) had exempt appendices however the meeting remained open to the press and public throughout.

**102. INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES
(ILACS) INSPECTION REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the outcome of the Inspection of Children's Services (ILACS) by Ofsted in November 2025. This was a judgement Short Inspection, and the Local Authority received an Overall Effectiveness grade of Outstanding. All sub-categories also received a grade of Outstanding with the exception of 'the experiences and progress of Care Leavers', which received a Good rating. There were 2 improvement actions, both related to Care Leavers.

The ILACS had been anticipated for some time and was announced on 27th October 2025. Significant offsite work took place in that first week, including interviews with the Lead Member, the Chief Executive and the Independent Chair of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership. Fieldwork took place in the second week with 10 Inspectors

interviewing staff from all parts of the Service (Family Help, Front Door, Duty and Assessment, Locality, Children in Care, Care Leavers, Fostering, Adoption, Education Services, and Commissioning) and reviewing significant numbers of children's files. Children and young people were also interviewed by the Inspectors and gave their views about services provided by the Council.

A final report was published by Ofsted on 16th December 2025. It was extremely pleasing for the Council to be judged Outstanding across 3 of the 4 categories, with an Overall Effectiveness Judgement of Outstanding. The impact of leaders on Social Work practice, the experiences and progress of children who needed help and protection and the experiences and progress of Children in Care were all rated Outstanding. The experiences and progress of Care Leavers was rated Good.

Inspectors found that the Council placed children's experiences and voices at the heart of decision-making and practice, recognising a strong culture of learning, continuous improvement and cross-organisational commitment to children and families. This outcome reflected years of dedicated work by Social Workers, practitioners, leaders and partners across Rotherham to improve services, rebuild trust and keep children safe and supported. While this recognition was significant for the Council and the Borough, it was important to emphasise that improvement was a continuing journey and that there was still work to do, as evidenced in the actions required in relation to Care Leavers.

Although services to Care Leavers were judged Good, there were also 2 improvement actions in relation to this area of practice:

- The quality of pathway plans for care leavers.
- The quality of health history information provided to care leavers.

These areas of practice would form part of the Care Leaver Service Delivery Plan, and updates would be reported to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board at regular intervals. The improvement actions would also be scrutinised formally by the Improving Lives Select Commission.

This achievement placed Rotherham among an elite group of just 9 local authorities in England to hold both an Outstanding ILACS rating – the highest possible judgement under Ofsted's Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services framework – and the top Area SEND outcome, which assessed how effectively councils supported children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It was the only Council in the Yorkshire and Humber region to achieve this combination.

Cabinet Members applauded the incredible achievement and noted their thanks to the Leader and Councillor Cusworth for their hard work. The efforts of the Children's Services Team and the financial investment that had been provided were also celebrated.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the outcome of the inspection regarding the effectiveness of Children's Services in Rotherham and endorse the priorities identified for continued focus.

103. NOVEMBER 2025-26 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of November 2025 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first 8 months of 2025/26. Financial performance was a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and was essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's policy agenda. To that end, this was the fourth financial monitoring report of a series of reports for the current financial year which would continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As of November 2025, the Council's forecast outturn for 2025/26 was an overspend of £3.4m, which was a worsening of the £0.9m overspend position reported in September financial monitoring. The increased overspend was primarily due to increased costs of care packages within Adult Social Care Mental Health placements and a number of backdated payments for packages across Older People and Physical and Sensory Disabilities. The forecast position overall was made up of a combined Directorate overspend of £8.7m, offset by a projected Central Service underspend of £5.3m. The forecast position would continue to be monitored closely but it was possible that even with mitigations, the Council would need to call on reserves to achieve a balanced outturn for 2025/26. In order to help mitigate the position, Directors were expected to take all steps to reduce the overall overspend, ensuring grant maximisation, restricting any non-essential expenditure and delaying recruitment where possible.

The combined Directorate overspend of £8.7m was largely due to demand and market pressures in relation to Children's residential placements and placement types, and the cost of care packages in Adult Social Care. Market prices were increasing at above inflation levels, placing further pressures on the Council's Budget. These pressures were anticipated and a corporate provision of £5.4m was maintained within Central Services as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26.

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

THE CABINET - 19/01/26

The revised Capital Programme was £169.917m split between the General Fund (£103.770m) and Housing Revenue Account (£66.148m.) This was a decrease of £41.770m from the position reported to Cabinet on 17th November 2025. The movement was based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, including slippage re-profiles and corrections of £43.449m, new grant funding added to the programme of £1.755m and some minor programme corrections of -£0.076m in 2025/26.

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £3.4m.
2. Note the projected overspend and that whilst the Council aims to manage this pressure, should that not be possible use of reserves will be required to balance the 2025/26 financial position.
3. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.
4. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in section 2.17 of the report.

104. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES RELIEF - ROTHERHAM FAMILIES FIRST

Consideration was given to the report which asked Cabinet to consider the application for the award of Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Rotherham Families First. This was in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy (approved by Officer Delegated Decision in July 2025).

Rotherham Families First was a registered charity which aimed to work within the Borough to prevent or relieve poverty. The end users were identified by charities, churches, schools and a range of professionals, then provided with support and goods delivered through appropriate organisations including REMA, the Red Cross and the Refugee Council.

The Charity was requesting an award for discretionary rate relief for the premises at Parkgate which were used to facilitate the receipt, collation and distribution of donated and purchased goods. The charity also organised the annual Rotherham Toy Appeal which launched on 7th November 2025 and had traditionally helped over 2,000 young people and children at Christmas. Whilst that work was the focus during November and December, there remained an ongoing commitment to support vulnerable Rotherham families with their basic needs.

The application for the award of discretionary relief was in line with the Council's qualifying criteria as set out in its Policy. The Charity provided access to support which was open to all sections of the community, and it worked to develop community spirit and improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in the Borough.

Rotherham Families First proposed discretionary business rates relief was:

| Year | Total Amount of Relief | Cost to RMBC |
|---------|------------------------|--------------|
| 2025/26 | £900.05 | £441.02 |
| 2026/27 | £1360.80 | £666.79 |

(Did not occupy until 13/08/2025)

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Rotherham Families First in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 of this report for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

**105. COUNCIL HOMES HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME REPORT
JANUARY 2026 UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report which provided the 6 monthly update to Cabinet on the latest developments and plans for the Council's Housing Delivery Programme. The report also sought Cabinet approval to ensure the continued delivery of the programme which, in mid-December 2025, reached the major milestone of 750 new Council homes since 2018 (having reached 742 at the data point of 30th November used throughout the report). This significant achievement had been reached through a mixed programme of delivery across 4 workstreams, an approach that was vital to managing risk, securing delivery certainty and achieving a balanced and affordable programme.

The 4 workstreams were:

- New build homes on council-owned sites.
- Delivery by Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) developers through the Council's innovative Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative.
- Section 106 acquisitions from developers as part of their planning obligations.
- The acquisition of homes from the open market ('market acquisitions').

Specifically, in the period from 1st June 2025 to 30th November 2025, the programme had delivered a total of 55 new homes. This had been achieved through 10 new build homes on CouncilOwned sites, 27 Section 106 Acquisitions and 18 Market Acquisitions. In the same period

work had continued to bring forward future schemes in the Council's new-build programme. Construction had started on 45 new Council homes across 3 sites in Maltby, planning permission was granted for 4 homes on one site in Wath and a planning application was submitted for 20 homes at Tenter Street, Thornhill.

The report contained proposed changes to the programme, which were designed to manage overall costs and secure the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027. Also contained was information on risks to delivery and timescales, and the mitigations in place to manage those risks.

Whilst the current Programme was focused on the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes, work on building a future pipeline of sites and schemes was ongoing and information would be included in the next 6-monthly Housing Delivery Programme Cabinet Report. The Council had successfully secured £240k from the Government's Council Housebuilding Support Fund (CHSF) to support this work, with £80k of match funding from the HRA. The funding would be used to undertake initial feasibility work and technical due diligence on up to 18 Council-owned sites (as detailed in Appendix 6) to confirm the development potential for the future delivery of new social and affordable homes.

The proposed programme retained sufficient flexibility to consider options within the budget allocations for both the current and future programme (from mid-2027). The retained contingency in the current programme had reduced to circa £4.4m, primarily resulting from the addition of 25 Market Acquisitions. In other areas, anticipated costs had reduced as cost certainty improved due to factors including construction cost estimates on Council build schemes reducing through the design stage. The contingency provided cover for any cost increases and mitigation for risk areas in the delivery of the 1,000 new homes target.

In line with the Council's Social Value policy, the Programme included Social Value as a contractual commitment which was delivered as an integral part of the procured contracts which formed part of the Programme. Social Value delivery from these contracts included:

- £353k of equivalent Social Value delivered across Council build projects at East Herringthorpe, West Melton and Swinton (each project exceeded the contractual commitments).
- £37k of equivalent Social Value commitments delivered to date on 3 Council build schemes at design stage. Further Social Value commitments will be delivered as part of the subsequent construction phase contracts.
- £1.3m of equivalent Social Value delivered to date on the joint Adult Social Care/Housing development at Canklow.
- £1.46m of equivalent Social Value committed on the construction contract to deliver Council build homes at Maltby.

The need for the continued delivery programme was evidenced by the more than 7,000 households on the Council's housing register. The Council's ability to meet this demand continued to be eroded by the Right to Buy scheme, which had seen 1,245 Council homes sold between the beginning of January 2018 and the end of November 2025. Changes to Government Policy resulted in a spike of applications in November 2024 which could have contributed to larger numbers of properties lost to Right to Buy by the end of 2025/26. While expected further changes to Right to Buy legislation were likely to see a reduction in sold properties in the longer term, it was anticipated that the loss of Council housing stock to Right to Buy would continue.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the continued progress made in delivering the Council's Housing Delivery Programme, including the delivery of 55 new homes in the period covered by this report, and the ongoing work to deliver 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027.
2. Approves the delivery and purchase of homes from any of the schemes identified in Exempt Appendices 1 and 2b, subject to affordability and alignment with current and future programme objectives and the Council's capital approval processes.
3. Approves the programme changes outlined in this report to facilitate the delivery of 1,000 new homes 'on time' (by Summer 2027) and 'on budget' (within the financial resources allocated to the Programme from the Housing Revenue Account). This includes the removal and addition of specific schemes as outlined in Table 3, paragraph 2.4.
4. Approves the appropriation of 18 St Edmunds Avenue (see Appendix 4) into the Housing Revenue Account (subject to Secretary of State approval if required), and work to convert the property into four 1-bedroom flats for use as Council homes via the Market Acquisitions workstream (see paragraphs 2.11 and 2.12).
5. Approves the appropriation of land at Canklow (see plan attached at Appendix 5) into the Housing Revenue Account to enable the delivery of two Council homes as part of the housing delivery programme (see paragraph 2.7).
6. Agrees the intention to undertake initial feasibility work and technical due diligence on up to 18 Council-owned sites (Appendix 6) to assess their development potential for the future delivery of new social and affordable homes, and to inform any subsequent decision to develop or dispose of the land (see paragraph 2.16).

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7. Agrees to delegate authority to the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to make any necessary substitutions or changes to the agreed site list (Recommendation 6) to ensure that the programme of feasibility work and technical due diligence remains deliverable and aligned with strategic priorities.
8. Agrees to delegate authority to the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to appoint appropriate consultants to carry out this work following the Council's procurement process.
9. Agrees to delegate authority to the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Service Director of Legal Services, to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency (trading as 'Homes England') in relation to the Social and Affordable Homes Programme 2026 – 2036 (see paragraph 2.37).
10. Agrees to continue to receive an update on the Housing Development Programme every 6 months.

106. TENANT SATISFACTION MEASURES AND HOUSING REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Consideration was given to the report which presented the 2025/26 mid-year Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM). The survey results showed that overall tenant satisfaction stood at 77.6%, representing a slight decrease of 0.6 percentage points from 2024/25, but an improvement of 0.7 percentage points compared to 2023/24. A positive development was in tenant satisfaction with repairs: overall satisfaction had risen to 78.9%, up 0.3 percentage points from last year and 4.8 percentage points from 2023/24. Satisfaction with the time taken to complete the most recent repair had also improved significantly, reaching 79.5% - a 1.9 percentage point increase from 2024/25 and 7.4 percentage points from 2023/24.

11 out of 12 tenant satisfaction measures were currently above the national median, based on 2024/25 data published by the Regulator of Social Housing. Moreover, when comparing Local Authorities (LAs) only, the Council ranked in the upper quartile for 11 of these 12 measures. However, areas such as complaints handling and anti-social behaviour (ASB) management continued to present challenges, with scores in these categories showing slight declines compared to the previous year.

Targeted actions had already been taken to address these areas, with further improvements planned for 2025/26. Key initiatives included:

- The development of the recently launched tenant-led Learning from Complaints Panel.
- Review of the service operating model for tenancy and ASB case management to improve efficiency and outcomes.
- Delivery of a targeted training and development programme for area Housing Teams, focusing on ASB tools and powers, hate incidents, and effective case handling.

The 10 Council-reported TSMs remained strong. Repairs performance was a particular strength, mirroring the positive perception survey results:

- 98.9% of non-emergency repairs were completed within target timescales (16.4 percentage points above the national median.)
- 98.4% of emergency repairs were completed within target (3.5 percentage points above the national median.)

In addition, the Council had achieved full compliance across all health and safety related measures, except for Gas Safety, which stood at 99.9%. 26 properties were currently non-compliant, and actions were underway to try and obtain access to those properties. Progress also continued on achieving the Decent Homes Standard, with the proportion of non-decent homes reducing from 7.2% at the end of 2024/25 to 6.38% at the mid-point of 2025/26. For context, the median non-decency rate for Local Authorities in 2024/25 was 3.2%. It was important to note that levels of non-decent stock would fluctuate as the current Stock Condition Survey Programme advanced.

A comprehensive Stock Condition and Housing Health and Safety Rating System survey programme began in April 2025 and aimed for 6,000 surveys by March 2026. As of October 2025, 2,943 properties had been surveyed. Data from those surveys would inform future investment and asset management strategies.

During the meeting it was noted that the proactive nature of the survey programme meant issues would be identified and there was a robust programme of repairs in place which would help to ensure that residents continued to live in quality homes.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the content of the report.
2. Agrees to receive a further update in 6 months' time.

107. COUNCIL PLAN AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which presented the first progress report on the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2025-26. Appendix 1 to the report set out the Council Plan Progress Report – Mid-Year Report for 2025/26 and Appendix 2 was a summary of this report.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan milestone trackers (included in Appendix 1) outlined progress against the 89 actions within the Year Ahead Plan. As of 8th December 2025, the activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan were rated as follows:

- 24% (21) complete
- 49% (44) on track
- 18% (16) are delayed by less than 3 months
- 9% (8) will not be met within 3 months of original target date.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan also included a performance tracker (included in Appendix 1) which provided an analysis of the Council's performance against the 27 performance measures and 12 Social Care measures; each were given equal priority.

For the report covering Quarter 2, the status of the performance measures was as follows:

- Performance was on or above target – 20 measures (74%)
- Currently performance was not at expected levels. Confidence that the target would be achieved by year-end – 1 measure (4%)
- Performance was not currently on target. High risk that year-end target would not be achieved – 5 measures (18%)
- Target could not be assessed this quarter (i.e. Annual measure or awaiting publication of data) – 1 measure (4%)
- Information measure targets not applicable (i.e. Volume / Demand measures where 'good' is neither high or low) – 0 measures (0%)

For the report covering Quarter 2, the status of the 12 Social Care measures was as follows:

- Performance was on or above target – 5 measures (41%)
- Currently performance was not at expected levels. Confidence that the target would be achieved by year-end – 0 measures (0%)
- Performance was not currently on target. High risk that year-end target would not be achieved – 2 measures (17%)
- Target cannot be assessed this quarter (i.e. Annual measure or awaiting publication of data) – 2 measures (17%)
- Information measure targets not applicable (i.e. Volume / Demand measures where 'good' is neither high or low) – 3 measures (25%)

During the meeting, Cabinet Members highlighted achievements from their portfolio's along with known delays and the reasons for those delays.

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.
2. Note the Quarter 2 data for the Council Plan performance measures.
3. Note that a progress report covering the remainder of the year will be presented to Cabinet in July 2026.

108. STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the application process for Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (Strategic CIL) funding that had taken place for the 2025 bidding round. It provided the outcome of the Strategic CIL Officer Panel Assessment of the submitted projects against relevant criteria, to determine the infrastructure that would most support new growth areas and help bring forward development sites to implement the Local Plan.

The Council had a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in place for Rotherham, to secure contributions from developers towards infrastructure to support development. CIL payments were required alongside planning permission for certain types of development and work in tandem with payments negotiated as Section 106 planning obligations. The CIL Regulations allowed the Council to apply CIL to reimburse expenditure already incurred on infrastructure. Where the Council had borrowed money for the purposes of funding infrastructure, it could apply CIL to repay that money, and any interest, if certain conditions were met.

The assessment methodology for Strategic CIL applications was approved by Cabinet in July 2024. The assessment covered key areas for project suitability, in summary:

- Part 1 set out a series of “gateway tests” that were aimed at ensuring that projects were eligible and suitable for Strategic CIL funding, including whether the project was identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Study.
- Part 2 required information about the nature and timing of the project.
- Part 3 addressed potential deliverability concerns.

- Part 4 reflected important funding and financial issues.
- Part 5 provided an important link between the infrastructure project and new development, examining the links to allocated sites in the Local Plan and the need for the infrastructure.
- Part 6 enabled an assessment of the benefits of the infrastructure project against the Strategic CIL objectives, including its contribution to Social Value.

The applications for the 2025 bidding round had been assessed by the CIL Officer Panel, using the Cabinet-approved methodology. Of the 11 applications, 5 projects passed the gateway tests but only one scored above the 70% threshold that was also applied for the 2024 bidding round. A list of priority projects was presented in the report, and Cabinet approval was sought for the Strategic CIL funds to be allocated as recommended to the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme. The allocation proposed was £3million. This bid passed the gateway tests, the project was critical infrastructure; detailed costings were provided; permissions and land acquisitions were in place or in progress; project delivery was in 2026, with future maintenance funded; the project could not happen without CIL funding; the project would protect Whiston Village properties and facilitate 2 large Local Plan housing sites; the project benefits aligned with CIL protocol objectives. Its score was 71.43%.

The Projects Scoring Summary was attached at Appendix 1. The percentage figure in the final column represented the total score against the criteria and methodology as approved by Cabinet on 29th July 2024. A summary was provided in paragraph 2.7 of the report.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Councillor Steele wished to place on record his thanks to the Service for the quality of the report provided on this matter.

The Leader asked that future reports include updates on the delivery of CIL funded projects.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approves the allocation of Strategic CIL funds to the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme (£3,000,000).

109. 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.

110. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 9th February 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

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**THE CABINET
9th February, 2026**

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

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

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

112. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 2 questions from Councillors:

1. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked why the proposed budget included a half price offer for over-65's to go swimming but the offer was not being extended to children?

The Leader stated that there were already a number of discount arrangements in place for a number of different groups, including older people and children. When analysing the figures, it was noted that there were particularly low numbers of older people using leisure facilities relative to the overall size of the population. As such, the proposal within the budget was for a pilot scheme to reduce the price of swimming for older people to see whether there was a price sensitivity. It was important for the Council to encourage older residents to either get active or remain active later in life.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester questioned whether all over-65's should be entitled to the discount. He stated that teenagers for example would not get free transport to leisure centres like over 65's would and would have to pay more. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if the additional Government funding was being used to carry favour with older residents as they were more likely to vote.

The Leader explained that there had been significant emphasis on young people across the agreed budgets for a number of years. The proposals for young people in the 2026/27 budget included additional youth work, the baby packs scheme, youth outreach buses and additional support for children and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The Leader stated that it was important for the Council to be able to do things for older residents as well as younger residents.

2. Councillor Yasseen asked why the Leader believed that using public Council funds to purchase flags and flagpoles represented an appropriate or lawful use of Council resources when he had previously said that flags had been used to provoke division and potentially fuel hate within communities?

The Leader stated that it was important that people who believed in societies that were mixed and multi-ethnic were able to take ownership of the Union Flag or St George's Flag. Those flags were for everyone, and the Leader did not want them to be a sign of extremism, anti-immigration views or far right politics. Following the consultation run by the Council, it was clear that Rotherham residents wanted to see the Union Flag and St George's Flag across the Borough and it was important that this was done in the right way, from community buildings, and not on lampposts.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen asked what the total allocation was and what the allocation could actually be spent on? Could it be used for the Pride flag, the Ukrainian flag or Palestinian flag for example?

The Leader stated that he would provide a written response in terms of the total allocation. In terms of eligibility, the fund was only available to Parish Councils or community groups and could be used to fund a flagpole and national flag, up to the cost of £500. There would be no contractual arrangement with the council's or groups over what could be flown on the flagpole, however, the object of the grant funding was to make it more possible to support the flying of those 2 national flags in the spirit described.

113. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19th January, 2026, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

114. 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.

115. LOCAL AUTHORITY BETTER CARE FUND 2025/26 - DISCHARGE GRANT COMMITMENTS

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Local Authority Better Care Fund Discharge Grant. In January 2023, Central Government announced additional funding through a new £200m

Discharge Grant for Local Authorities. The Fund was intended to increase capacity in post-discharge care and support and improve discharge performance, patient safety, experience and outcomes.

From 2025/26, the grant had been included in the Local Authority Better Care Fund at the same level as the 2024/25 allocation which was £3,383,583 for Rotherham. However, in effect the Fund that was the Discharge Grant no longer existed. The ringfence for the grant had been removed but national conditions and use of the funding still needed to be reported through the Better Care Fund governance into the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England. This was executed through the Health and Wellbeing Board, Better Care Fund Partnership Agreement and Section 75. Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 enabled NHS bodies and local authorities to establish formal partnerships to pool budgets and resources, enabling joint commissioning and integrated Health and Social Care Services.

The report identified a number of Adult Social Care commitments that should continue to be delivered on a permanent basis due to the removal of the grant ringfence. The Schemes/Services were: S117 Mental Health Reviews; Provider Services; Integrated Discharge Team; Enablement Service; Continuing Healthcare; Mental Health; Quality and Contract Compliance and Adult Contact Team. Additional details were set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report. The Schemes would require a funding commitment of £838k in 2026/27 and £624k in 2027/28 on a recurrent basis. Provisions had been made available for this in the Council's budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

It was noted during the meeting that schemes being funded were ongoing schemes and the purpose of the report was to ensure that they continued to be funded following the removal of the ring-fenced funding.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the permanent funding of the schemes that were previously part of the Discharge Grant commitments for 2026/27 and recurrently from 2027/28.
2. Note the cost of extending the schemes will be £838k in 2026/27, reducing to £624k on a recurrent basis from 2027/28. Funding has been made available as part of the Council budget and provision has been made in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

116. ROTHERHAM BABY PACKS: OUTCOMES AND FUTURE COMMISSIONING

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the progress of the Rotherham Baby Pack Scheme pilot and sought approval to recommission the scheme for a further period of up to 4 years. On 28th February 2024, the Council approved the Budget for 2024/25, including provision to undertake an open procurement to identify a supplier to provide baby packs to ensure every family had access to essential items from the beginning of a child's life. Following a competitive tender process, Field Management Ireland (FMI) was awarded the Single Provider Framework Agreement in November 2024. The initial contract covered the supply and delivery of up to 5,600 baby packs, with a maximum annual value of £720,000 over 2 years, ending on 14th November 2026.

In September 2025, Rotherham Council undertook its first survey of recipients of the Rotherham Baby Pack Scheme to obtain feedback on user experience and impact. The survey indicated that the baby packs were highly valued by expectant parents with 99% of respondents indicating that they would recommend it to others. Satisfaction levels were exceptionally high with an average rating of 4.82 out of 5 for pack quality and 4.87 for the registration process. Respondents consistently highlighted the financial relief provided by the pack, with 78% agreeing it helped save money, and 80% noted its role in raising awareness of Family Hubs and local support services. Paragraphs 2.4 to 2.8 of the report provided further detail on the consultation with Appendix 1 including the full survey report.

While feedback was overwhelmingly positive, several areas for improvement were identified. The most common suggestions related to earlier delivery of the pack, clearer communication about its contents, and increased promotion of the scheme to ensure wider awareness. Paragraph 2.10 set out the ways in which these issues were being addressed. The proposed actions aimed to enhance the scheme's impact further, reduce duplication of purchases for parents, and strengthen engagement with local support services. This baseline survey provided a strong foundation for measuring progress and evaluating the effectiveness of any changes in the next survey, which was planned for September 2026.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussions had focused on the cost of the scheme, the impact of multiple births and the reach of the scheme. OSMB had also requested a breakdown of the figures be provided on a Ward basis.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the high level of satisfaction with the baby packs, particularly in relation to the quality and usefulness of the items provided.
2. Approve an open procurement exercise to ensure continuity of registering and delivery of baby packs to Rotherham families.

117. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEED AND DISABILITY (SEND) SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY 2026-2029

Consideration was given to the report which provided a review of performance against the current Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) Sufficiency Strategy as set out in the Local Authority's Safety Valve Agreement (2021-2026). It established that the actions set out within the Safety Valve Agreement had been achieved, contributing to the Council's wider ambition that children and young people achieve their potential. The report also outlined the key activity undertaken in developing the new Strategy, including a comprehensive needs analysis, engagement and consultation. Approval was sought for the new SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2026-2029. A timeline for implementation of the associated delivery plan was also outlined in the report.

In Rotherham 17.1% of pupils are receiving SEND support with 6.2% of pupils having a statutory plan for SEND known as an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Nationally 14.2% of young people were receiving SEND support with 5.3% having an EHCP. In order that the educational needs of children and young people in the Borough with SEND continued to be met, the Council had a responsibility to create a sufficiency of education provision to meet the needs of all pupils.

The current SEND Sufficiency Strategy was set out in the Rotherham Safety Valve Agreement (2022 – 2026). The key strategic aim of the Safety Valve Agreement was to enhance mainstream and specialist SEND capacity within the Borough to meet a wider level of need across all schools, promote inclusive practice and mitigate the need for children, young people, and young adults to be educated in settings outside the Borough. To achieve the aim of enhanced SEND capacity within the Borough the current strategy included implementation of the Schools' Accessibility Funding Framework across mainstream and special schools.

Reports to Cabinet in July 2024 and December 2024 had given approval for additional increases in places as part of the continued development of Elements Academy (SEMH Special School) since its opening in September 2023. Approval was also granted for capital investment to address sufficiency challenges at Newman School and Aspire Pupil Referral Unit. The Capital Programme to create sufficiency of provision locally across the Safety Valve period had resulted in an increase of 336

special school places and 144 resource provision places from 2021/22 to November 2025. A resource provision was attached to a mainstream school providing specialist therapeutic input and support for pupils with a specific SEND need type. Pupils accessed support from the resource provision based on their individual need whilst also accessing mainstream classes and curriculum.

The report demonstrated that the actions set out within the 2022-2026 Safety Valve Agreement, and the associated phases of SEND Sufficiency delivery, had been achieved, contributing to the Council's wider ambition that children and young people achieved their potential.

The Safety Valve Agreement provided a clear and ambitious framework for developing enhanced inclusive provision to meet children's SEND across the Borough with progress against the 9 conditions detailed in section 2.1 of the report. The current SEND Sufficiency Strategy aligned to the Safety Valve Agreement ran until the end of 2025/2026. A new SEND Sufficiency Strategy was required so the Council could fulfil its statutory sufficiency duty and improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Planning for the new SEND Sufficiency Strategy had included key activities over the past 12 months, including stakeholder consultation and engagement, needs analysis, comparison to national datasets and policy and a review of the resources available locally. The Strategy had been developed alongside the Rotherham SEND Strategy (My Life, My Rights 2024-2028). The Plan aligned to the increased focus on inclusion in mainstream schools as outlined in the refreshed Ofsted Inspection Framework (November 2025). The Sufficiency Strategy had been developed in line with the principles of the Rotherham Charter (Four Cornerstones): 1. Welcome and care 2. Value and include 3. Communicate 4. Work in partnership. The ambitions of the Strategy, based on the analysis of local need, were detailed in paragraph 2.2.6 of the report.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the performance and progress to date on SEND Sufficiency in line with the commitments within the Safety Valve Agreement.
2. Approve the SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2026-2029 (Appendix 1) for implementation from April 2026.

118. ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report for 2024/25. Each Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SCP) was required to produce and publish an annual assurance report. The annual assurance report, dated September 2025 and covering the period April 2024 to March 2025, was considered and approved by the Lead Safeguarding Partners ahead of its submission to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the Department for Education. The report was considered at Improving Lives Select Commission in December 2025.

Section 2.1 of the report detailed the matters which had to be addressed as specified by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 was statutory guidance which governs how agencies work to help and protect children. The Independent Scrutineer had determined that the Annual Assurance Report 2024/25 met these criteria.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People stated that strong multi-agency arrangements were in place and she wished to record her thanks to the Rotherham SCP for their hard work. The Executive Director of Children and Young People's services stated that it had been a very positive year.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the contents of the Rotherham SCP Annual Assurance Report 2024/25.

119. INCLUSION STRATEGY AND ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the Council's new Inclusion Strategy which updated the previous Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy. Building on the vision of the Council Plan of creating inclusive growth, the new Strategy set out the Council's approach to addressing inclusion-related issues, ensuring services were accessible and the voices of all communities were heard. In addition, the annual report for 2024-25 included key achievements and case studies that demonstrated progress in addressing EDI issues.

The Inclusion Strategy 2026-2030 reflected the ambition set out in the Council Plan 2025-2030: to create an inclusive Borough where no-one was left behind and everyone could achieve their potential. It reinforced the inclusive growth focus of the Council Plan's vision of building a Borough where opportunity was extended to everyone, where people could grow, flourish and prosper, and where no-one was left behind. It described how the Council would focus on listening to residents, engaging

with them meaningfully – particularly those whose voices were not always heard - to address their concerns and ensure services were accessible.

Several significant recent achievements were highlighted in the Strategy. This included receiving an outstanding Ofsted rating for Children and Young People's Services, establishing the RASCAL (Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening) group to enable individuals with lived experience to shape future Adult Care Services, and working with local organisations to deliver a community cohesion programme after securing £600,000 from the Government's Community Recovery Fund. At the same time, it recognised that more could be done to ensure that people did not feel excluded, disadvantaged or held back due to their race, gender, disability, or any other characteristic.

The Strategy was informed by a series of focus groups held between August and November 2025, as well as an online survey. Participants in the focus groups reflected the range of protected characteristics. Further details could be found in the consultation report at Appendix 4. The findings had directly informed the Strategy's themes and areas of focus. The agreed themes were:

- **Working together** – demonstrating how the Council would continue to engage with residents and, where possible, design and produce services and plans with them, acknowledging the need to proactively reach out to those who found it more difficult to engage.
- **Responsive services** – focused on the importance of listening to residents, consistently providing feedback, and showing how services were being reshaped (where appropriate) in response.
- **Welcoming places** – reflecting concerns about feeling safe, which was a significant issue for some groups.
- **Employer of choice** – outlining ongoing efforts to ensure that the Council's workforce reflected its diverse communities, with an inclusive approach to recruitment and staff engagement.

A series of actions were included for each theme, providing a focus for activity over the lifetime of the Strategy. A more detailed action plan for 2026-27 was attached at Appendix 2. The Annual Report for 2024-25 provided a summary of recent achievements within the framework of the 2022-25 EDI Strategy and was attached at Appendix 3. The Annual Report also included several case studies that illustrated how positive equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes had been achieved as part of the delivery of services and initiatives. Cabinet Members stated that inclusion of case studies was a good addition to the report.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussions had focused on consultation, Key Performance Indicators and reliance on the Voluntary and Community sector.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the Inclusion Strategy 2026-30.
2. Approve the action plan for February 2026 to March 2027.
3. Note the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report 2024-2025.

120. BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF RENEWALS IN 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which asked Cabinet to consider the renewal applications for the awards of Discretionary Business Rate Relief for the organisations and premises listed in Appendix 1 of the report. This was in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy, approved by Officer Delegated Decision on 1st July 2025.

Central Government and councils shared every £1 of rates due as follows: Central Government (50%); South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (1%); and Rotherham MBC (49%).

The estimated total cost of granting the relief for the financial year 2026/27 was set out in paragraph 6.5 alongside the specific cost to the Council. The figures were based on the business rates multipliers for 2026/27 announced by the Government at the Autumn budget and on the 2026 Draft Rating List published by the Valuation Office Agency at the same time as the Autumn budget.

As the business rates multipliers were changing from 1st April 2026, assumptions had been made as to the appropriate multiplier to apply when calculating the level of relief and had taken no account of any transitional relief a ratepayer may be entitled to. The Transitional Relief Scheme for 2026/27 had not yet been finalised and was awaiting Regulations being laid in Parliament. Should any ratepayer be entitled to transitional relief, the level of discretionary relief would be reduced to reflect the reduced level of business rates liability.

The Value of Proposed Business Rates Discretionary Relief Renewals was:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Total Amount of Relief</u> | <u>Cost to RMBC (49%)</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2026/27 | £853,572.19 | £418,250.37 |

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the applications for Discretionary Business Rate Relief for the organisations listed in Appendix 1 of this report and in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report, for the 2026/27 financial year.

121. DECEMBER 2025/26 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of December 2025 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first 9 months of 2025/26. Financial performance was a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and was essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's policy agenda. To that end, this was the fifth financial monitoring report of a series of reports for the current financial year which would continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As of December 2025, the Council's forecast outturn for 2025/26 was an overspend of £3.4m, and whilst there had been movements within Services, this was consistent with the position reported in November financial monitoring. The forecast position was made up of a Directorate overspend of £9.2m, offset by a projected Central Service underspend of £5.8m.

The Directorate overspend of £9.2m was largely due to demand and market pressures in relation to Children's residential placements and placement types, and the cost and complexity of care packages in Adult Social Care. Market prices were increasing at above inflation levels, placing further pressures on the Council's Budget. These pressures were anticipated and a corporate provision of £5.4m was maintained within Central Services as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26.

Central Services was forecasting an underspend of £5.8m, reflecting use of the £5.4m Social Care Contingency approved within the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, the impact of the Local Government Pay Award and savings generated within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. The Local Government Pay Award was agreed at 3.2% at all pay bands up to senior officer. The impact of this was a cost of £2.3m above the budget allocated when setting the Council's Budget. The Council had no control over the level of pay award agreed.

The report also provided details regarding the Department for Education's (DfE) request for the Council to become the grant recipient for the Strategic School Improvement Capital Budget funding for Newman School. This was following the decision of the DfE to re-broker the existing Multi Academy Trust arrangements and bring in another Trust to run the School. In order to ensure that the Newman School project continued to

be delivered and the key outcomes were still achieved, the Council proposed to accept this request. As part of becoming the grant recipient and to take into account the delays experienced through the approval process with the DfE, the Council recognised the increasing probability that costs would increase for the scheme; this included both works on the main site and those required at Dinnington. Therefore, the Council was seeking assurances that the in-principle funding arrangement from DfE remained in place for the main Whiston site with availability of the centrally held DfE contingency should this be required to mitigate against cost increases.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £3.4m.
2. Note the projected overspend and that whilst the Council aims to manage this pressure, should that not be possible use of reserves will be required to balance the 2025/26 financial position.
3. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.
4. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in section 2.17 of the report.
5. Delegate authority to the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport in consultation with the Service Director of Financial Services and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to approve the specific allocations of the Gainshare Feasibility Grant and any variations required through its delivery, as detailed in section 2.20.1 of the report.
6. Approve the Council being the recipient of Department for Education grant funding as part of the Strategic School Improvement Capital Budget (SSICB) and the Council take over responsibility for delivery of the Newman School project.

122. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX REPORT 2026-27

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Council's Budget and Council Tax for 2026/27, based on the Council's Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27, budget consultation and the consideration of Directorate budget proposals. A review of the financial planning assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) had been undertaken.

The proposed Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy reflected the Council's priorities as set out in the Council Plan 2025-2030 and Year

Ahead Delivery Plan. The development of the Budget proposals for 2026/27 and a further update of the MTFS took into account prevailing economic factors, supplier market factors, demand and complexity of care pressures, and the positive improvement in funding available to the Council following the impact of the Fair Funding Review 2.0 (FFR 2.0). Following the Council's technical MTFS updates, proposed budget decisions within this report, the impact of the FFR 2.0 and Provisional Financial Settlement, the Council had been able to propose a balanced budget for 2026/27 and 2027/28 with a potential £9.3m funding gap in 2028/29.

During 2025, the Government had consulted upon and delivered the Fair Funding Review 2.0. This had seen a significant shift in how Local Government was funded and how the resources for Local Government were distributed. The focus of funding distribution had moved more towards areas of greatest deprivation and need. The impact for RMBC of the Fair Funding Review, as confirmed with the Provisional Financial Settlement, was a positive one, with an additional £21.2m of funding per year provided to the Council by 2028/29 (£9.2m by 2026/27 and £15.1m by 2027/28). although this was a significant shift in direction that the Council welcomed, the funding was necessary to address the demand and market pressures the Council had seen in recent years.

Although the position for Local Authority Funding had shifted positively, the Council remained committed to increasing efficiency and delivering on the priorities of residents. As such, in order to invest in key priorities, the Budget included savings proposals of £3.2m aimed to increase the efficiency of service delivery and reduce or remove spending on services that were no longer required or could be delivered differently, for example, through maximising grant funding opportunities.

In recognition of escalating cost pressures within Adult Social Care, relating to increased complexity of care and rising demand for the service, market inflation and transitions, the Council would provide for approximately £8.6m of additional funding to support the delivery of Adult Social Care services. Following work to assess the impact of market inflation, across recent years, on the cost of Children's Social Care placements, the Council would provide approximately £4.8m of additional funding to support the provision of Children's Social Care.

Further investment of an extra £0.5m per year would be provided to address unavoidable cost pressures in complying with Home to School Transport requirements and £1.7m would be invested into the Council's staffing structure to ensure the Council remained an accredited Real Living Wage employer. In addition, the Budget would provide £2.8m additional investments to support with delivering on the Council's ambitions for the Borough, largely focused on improving the quality of life of residents, with specific regard to the Council Plan core strategic outcomes.

In setting the proposed 2026/27 budget, Cabinet was asked to recommend to Council a 3.95% increase in Council Tax, made up of an increase of 1.95% in the Council's basic Council Tax plus an increase of 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept. The Budget also proposed a further year of a Local Council Tax Support Top-up Scheme to operate across 2026/27 to provide continued additional support to low income working age households in the Borough, to assist them in managing the impacts of the cost of living crisis and support the most financially vulnerable households.

In introducing the report, the Leader stated that the Fair Funding Review, which had now been implemented, was good news for Rotherham, although he would have liked the Government to have done more. He stated that one of the consequences of having less money flowing through communities over the last 15 years had been that public spaces had suffered. The Leader was therefore glad that the Budget included proposals to support the high streets. The Budget also included a reduction in swimming charges for people aged over 65 and support for young people with additional needs.

In reference to Council Tax, the Leader explained that, for the seventh successive year, the increase would be less than the full amount allowed.

He thanked all those involved in preparing the budget, including officers, Cabinet Members, Scrutiny Members and people across the Council.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety stated that the proposed Budget was responsible, prudent and realistic. The revenue budget would spend over £359 million of public money directly on services for residents. Following consultation with residents and partners, the proposed Budget would support the most vulnerable people.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People expressed her support for the Budget, which she stated would support families and children in Rotherham. This support included the expansion of the Healthy Holidays programme, additional funding for school uniform support and additional funding for universal youth work. An additional investment of £453,000 was proposed to ensure the effective delivery of Educational Psychology Services, which played a vital role in improving learning, communication, and emotional wellbeing for children and young people.

The Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces stated that the tourism industry in Rotherham had been growing and equated to £509 million in economic impact for Rotherham. The Budget therefore included investments in the events team and programme. Investments were also being made in green spaces. Safety and maintenance would be improved at Rother Valley Country Park and investment were being made in the fleet and machinery for the Parks Service. The Cabinet Member also referenced the reduction in costs for over-65 to go swimming, stating that

this would provide long lasting benefits to the NHS and people of Rotherham. The athletics track at Herringthorpe would also be resurfaced.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy focussed on road safety. £80k of funding per year for 2 years was being proposed so that local Councillors could develop road safety plans with the Transportation Service for their Wards. A further £260k would be used to support the Council's pedestrian crossing programme. £81k per year for the next 4 years would be used to continue the Council's Transport Minor Works Programme. The Cabinet Member announced that the design of a scheme for improvements to Treeton Lane crossroads would be funded.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care stated that she welcomed all the initiatives in the proposed Budget and looked forward to the outcomes in the coming years.

The Cabinet Member for Housing explained that investment would be made in the Selective Licensing Scheme. The investment would maximise the impact of enforcement and regulatory activity, provide additional direct support to tenants, as well as provide increased capacity to ensure the stakeholder consultative groups were well run and well supported, overseeing the associated capital bid for physical improvements, and resulting spend. The proposal would also look at providing and enhancing wider service provision, utilising other funding sources, such as homeless prevention by providing increased tenancy advice and support, improving drop-ins and engagement of statutory services and providing a more holistic offer to align with the designations and their intended outcomes.

Reference was also made to the Welfare Rights Service. Macmillan Cancer Support currently funded a small team in the Council to provide specialist welfare benefits advice in Rotherham for people who had received a cancer diagnosis. During 2024/25, the team assisted with £3.7 million in benefit claims and secured one-off payments for back pay of benefit exceeding £342,000. However, due to falling donations since the pandemic, Macmillan was no longer able to fund this support beyond the end of May. Due to the specialist nature of this advice and the ongoing need to support residents experiencing cancer diagnosis, it was proposed to invest £135,000 to continue to provide this service in the Borough.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process and the Board fully supported the recommendations. Councillor Steele thanked all Cabinet Members for attending and presenting the Budget in a positive manner. He also thanked members of OSMB for scrutinising the Budget as a critical friend, and not on party political grounds. An additional recommendation was included relating to making all reports clearer, more concise and easier to read. Cabinet accepted this recommendation.

Full details on the discussion of the budget at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting held on 4th February 2026 can be found in the minutes of that meeting.

Councillor Steele wished to place on record his thanks to the Scrutiny Officers for their help in facilitating the scrutiny on the Budget.

The Budget and Council Tax Report would be presented for approval at the Council meeting on Wednesday 4th March 2026.

Resolved:

That Cabinet recommend to Council:

1. Approval of the Budget and Financial Strategy for 2026/27 as set out in the report and appendices, including a basic Council Tax increase of 1.95% and an Adult Social Care precept increase of 2%.
2. Approval of the extension to the Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme, that will provide up to £131.44 of additional support to low income households accessing the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme. It will support those most financially vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills as described in Section 2.5.15 of the report submitted.
3. Approval of the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2028/29, as described within Section 2.6 of the report submitted.
4. Approval of the Reserves Strategy as set out in Section 2.8 noting that the final determination of Reserves will be approved as part of reporting the financial outturn for 2025/26.
5. To delegate authority to the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport in consultation with the Service Director of Financial Services and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to approve the specific detailed allocations and use of the Local Plan Reserve.
6. To note and accept the comments and advice of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer), provided in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as to the robustness of the estimates included in the Budget and the adequacy of Reserves for which the Budget provides as set out in Section 2.14 of the report submitted.
7. To note the feedback from the public and partners following the public consultation on the Council's budget for 2026/27 which took place from 28th November 2025 to 9th January 2026, attached as Appendix 5 to the report submitted.

8. Approval of the proposed increases in Adult Social Care provider contracts and for Direct Payments as set out in Section 2.4 of the report submitted.
9. Approval of the proposed approach and increases in Children's Social Care costs as set out in Section 2.4.23 of the report submitted.
10. Approval of the revenue investment proposals set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 2 of the report submitted.
11. Approval of the proposed revenue savings set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 4 of the report submitted.
12. Approval of the Council Fees and Charges for 2026/27 attached as Appendix 7 of the report submitted.
13. Application of the Business Rates Reliefs as set out in Section 2.10, in line with Government guidance.
14. Approval of the proposed Capital Strategy and Capital Programme as presented in Section 2.12 and Appendices 3A to 3F of the report submitted.
15. Approval of the Treasury Management matters for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 9 of this report including the Prudential Indicators, the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Investment Strategy.
16. Approval that any changes resulting from the Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2026/27 be reflected in the Budget and Council Tax Report to Council on 4th March, 2026.
17. Continuation of the principles and measures adopted since April 2020 to make faster payments to suppliers on receipt of goods, works and services following a fully reconciled invoice as described in Section 2.11. of the report submitted.
18. Approval of the procedure for Budget allocations for the Community Leadership Fund as set out in Section 2.9 of the report submitted.
19. Approval that the Capital Programme Budget continues to be managed in line with the following key principles:
 - (i) Any underspends on the existing approved Capital Programme in respect of 2025/26 be rolled forward into future years, subject to an individual review of each carry forward to be set out within the Financial Outturn 2025/26 report to Cabinet.

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- (ii) In line with Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules 7.7 to 7.11 and 8.12, any successful grant applications in respect of capital projects will be added to the Council's approved Capital Programme on an ongoing basis.
- (iii) Capitalisation opportunities and capital receipts flexibilities will be maximised, with capital receipts earmarked to minimise revenue costs.

20. That Cabinet agree that the Council should review and refine its approach to producing reports, ensuring that they are clearer, more concise, and easier to read. Streamlined reporting will also help to reduce printing requirements, contributing to lower costs and supporting the Council's work to improve its carbon footprint.

123. ROTHERHAM GATEWAY PROGRESS TO FULL BUSINESS CASE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update in relation to the Rotherham Gateway Station proposals. The Council was working with partners to promote the development of Rotherham Gateway Station. This mainline and tram-train station would be a catalyst for growth, improving local, regional, and national rail connectivity for all communities and businesses across the Borough, creating employment, and supporting the development of high-quality new homes.

An Outline Business Case (OBC) had been approved by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), the Department for Transport (DfT) and Ministerial approval was received by the Council on 14th January 2026. This approval released funding of £11.35 million to the Council to develop a Full Business Case (FBC) for the scheme. The report recommended that Cabinet accept this funding to progress to Full Business Case with submission to SYMCA for assurance and approval of the Business Case.

To ensure the FBC could progress at pace, it also requested approval to allocate the funding as required and to undertake any actions as necessary to complete the FBC, such as procurement and contract award, design matters and liaison with partner organisations. Following completion, the report sought to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, for submission of the Full Business Case to SYMCA to approve funding to deliver the project in full.

The outputs of the Full Business Case would include:

- Detailed design completed for the main line station, tram-train stop and floormat between them (including station building / business centre and provision for user-friendly multi-modal transport interchange).

- Appointment of contractors and agreed delivery programme.
- Timetable and economic benefits modelling updated.
- Securing of train operator and service specifier commitments to stop train services at the new station.
- Integrated Transport Strategy agreed and planned (e.g. integrated bus services to maximise station usage).
- Cost plan interrogated and updated.
- Delivery funding strategy and security of funding source in place.
- Consents in place.
- Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Essential land acquisition complete.

The Full Business Case was a significant commitment for the Council, requiring dedicated project support which would have impacts across several Council services. The requirements for this were being scoped. A governance and management structure was being prepared to ensure appropriate resource was in place which included working with partner organisations including SYMCA. Where necessary the Council would secure appropriate external expertise to support the development of the FBC.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Accepts the £11.35 million CRSTS funding from SYMCA to progress the Full Business Case for Rotherham Gateway Station.
2. Grants approval to consult as necessary on the outputs of the Full Business Case as they are developed with the public and scheme stakeholders.
3. Grants approval to allocate the funding as required within the CRSTS allocation.
4. Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration and Environment in consultation with S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy to prepare the Full Business Case, undertake any actions as necessary including procurement, and then submit to SYMCA for assurance and approval.
5. Delegates authority to the Service Director Property & Facilities Services (Property Officer) in consultation with the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport, Service Director, Legal Services, and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy to make an order (if required) via compulsory purchase (Town and Country Planning Act or the Transport and Works Act) to acquire the necessary property interests for the Station.

6. Delegates authority to the Service Director Property & Facilities Services (Property Officer) in consultation with the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport, Service Director Legal Services and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy to take all steps, and enter into all documentation on behalf of the Council in connection with the making, confirmation, submission, and implementation of the above order, including in respect of any public inquiry, appeal or legal challenge concerning the same.

124. 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.

125. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

The next meeting of the Cabinet would be held on 16th March 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

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**THE CABINET
16th March, 2026**

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

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

126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

127. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 2 questions:

1. Mrs. Hazel Hubbard asked a question in relation to the use of the pavement by shops to display and sell goods. She stated that shops were now taking up large sections of the pavement and pedestrians could no longer walk properly along this path. Mrs. Hubbard referenced shops on Effingham Street and Howard Street and explained that it was not fair on the market traders who had to pay for their stalls. It was also impacting people with disabilities who relied on walking aids as they could not fit through. Mrs. Hubbard stated that it was ridiculous and they should use the shop they had, not the street. She asked how this could be stopped.

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, said that he understood the frustration. There were conflicting rules in place due to planning law, licensing law and highways law but Councillor Williams committed to raising the matter with those services outside of the meeting and providing Mrs. Hubbard with a point of contact.

In her supplementary question, Mrs. Hubbard stated that she had been complaining for 3 months and nothing was improving. She had been joined by 2 Conservative Councillors in the Town Centre but the Labour Member had refused to attend as she disagreed with Mrs. Hubbard's viewpoint.

The Leader confirmed that Councillor Williams would walk around the Town Centre with Mrs. Hubbard and look into the current rules regarding this matter.

2. Mr. Saghir Hussain spoke regarding Dignity and burial services. He stated that Dignity had increased their rates by approximately 16% and they had put this down to a number of reasons. This included

inflation, previous rate freezes and the cost they had to pay to Rotherham Council. Mr. Hussain referenced High Wycombe where it cost £1500 less, even though it was close to central London. He asked what the Council could do to subsidise or remove the charges.

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing with responsibility for Bereavement Services, explained that the Council was aware that fees were increasing and would have a big impact on Rotherham residents. The Council had already made it clear to Dignity that the rise was disproportionate, and they did not support it. The Cabinet Member stated that, whilst the Council disagreed with Dignity, they were entitled to take decisions to increase the fees. She therefore advised Mr. Hussain to contact Dignity directly with his concerns.

In his supplementary, Mr. Hussain stated that he had already spoken to Dignity, and they had stated that the reason they were putting up the rates was because there had been no increases for 7 years and, more importantly, because of the cost they had to pay to the Council as charges. He asked the Cabinet Member to support the community by absorbing the costs and fetching the charges in line with other local authorities.

The Service Director of Legal Services stated that the information provided by Dignity to Mr. Hussain did not accord with the information the Council had received from Dignity in relation to the pressures and reasons for the cost. The Council did not recognise the answer Mr. Hussain had been given. The Leader confirmed that the Council would seek clarity on the facts of the matter and arrange to discuss further with Mr. Hussain.

128. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9th February, 2026, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

129. 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.

130. PUBLIC HEALTH GRANTS FOR 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the changes to the Public Health Supplementary Grant for 2026/27 and allocations to Rotherham Council. It provided a brief update on the 2025/26 spend and outlined the new process for allocations from April 2026, including investment proposals for 2026/27, and beyond where relevant.

In 2025/26 Rotherham Council received Supplementary Public Health Grant funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery via the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Recovery and Improvement Grant (DATRIG) (which included the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)), Individual Placement and Support (IPS), the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (LSSSASG) and Supervised Toothbrushing. These Grants were made separately as part of the Government strategies on drugs and alcohol, tobacco, employment support and oral health. The Grants had specific conditions including maintaining baseline Public Health Grant spend on the respective core services.

The report provided information relating to additional funding that was allocated to Public Health and was protected because of specific conditions attached. Issued via the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), from 2026 this funding was protected within the wider Public Health ringfenced grant. If the additional grants received were not spent in line with the associated conditions (as with the wider Public Health Grant), future funding could be decreased. The Supplementary Grants would be added to the Public Health Grant as part of a 3 year financial settlement.

From April 2026, a funding simplification process would be implemented with the SSMTRG, IPS, LSSSASG grants being added to the Public Health Grant allocation and not awarded as separate streams. In addition, the Swap to Stop budget was being included within LSSSASG. The funding (with the exception of the Supervised Tooth Brushing) was part of a 3 year Settlement (2026-27 to 2028-29) but would remain allocated on an annual basis, with indicative figures provided for the protected drug and alcohol funding.

In 2025/26 the Public Health Ringfenced Grant was £19.575m. The Public Health Ringfenced Grant for 2026/27 would be £22.681m. This incorporated £6.542m that would be additionally ringfenced to specific activities, leaving £16.139m for other Public Health activities. Although this reduced the flexibility to spend the Grant, there was currently enough spend within the ringfenced areas to meet the requirements of the Grant.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the changes in the Government's approach to the allocation of Public Health Grant;
2. Approve spending plans for Rotherham's Public Health Grant outlined in the report;
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to recommission the Drug and Alcohol contract with the protected Drug and Alcohol budget;

4. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health (within the protected stop smoking budgets in the Public Health Grant) to commission services designed to enable the Council to make progress in achieving a smoke free generation in line with the plans from Central Government.

131. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the findings and recommendations of the Health Select Commission review into access to contraception. The review was identified and prioritised as part of work conducted by the Commission in the 2024-25 Municipal Year following reports of inconsistencies in accessibility of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) at GP surgeries. Whilst LARC was one of the areas of concern identified, Members elected to consider the full breadth of contraceptive options as part of the review process.

The report was endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 22nd January 2026 meeting and subsequently endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board during its 3rd February 2026 meeting for progression and consideration by Cabinet, in line with the scrutiny review process.

Councillor Steele, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, presented the report and stated that it was a detailed piece of work which involved a high proportion of engagement with both internal and external partners. The key issues and considerations of the Working Group were set out. A number of appendices were included which helped form the basis and justification for the recommendations.

The report reflected that evidence gathered in 2025, identified key issues such as variation in GP services, limited male contraception options, inconsistent and fragmented online information, and increasing misinformation via social media. The challenges noted restricted informed choice for Rotherham residents and could contribute to rising termination rates and health inequalities. The review recommended improving access, strengthening digital information, expanding outreach, and enhancing support for young people. It also identified longer term opportunities, including stronger Primary Care Network collaboration, wider condom provision, and improved use of data.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health welcomed the report and thanked all Members involved in the review. In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Cabinet committed to formally consider its response and respond to the recommendations by May 2026.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Receives the recommendations listed below along with the wider ambitions as listed in Paragraph 2.12 of the report, as approved by Health Select Commission:

a. Commissioning and Service Delivery

- i. That the relevant Council Services consider and review the feasibility of mobile outreach clinics or rotating Sexual Health Outreach Services where contraception, including LARC can be accessed in rural and underserved areas.
- ii. That the relevant Council Services and relevant partners consider Including Sexual Health Services, specifically including contraceptive advice guidance and provision, in the new Town Centre health hub, ensuring flexible, reliable and discreet 'drop-in' access and reduced stigma.

b. Education, Public Awareness and Messaging

- i. That the relevant Council Services work in collaboration with appropriate partners to strengthen and extend the reach of a Borough-wide, sex-positive Public Health campaign promoting safe, consensual, and informed sexual activity that makes effective use of the Contraceptive and Sexual Health Services available in Rotherham. The Commission particularly advocates the use of modern messaging strategies that harness the power of local 'influencers' via social media platforms (e.g. TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram) wherever possible to reach younger demographics with engaging, accurate contraception and sexual health messaging that reaches them directly in places they naturally frequent and counteracts disinformation.
- ii. That the relevant Council Services encourage schools to deliver consistent, comprehensive PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), including ongoing practical contraceptive education and awareness of confidentiality rights and works with them to improve parental engagement and understanding of the benefits of making informed contraceptive and sexual health choices.

c. Digital Access and Information

- i. That the relevant Council Services work to improve Council Public Health websites to deliver youth-friendly information on Contraception and Sexual Health Services and providing/signposting to relevant sources of information, advice and guidance aimed at assisting that demographic to make informed choices.
- ii. That the relevant Council Services work to develop a centralised digital resource or landing page consolidating sexual health information, service locations, and confidentiality guidance, with links to age group/demographic specific issues and information.

d. Youth Access and Confidentiality

- i. That the relevant Council Services consider how, ideally in collaboration with relevant partners such as schools and NHS services, to raise awareness of Fraser guidelines and NHS app privacy settings to reassure young people about confidentiality when accessing contraception.
- ii. That the relevant Council Services work with MESMAC and other relevant youth services to expand outreach and ensure visibility and borough wide accessibility of services, particularly for LGBTQ+ and vulnerable groups.

e. Data, Monitoring and Strategic Alignment

- i. That the relevant Council Services include the location of sexual health clinics, drop-in centres, and pharmacies providing emergency contraception on the Rotherham mapping system (where grit salt bin locations, planning applications etc. can be found), or create a standalone map resource to allow Rotherham residents to easily identify all locations in the Borough where they can access contraception.
- ii. That relevant Council Services review local data on terminations and teenage pregnancies to assess emerging trends, identify the root causes and facilitate the formulation and implementation of targeted interventions that address their drivers.

- iii. That relevant Council Services ensure that the recommendations, observations and broad ambitions from this review are considered in the next commissioning cycle in 2027, and in the development/revision of the Borough's Sexual Health Strategy and action plan.
2. Formally considers its response and responds to the above recommendations by May 2026, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
3. Agrees that following submission to Cabinet, those recommendations within the control and influence of external bodies, are shared with relevant health partners and commissioners for consideration and response.

132. FAMILIES FIRST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update in respect of the progress on the Families First Partnership Programme and on the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant spend.

In February 2025, the Government published the grant determination for the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant for 2025-26 (RMBC allocation £2.083m). This new grant was specifically for direct investment in additional prevention activity for children and families implementing the Department for Education's (DfE) Family Help and Child Protection reforms. The grant was intended to fund local authorities to deliver against the planned new legislative duties. The grant was in addition to the Children and Families Grant, which was now mainstreamed funding, initially for the Supporting Families programme and intended to enable continuation of existing prevention services.

In March 2025, the Government published the Families First Partnership Programme Guide. The aim of the Programme was to support safeguarding partners to implement Family Help and multi-agency child protection reforms and make greater use of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). The Programme guide described the vision and objectives and set out the practice change Government expected to see to improve the support provided to children and their families. The timeline for delivery of the transformation was ambitious, with significant progress anticipated within the first year.

As detailed in paragraph 2.1.1, a number of appointments had been made to the Transformation Team which was a positive reflection of the appetite in Rotherham for co-production and partnership working. Paragraph 2.2 detailed the regional work that had taken place which included engagement in regional Communities of Practice.

The Families First Programme Delivery Group, chaired by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services, was ensuring progress against the delivery plan. This meeting was monthly and was well attended with key officers from across the Partnership including South Yorkshire Police, Health, and Education, along with Local Authority Service areas. The project team had reviewed other projects managed across the Council and by partners to ensure the Families First Partnership Programme was in line with other change activity.

Paragraph 2.4 of the report outlined the co-production work undertaken to review and refresh the Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance and Descriptors document. The original document was co-produced by the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership and provided guidance for all practitioners working with children and families, who might be considering a referral to Children's Social Care services via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). A refresh of the Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance and Descriptors document was expected to be published in June 2026.

Officers within the Public Health Team had undertaken a Needs Assessment on behalf of the Programme and had reviewed data provided from Children and Young People Services (CYPS) and partners for the period July 2024 to June 2025. The data that had emerged from the report, broadly re-affirmed the position already understood by the CYPS Directorate, which was encouraging. Domestic abuse was a main reason for concern when professionals and members of the public contacted MASH, as was parental mental ill health and a need for parenting support. There was also a clear correlation between the areas of Rotherham which were most deprived and those where requests for support came from.

Work had started to review how Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) could be improved in Rotherham. FGDM was a voluntary, family-led process where relatives and other support networks created a plan to ensure a child's safety and wellbeing. This way of working supported families to identify their own solutions, reducing their reliance on Services. Paragraphs 2.6.2 and 2.6.3 provided details on the work already been done and the next steps in relation to FGDM.

The Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services stated that this Programme linked together with a suite of other programmes as part of the evolution of Children's Social Care.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made since the last update on 17th November 2025.

2. Note the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant spend since the last update on 17th November 2025.

133. BEST START PLAN 2026-2029

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Best Start Plan. The Department for Education (DfE) issued targets for Local Authorities (LAs) to improve Good Level of Development (GLD) as part of its "Best Start in Life" strategy, aiming for 75% of 5 year-olds nationally to reach GLD by 2028, issuing new data tools and funding to guide local planning and intervention. All local authorities had to publish a Best Start Plan by 31st March 2026 in line with the guidance.

The report provided an overview of current activity across Rotherham to improve Early Years outcomes, tackle inequalities, and ensure that all children, especially those who were disadvantaged, got a strong foundation for school, contributing to the Council's wider ambition that children and young people achieved. The report outlined the key activity undertaken in developing the new Best Start Local Plan, including a comprehensive needs analysis, engagement, and consultation. The report also sought approval of the Best Start Local Plan and outlined the timeline for implementation to achieve the ambitions identified.

The Plan had to outline strategies to reach the agreed local contribution to the national 75% GLD target and address regional disparities. The reinforced legal and strategic framework shifted the local focus from simply providing childcare places to achieving specific developmental outcomes. Rotherham Council was required to improve the percentage of 5 year olds reaching a Good Level of Development in their Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) assessments to 73.3% (and 56.6% of 5 year olds eligible for free school meals) by 2028. Paragraph 1.3 of the report set out the Rotherham Context.

Section 2.1 of the report detailed how the Best Start Local Plan was being developed. A summit led by Rotherham Council had been held in December 2025 and participants engaged in 2 workshops. The first focused on current practices and the second on generating ideas for doing things differently. The summit concluded by agreeing the appropriate next steps and informing the development of the Best Start Local Plan.

Section 2.2 of the report set out the guiding principles that would underpin the Best Start Local Plan. An analysis of local need was included at Section 2.3 and the priorities set out in Section 2.4 were based on this need.

The Cabinet Member advised that progress against the Best Start Local Plan would be monitored by the Best Start and Beyond Steering Group. Regular updates would be provided to the Health and Care Place Board, Children and Young People's Change Management Board and Senior

Leadership Team. Overarching responsibility would sit with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People who would report into the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussions had focused on the data included, equalities considerations and terminology.

An additional recommendation was put to Cabinet that Children and Young People's Services work with the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement to identify information in relation to specific neighbourhoods, and this would then inform the development of and work on the Best Start Local Plan. This recommendation was accepted.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the high level of satisfaction with the baby packs, particularly in relation to the quality and usefulness of the items provided.
2. Approve an open procurement exercise to ensure continuity of registering and delivery of baby packs to Rotherham families.
3. Agree that Children and Young People's Services will work with the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement to identify information in relation to specific neighbourhoods, and this would then inform the development of and work on the Best Start Local Plan.

134. SOUTH YORKSHIRE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

Consideration was given to the report which asked Cabinet to approve a further 5 year partnership arrangement with Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield to deliver adoption services as part of a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). In January 2021 Rotherham partnered with Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield Children's Social Care Departments to create One Adoption South Yorkshire (OASY) as their Regional Adoption Agency. The arrangement was agreed for 5 years and had progressed since this date. The partnership agreement was scheduled to end in December 2025; however, the 4 local authority Directors of Children's Services agreed to an extension through to April 2026 as a review had just been completed making recommendations relating to the operating model and the associated funding formula.

There was a continued need for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to deliver Adoption Services. This was a statutory obligation and ensured that children with a care plan for adoption could secure legal permanence through an adoption process when no longer considered safe or in their best interest to remain with their parents or wider family network. The

partnership arrangements to date had been a broad success. There had been development since their inception and some of the challenges experienced had been addressed more recently following a review of the operating model by an external consultant.

The proposed revised delivery model would see an increase in flexibility within the RAA enabling more efficient service delivery. This would also address the reduction in adopter approval activity that had been seen in recent years alongside the increase in the need for post-Order support services. These were the services that were offered to families who had adopted a child and required support in the years that followed. This was a national trend, and the local area reflected the general downward trend in permanent homes being provided via adoption.

The continued partnership arrangement would see a move towards a thematic model of working aligning the service under 3 workstreams (Adoption Support, Recruitment and Assessment and Family Finding) rather than 4 Local Authority Adoption Services operating within a RAA almost independently of each other. It also built in capacity for a Keeping-in-Touch Team within Adoption Support (a known growth area) and the potential for a recruitment and assessment front door team. Keeping in Touch (KIT) in adoption referred to agreed, often voluntary, arrangements allowing adopted children to maintain relationships with birth relatives or significant people, supporting their identity and emotional wellbeing. This model would generate the additional capacity by moving resource from the Family Finding team (where work had been reducing) to the other workstreams. It also generated flexibility to manage short term absence and crucially to deliver a consistently high standard of service across the South Yorkshire Region.

The associated cost reduction for RMBC was based on a revision of the funding formula of the RAA. This was based primarily on the reduction in the number of children Rotherham were placing for adoption. There were a variety of reasons for this including a comprehensive and robust Family Help offer, the enhancements in the use of Family Network Activity and an improved Kinship offer leading to more children and young people remaining at home with their parents or wider network. The reduction in costs had been absorbed in the alternative delivery model meaning a redistribution in Service Manager capacity and management of inter-agency budgets. The inter-agency budget was the fund used when the RAA purchase adoptive placements from other RAAs or may income generate from selling placements to other agencies. It was not considered that there would be an impact on service delivery and there were no risks in relation to redundancy based on these proposals.

The implementation plan aimed to move to this model of delivery in April 2026.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve a further 5 year partnership arrangement with Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield to deliver Adoption Services as part of a Regional Adoption Agency.

135. MODERN SLAVERY TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT - ANNUAL REFRESH

Consideration was given to the report which provided the annual update in relation to the activities of the Council and its partners in seeking to both address and prevent modern slavery and a refreshed draft Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2026/27 for consideration and approval prior to publication. (Appendix 1).

Paragraph 1.3 of the report set out the changes to the 2026/27 Statement compared to the 2025/26 Statement. These included the commitment, the polices and work that had been done. Work included:

- Working with landlords to raise awareness.
- Working with South Yorkshire Police on the enhancement of reporting pathways and intelligence sharing.
- Developing a Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Information Sharing Agreement with South Yorkshire Partners.
- Development of a "Strategic and Tactical Response to Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime in South Yorkshire, 2025-2028."
- Delivery of four bespoke Human Trafficking Modern Slavery training courses for Council staff.

Staff within the Procurement Team undertook the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) ethical procurement and supply training as required in the Co-operative Party's Charter for modern slavery in 2018 when the Charter was adopted. The Team had been undergoing a refresh of this training with all relevant staff having completed this. This training had now been programmed for renewal in every 3 year period as part of the overall modern slavery training provision.

Between April 2022 and December 2025, a total of 161 referrals from Rotherham were made by the Council and other first responder organisations to the National Referral Mechanism. All referrals were reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board via the Performance Management Framework.

Cabinet Members and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board praised the work done on this matter and noted the progress that had been made since 2018.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made to date.
2. Approve the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2026/27 and its publication on the Council's website.

136. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27 TO 2029/30

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval for the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Housing Capital Programme. Key areas of focus included improving Council homes with continued investment in external and internal refurbishments, providing aids and adaptations, and acquiring and building new Council homes. The report summarised the investment that had taken place or was planned to take place during 2025/26, provided an outline 4 year Capital Programme (2026/27 to 2029/30) and a detailed programme for 2026/27.

The total planned Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital investment in the years 2026/27 to 2029/30 was £312.6m. This sum had been modelled and included with the 2026/27 HRA Business Plan that was approved by Council on the 14th January 2026.

Paragraph 2.2 of the report provided details on the improvements to Council homes and estates aspect of the Programme. This included investment up to an average of £60k per unit, totalling £1.3bn over the 30 year plan period. The additional funding would be used to ensure that the Council, as a social landlord, continued to meet and/or exceed the regulatory requirements of ensuring tenants' lived in safe, warm and decent homes. Over the next 4 years this would result in an investment of £198.6m in existing Council homes.

The detailed 2026/27 programme was attached at Appendix 2. The Programme budget for 2026/27 was £43.2m. The programme included £17.5m for continued delivery of phased refurbishment works. External refurbishment works included renewing roofs, guttering and fascias, balcony structural and resurfacing works, and windows and doors. External works would take place across the Borough including Kimberworth Park, The Lanes, East Herringthorpe and Brampton; Swinton and Fitzwilliam would benefit from replacement windows and doors to 224 properties. The Programme also included internal refurbishment works for c.200 kitchens or bathrooms. The Programme included £2m for larger planned repairs. This included repairs to paths, paving and boundary walls, plastering and pointing.

The Programme also included £7.7m for major refurbishments to properties that became empty and were due to be re-let to a new tenant. This budget had increased significantly in recent years, driven by factors such as the need to replace outdated kitchens and bathrooms, damp-proofing works, and rewiring. An additional £5.3m was earmarked for

mechanical and electrical works (including boiler replacement.) £6.3million would be invested in the Warm Homes Scheme and with an additional £2.5million for ventilation and damp and mould works.

In relation to providing aids and adaptations, £13.4 million would be provided over 4 years with £3.4 million in 2026/27 to delivery approximately 600 major adaptations and 500 minor adaptations.

The proposed Capital Programme included £98.5m to support the Council's Housing Delivery Programme. This included £63.7m to deliver the existing pipeline of projects to achieve 1,000 new Council homes by summer 2027, alongside a further £34.8m to ensure the continuation of the Housing Delivery Programme beyond 2027. This Programme of activity would continue to deliver much needed affordable housing within the Borough while increasing rental income to the HRA and helping to reduce the impact of Right to Buy on Council housing stock levels.

It was forecast that in 2026/27 an estimated 150 units would be added to the Council's housing stock. 68 new build homes would be completed including 43 across 2 sites at Maltby, 15 at Warden Street Canklow and 10 at Wath across 2 sites. 82 homes would be acquired, 15 as part of the Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative, 28 directly from the market and 39 S106 homes including Laughton Gate, Waverley and Poppyfields. The budget of £29.8m reflected the current approved budget.

In relation to investing in IT to support digital transformation, the Council had an established rolling programme of capital investments into its IT and digital infrastructure and certain elements of this were supported with HRA investment. In line with this, the proposed Capital Programme included £2.1m over the 4 year Programme and £338k during 2026/27. Paragraph 2.23 detailed the Housing Digital Transformation Programme which was being developed.

Paragraphs 2.24, 2.25 and 6.6, along with Appendix 6, set out the funding sources and grants and contributions information.

Cabinet Members fully supported the proposals and stated that the level of investment in new and existing Council homes was exciting news for the Borough.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the four-year outline Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30 with total planned investment of £312.6m broken down into the following areas of investment:

- Improving homes and estates £198.6m
 - Aids and adaptations to Council homes £13.4m
 - Housing Delivery Programme £98.5m
 - IT and digital transformation £2.1m
2. Approve the detailed 2026/27 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme with total planned investment of £76.8m broken down into the following areas of investment:
- Improving homes and estates £43.2m
 - Aids and adaptations to Council homes £3.4m
 - Housing Delivery Programme £29.8m
 - IT and digital transformation £0.4m

137. LOCAL GROWTH FUND 2026/27 ALLOCATION

Consideration was given to the report which set out proposals and recommendations for the use of Rotherham's £2.95 million allocation from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) in 2026/27. For 2026/27, LGF would operate as a continuation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), forming part of a further transitional programme. This transitional year built upon the £10.48 million of UKSPF that the Borough received over 4 years from April 2022 to March 2026.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), introduced by Government as the successor to the European Structural Funds, had been a major source of investment for Rotherham since 2022. With the introduction of an integrated settlement for South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) from 2026/27, UKSPF had been replaced by a new Local Growth Fund. Rotherham received £7.2m of UKSPF over 3 years from April 2022 to March 2025, comprising £5.6m revenue and £1.6m capital (including £400,000 specifically for rural areas).

In 2025/26, the Government provided a further transitional year of UKSPF, albeit at a reduced level compared to 2024/25. UKSPF investments in this year were required to align with the Government's 5 national missions. Rotherham received £3.28 million from the SYMCA allocation for 2025/26, consisting of £2.86 million revenue and £420,000 capital. Some of the outputs from this funding were listed in paragraph 1.4 of the report. From 2026/27, the Local Growth Fund provided a 3 year allocation (4 years for capital) to SYMCA for activity broadly focused on economic development and regeneration. The allocation was approximately £15.1 million in 2026/27, with £15.8 million in 2027/28, £19.6 million in 2028/29 and £16.9 million capital in 2029/30.

Rotherham had been allocated £2.95 million in 2026/27, comprising £2.09 million revenue and £858,585 capital. This represented a reduction of £328,447 (around 10%) compared to the 2025/26 allocation. Funding in 2026/27 would continue to focus on the priorities of supporting local business, people and skills, and communities and place. A summary of

the proposals for each theme was set out in the report, with a more detailed breakdown included at Appendix 1. The recommendations set out the allocations also detailed how the funding would be allocated.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the projects for submission to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority for award of LGF for 2026/27 as follows:

a) Local Business Support

- i) £946,845 (£464,915 revenue and £481,930 capital) for sub regional business support supporting three strands of Launchpad (start-up support), Productivity and Low Carbon.
- ii) £666,655 (£110,000 revenue and £556,655 capital) for Shop Unit Grants.
- iii) £60,000 to support Rotherham Town Centre Markets.
- iv) £36,559 for Social Value to increase opportunities for local businesses.

b) People and Skills

- i) £441,203 for a skills programme incorporating Ambition (children and young people), Core Skills (community-delivered basic skills training) and Advance (support to progress in work.)
- ii) £300,781 for Young People's Skills Development.

c) Communities and Place

- i) £424,219 for Events, delivering a wide-ranging programme of civic and cultural events and festivals.

2. Agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine revised and final allocations for the Local Growth Fund. This is to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of the Fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the allocations above.

138. TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which provided details on the Transport Capital Programme for the upcoming 2026-27 financial year, including its funding sources and programme areas, and explained how projects would be managed within them. The 2026-27 financial year was the final year of the current 5 year funding round. Based on spend to date and current commitments, the present forecast for available funding for 2026-27 was £344,000. This was made up of the remaining City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement and Local and Neighbourhood Transport Complementary Programme block funding of £95,000 and reallocation of the remaining funding for the delivered moving traffic offences pilot, and the crossing at Morthen Road.

An allocation of £225,000 from 2026-27 funding was proposed to enable the delivery of the first prioritised crossing following the completion and approval of the prioritisation process undertaken and reported as part of the 2025-26 Capital Programme.

Given the need for the Council to monitor against delivery on outputs and outcomes for all Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) /CRSTS funded schemes, a proposal for a £15,000 allocation was required for year 3 monitoring and evaluation assessment of the Moor Road, Manvers TCF scheme, as well as monitoring the performance of the broader programme to inform future work.

In relation to School Crossing Patrol Improvements, an allocation of £104,000 was proposed for investigation and delivery of schemes to mitigate risks at School Crossing Patrol Sites, and a delegation was sought to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27.

There was also an allocation of £426,400 for structures for the 2026-27 financial year. It was proposed that this be allocated to the following:

- Bridge Joint Replacement Programme (£150,000)
- Grafton New Bridge concrete and parapet repairs (£200,000)
- Minor essential maintenance arising from inspections (£76,400)

A number of Capital investments were proposed as set out in paragraph 2.3.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussions had focused on the proposals regarding Treeton Lane crossroads, the 5 pedestrian crossings, involvement of Ward Members and the broad nature of the delegation.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the schemes and allocations of funding, as set out in paragraph 2.3, following approval of the Council Budget on 4th March 2026.
2. Approves the schemes and allocations of funding outlined in Section 2 of this report, including the reallocation of savings made on capital projects delivered within budget as described in paragraph 1.5.
3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27 through to 2029-30 with the Minor Works allocation, following approval of the Council Budget in March 2026.
4. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27 with the School Crossing Patrol Improvements allocation referred to in paragraph 2.2.6.
5. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the use of any underspends across the Transport Capital Programme to fund the delivery of other approved transport programmes, or the progression of designs for potential future projects.

139. 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.

140. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 13th April 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

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AUDIT COMMITTEE
13th January, 2026

Present:- Councillor Baggaley (in the Chair); Councillors Allen, Blackham, Elliott and McKiernan and Michael Olugbenga-Babalola and Alison Hutchinson (Independent Persons).

Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton (External Auditors) was also in attendance.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

59. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

There were no members of the press and public in attendance at the meeting nor had any questions been received in advance of the meeting.

60. 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 Nos. 67 (Corporate Strategic Risk Register Update), 68 (Risk Management Directorate Presentation - Finance and Customer Services), 69 (Risk Management Presentation - Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate) and 70 (Progress report on Riverside House Building Security and ID Badge Controls) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

61. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER, 2025

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 25th November, 2025.

Resolved:-

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

Arising from Minute No. 54 (Environment and Regeneration Directorate Risk Register), it had been confirmed that the following risk had been added in December 2025 and approved at the Directorate Leadership Team risk review meeting on 18th December, 2025:-

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 13/01/26

Risk RE66/CSS55:-

- Business Objective - Delivery of the waste transformation project, including optimisation of routes and rounds
- Risk Detail:- Risk of failure following the delivery of new terms and conditions, route optimisation, and cultural change
- Consequence/Effect - Risk of claims in relation to employment practices as well as a fundamental risk to the Council's ability to run the Service will lead to loss of confidence to the public and financial implications for the Council

62. EXTERNAL AUDITOR - UPDATE

The Chair invited Greg Charnley, Audit Senior Manager, Grant Thornton, to provide an update on the current position with regard to the External Audit.

There was nothing to report to the Audit Committee at the present time.

63. CLOSURE OF THE ACCOUNTS 2025/26

Consideration was given to a report and appendices presented by the Head of Corporate Finance on the closure of the accounts 2025/26.

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulation 2024 extended the deadline for the publication of final audited accounts to 31st January 2027 for the 2025/26 accounts and then 30th November 2027 for 2026/27 and 30th November 2028 for 2027/28 accounts. The draft accounts were required to be published by 30th June 2026 for 2025/26 accounts. The Regulations had been introduced to address the national backlog of local authority audits.

In line with best practice, the Council's financial reporting timetable remained in line with the 2024/25 timetable which included publishing draft accounts by the end of May 2026 (presented to Audit Committee in June 2026) with the fully audited accounts to be published in November 2026 following approval at the November Audit Committee. However, this depended upon the available capacity of the Council's auditors.

The key accounting issues and main changes to the accounts in 2025/26 were set out in Appendix A to the report.

The Council's Statement of Accounting Policies (Appendix B) was reviewed and updated where necessary.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The general audit plan was due to be completed by April/May 2026 which would contribute to setting the materiality level for the accounts.
- Infrastructure Assets and the move by the previous Government to bring in full accounting for highways infrastructure assets was considered from the perspective of whether work had been done to ensure a clean position for the relevant period. At the time of reporting, Officers were working on the detail of the spend and intending to build upon this to include as much detail as possible.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the timetable for the production of the Council's financial statements be noted.
- (2) That the key accounting issues and main changes to the accounts in 2025/26, as listed in Appendix A submitted, be noted.
- (3) That the Council's revised Account Policies, attached at Appendix B submitted, be noted.

64. EXTERNAL INSPECTIONS, REVIEWS AND AUDITS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report presented by Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence, which provided details of recent external inspections, reviews and audits as well as a summary of progress against the recommendations from all external inspections, reviews and audits setting out details of arrangements for ensuring the accountability and governance around their implementation.

Since the last report to Committee in July 2025, 6 new external inspections, reviews and audits had taken place. In total 7 recommendations or areas for improvement had been completed since the last report, 29 recommendations or areas for improvement which remained ongoing, and one was yet to start. Of those ongoing, 6 were delayed, with one delayed by more than 12 months. The reasons for the delays were summarised within Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The significant delay in relation to the Ofsted Focussed Visit – Officers advised that further information would be provided to the Chair, in writing, with the timescales for expected completion following consultation with CYPS
- Whether the Prevention of Future Deaths Report as recently presented to the Improving Lives Select Commission and the Coroners findings should be considered by the Audit Committee from a risk management perspective. It was clarified that the Council's response was a matter of public record, there were no additional steps that the

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 13/01/26

Council needed to take arising from that. Whilst it was acknowledged that the report taken to scrutiny included an action plan, these were broader improvement objectives. Officers agreed to consider, in conjunction with the Service and the Audit Committee Chair, how this Committee could be provided with appropriate reassurances in relation to this matter

Resolved:-

(1) That the recent external inspections, reviews and audits which have taken place and the progress made in implementing the recommendations since the last report in July 2025 be noted.

(2) That the governance arrangements that were currently in place for monitoring and managing the recommendations be noted.

(3) That the Audit Committee continue to receive regular reports in respect of external inspections, reviews and audits and the progress made.

(4) That the Audit Committee Chair receive written information relating to the significant delay in relation to the Ofsted Focussed Visit and expected timescales for completion following consultation with CYPS.

(5) That clarity regarding the Prevention of Future Deaths report and Coroner's Report follow-up action and how relevant reassurances could be provided to the Audit Committee would be considered by relevant Officers in conjunction with the Service and the Audit Committee Chair.

65. SECTION 17 PAYMENTS AND REDUCTION IN CASH PAYMENTS PROJECT

Stuart Williams, Assistant Director Children's Social Care, presented a report on the actions taken and progress made relating to the implementation of the recommendations from the partial assurance Internal Audit report on Section 17 Payments and Reduction in Cash Payments Project.

Section 17 (S17) of the Children Act 1989 defined the duties of a local authority in safeguarding and promoting the general welfare of a child in need. Financial assistance in terms of goods or services, or in exceptional circumstances cash, could be provided to a child, parent or carer to address the identified needs to safeguard and promote a child's welfare where there was no legitimate source of financial assistance or prevent a child entering local authority care.

The Audit gave a 'Partial Assurance' and provided 6 recommendations for implementation 4 of which had been completed with the outstanding 2 scheduled for completion by the end of January, 2026.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The process for making payments either by bank transfer or in cash, the checks and balances in place at various financial thresholds, the most frequent/likely reasons for such payments being required and the arrangements in place to ensure that sufficient funds were maintained for cash transactions in a secure manner.
- The draft status of the associated policy dated 2019, the steps in place within Service specifically and throughout the Council more broadly to ensure that policies were managed effectively, including reviews and renewal in a timely manner. It was clarified that this was managed via the Council Policy Register.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

66. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee for March 2026 to January 2027. The plan showed how the agenda items related to the objectives of the Committee. It was presented for review and amendment as necessary.

Resolved:-

That the Audit Committee forward work plan, as now submitted, be approved.

67. CORPORATE STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report presented by Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence, which detailed the Corporate Strategic Risk Register update.

The report summarised the principal risk management activity that had been carried out within the Council since the last report to the Committee in July (Minute No. 35 refers). It also summarised the key movements in Strategic Risks that have occurred over the period and updated the Committee on the current risks on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register (CSRR).

As set out in the Risk Management Policy and Guide, individual Service Management Teams and Directorate Leadership Teams had reviewed their risk registers in line with the Risk Management Policy and Strategy. Typically, teams reviewed their registers every 4 to 12 weeks dependent upon the individual meeting cycle and the significance of the risks they were managing.

The Corporate Strategic Risk Register had been formally reviewed by the Strategic Leadership Team and a regular cycle of quarterly reviews had been in place throughout the financial year. The Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager, through the Risk Champions, ensured updates were obtained from all risk owners, reviewed each update and drew attention to issues or missing risk register updates.

The current “heat map” for the strategic risks included in the update of the register were set out in the report submitted. Movements in the heat map were compared to the risks reported in July 2025 which showed one risk had been removed and 3 risks added. There had been minimal movement in the register with only 2 risks (SLT36 and SLT07) increasing in risk score.

In general terms, strategic risks changed more slowly over time than operational risks. Since July 2023, 33% of risks monitored at a strategic level had reduced in assessed level, 33% had remained stable and 33% had either increased or were new to the register. This showed that the Council’s overall risk position was broadly stable.

Appendix 1 of the report submitted showed the full CSRR as at 8th December 2025, the current mitigations in place and makes clear what mitigations were still to be delivered. The document also set out the current target level of risk for each risk. The final column was an expression of the Council’s risk appetite for that risk.

In total there remained 16 risks on the register.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The range of projects commissioned intended to enhance and improve community cohesion. The Committee was advised that a breakdown of the funding allocated to those projects was available and could be shared with the Committee if required
- Whether there was likely to be any improvement in the position in relation to SLT36, carbon emissions. Whilst significant movement was not anticipated, the Council remained committed to work as effectively as possible to make progress in line with the resource available. The reasons for the change in the risk score were explored, which included unforeseen changes which impacted upon the predications on which projections were based along other factors outside the Council’s control
- The increase in Health and Safety related risks and how these were arrived at. The departure of the Assistant Chief Executive resulted in the realignment of some risks under the control of the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services. Some transferred risks represented new areas which were not fully understood, and the Health and Safety Team in particular transferred with vacancies which

affected the Council's ability to deliver an effective and efficient service. That team had since become fully staffed and the expectation was that risks in this area would continue to reduce, but it was felt that it had been appropriate to record and monitor these risks effectively from the point of realignment

- The impact of equal pay legislation and the Council's approach to monitoring and managing associated risk. It was not possible to offer clarity in relation to potential contingent liability due to the current position and, therefore, remained important to monitor that particular risk. Steps taken to minimise the Council's exposure going forward was also considered

Resolved:-

That the updates on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register be received and the contents noted.

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

68. RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE PRESENTATION - FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services, which detailed the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Finance and Customer Services Directorate.

The report set out in detail the risk items which had been added or amended since the last report to Audit Committee in January 2025 and it was noted that risks were discussed and reviewed at the Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) and, where necessary, escalated to the next strategic level for inclusion on the risk register.

4 risk items had been removed since the last report and 3 of the 17 risks on the register were currently assessed as being a high risk.

The Risk Register entries were closely linked to the Service Plans, Team Plans, Reports and Service meeting agendas across the Directorate and progress against key actions to mitigate the above risks was monitored through management team meetings.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

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- The failure of the service provider to deliver on action to address issues in relation to burial space across the Borough, the processes in place for monitoring progress in relation to that including mitigation and escalation where necessary. It was confirmed that all contractual mechanisms available to the Council were employed to support the effective management of the risk on a site by site basis
- FCS21 – operational building decarbonisation and the steps taken to achieve progress, including considerations around SYMCA funding the potential for third party investment. It was clarified that solar energy creation proposals centred around utilisation of the existing buildings and housing stock
- FCS23 – building security and confidence in relation to how the recent audit reflected the level of risk across the entire estate, which was described as partial assurance with reasonable confidence

Resolved:-

That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Finance and Customer Services 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))

69. RISK MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION - ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIRECTORATE

In accordance with Minute No. 41(2) of September, 2025, consideration was given to the report presented by the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services which provided details of the current position of the Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate Risk Register and risk management activity within the Directorate.

The current Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate risk register had 28 risk items listed 7 of which also featured on the Council's strategic risk register. One of the risks was currently assessed as being a high risk.

All risks had been reviewed and amended as part of the review undertaken since September 2025.

The Risk Register entries were closely linked to the Service Plans, Team Plans, Reports and Service meeting agendas across the Directorate and progress against key actions to mitigate the above risks was monitored through management team meetings.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Effective management of transitioning risk to the interim in the short term and permanent in the long term to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, with the expectation that the changes implemented to the structure of the Directorates achieving clearer alignment and accountability from a risk perspective
- Effective management of Members' active involvement in Council business and the particular importance of this in relation to the development and delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy
- The increased cumulative risk burden of the Directorate, the reasons for this and the Council's ability to effectively manage that risk

Resolved:-

That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate, as detailed in the report submitted, be noted.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A))

70. PROGRESS REPORT ON RIVERSIDE HOUSE BUILDING SECURITY AND ID BADGE CONTROLS

Consideration was given to a report presented by Kevin Fisher, Assistant Director of Property and Facilities Services, in relation to the actions taken with regard to the partial assurance issued by the Internal Audit report on Riverside House Building Security and ID Badge controls.

The audit had revealed several areas requiring improvement. The recommended proposal was to implement the comprehensive action plan agreed with Internal Audit in response to the findings which addressed the key weaknesses identified and aimed to strengthen both the procedural and physical security controls at Riverside House.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Responsibility and accountability for security historically going forward. It was acknowledged that there had been confusion around this in the past, with clear lines of responsibility and accountability determined going forward for areas including CCTV and physical estates security
- The effective management of risk with significant IT implications and the processes in place to ensure that appropriate technical expertise is obtained when making decisions affecting risk management

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- Plans to improve physical security through effective ID and access management and to enhance and improve staff training in relation to security
- The scope of the recent audit and the extent to which that reflected the circumstances and provided assurances across the whole of the Council's estate. Audit Committee Members were advised that in addition to the findings from the audit, there were clear existing processes for identifying and escalating issues across the estate and other less formal mechanisms via which building managers could share information and experiences

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

(The report 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))

71. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no issues for referral to Scrutiny.

72. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to discuss.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
17th March, 2026

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

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillor Allen, Alison Hutchinson (Independent Person) and Judith Badger.

Council Officers and Partners in attendance:-

John Edwards – Chief Executive

Phillip Horsfield – Monitoring Officer

Rob Mahon – Service Director of Financial Services

Natalia Govorukhina – Head of Corporate Finance

Katie Stead – Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager

Louise Ivens – Head of Internal Audit

Helen Sweaton – Joint Service Director of Commissioning and Performance

Rob Savage – Departmental Business Services Manager, CYPS

Liz Luddington – Grant Thornton (External Auditors)

Greg Charnley – Grant Thornton (External Auditors)

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

74. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

There were no members of the press and public in attendance at the meeting nor had any questions been received in advance of the meeting.

75. 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. 83 (Risk Management Directorate Presentation – Children and Young People’s Services - Appendix) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

76. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2026

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 13th January, 2026.

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

77. GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND RISK

John Edwards, Chief Executive, gave the following presentation on Governance, Audit and Risk. The presentation comprised of:

An overview of the Chief Executive's personal oversight including:

- Monthly receipt of Internal Audit Reports
- Regular Monitoring Officer meetings
- Quarterly Statutory Officers meetings (Complaints, HR, Internal Audit and Whistleblowing)
- Quarterly External Auditor meetings
- Review and sign off Annual Governance Statement
- Understanding risk across the Council
- Leading by example by following best practice
- Being curious about better ways of working
- Working effectively with Councillors
- Being self-aware and accountable to your colleagues and the public

The Chief Executive explained the principles behind 'The Golden Triangle' and its operational importance in the context of Council business:

- Chief Executives, S.151 officers, and monitoring officers.
- Responsible for ensuring that the Council makes lawful and prudent decisions.
- Work together closely, discussing governance issues regularly.
- Also work with the Head of Internal Audit and other colleagues with statutory responsibilities.

The Committee also explored the role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in relation to governance, audit and risk:

- Internal Audit (Review Annual Plan and Annual Report, regular review of progress against plan and reports issued, alongside external assessment of IA Services received report and discussed action plan)
- External Inspections including a review completion of actions
- Quarterly review of Corporate Risk Register

The Chief Executive concluded by underlining the importance of action tracking:

- Review of outstanding actions (internal audit recommendations)
- Progress in clearing deferred actions

The Committee noted that after Covid-19, there had been a backlog of 41 actions which had improved to single figures by 2021. These had been consistently low since then, apart from a slight increase at the end of January, to 15 deferrals. As at 28th February this had been reduced to 7.

It was also confirmed that all second deferrals were authorised by the Chief Executive personally.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Whether 'better' meant more efficient. The Chief Executive explained that it always meant that to him, whether that was in terms of improved functionality within the Council or delivery against the Council Plan, efficiency and value for money was always a key consideration. Reducing delays, and as a consequence, costs and the need to implement remedial actions in relation to the delivery of significant projects was always top of his mind.
- Whether there were any surprises from a governance, audit and risk perspective for the Chief Executive since taking up post in the Council. The Chief Executive advised that there were no surprises, or anything that gave him cause for concern. The organisation felt well governed with good processes. A key focus for him was ensuring a firm grip on delivery of key projects going forward. A positive 'surprise' was the strength and positivity of partnership with the Internal Audit function.
- Why it took such a long time to reduce outstanding actions from 41 to 7. It was explained that it had not taken that length of time and that none of the original 41 were the same 7 outstanding actions; these were new actions that had changed over time. It was just the number of outstanding overall that had been reduced from the position during Covid-19 conditions.
- Whether there was sufficient capacity to deliver against identified risks as a Council. The Chief Executive expressed the view that it was right to invest in Internal Audit capacity within the budget and added that the ethos of good governance permeated throughout the whole organisation at all levels. Whilst there were no clear issues around capacity, prioritisation was always a consideration as was continued emphasis on that to drive continual improvement.
- Whether the Chief Executive was comfortable with action taken to mitigate the risks identified on the Corporate Risk Register and whether there was anything that kept him awake at night. The Chief Executive advised that he was comfortable with mitigations in place and the steps taken to monitor them. Whilst there were some inherent risks which must be carefully balanced against operational need, particularly in the context of factors outside of the Council's control, there was nothing specific that represented a significant

cause for concern. The Chief Executive reiterated that he worried more about delivering on identified plans and projects more than risk and demonstrating impact for the people of Rotherham.

Resolved:- That the presentation be noted.

78. EXTERNAL AUDITORS PROGRESS REPORT

Liz Luddington, Key Audit Partner and Engagement Lead, and Greg Charnley, Audit Senior Manager, presented a progress update highlighting:-

- Planning work for the 2025/26 audit had commenced in February and would continue throughout March and April. It was the intention to issue the Audit Plan to management in draft by the end of April and to Committee on 16th June, 2026.
- Working to complete some interim audit testing during March and April with the aim of bringing forward the audit work where possible.
- Audit fieldwork was scheduled to commence in late June with the ISA260 reported to the November Committee meeting and the opinion on the Statement of Accounts by early December, 2026.
- Value for Money risk assessment for the year ended 31st March 2026 had commenced with no additional significant weaknesses identified at the present time.
- The PSAA set fee totalled £429,398 for the Authority derived from the procurement exercise carried out by PSAA in 2022 reflecting the increased work auditors must now undertake as well as the scarcity of audit firms willing to do work of this nature.

The report also provided sector updates including:-

- Interviews conducted with 100 S151 officers to identify the top 3 strategic priorities, operational pressures and most in-demand skills
- CIPFA Code changes to the accounting for non-investment assets
- Audit readiness training
- Financial settlement 2026/27 and 2028/29
- SEND reform plans
- Local Outcomes Framework
- Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution Update
- Transport connectivity
- Maintaining local roads
- Unlocking land for housing
- The Crisis and Resilience Fund
- Successful legacy planning for major events
- After the backstop

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The proposed response to significant weaknesses in 2026. It was explained when significant weaknesses were identified in-year this became a risk. Value For Money field work undertaken in the Summer and would require the Council to demonstrate progress made. A full assessment would be made at that stage regarding significant weaknesses.
- Whether Value Form Money field work would include the HRA stock assessment. It was confirmed that this was expected to be the case. It was highlighted that the auditors had to comment on the arrangements in place for the year under consideration. Whilst an improvement recommendation could be made with it being unlikely that this would be cleared, progress made could be reflected within the narrative.
- Whether there was the need to address the backstop position. It was noted that the Council was in a strong position compared to other Local Authorities. The backstop would pull forward to 30th November and work was in progress to ensure that the Local Authority and auditors were in line with this, with the Annual Report and Value For Money expected to be delivered by then.

Resolved:- That the progress report be noted.

79. TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report presented by Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance, which detailed how the regulatory framework of Treasury Management required the Council to produce a mid-year treasury review, in addition to the forward looking annual Treasury Strategy and backward looking annual treasury outturn report.

The quarter 3 review for 2025/26 incorporated the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of the capital expenditure plans and the Council's Prudential Indicators (PIs). It was also a requirement that any proposed changes to the 2025/26 Prudential Indicators were approved by Council.

The monitoring as set out in the Appendix to the report was structured to highlight the key changes to the Council's capital activity (the PIs) and the actual and proposed Treasury Management activity (borrowing and investment).

It was noted that the Treasury Management Strategy had been considered by Council on 4th March, 2026 as part of the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report (Minute No. 127 refers).

Reference was made to the key messages for investments, borrowing and governance.

With regard to investments, the primary governing principle remained security over return and the criteria for selecting counterparties continued to reflect this. With regard to borrowing, the Council will maintain its strategy of being under-borrowed against the capital financing requirement. Since the mid-year report submitted to Committee in November 2025 (Minute No. 51 refers), the Council had borrowed £25M from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority with further borrowing expected to be required before the end of the current financial year. This borrowing was to re-finance historic debt and support cash flow management.

As previously reported, the Council will predominantly adopt a short-term borrowing strategy to cover borrowing need in anticipation of lower interest rates in the medium to long term. The Council was forecast to require additional borrowing before the end of the 2025/26 financial year and would be taken on a short-term basis to avoid exposure to currently high interest rates in anticipation of lower rates in future years. There was a possibility of taking some long-term borrowing from the PWLB at the discounted HRA rate.

The continuing approach to Treasury Management had been discussed with the Council's external Treasury Management Advisers, MUFG Corporate Markets, who had confirmed it was a prudent approach given current market conditions. MUFG would continue to monitor borrowing rates and inform the Council if there were opportunities to borrow at advantageous rates.

The Council's approach to Treasury Management in recent years, utilising short term borrowing in particular, had generated significant savings for the Council, essential to achieving balanced budgets, however, the future outlook remained challenging. The Bank of England had started to cut Base Rate and the cost of short term borrowing had reduced as a result with further reductions expected in the near future. The costs for long term borrowing, however, remained high reflecting the yield on UK gilts.

The current strategy was to maintain the Council's position of being under-borrowed against the Capital Financing Requirement. The Council was forecast to require additional borrowing before the end of 2025/26 financial year. This borrowing would be taken on a short term basis to avoid exposure to currently high interest rates in anticipation of lower rates in future years. There was a possibility of taking some long term borrowing from the PWLB at the discounted HRA rate. A further update would be provided as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Whether the short-term borrowing strategy remained effective in the current financial climate or should it be revisited. It was clarified that, as a result of regular meetings with Treasury Management advisers, the Council remained comfortable with the current strategy. This had realised savings which had addressed budget pressures and it remained the case that interest rates were expected to fall in the long term.
- The timing of the annual report and ambiguous statements within the report at the budget Council meeting which implied that the Audit Committee had reviewed and approved the budget which was not the case. It was noted that the role of the Audit Committee was one of oversight and scrutiny and not decision making and as such it was considered appropriate that the Treasury Management Strategy was submitted to Cabinet and Council prior to scrutiny by the Audit Committee as they were the decision making bodies. However, it was agreed that the wording in the future reports would be reviewed to address ambiguity and clarify that consideration by the Audit Committee referred to therein related to the previous report.
- In relation to section 4.8 of the report relating to capital expenditure and the 2027/28 financing profile, the estimated dip for Children and Young People's Services and Corporate Services was queried. It was clarified that there had been slippage connected with the Buildings' Decarbonisation Programme and capital contingency budgets in the final year of projections, alongside a number of Regeneration and Environment projects which made the 2026/27 appear higher. Much of this was connected to the Regeneration Fund which was a time limited scheme, with delivery required before the end of 2026/27. It was also noted that the Mainline Station and Strategic Sites alongside Schools funding due to Government timelines would drop into the 2027/28 figures.
- At section 4.9 of the report, a jump in capital receipts was noted. This related to planned use of Right to Buy receipts in order to keep the HRA growth programme moving.
- The increase in external debt profile in 2028/29 was noted. It was explained that the critical issue was the Council's ability to finance its borrowing, with the Treasury Management Strategy designed to accommodate short-term spikes, whilst there remained the desire not to take the CFR too high in the long term.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

80. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER, INTERNAL AUDIT QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN (QAIP) AND EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE GLOBAL INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS (UK PUBLIC SECTOR)

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which detailed how Internal Audit was a major source of assurance to the Council on the framework of control, risk management and governance. All Internal Audit functions in Local Government must comply with GIAS (UK Public Sector) as from 1st April, 2025.

The Standards included the need for a Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP) to provide continual improvement, based on ongoing quality assurance and an annual self-assessment, with an external assessment at least every 5 years.

An external assessment was undertaken during November and December 2025 which showed general conformance with those Standards - the highest classification that CIPFA awarded. An action plan had been developed to address the findings from the report. The action plan from the previous annual self-assessment had been updated and the 2 documents would be merged following the meeting to aid tracking of action implementation. The QAIP had also been updated to reflect that the external assessment had now taken place.

The Internal Audit Charter was in effect the Terms of Reference of the Internal Audit Service and must be reviewed periodically and submitted to the Audit Committee for approval. The Charter had been updated following the external assessment findings.

The Charter reflected the requirements of the Global Internal Audit Standards (UK Public Sector). It must be considered by the Audit Committee to confirm that it accurately reflected their understanding and expectations of the Internal Audit function.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The use of Copilot in relation to Internal Audit and how the Committee could be assured that this would produce reliable results. It was clarified that the use of AI was intended to create efficiency in the audit process. It would be used in conjunction with the usual audit process, following a trial to test reliability, with all existing checks and balances remaining in place.

Resolved:- (1) That the production and ongoing implementation of the QAIP and the action plan based on the internal self-assessment reported to this Committee (Appendices A, B and C attached) be noted.

(2) That the external assessment (Appendix D) of the report submitted and the resultant action plan (Appendix E) be approved.

(3) That the Internal Audit Charter, as attached in Appendix F of the report submitted, be approved.

81. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2026-27

Consideration was given to the Internal Audit Plan for 2026-27 presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit. The report explained Internal Audit's approach to the development of the Plan, as well as detailing the specific activities Internal Audit planned to review during the year. It reflected a comprehensive risk assessment process including discussions with Executive Directors and Service Directors to obtain their views of key risks and areas for audit coverage.

It was designed to enable the Head of Internal Audit to give their annual opinion at the end of the year on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and the control framework. The Plan would remain flexible and be reviewed during the year to ensure it remained relevant.

In line with auditing standards, the proposed audit plan had been devised adopting a risk based approach using:-

- The Council's risk management processes and the Strategic and Directorate risk registers
- Reports by management to the Audit Committee on the management of risks and the outcomes of external inspection reports
- The results of previous Internal Audit work and ongoing assessment of the auditable entities within the Authority
- Planned work deferred from 2025-26
- Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan
- Knowledge of existing management and control environments
- Professional judgement on the risk of fraud or error
- Consultation with all Directorate Leadership Teams and the Strategic Leadership Team taking into account feedback from Executive Directors, Service Directors, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Executive
- Awareness of relevant local and national issues
- Regular dialogue with authorities within South and West Yorkshire helped to ensure an awareness of emerging risks within the Authority so they could be considered during audit planning

The outputs from the planning process had been prioritised to produce a plan that balanced the requirement to give an objective and evidence based opinion on aspects of governance, risk management and internal control, the time required for anti-fraud and corruption activity, the requirement for Internal Audit to add value through improving controls, streamlining processes and supporting corporate priorities and the need to retain a contingency element to remain responsive to emerging risks.

As well as identifying all of the proposed pieces of work to be carried out during the year, the plan also explained the statutory requirements for Internal Audit, described the approach and methodology adopted in producing the plan, showed the level of resources available to deliver the plan and included a contingency for responsive work.

In line with auditing standards, the plan did not become fixed once it was approved; it remained flexible and would be revised to take into account any significant emerging risks facing the Authority. It would be subject to half year review in consultation with Executive Directors and Service Directors.

The audit plan would be delivered by the in-house team with the exception of some specialised IT audits completed by Salford City Council Technical Audit and had been based on the current establishment structure of the Team. The Internal Audit Team comprised 6.93 FTE's (7.52 2025/26). The number of days allocated in the plan for 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027 was 1038 days and was based on a full establishment for the Team. The number of FTE's at the start of the year had reduced from 2025/26 due to the retirement of one member of the Team who had not yet been replaced; it was anticipated that the vacancy would be recruited to during Quarter 1 and would be a full-time position rather than the previous part-time post. The plan was considered sufficient to allow the Head of Internal Audit to give the annual opinion at the end of the year.

There was a contingency of 75 days allowing flexibility in the plan to respond to any new risks and priorities as they emerged.

The "very high" priority rated audits were audits that needed to be done within the financial year. The "high" rated audits were those that the Audit Team would like to do during the year. All the audits rated as "medium" or "low" were included on a separate list and would be revisited at the 6 monthly period to ascertain if the risk had changed. The audit planning process included reviewing areas that had not been audited for some time.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Potential duplication between Internal Audit planned activities and the housing stock activities. It was clarified that Internal Audit and other activities considered different areas so there was no duplication.
- Confidence of successful delivery of the 2026/27 plan. It was confirmed that there was confidence of successful delivery assuming successful recruitment to vacant positions with recruitment processes well progressed at the time of reporting. Nonetheless, the plan maintained the ability to flex and respond to emerging need.

- Capacity for training new recruits whilst delivering the plan. It was confirmed that capacity for that had been considered and accounted for in the plan.
- The derivation of the waste transformation project. It was noted that this was based on information within risk registers with Service involvement in relation to the scope.

Resolved:- That the Internal Audit Plan for 2026-27 be approved.

82. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST NOVEMBER TO 31ST JANUARY 2026

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 November, 2025, to 31st January, 2026, and the key issues that had arisen.

The plan attached as part of the report showed the position up to the end of January 2026, the progress of the 2025/26 audit plan, the reports finalised between November 2025 and January 2026 and Performance Indicators for the Team.

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 (Appendix C). 9 audits had been finalised since the last Audit Committee, 5 of which received Reasonable Assurance, 3 received Substantial Assurance and one received Partial Assurance.

A review of the current performance indicators was detailed in Appendix D, post-audit questionnaires and results included at Appendix E.

The updated QAIP action plan had been included as a separate agenda item (See Minute No. 81). The major focus during this period was liaising with the CIPFA assessor whilst they undertook the external assessment against the Global Internal Audit Standards (UK Public Sector).

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken since the last Audit Committee, 1st November, 2025, to 31st January, 2026, 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.

83. RISK MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Consideration was given to the report presented by Helen Sweaton, Joint Service Director, Commissioning & Performance, together with Rob Savage, Departmental Business Manager, Children and Young People's Services, which detailed the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Children and Young People's Services Directorate.

The report set out in detail the risk items which have been added or amended since the last report to Audit Committee in March 2025 and it was noted that risks were discussed and reviewed at the Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) and, where necessary, escalated to the next strategic level for inclusion on the risk register.

As at 17th February, 2026, the Directorate risk register contained 5 risks one of which (CYPS-01 and SLT-01) also featured on the Corporate Strategic Register. A further CYPS risk was consolidated in the Corporate Risk Register as a Council-wide risk (CYPS-01 and SLT-16) with CYPS holding the Directorate narrative in its own register.

The Service Risk Register was derived from key risks within operational areas following escalation from a Head of Service. These could be linked to a number of service delivery objectives such as transformation projects, service plans or outcomes from external inspections. Escalations were made from Service level to Directorate level at the discretion of a CYPS Service Director. In the event a risk reviewed by the CYPS Assurance Board needed escalating, this would be progressed by the CYPS Executive Director to the Strategic Leadership Team for consideration.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The processes by which it was determined a risk was no longer required because it had become an issue and therefore managed off the register. It was confirmed that where risks came to fruition they were managed through task and finish groups and re-evaluated, when a decision was made.
- The low number of risks registered in relation to a service which inherently responds to significant risks. It was noted that a significant proportion of the risks were managed as business as usual due to the nature how the services work. The causal factor was the classification and definitions of what was relevant for inclusion on this particular register. Whilst the number of risks were low, their impact was potentially huge and necessitated cross-cutting multi-disciplinary activity to ensure effective management of risk. The recent Ofsted inspection outcome was considered external validation of the Service's approach to risk management.

- The ability to deliver savings against a consistent overspend against the budget profile in the context of the grading of the savings related risk. It was clarified that spend control was an issue in relation to factors outside of the Service and Council's control. In terms of staffing budgets, in-house placement budgets etc., budget management was effective and savings delivered as projected. It was accepted that the wording of the risk did not clearly reflect the position and implied incorrect grading of risk and Helen Sweaton and Rob Mahon would review and consider rewording to more accurately reflect the position.
- The migration risks associated with the Case Management system and the steps taken to manage and mitigate risk. Internal Audit involvement on the project board, alongside other key stakeholders was noted.

Resolved:- That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Children and Young People's Services 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))

84. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee for June 2026 to March 2027. The plan showed how the agenda items related to the objectives of the Committee. It was presented for review and amendment as necessary.

Resolved:- That the Audit Committee forward work plan, as now submitted, be approved.

85. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral.

86. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to discuss.

87. DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2026/27

Resolved:- That meetings during the 2026/27 Municipal Year be held as follows:-

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 17/03/26

Tuesday, 16th June, 2026
28th July, 2026
Thursday, 24th September, 2026
Tuesday, 24th November, 2026
19th January, 2027
23rd March, 2027

all commencing at 2.00 p.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
28th January, 2026

Present:-

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Councillor Baker-Rogers | Cabinet Member, Adult Care and Health (in the Chair) |
| Andrew Bramidge | Executive Director, Regeneration and Environment |
| John Edwards | Chief Executive, RMBC |
| Kym Gleeson | Healthwatch Rotherham |
| Shafiq Hussain | Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Rotherham |
| Joanna McDonough | RDaSH |
| Jason Page | Medical Director, Rotherham Place NHS SYICB |
| Emily Parry-Harries | Director of Public Health |
| Claire Smith | Director of Partnerships, Rotherham Place NHS SYICB |
| Ian Spicer | Executive Director, Adults, Housing and Public Health |
| Helen Sweatton | Joint Service Director, Commissioning and Performance (representing Nicola Curley) |
| Andy Wright | Chief Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police |

Report Presenters:-

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Ruth Fletcher-Brown | Public Health Specialist |
| Alex Hawley | Consultant in Public Health |
| Oscar Holden | Corporate Improvement Officer, RMBC |
| Katy Lewis | Carers Strategy Manager, RMBC |
| Kirsty Woodhead | Head of Service, Children and Young People's Service |

Also Present:-

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor Brent | |
| Nicola Ennis | Children and Young People's Alliance |
| Zeshan Rehman | GP Registrar, Public Health |
| Dawn Mitchell | Governance Advisor, RMBC |

Apologies were received from Councillor Cusworth, Nicola Curley (RMBC), Chris Edwards (NHS SYICB), Bob Kirton (TRFT) and Toby Lewis (RDaSH).

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

42. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

No questions had been received in advance of the meeting and there were no members of the public or press in attendance at the meeting.

43. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to report.

44. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th November, 2025.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th November, 2025, be approved as a true record.

45. FAMILY HUBS

Alex Hawley, Consultant in Public Health (Best Start and Beyond) and Kirsty Woodhead, Head of Service Family Help, gave the following powerpoint presentation on the successful delivery of the 3 year transformation project, the embedding of the Family Hub model (extended for a fourth year) and the expectations and focus of the Programme until the end of the next funding period (2028):-

Infrastructure

Over the first 4 years the Programme has transitioned to a system-wide offer for children and families. There was a strong and sustainable infrastructure in place:-

- A clear programme management structure supported by workstream leads
- Regular communication and engagement were supported through the Best Start in Life Guide and the monthly Family Hub newsletter
- Governance and performance were embedded through a monthly operational group with separate quarterly performance and communication meetings
- Early engagement initiatives, such as Baby Packs, continued to strengthen registration rates with 93% of families choosing to register
- Regular reporting mechanisms established to Department of Health and Social Care and Department of Education

What's in a Family Hub

The Family Hub Programme in Rotherham operated through a strong partnership approach with services delivered for children and families 0-10 (25 with SEND). A range of services were typically delivered from Family Hubs including but not limited to:

- Parenting support e.g. parenting groups and discussion groups
- Peep learning together groups
- Midwife appointments
- Health Visitor and Nursery Nurse appointments
- Infant feeding support
- Breast pump loan scheme
- Ante-natal classes and sessions for expectant parents
- Groups and activities for children under 5 and their families e.g. stay and play, baby massage and sensory sessions

- Groups for young people such as targeted youth groups
- Groups for parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Employment support from DWP Family Community Work Coaches
- Peer support for families affected by perinatal mental health

Outreach Services

To reduce barriers, a range of services were delivered in community venues across the Borough including

- Community-led infant feeding sessions, parenting support, Peep learning together groups, Midwife/Health Visitor and Nursery Nurse appointments, infant feeding support, ante-natal classes/sessions for expectant parents, groups and activities for children under 5 and their families, groups for young people such as targeted youth groups, groups for parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Parenting Support

- Togetherness
The Programme continued to see an increase in the Togetherness (previously named Solihull) online course registration and active learners
As of November 2015, there were 681 registered learners
- Volunteers
The Programme had introduced a peer support and volunteer offer with 29 active volunteers (as of end of September 2025)
- Evidence based interventions that were offered and delivered to parents and carers – face-to-face and online
Triple P Baby, 0-12 years, Teen, Stepping Stones, Transitions
Family Links
Caring Dads
Sleep Tight
Fear-Less
Togetherness – understanding your child's behaviour
PEEP (Learning Together Programme)
Journey to Parenthood Programme (health)
One Plus One, Arguing Better, Me, You and Baby Too, Getting it right for children
Teen Life

Infant Feeding

The Family Hubs Programme had continued to expand its infant feeding offer

- Since quarter 2 of 2023/34, 51 infant feeding peer supports had been trained
- 6 Children's Centre sites (part of the Family Hubs network) had achieved UNICEF Baby Friendly accreditation stage 1
- 39 staff had completed UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative Managers Training

Home Learning Environment

- The Programme had continued to invest in the Peep Learning Together Programme
- The Programme covered personal, social and emotional development, communication and language, early literacy, early maths, health and physical development
- 219 families had completed Peep to date (as of November 2025)
- Children from the ages of 2-4 had been supported
- There had been a wide range of delivery locations including Family Hub sites, one-to-one in the home, libraries, schools and VCS sites

Perinatal Mental Health and Parent-Infant Relationship

- Over 300 practitioners had completed perinatal mental health training
- The Programme worked in partnership with Light Peer Support delivering peer-led perinatal mental health groups within Family Hubs
- Maternal Mood questionnaire completion with 8 weeks had increased from 70.4% to 86.9% demonstrating improved early intervention

Parent Carer Panel and Start for Life Panel

- 24 sessions (as of December 2025) hosted at venues throughout the network
- Met monthly and some parents/carers now attended the Family Hubs Operational Group
- Online surveys and monthly newsletter polls
- Helped shape the Perinatal Mental Health Pathway

Giving your child the best start in life

- Co-designed by and launched with the Panel
- Available for all families both digitally and physically
- Now provided within the baby packs and across the system
- Imagery was Rotherham-based
- Format was intended to fit with the Red Book

Update on the future of the Programme

- Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme
In December 2025 it was announced that there would be a further 3 years of funding extending to every local authority in England
Continued investment in Start for Life services (now known as “Healthy Babies Programme”)
Awaiting detailed programme guidance to inform Rotherham’s approach beyond March 2026
- Good level of development
There was a new expectation to deliver a national target for achieving Good Level of Development for reception age students by the end of the 2028 academic year
Rotherham’s Best Start Local Plan to be published on Council website by 31st March 2026 setting out its approach to Good Level of Development

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- There had been no additional funding to create new buildings; existing building were utilised. If there was a community building that Ward Members were aware of that could be used, they should make it known and the possible use would be explored
- The Programme had worked hard to ensure that families were connected to the services they would benefit from regardless of the location of the Family Hubs. The Outreach Service was really important and continued to deliver services in all the communities whether there was a physical building or not. The Service was sufficiently responsive to connect to the community so that it did not impact on children and families' ability to access services
- The Family First Partnership Programme had undertaken a robust needs analysis that would be submitted to the new Families First Partnership Board. If the needs analysis demonstrated that parts of the Borough needed more support to engage with services or there was a level of need, further discussions would take place
- There was a need, and more work required, to ensure that everyone understood that the provision was now Family Hubs with a much broader offer than Children's Centres. There were parenting support for teens within the Programme but it required more promotion as well as resources within the voluntary sector aimed at older children
- The whole range of services available at Family Hubs needed to be illustrated
- The new SEND Hub would shortly be launched/opened which the Family Hubs would work closely with. The new guidance around Family Hubs suggested that there were SEND leads in each of the Hubs; work was taking place on how to deliver such
- Work had taken place with the 0-19 Service to identify additional support for children who were not achieving their developmental milestones ensuring that parents could access support and targeted intervention without the child being labelled as "SEND". Work would take place ascertaining how older children would like to access services and support
- Consideration had been given as to how to engage with dads/male carers as part of the Programme. It was understood that one size did not fit all and that approach did not work
- Commitment to continue to work and ensure services offered were flexible and delivered

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Resolved:- (1) that the progress made in the last 4 years and the continuation of the Programme with Best Start Family Hubs 2026-29 be noted.

(2) That the next update include details of what was being done at Family Hubs to support all the children and families.

46. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY PRIORITIES

Oscar Holden, Corporate Improvement Officer, gave the following powerpoint presentation on the Board's 2025-30 strategy priorities:-

| Priority | Metrics |
|--|--|
| Priority One – We will reduce the prevalence of smoking in Rotherham by 5% by 2030 | Smoking rate (from existing Public Health metrics) Proportion of local smoking population who set a quit date (Department for Health and Social Care data) |
| Priority Two – We will increase the mental health of the people of Rotherham towards the national average by 2030 | Happiness measure for adults and a similar source for children and young people (from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) Life satisfaction question (Office of National Statistics) |
| Priority Three – We will increase the proportion of people who feel they have the care and resources they need to support their own health | Measure for soft services access Measure for families and wider support |
| Priority Four - People in Rotherham have access to environments that promote their health and wellbeing and they understand why this matters | Community Safety measure (from existing Safer Rotherham Partnership metrics) Physical activity is measured at least annually (Sport England measure but opportunities to include local information as part of work programme) |

Since the 26th November Board meeting, further consultation had taken place with the Public Health Data Intelligence Team and members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to refine the metrics to arrive at the suggestions above.

A streamlined version of the current action plan was also discussed that represented the actions of the Board as a 12 month rolling programme. A final version was to be submitted to the next meeting following consultation with the Executive Group.

If agreed, the new priority metrics would be added to the Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Strategy as an appendix and the new action plan format used as from March 2026.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The Integrated Care Board Forward Plan was listed on the action plan for consideration at the June, 2026, Board meeting. However, there was a lot of organisational change taking place and probably still ongoing at that time so may not be appropriate for consideration. From a national perspective there was guidance to be issued shortly around Neighbourhoods and the connect to Health and Wellbeing Boards. The timings were not known but was definitely something that would need to be discussed at the Board at a future date
- Which metrics of the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) were to be considered under Priority Four as there were a number (approximately 40 metrics) which would not map across naturally into the Health and Wellbeing remit. It was the understanding that the metrics were already covered by the SRP but checks would be made as to which ones they would be
- It was important that the views of Rotherham's children and young people were taken into account in the Strategy/priorities and metrics. The feedback that had been received from the various meetings would be revisited next year when the forward plan was refreshed to ensure that it had all been captured
- It was felt that the wording for Priority Two needed some tweaking

Resolved:- That the priority metrics for the 2025-30 Health and Wellbeing Strategy be approved.

47. THE BOROUGH THAT CARES ALL-AGE STRATEGY 2026-2031

Katy Lewis, Carers Strategy Manager, gave the following powerpoint presentation on The Borough That Cares All-Age Strategy 2026-2031:-

- The Borough that Cares Strategic Framework 2022-2025 – Achievements
- Improved access to information – created the Council Carers Information Hub, Carers Directory and Carers Newsletter
 - Information Navigators integrated to support carers who are digitally excluded
 - Expanded community support through a small grant programme

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- Strengthened carer voice and influence – establishing The Borough That Carers Strategic Network as a voice, influence and engagement group
- Established a Multi-Agency Strategic Group to drive change within organisations
- Increases Carers Assessment capacity through the employment of Carers Link Officers
- Celebrated carers – Carers Week and Carers Rights Day were now recognised community events in the Borough

Looking Forward – Engagement to inform the Strategy

- A programme of engagement took place between March and August 2025 to gather the views of carers and a range of other stakeholders
- 23 engagement events took place
- 399 participants engaged
- Participants included carers and young carers, the people they cared for, Social Care and Health professionals, care providers and the voluntary and community sector
- A facilitated engagement session was undertaken with young carers and their families in July 2025
- Researched best practice and utilised national and local data

Our Five Commitments

- 5 themes emerged from the engagement which translated into commitments:
 1. Identification and Early Intervention
 - Identify carers, including young carers, earlier in their journey and ensure timely access to advice, support and preventative services, before needs escalate into crisis
 - Provide clear practical guidance on the Carers' Service offer and how to navigate it, ensuring carers are aware of available support through clear, multi-channel communication
 - Explore flexible support options for carers in employment including better workplace awareness, access to low-level interventions and improved links with employers
 - Promote carer friendly Health services that recognise the barriers carers face in accessing care for themselves and ensure carers are supported to prioritise their own health
 2. Support carers and ensure their voice is heard
 - Ensure carers were routinely provided with clear, timely information during key Health and Social Care Service interactions
 - Develop clearer pathways for carers especially at the point of diagnosis so they were easily connected to the right services and support
 - Recognise the value of shared experiences and increase opportunities for carers to connect with and support each other

Work with schools, Youth Services and Family Support Teams to identify and support young carers earlier ensuring their emotional wellbeing and family stability were prioritised

Provide training and resources to frontline staff across Health and Social Care to improve recognition of carers and ensure they are treated as partners in care

Continue to involve carers in shaping services and monitoring progress ensuring their voices remain central to everything we do

3. Support carers through times of change
Support carers through key transitions and ensure that Health and Social Care professionals provide carers with timely, updated information when the condition of the person they cared for changes, not just at the point of diagnosis
Empower carers to plan for the future, providing structured support to develop contingency plans and long term care arrangements, when they were no longer able to provide care
Support professionals to have sensitive, timely conversations with carers about deterioration and end-of-life care, helping carers feel more prepared and informed
Raise awareness of the support available during end-of-life care and bereavement and ensure this information was accessible, clear and shared proactively with carers
4. Work in partnership
Improve joint working across education, Health and Social Care, particularly to identify carers at key contact points such as hospital discharge, ensuring carers were included in planning and decision making
Develop clearer, more joined-up pathways, digital tools and Carer Champions to help carers navigate complex systems
Develop a shared understanding of personalised care across all services so that when multiple agencies were involved, the carer and the person they cared for experienced joined-up person-centred support
5. Co-design a responsive support offer for carers
Regularly analyse feedback and data to understand carers' experiences and outcomes and identify gaps between assessed needs and actual support received
Provide a clear and easy-to-understand overview of available services and create flexible ways for people to access support without always needing a Carers Assessment
Increase practitioner confidence in supporting carers to access advice, information and support, utilising universal services, the VCSE sector and commissioned services to meet need and achieve identified outcomes
Evaluate the success of existing services and co-design new services or information with carers

Involve carers in shaping training to ensure it is relevant and include carers' voices through stories, videos or lived experience contributions

Improve ways to track satisfaction, uptake and wellbeing outcomes to inform ongoing service development

Next Steps

- January 2026 – communication plan developed
- January to February 2026 – engagement with carers and other stakeholders to develop the first year delivery plan
- March 2026 – communication plan implemented
- April 2026 – Strategy launched and delivery plan commences with ongoing monitoring

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- A focussed approach had been taken with regard to engagement with young carers, working with the provider who was contracted to provide young carer support in Rotherham. The Service had accessed their group of carers but had recognised that part of the strategic work was to take on wider talks not reaching the lower levels. It had been difficult but wanted to widen that out
- The annual school survey showed a significant proportion of children who identified as having caring responsibilities that were not identified in the Service. Although not engaging with those children and young people, it had enabled a target to be set for the Strategy
- Schools had a responsibility, and a lot of work was being undertaken with them, to identify young carers and which services they needed. Where there were obvious links for those with caring responsibilities i.e. adults that required Social Care or engagement with the Rotherham Parents Forum, the Service made sure they had carers assessments and provide support
- The action plan would have a partnership approach with the aim of how improvements could be achieved from the partner organisations. Monitoring of achievements would be by way of evidence from partners/groups, conversations and communication with carers

Resolved:- (1) That the update on the development of the 2026-2031 Carers Strategy be noted.

(2) That annual updates be submitted to the Board on the delivery of the Strategy and associated delivery plan.

48. PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN

Ruth Fletcher-Brown, Public Health Specialist, gave the following powerpoint presentation on the review that had taken place with all partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board's approach to early intervention and prevention:-

Current Picture

- Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board adopted the Public Mental Health Strategy, Better Mental Health for All, in 2017
- The Better Mental Health for All Strategy and Action Plan for Rotherham 2017-2025 outlined actions that partners of the Health and Wellbeing Board were committed to take to improve the mental health for all people living and working in Rotherham
- Delivery of this was overseen by the Better Mental Health for All Group which represented all partners of the HWBB
- Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board submitted a detailed application form in 2023 to become a signatory of the Prevention Concordat for Mental Health. This was approved in September 2023

Stakeholder Event – Partners of the Health and Wellbeing Board attended a workshop in July facilitated by Andy Bell, Centre for Mental Health. Stakeholders at the workshop

- Heard from the lived experience of local communities in Rotherham
- Worked collaboratively on a vision of a mentally healthier place to live
- Looked at mental health in Rotherham today
- Heard insights and ideas from national research and good practice from across the country on what worked to promote good mental health
- Identified priorities for promoting and protecting mental health in Rotherham

Healthy life expectancy and mental health

- Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) was closely linked to mental health and mental ill-health and poor wellbeing were associated with reduced HLE:
 - Reduced quality of life
 - Increased mortality risk
 - Physical health connection
- In Rotherham HLE has been decreasing from 59 in 2015-17 to 56 years in 2021-23 for both males and females

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Mental Health Conditions

- It was estimated that 19% of the population aged 16 and over and 12% of the population aged 65 and older have a common mental health condition
- The prevalence of depression in Rotherham has increased between 2013 and 2022, from 9.9% to 17.3%, remaining above the England average of 13.2%
- 1.5 out of every 100 individuals were newly diagnosed with depression in 2023/24

Children and Young People

- 40% of secondary school children reported their mental health as 'fair' or 'poor'
- Girls were twice as likely to report persistent loneliness (22.4%) compared to boys (10.6%)
- 1 in 2 children in care had emotional wellbeing that was a cause for concern in 2023/24

Engagement around Mental Health – Groups and individuals told us

- Increased stress and pressure were identified as a major cause of poor mental health
- Bereavement can cause loneliness and poor mental health
- COVID brought challenges and opportunities. Some people said that others were still anxious about going out
- They did not want to be a burden to their families. Some families lived a long distance away and even if they lived nearer, families had their own lives
- Caring for someone can lead to the carer feeling lonely and having poor mental health
- Feeling lonely can lead to thoughts of suicide
- Having poor mental health and feeling lonely can lead to unhelpful ways of coping and negative effects on health and wellbeing, increased substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, tobacco), increased gambling, frequent sickness, new pains and hallucinations
- Lack of societal inclusion causes poor mental health (physically and digitally)
- Having people to talk to was a key to prevention
- The natural environment particularly for walking was a huge positive
- Creativity, the arts at an individual, community and large scale helps with people's mental health
- Safe spaces in town to meet

What is important for improving wellbeing

- Children and Young People
 - Safe spaces to chat with others
 - Resources for accessing support
 - Online support

- Adult Health Survey
- Family and friends
- Exercising
- Patient groups

What does a Mentally Healthy Rotherham look like (11-24 year olds)

- Feeling proud of where we lived/feeling safe/opportunities to meet people in a safe place
- News and media focussing on the good things happening
- Celebrating mental health more/celebrating community differences
- When we are physically well it impacts us mentally
- Having a sense of belonging to where we live/a positive label of the town makes us feel happy to live here
- Things to look forward to/celebrating achievements/who I am and feeling safe to do so
- Reducing/ending loneliness
- More discipline in schools to respond to bullying
- Accepting one another for our likes and dislikes
- Better healthier food that impacts our wellness/not as much access to alcohol/keeping fit
- More access to therapists and counsellors
- No money worries
- More places for those with sensory/neurodiverse health
- Breaking the stigma of asking for help
- Embracing diversity

Next Steps

- The Better Mental Health for All Group will work to identify key actions for delivery over a 2 year period
- The infographic and identified key actions will demonstrate the Health and Wellbeing Board's ongoing commitment to early intervention and prevention and will support the ongoing commitment to OHID's Prevention Concordat for Mental Health onwards
- The Better Mental Health for All Group will agree on outcome measures
- Annual updates will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Given the high profile of social media in the national news, there was no reference to social media in the action plan. Was there any evidence to suggest that what was being seen in Rotherham linked to the national issue? This issue had not been pulled out from any of the focus groups and something that needed to be explored. It was known that young people had found that access to social media could be helpful in feeling part of different groups as well as feeling isolated from others, however, it was acknowledged that the impact was not fully understood by services

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- It was known that some communities struggled to feel digitally included and felt apprehensive about the future
- Online bullying caused some younger children to not feel safe in their own homes
- There were inequalities in different communities accessing support and underrepresented in terms of referrals with work required to ensure they accessed what they needed. RDaSH was working on increasing the number of older adults accessing talking therapies, increasing the number of people from ethnic minority backgrounds coming forward for Dementia diagnosis and women from accessing perinatal diagnosis

Ruth was thanked for the enormous amount of work she did on this subject as well as the single page infographic which was a very useful reference guide.

Resolved:- (1) That the vision and delivery mechanisms for mental wellbeing across the Rotherham population be supported.

(2) That Health and Wellbeing Board partners attend and contribute to the Better Mental Health for All Group which would oversee the delivery of actions for early intervention and prevention in relation to mental health.

(3) That the Better Mental Health for All Group consider the impact of social media on children and young people to gain a better understanding of the matter given the recent national press coverage.

(4) That the Board receive annual progress updates.

49. ITEMS ESCALATED FROM PLACE BOARD

(1) It was noted that a visit was to take place later that day from Minal Bakhai, GP and NHS England's Lead for the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme, to speak about the progress Rotherham was making on its NHS Neighbourhood work.

(2) At the Place Board, currently chaired by John Edwards, recent discussions had focussed on what the partnership would look like in the future. It was still at the point of exploring given that it was not currently known what resources would be available and how it would continue beyond the changes that were taking place.

ICB colleagues continued with their commitment notwithstanding the changes that were currently taking place.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

50. FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER PROJECT

Further to Minute No. 57 of January, 2025, an update was submitted, for information, on the Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Project.

It was noted that the grant funded project had run from April, 2023 until March 2025. Chris Clark, the then Project Officer, was not in attendance due to the funding having ended in May, 2025, and unfortunately there was no-one to champion the next actions for the project.

Kym Gleeson reported that Healthwatch Rotherham had produced a report on FASD in March 2025, and agreed that the importance of the work had to be continued.

Resolved:- (1) That the information provided regarding the conclusion of the Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Project for South Yorkshire be noted.

(2) That the Board endorse the continuation of the work carried out by the Foetal Alcohol Disorder Syndrome Project and supported any endeavours to securing future funding.

51. BETTER CARE FUND QUARTER 3 TEMPLATE

It was noted that the BCF Q3 Reporting Template, covering the period 1st October to 31st December, 2025, had to be submitted to NHS England by 30th January, 2025.

Resolved:- That the submission of the BCF Quarter 3 documentation to NHS England by the 30th January, 2025, deadline be noted.

52. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD (ICB BUSINESS)

The minutes of the Rotherham Place Board ICB Business meeting held on 17th September, 15th October and 19th November, 2025, were noted.

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LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE**12th January, 2026**

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Brent, Currie, Garnett and Harper.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

25. 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).

26. APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to a review of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. A.A.S.

Mr. A.A.S. was in attendance together with his transport consultant.

Resolved:- That Mr. A.A.S. be issued with a warning with regard to his future conduct/behaviour.

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LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
2nd February, 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester, T. Collingham and Garnett.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

28. 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).

29. 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 three applications for the grant/review of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. Z.B., P.M. and S.A.

The application submitted by Mr. S.A. for an exemption from the requirements of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licensing Policy had been withdrawn by the applicant.

Messrs. Z.B. and P.M. were in attendance at the hearing.

Resolved:- (1) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence for Mr. Z.B. be approved.

(2) That the application for the renewal of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. P.M. be refused.

(3) That the withdrawal of the application for an exemption from the requirements of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licensing Policy (Mr. S.A.) be noted.

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**LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
2nd March, 2026**

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Garnett, Jones, Monk and Thorp.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

31. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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).

32. 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 2 applications for the grant of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. E.S. and G.S.

Both Mr. E.S. and G.S. were in attendance at the meeting.

Resolved:- That the applications for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. E.S. and G.S. be approved

33. APPLICATION FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNCIL'S LICENSED VEHICLE AGE AND EMISSIONS POLICY

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to an application from Mr. S.B. for an exemption from the requirements of the Council's Licensed Vehicle Age and Emissions Policy in respect of the vehicle XXXXVCZ.

Mr. S.B. was not in attendance at the meeting. When contacted it became apparent that there had been an administrative error and Mr. S.B. requested that his application be considered at a future meeting.

LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE - 02/03/26

Resolved:- (1) That due to the administrative error, Mr. S.B. be issued with a temporary 3 month licence.

(2) That the request for an exemption from the Council's Licensed Vehicle Age and Emissions Policy be considered at the meeting to be held on 13th April, 2026.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
23rd March, 2026

Present:- Councillor Garnett (in the Chair); Councillors Bower and Brent.

Also present:-

Christopher Akers, Enforcement Officer, Community Protection Unit
Oliver Ashton, Licensing Enforcement Officer, Licensing Service
Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer
Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager
Katie Etheridge, Solicitor – Litigation, Legal Services
Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor

Helen Clayton, Applicant
Carl Clayton, Premises Owner
Michelle Hazlewood, Solicitor, John Gaunt Solicitors
Ellie Collins, John Gaunt Solicitors (Observer)
Gail Hunt, Wigtox Bar Manager
Claire Marshall, Wigtox Employee
Geoff Arnold, Supporter
Danny Carney, Supporter
James Dean Lee, Supporter
Lisa Selwood, Supporter
James Traquar, Supporter

Carol Arnold, Supporter
Brooke Bell, Supporter
John Carney, Supporter
Darrell Martin, Supporter
Paul Selwood, Supporter
Julie Traquar, Supporter

Micah Kean (Oppose)

Mr. and Mrs. Hodgetts (Oppose)

35. LICENSING ACT 2003 - CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.34 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) FOR THE VARIATION OF THE PREMISES LICENCE ISSUED TO MRS HELEN CLAYTON, IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS WIGTOX LOUNGE SITUATED AT 33 SOUTH STREET, RAWMARSH, ROTHERHAM. S62 5RF

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003) for the variation of the Premises Licence issued to Mrs. Helen Clayton in respect of the premises known as Wigtox Lounge, 33 South Street, Rawmarsh, Rotherham S62 5RF.

The applicant was seeking to vary the Premises Licence as to:-

- To extend the earliest hour to allow the sale of alcohol, playing of recorded music, the performance of dance and the exhibition of films on every day of the week to 9.00 a.m.
(the start time currently authorised for the sale of alcohol, playing of recorded music and the performance of dance was 12.00 Noon with a start time of 10.00 a.m. for the exhibition of films)

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 23/03/26

- Extend the latest authorised hour to allow the sale of alcohol, playing of recorded music, the performance of dance, the exhibition of films and the provision of late night refreshment on Friday and Saturday to 1.00 a.m. on the following day
(the latest time currently authorised for the sale of alcohol, playing of recorded music, the performance of dance, the exhibition of films and the provision of late night refreshment on Friday and Saturday was 12.30 a.m. on the following day)
- Removal of conditions 1 and 2 of Annex 2 of the Premises Licence which restricted admission to the premises after 11.00 p.m.
- Removal of condition 29 of Annex 2 of the Premises Licence that prohibits the use of the roof top terrace and replace it with a condition that allows it to be used for the consumption of food and drink between 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. on every day of the week and for the purpose of smoking or vaping between 9.00 a.m. until the premises closes
- Include the first floor function room (accessed via the roof top terrace) as part of the area authorised for the provision of licensable activities
- Replace the premises layout plans at Annex 4 of the Premises Licence with the plans submitted with the variation application.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton, business owners, Gail Hunt (Bar Manager) together with 13 supporters were present at the hearing. Michelle Hazlewood, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton's legal representative was also present.

Consultation on the application had been carried out in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council procedure. During the consultation period representations had been received from 4 Responsible Authorities (Planning, Public Health, Licensing Authority and Community Protection Unit) and from Other Persons – 7 opposed to the variation application and 93 in support.

It was noted that no objections had been received from the Authority's Environmental Health Officer or South Yorkshire Police.

It was also noted that late the previous working day, the applicant had submitted an updated Noise Management Plan. This was not approved as yet as the Community Protection Unit had not had opportunity to review it as per the previous condition when the Licence was approved in August, 2025.

There were no representatives of the Planning Service or Public Health in attendance, therefore, the Sub-Committee would consider their written representations.

The Sub-Committee viewed Ring doorbell footage, video clips and audio recordings.

The Licensing Authority was opposed to the grant of the application as it believed that the proposed changes would have significant impacts on the following licensing objective:-

- The prevention of public nuisance

The applicant's representative addressed the Sub-Committee and explained the reasons for the variation application:-

- Mr. and Mrs. Clayton had engaged with the Local Authority, South Yorkshire Police and Environmental Health on site to explain their proposal for a variation of the Licence
- The business had evolved since its Licence had been approved in August 2025
- There were no representations from South Yorkshire Police
- There was no Cumulative Impact Area in Rawmarsh so the general position was to grant unless there was very clear evidence not to do so
- Mrs. Clayton, Designated Premises Supervisor, lived on South Street
- There were further opportunities within the building to extend
- There were no incidences recorded against the premises in relation to crime and no issues of the premises attracting street drinkers
- Although the premises were next to a school, there had been no objections received from the school
- There was no evidence to refuse the application on points (a), (b) and (c) of the proposed variation

Function Room

- The function room was part of the old Ryecroft Club located to the rear of the premises, almost a separate building, and it would only be the first floor of the function room as it was the intention to further develop the provision of housing on the ground floor. To the right of the function room was a bank of toilets, therefore, the potential for noise breakout through the windows on that side was minimal
- On the left hand facade there were 3 windows which would be sealed units irradicating the potential for breakout of noise. The works would also include insulation and a new roof effectively creating a sealed box

Roof Terrace

- To eliminate the potential for noise from the roof terrace, it was proposed to create an acoustic corridor in order to gain access to the first floor function room
- Work with Licensing Officers and Environmental Health had resulted in an extra proposed condition regarding an appropriately qualified consultant designing a scheme for the prevention of noise nuisance

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 23/03/26

from the roof top terrace and function room as well as self-closing door mechanisms which would mean that the potential for noise breakout was absolutely minimised

- The applicant would work with Environmental Health to refine the NMP in relation to the appropriate physical person monitoring the areas as they were built out
- There was no application to bring the rear car park into the licensed area which historically had been used as a beer garden space
- Independent specialist acoustic advice had been sought with regard to the roof terrace and mitigation of noise migration. Advice had included acoustic quality glass panelling, with no gaps, to a height of 1.8 m effectively creating an enclosed space, although outside, for people to use the roof terrace. The noise would be contained and have a decibel reduction mechanism of 30 dbs and minimised by 10 dbs. Following a meeting with Licensing and Environment Health it was agreed that the glazing would be obscured
- It was also proposed to install a fixed slatted pergola over the terrace to reduce upward sound propagation and limit sound diffraction beyond the perimeter screens
- In principle agreement with Licensing and Environmental Health that the roof terrace could be used until 9.00 p.m. for the consumption of alcohol/food
- It was believed that the ability to use the roof terrace for smoking and vaping purposes after 9.00 p.m. until close was a significant step forward in promoting the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance. A monitoring system for access to the area could be built into the NMP

Variation of Times

- Mitigation methods had been explored, the NMP updated and monitored the number of patrons leaving the premises. However, given that the premises was family orientated, it was felt that a noise manager would be more suitable than SIA
- Environmental Health had confirmed that when on site they had not witnessed noise that constituted a public nuisance. No late night observations had taken place and no noise monitoring equipment had been placed in homes of those persons that had alleged nuisance from dispersal noise, thereby relying on the evidence provided to those opposing the application

The Sub-Committee considered the supporting comments, both in person and written, which could be summarised as follows:-

- Occupant of property next door but one to the premises had never been disturbed by noise
- Occupant of property directly across from the premises had never heard anything and had no concerns at all
- There had always been a club and a school on South Street and there had never been a problem

- The development could only contribute to the community
- There were not many community centres for children to go to. This was a breath of fresh air for the village
- The owners were community focussed with the venue being well run
- The terrace and function room had been in use previously
- It provided a safe and welcoming place for people to meet and managed in a respectful way
- It was a vibrant hub that brought the community together and offered something for everyone
- Support for the function room and terrace
- Very minimal traffic on South Street
- There had been an incident of 2 residents of South Street recording audio and video footage of the venue from close proximity. This had been logged by the Bar Manager
- South Street was the main route back into Rawmarsh – there was an alleyway – and people used it as a route from other licensed premises

Oliver Ashton, Licensing Enforcement Officer, cited the following concerns:-

- At present customers leaving the venue at 12.30 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays caused significant noise disturbing local residents. This had been evidenced by work completed by the Environmental Health Teams. Extending this until 1.00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays would exacerbate the problem. The premise had only been open a short period of time and already evidenced problems emanating from the venue
- The condition restricting access to customers after 11.00 p.m. was in place to reduce the impact of noise nuisance to local residents. The removal of this condition was not suitable
- The use of the roof terrace was likely to cause a noise nuisance to residents that had windows and gardens facing the back and side of the premises. It was not a suitable area for outdoor consumption of food and drink or smoking as large groups congregating would likely cause a public nuisance to local residents
- The inclusion of the first floor function room, accessed via the roof top terrace, as part of the area authorised for the provision of licensable activities, would give rise to noise escape and the potential for public nuisance. Whilst the installation of an acoustic corridor to allow exit to and from the function room partway mitigated concerns, the effectiveness of the corridor could be undermined if doors to the function room or mezzanine level were propped open
- There were no objections to the extension of the earliest authorised hour to allow the sale of alcohol, playing of recorded music, performance of dance and the exhibition of films on every day of the week from 9.00 a.m.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 23/03/26

The Community Protection Unit was opposed to the grant of the application as it believed that the proposed changes would have significant impact on the following licensing objective:-

- The prevention of public nuisance

Chris Akers, Enforcement Officer, cited the following concerns:-

- Receipt of a number of complaints regarding noise associated with persons leaving the premises late at night. Investigations had revealed a clear problem with this type of noise after 11.00 p.m.
- Concern that the premises did not appear to have taken effective action to address the noise despite the fact that there was a Noise Management Plan (NMP)
- The NMP stated that there be door staff managing patrons on Friday and Saturday nights, however, information received suggested that door staff were intermittent
- Officers had witnessed noise from music escaping from the premises when the doors were opened. Whilst it had not yet been identified as to whether it met the threshold for nuisance, it further raised concerns regarding the management of the premises
- Acknowledgement that an updated plan included a corridor between the mezzanine and the function room although it was not clear whether this alone would be sufficient to prevent a nuisance
- There was no objection to the request to extend the earliest authorised hour to allow the sale of alcohol, playing of recorded music, performance of dance and exhibition of films on every day of the week at 9.00 a.m.
- Acknowledgement that the audio clips were those submitted through the noise app and did not record the decibel level; it only gave an indication of what the occupant was experiencing in their own home. The clips would have been from what was heard in the rear of the house; the Ring doorbell gave you the noise level at the front of the house
- Environmental Health had been out in the vicinity the weekend of 21st/22nd March and levels of noise heard that would be classed as unreasonable

Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager, cited the following concerns:-

- Acknowledgement that the applicant had engaged with the Local Authority and South Yorkshire Police and discussed ways they could develop the business. The applicant had been encouraged to allow the business a period of time to operate in a way that did not present any concerns to the local residents given the licence had only been granted in August 2025
- South Yorkshire Police had not made any representations but it was not reasonable to assume that they did not have issues with anti-social behaviour

- Evidence had been seen at the meeting of the noise experienced. The expert in noise had raised concerns about the level that could be heard
- The resident did not have automatic gain control (Ring doorbell) and the evidence presented was based on what she had heard
- Licensing was not objecting to the premises itself; it was the enhancement of the licensing hours and changes. These changes would not affect the school
- The premises had changed from what was originally submitted last year. It was to be a lounge not a bar/club/pub which it had become
- First floor function noise concerns may be mitigated by the acoustic corridor but confirmation was needed of the NMP
- It was proposed that acoustic glass be used on the roof terrace and the addition of a roof. However, it was not known if the installation of a roof was allowed under Smoke Control Legislation until a firm proposal was seen
- Incidental music/live or recorded music played at certain times did not fall within the definition of regulated entertainment so any condition the Sub-Committee may wish to apply to any area in relation to live or recorded music prior to 11.00 p.m. would not take effect. Any area that was licensed allowed the playing of music to whatever level of music they wished subject to the generic national Noise Control Requirements
- There was not the detail to sufficiently mitigate the Licensing Authority's concerns

The Sub-Committee considered the objectors' comments, both in person and written, which could be summarised as follows:-

- Residents were already frustrated, distressed and exhausted by the business; further approvals would increase complaints, enforcement intervention and community tension
- Failure to meet planning conditions
- Licensing non-compliance e.g. allowing customers inside after 11.00 p.m., an underage person working behind the bar and holding lock-ins past authorised closing times
- Noise, behaviour and language of patrons
- Dangerous and inconsiderate parking
- Inappropriate alcohol sales near a school
- Privacy violations
- Noise nuisance
- Lack of privacy from the proposed use of the terrace for the occupants of the bungalows
- Increased footfall

The Sub-Committee considered the application for the variation of the Premises Licence, and the subsequent amendments, and the representations made specifically in the light of the following Licensing objectives (as defined in the 2003 Act):-

- The prevention of public nuisance.

Resolved:- (1) That the variation of the Premises Licence in respect of Wigtox Lounge, 33 South Street, Rawmarsh, Rotherham S62 5RF be approved as follows:-

(1) That the earliest hour to allow the sale of alcohol, playing of recorded music, the performance of dance and the exhibition of films on every day of the week be extended to 9.00 a.m.

(2) That the latest authorised hour to allow the sale of alcohol, playing of recorded music, the performance of dance, the exhibition of films and the provision of late night refreshment on Friday and Saturday be extended to 1.00 a.m. on the following day.

(3) That conditions 1 and 2 of Annex 2 of the Premises Licence which restricted admission to the premises after 11.00 p.m. be removed and a further condition imposed:-

“After 11.00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, suitably qualified door staff (e.g. SIA or equivalent) or a suitable alternative (e.g. a designated noise manager from the premises) will be present at the premises to minimise noise from the dispersal of patrons in accordance with the approved Noise Management Plan.”

(4) That condition 29 of Annex 2 of the Premises Licence that prohibits the use of the roof top terrace be replaced with:-

“Customers shall be permitted to use the rooftop terrace for the consumption of alcohol, food and non-alcoholic drinks from the premises opening time until 9:00 p.m. However, customers will be permitted to use this patio to smoke until the premises closes. The area to the rear of the premises (car park), shall not be used for any of these purposes at any time.”

(5) That the rooftop terrace shall not be brought into use until an appropriately qualified consultant has designed a scheme for the prevention of noise nuisance from these areas and the works identified have been implemented in full. The scheme should be submitted for the written agreement of the Licensing Authority, in consultation with the Community Protection Unit, before the works commence.

(6) That the first floor function room (accessed via the roof top terrace) be included as part of the area authorised for the provision of licensable activities subject to the following conditions:-

(a) That the function room shall not be brought into use until an appropriately qualified consultant has designed a scheme for the prevention of noise nuisance from these areas and the works identified have been implemented in full. The scheme should be submitted for the written agreement of the Licensing Authority, in consultation with the Community Protection Unit, before the works commence.

(b) That the access and egress doors to the function room, including the mezzanine level, to be fitted with self-closing devices on the doors to mitigate noise breakouts.

(c) The access and egress doors to the function room, including the mezzanine level, are not to be propped open at any time during operational hours

(7) That the premises layout plans at Annex 4 of the Premises Licence be replaced with the plans submitted with the variation application.

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PLANNING BOARD
22nd January, 2026

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, A. Carter, Clarke, Currie, Elliott, Fisher, Hussain and Jackson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, Sutton, Tarmey and Thorp.

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

47. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

48. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

50. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2025

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 27th November, 2025, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

51. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

52. 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 application below:-

PLANNING BOARD - 22/01/26

- Erection of self build residential dwelling at land adjacent 1 Austen Drive, Bramley for Mr. M. Middleton (RB2025/1483)

Mr. M. Middleton (Applicant)
 Mr. S. Woods (Objector)
 Mr. D. Harris (Objector)

Two additional statements of objection were read out at the meeting.

(2) That application RB2022/1785 be refused for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and as listed in the submitted report.

(3) That application RB2025/1483 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

53. UPDATES

The following update information was provided:-

- (a) Planning Enforcement January to December, 2025

Consideration was given to a short presentation by the Planning Enforcement Manager which provided an update on planning enforcement from January to December, 2025.

The presentation highlighted:-

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Number of complaints received | 388 |
| Planning Contravention Notices | 20 |
| Enforcement Notices | 15 |
| Breach of Condition Notice | 3 |
| Temporary Stop Notice | 0 |
| Section 215 Untidy Land | 0 |
| Tree Replacement Notices | 0 |

There were also 49 other cases where enforcement action was pending and authorised.

Further information was provided on the numbers of planning applications received as a result of enforcement:-

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of applications received | 107 |
| % of applications refused (3 of 39) | 29% |
| Numbers of applications dismissed at appeal | 9 |
| Number of applications upheld at appeal | 1 |

From the Enforcement Notices issued a number appealed the decision:-

| | |
|--|---|
| No. of Enforcement Notice Appeals | 8 |
| Appeals Dismissed | 4 |
| Appeals Allowed | 0 |
| Appeals awaiting determination/withdrawn | 4 |

Photographic evidence of examples was shared where action was recommended and where this had been successful.

Members welcomed the data as presented and thanked the Enforcement Team for the work they had provided.

The Board asked a number of questions about ongoing cases where Planning Enforcement may be involved and how progress was being monitored.

The Planning Enforcement Manager reminded the Board that where there may be issues or concerns about ongoing and delayed development these should be referred to the Service for investigation.

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**PLANNING BOARD
26th February, 2026**

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Allen, Currie, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Hussain, Jackson, Tarmey and Thorp.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Bacon and Sutton.

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

54. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

55. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fisher declared a personal interest in application RB2025/1408 (change of use from Class C3 Dwellinghouse to Class E(e) provision of medical or health services and single storey side/rear extension and single storey link extension to 41 Broom Road at 39 Broom Road, Broom for Joseph Family Dental Care) on the grounds of being a client. He left the room whilst the application was discussed and did not observe the vote.

57. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND JANUARY, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 22nd January, 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

58. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

59. 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:-

- Erection of 107 dwellings, associated highways, landscape, open space and drainage infrastructure at land south of Mansfield Road, Aston for Gleeson Regeneration Ltd. and Network Space Land Ltd. (RB2024/1431)

Ms. B. Justice (Applicant)

- Change of use from Class C3 Dwellinghouse to Class E(e) provision of medical or health services and single storey side/rear extension and single storey link extension to 41 Broom Road at 39 Broom Road, Broom for Joseph Family Dental Care (RB2025/1408)

Mr. H. Marston (Objector)

(2) That in relation to application RB2024/1431:-

(a) That the Council enter into a legal agreement with the developer under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- Affordable housing provision (9 units including 6 bungalows on a 1:2 ratio and 3 x 2 bed properties).
- Education Contribution of £327,189.50 towards secondary education at Aston Academy in line with the 2025 Education s106 policy.
- £104,000 towards consulting rooms at Swallownest Health Centre.
- £500 per dwelling towards promotion of sustainable transport (£53,500 in total).
- £39,108 for bus stop improvements at bus stop 30970 (Mansfield Road) and 30969 (Mansfield Road).
- A contribution in the region of £10,200 towards the 30-year management and monitoring of the significant on-site habitat.
- A financial contribution of up to £67,203 to support existing sports pitch provision within an initial one-mile radius of the site and as required by the Play Pitch Strategy.
- Establishment of a Management Company to manage and maintain the areas of Greenspace on site.

(b) subject to the satisfactory signing of the agreement application RB2024/1431 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to an amendment to Condition No.33 which should now state:-

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Prior to commencement of any above ground works, details of any cut and fill earthworks required to create development platform(s), including detailed topographical survey information and proposed finished site levels and any retaining walls and structures shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This shall include the submission of a Materials Management Plan as required by the CL:AIRE guidance. The development shall thereafter be constructed in accordance with the approved details.

Reason

To ensure the safe occupation of the site.

(3) That application RB2025/1408 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(Councillor Fisher declared a personal interest in application RB2025/1408 (change of use from Class C3 Dwellinghouse to Class E(e) provision of medical or health services and single storey side/rear extension and single storey link extension to 41 Broom Road at 39 Broom Road, Broom for Joseph Family Dental Care) on the grounds of being a client. He left the room whilst the application was discussed and did not observe the vote)

60. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

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**PLANNING BOARD
19th March, 2026**

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Allen, Currie, Duncan, Elliott, Jackson, Sutton, Tarmey and Thorp.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Fisher.

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

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

61. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

62. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

64. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 26th February, 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

65. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferrals recommended.

66. 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:-

- Erection of 228 dwellings with associated access, open space, drainage infrastructure and landscaping at land to north of Grange Road/off Priestley Avenue Rawmarsh for Taylor Wimpey Limited (RB2025/0537)

Ms. S. Carr (on behalf of the Applicant)
Councillor D. Sheppard (Objector)

Statements read out on behalf of:-

Mrs. B. Heath (Objector)

Mr. B. Smith (Objector)

Ms. L. Braisby (Objector)

- Erection of two stable blocks at land adjacent A57 Chesterfield Road, Swallownest for Mr. J. White (RB2025/1101)

Mr. R. Beal (on behalf of the Applicant)

- Application to vary conditions 06 (amend wording relating to car parking spaces and 07 (new rota document amendments) imposed by RB2025/0610 at 92 Swinston Hill Road, Dinnington for Mr. Hallam (RB2026/0061)

Mr. L. Hallam (Applicant)

Ms. V. Thurtle (Supporter)

Mr. G. Tabor (Objector)

Mrs. K. Tabor (Objector)

Ms. A. Wright (Objector on behalf of Dinnington Town Council)

(2) That in relation to application RB2025/0537:-

(a) That the Council enter into a legal agreement with the developer under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

S106 agreement Heads of Terms

- 25% affordable housing provision (57 units) as shown on drawing 24 5750 08 S106 Plan Rev D. Including Affordable Rent (32 units).

Contributions

- Bus Stop Improvements Contribution £60,106.
- Highways TRO Contributions:-

£5,000 (20mph speed limit).

£5,000 (investigation of a traffic regulation order to improve junction capacity at the Haugh Road/A633 junction).

£500 (sustainable transport) per dwelling (£114 000).

- Greenspace Contribution £149,500.
- Playing Pitch contribution £105,715.
- Education Contribution to accord with SPD towards Primary School places.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- Biodiversity Net Gain – 10% increase required as per new legislation – details of Biodiversity Net Gain to be approved via conditions.

(b) subject to the satisfactory signing of the agreement application RB2025/0537 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That applications RB2025/1101 and RB2026/0061 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

67. REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, REGENERATION AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

Further to Minute No. 45 of the meeting of the Planning Board held on 27th November, 2025, consideration was given to the report of the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transportation Service and several slides presented by officers which outlined the latest update on the Whitestone Solar Farm proposal being progressed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), requiring a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 rather than determination by the Council.

An update was provided on the role of the Council as a statutory consultee, the review by officers on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and the associated response that, whilst satisfied that most statutory requirements appeared to have been met, this was not considered complete due to a number of landowners not being served with a Section 42 notice.

The Council had received a substantial amount of feedback from Parish Councils, Ward Members and residents outlining a number of concerns, but following a review of the comments received by local residents and statutory consultees the applicants had made amendments to the overall masterplan. These updated maps and the changes were shared with Members. These now incorporated additional reductions to the proposed solar development areas located in proximity to villages and residential properties. These revisions resulted in an overall 37% reduction in the developable area when compared with the initial proposals.

It was further highlighted that a review of land identified for environmental mitigation had also been undertaken which meant that areas that exceeded what was required to deliver appropriate ecological benefits had been removed from the scheme. These parcels of land would, therefore, remain outside the project boundary and continue in their existing agricultural use, supporting the applicant's objective of maximising local agricultural productivity.

Furthermore, these amendments, together with any subsequent revisions to the Draft Environmental Statement, were anticipated to form part of the documentation submitted to PINS as part of the Development Consent Order application. The Council would be afforded the opportunity to provide representations on these matters through the preparation of its Local Impact Report.

Further detail was provided on the inclusion of the National Grid Substation and how this was progressing. As this new substation remained subject to planning approval and had not yet been constructed, the project boundary for Whitestone included cable routes to both the existing Brinsworth substation and the proposed Long Lane site.

It was noted the Council would continue to prepare for the Local Impact Report and had instructed specialist external consultants who could provide technical expertise in key areas and assist in the compilation of the necessary reports.

Liaison had continued with the applicants with topic based meetings having been being held to discuss any issues raised. These were likely to continue throughout the pre-application stage on various subjects. Additionally, a Long List of developments had also been agreed to be considered within the cumulative impact assessment for the Whitestone project. Information was provided on the expectations of cumulative assessment and how this would be based on committed development, which would include the two solar farm proposals at Ulley and Thurcroft and the proposed substation at Brinsworth on the basis that they were likely to reach determination within the NSIP assessment period.

Applications to Local Authorities determined under the Town and Country Planning Act would, however, not be required to consider the Whitestone project, as its determination would be expected after consideration of the applications.

Despite numerous requests a draft copy of the Development Consent Order had not been submitted and the Council would continue to pursue with the applicant as this would support the gathering of information and inform the Local Impact Report.

In conclusion it was noted the Whitestone Solar Farm proposal continued to progress through the NSIP pre-application process and the Council remained actively engaged in its statutory role as a host authority. Whilst the applicant had made revisions to the masterplan, several key matters remained outstanding, including confirmation of full statutory compliance, provision of the draft DCO, and clearer evidence of how consultation feedback had informed the evolving scheme.

Officers would remain actively involved scrutinising all forthcoming documentation to ensure the Council's statutory responsibilities were met and that local issues were fully and accurately represented.

Members would continue to be kept informed as the project progressed, including when the application was submitted and when further formal responses were required. Officers would continue to prioritise transparency, statutory compliance and the protection of local interests as the project advanced towards examination.

In their receipt of the update Members asked a series of questions and received responses relating to:-

- Adequacy of the consultation and the shortfalls in responses to residents by the applicant.
- The short timeframes for response submissions by the Council following the submission of the application.
- The inadequacy of the statutory consultation process and the disillusionment for residents.
- Welcome appointment of consultants and the potential for Members to be involved.
- Cumulative impact of other applications on Whitestone Solar Farm.
- National Grid Substation development.
- Circulation of the slides presented.

Resolved:- (1) That the update and report be received and the contents noted.

(2) That copies of the presentation slides be circulated for all Planning Board Members.

68. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

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STAFFING COMMITTEE
9th February, 2026

Present:- Councillor Alam (in the Chair); Councillors Z. Collingham, Jones and Read.

33. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2025

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th December, 2025, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings for signature by the Chair.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

35. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Appendix 1 to Item 7 contained exempt information but the meeting remained open throughout.

36. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development which provided details of the Pay Policy Statement for 2026-27 that the Council was required to publish under Chapter 8 of the Localism Act 2011. The Pay Policy Statement must be published following approval by the Council by the 31st March of each year and detail the remuneration of its Chief Officers.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, the Staffing Committee determined conditions of service, employment policies and procedures and remuneration relating to the Chief Executive and Chief Officers, in line with the Pay Policy Statement. In addition, the Council must approve any salary package, as defined in the Council's Pay Policy Statement, of £100,000 per annum or more before it was offered in respect of a new post.

Further to the Staffing Committee meeting which took place on the 17th December the Pay Policy Statement reflected the new job titles of Chief Officers.

The Committee reviewed the Pay Policy Statement for 2026-27 (attached to the submitted report at Appendix 1) and recommended approval by Council.

(1) Resolved:- That the Pay Policy Statement for 2026-27 be accepted.

(2) Recommended:- That Council approve the Pay Policy Statement 2026-27.

37. GENDER PAY GAP STATEMENT 2025

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development which provided the detail of the Gender Pay Gap information as at 31st March, 2025, that the Council was obliged to publish under reporting legislation.

In 2017, the Government introduced the Gender Pay Gap Information Regulations which required employers with 250 or more employees to publish statutory calculations every year, showing how large the pay gap in their organisation was between their male and female employees. A positive pay gap indicated that men were paid more than women and a negative pay gap that women were paid more than men.

The gender pay gap showed the difference in the average pay between all men and women in a workforce regardless of job role. The smaller the value of the gap, the more equal the pay gap was between genders. If a workforce had a particularly high gender pay gap, this could indicate there may be a number of issues to deal with and individual calculations may help to identify what those issues were.

The Council had up to 12 months following the annual snapshot date of 31st March, to publish this information on the Council and Government website. The deadline to report on details taken at the snapshot date of 31st March 2025 for public sector employers was 30th March 2026. The Council had chosen to include a narrative with its calculations to explain the reasons for the results and details of actions being taken to reduce or eliminate the gender pay gap.

The mean value was based on total pay for the group, divided by the number in the group being measured. The mean gender pay gap for the Council at the end of March 2025 had continued to reduce to 4.42%, down from 5.5% in 2024. The median measure (the middle numerical value in the male and female salary lists for every member of staff in the Council, ranked highest to lowest) also showed a further reduction in the overall pay gap at 4.81%, down from 8.1% in 2024.

The Council's pay gap resulted from the fact that the Council had a greater number of female employees working in traditionally low-paid cleaning and catering roles, where there was an over-representation of female workers. In the upper quartile, where the jobs tend to be professionally qualified or dependent on several years of management or other types of experience, women were under-represented but make up 69% (up from 60% in 2024) of the top 5% of earners and females represented 4 out of 7 positions of the Strategic Leadership Team.

There was no legislative requirement to publish information on other protected characteristics, however, analysis for Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) employees showed the Council had a negative 5.43% (6.11% in 2024) median pay gap and a negative 0.69% (0.17% in 2024) mean figure demonstrating that BAME employees on average were paid more per hour. This was due to a higher proportion of BAME workers being employed in the 'upper' and 'upper middle' quartiles. For disabled employees, there was a negative median of 6.85% (7.01% in 2024) and a negative 2.92% (3.10% in 2024) mean figure demonstrating that disabled employees were paid more than non-disabled employees by both measures. This was due to a higher proportion of disabled workers being employed in the 'upper middle' quartile.

Resolved:

That Staffing Committee:

1. Receive the Gender Pay Gap Report at Appendix 1.
2. Approve publication of the Gender Pay Gap Report at Appendix 1.

38. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S PAY STRUCTURE

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development. The report provided detail of the implications of the deletion of spinal column point 02 (agreed as part of the April 2025 pay award, effective April 2026) and the impact of the Real Living Wage uplift of 6.7%, meaning that the Council would need to reintroduce spinal column point 10 to ensure parity between pay grades. Further, that all employees currently on spinal column points 02 to 09 were recommended to be transferred to the next available point to maintain parity in accordance with equal pay legislation.

It was possible that, following the agreement of the Local Government NJC Pay Award 2026/27, that further spinal column points may be required to be reintroduced to the Council's Pay Structure to enable payment of salaries in accordance with the agreement. The report requested that any further changes to spinal column points within the Council's pay structure, arising from the outcome of the collective bargaining process, may be implemented without further deference to the Council's Staffing Committee.

The Real Living Wage had been determined at £13.45 and would be implemented by RMBC on 1st April 2026. The pay award for 2026/27 would be agreed later in the year and would be applied to salaries as soon as possible thereafter. In the interim, a temporary uplift would be applied to SCPs 3 to 7 to comply with the Real Living Wage and to ensure differentiation between SCPs. This temporary uplift was effectively an early application of the pay award, which had been budgeted for in 2026/27.

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In the event that the pay award did not deliver an hourly rate of £13.45 or above at the bottom of the pay spine, the Council would be required to progress to phase 2 of the options set out in Exempt Appendix 1, Table 3, to utilise the next available unused scale point, at a further cost of £933k. Given the high possibility that this movement may be required in 2026/27 the financial impact had been built into the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27.

Resolved:

That Staffing Committee:

1. Approve the proposed changes to the Council's pay structure.
2. Approve the recommendation to transfer employees on spinal column points 02 to 09 to the next available point.
3. Delegate to Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development the implementation of any further introduction of spinal column points, arising from the outcome of national collective bargaining processes.
4. Details of the Council's approach to pay are included in the Council's Pay Policy which is to be approved by Council.

39. URGENT BUSINESS

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

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**15th January, 2026**

Present:- Councillor Clarke (in the Chair); Councillors T. Collingham, Hall, Harper and Monk, Parish Councillors T. Griffin and M. Senior and Mr. P. Beevers (Independent Person) and Mrs. A. Bingham (Independent Person).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beck, Keenan and Lelliott, Mrs. K. Penney (Independent Person) and Mr. D. Roper-Newman (Independent Person).

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21. 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. 27 and 28 (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.

22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th September 2025 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

23. STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND - CONSULTATION RESULTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report outlining the Government's consultation (December 2024–February 2025) on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities, together with the published Government response.

The report highlighted that the Government intended to introduce a series of legislative changes aimed at improving consistency and transparency across all local authority tiers. These measures included the introduction of a mandatory national Code of Conduct for all local authorities, the requirement for principal authorities to establish formal Standards Committees, and the provision of support to complainants and Councillors involved in standards investigations.

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The Government also proposed a statutory right of review for complainants and subject members, new powers for councils to suspend Elected Members for up to 6 months for serious misconduct, and the creation of a national appeals function to operate following completion of local review processes.

The Committee made several observations and noted that whilst standards cases had been relatively infrequent in recent years, changes to the Code and process could initially lead to an increase in case numbers. Concerns were expressed about the potential impact on resources, particularly given the introduction of additional appeal rights.

The Committee also emphasised the importance of timely decision-making, noting that delays in concluding cases or determining appeals could undermine confidence in the Standards framework. Given the far-reaching nature of the proposed sanctions and the significance of the decisions to be taken, the Committee also expressed the view that the chairing of Standards hearings should be undertaken independently.

The Committee expressed broad support for the proposals and agreed to receive further updates as the legislation progressed.

Resolved: That the content of the report be noted, and that further updates be submitted to the Standards and Ethics Committee as the legislation progresses.

24. DEBATE NOT HATE WORKING GROUP - VERBAL UPDATE

The Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that the Working Group had held its initial meeting in November 2025, at which the arrangements and overall action plan were agreed.

The Working Group would provide an open forum for discussion and idea-sharing to support both Borough and Parish Councillors to operate safely within an increasingly challenging political environment. It was noted that the Group would work through each of the 5 sections of the LGA *Debate Not Hate* toolkit, with the intention of focusing on one section at each meeting.

Two positive and productive meetings had been held to date, during which an excellent programme of work had been developed. At the second meeting, the Group had considered the theme of creating supportive environments and discussed the arrangements currently in place. It had been acknowledged that a significant amount of supportive practice was already established.

A list of suggested measures for the Council to implement, covering both immediate improvements and longer-term actions, would be brought forward for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Group. The next meeting would also include a focus on safety and risk assessments.

Resolved:- That the update be received and noted.

25. REVIEW OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING PROCEDURE

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the procedural report, which formed part of the Committee's agreed work programme. It was noted that forthcoming changes in national standards legislation were expected, and therefore a full review of the entire complaints process would not be appropriate at this stage. Instead, a light-touch review of the existing Sub-Committee Hearing Procedure had been undertaken.

Members were advised that the current procedure was in accordance with the principles of natural justice and the Subject Member's rights under Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998, and aligned with the Local Government Association's guidance on complaint handling. The Monitoring Officer was satisfied that the procedure remained fit for purpose and did not consider that any amendments were required unless Members wished to propose changes.

During discussion, the Chair queried whether the process clarified the position regarding right of appeal. It was confirmed that there was no right of appeal under the current arrangements, and that the procedure could highlight that the Sub-Committee hearing represents the final stage of the Council's process.

Resolved:- That the Sub-Committee Hearing Procedure be approved, subject to the inclusion of wording which clarifies that the Sub-Committee hearing is the final stage of the Council's process.

26. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer recommending the appointment of an Independent Member following a recruitment and interview process.

Following 2 resignations last year, a recruitment exercise was undertaken, resulting in one application. The candidate, Ruby Wright, was interviewed by the Deputy Monitoring Officers and considered suitable for the role.

The Committee also noted that Peter Edler, a long-serving Independent Member, had stepped down due to health reasons. With 2 Independent Member vacancies remaining, the Committee agreed to undertake a further recruitment exercise to fill these positions.

Resolved:- (1) That Council confirm the appointment of Ruby Wright as a co-opted Independent Member of the Standards and Ethics Committee until the Annual General Meeting of the Council in 2029.

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(2) That formal thanks be recorded to the outgoing Independent Member, Peter Edler, for his service and contribution to the Committee.

27. 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. Members were advised that there were no identifiable trends to highlight.

Resolved:- That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous two years and the actions taken to address these matters be noted.

28. 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.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

29. URGENT BUSINESS

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

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
12th March, 2026

Present:- Councillor Clarke (in the Chair); Councillors T. Collingham, Hall, Harper, Lelliott and Monk and also Mr. M. Senior (Parish Council Representative).

Also in attendance were Mr. P. Beavers (Independent Person) and Ms. R. Wright (Independent Member – Observer) and officers Mr. S. Fletcher (Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Mr. P. Horsfield (Monitoring Officer).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beck and Keenan, Mr. T. Griffin (Parish Council Representative), Mr. D. Roper-Newman (Independent Person) and Mrs. A. Bingham and Ms. K. Penney (Independent Members).

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31. 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. 37 and 38 (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.

32. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15TH JANUARY, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th January, 2026 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

33. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer which set out a draft Work programme for the Standards and Ethics Committee for the period January to November, 2026.

The draft Work Plan was attached as an appendix to the report and its adoption would ensure that the Standards and Ethics Committee was able to focus on a range of issues throughout the year and provide transparency in relation to its work.

The Committee gave consideration to the draft Work Plan and had no further suggestions to add.

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Resolved:- (1) That the draft Work Plan be received and the contents noted.

(2) That a finalised Work Plan for the period January to November, 2026 be approved.

34. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer which set out the work undertaken by the Standards and Ethics Committee in 2025.

The report gave a detailed overview of the work undertaken successfully throughout the year.

The Committee was invited to make comment and confirmed satisfaction with the content.

Resolved:- That the Annual Report and the work undertaken be received and noted.

35. DEBATE NOT HATE WORKING GROUP - UPDATE

The Deputy Monitoring Officer provided an update on progress of the Standards and Ethics Committee Working Group which was tasked with looking at the Debate Not Hate Campaign and keeping Members safe.

The Working Group had met three times and had already made a number of recommendations to take forward.

The last meeting had focused on health and safety and online security and a more detailed discussion would take place at the next meeting in April with the Head of Democratic Services.

The Chair invited other members of the Committee to join the Working Group and anyone wishing to be involved should contact the Clerk who confirmed the next hybrid meeting to be Tuesday, 14th April, 2026 at 2.00 p.m.

Resolved:- That the update be received and the contents noted.

36. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer which set out proposed minor amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy following a review of the Policy.

A small number of minor amendments to the Policy were proposed (set out as an appendix to the main report) and included:-

- Amendments to the name of the Chief Executive to John Edwards.
- Amended link to the Equality Act 2010 guidance.

The legislation referred to in the Policy remained in force and had not been changed. The procedure for dealing with disclosures once they have been received by the Council also remained the same. The telephone numbers and other contact details available for disclosure within the Policy have been checked and were still current.

Furthermore, the current Policy, subject to the above amendments, was appropriate and remained fit for purpose.

The Committee in accepting the amendments questioned the delay in updating the Policy and was advised this should have been carried out in a more timely manner.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy be endorsed.

(2) That any further amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy or suggestions be submitted.

(3) That subject to (2) above the final Whistleblowing Policy be approved.

37. 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. It was pointed out there was no recurring themes or trends associated with the cases submitted.

Particular reference was made to the appendix to the report which set out clearly the description of the concerns received and action taken.

Reference was made to one particular case and an update provided on the stage of progress.

Resolved:- That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters be noted.

38. 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.

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE - 12/03/26

Reference was made to each related case and recommended outcomes/actions identified were highlighted.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

39. URGENT BUSINESS

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