



Council

**Wednesday 20 May 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:- **12 May 2026**

COUNCIL

Wednesday 20 May 2026 at 2.00 p.m.

THE MAYOR (Councillor Haroon Rashid)
DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Rajmund Brent)

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

ROBINSON, 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 20 May 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 Meeting (Pages 7 - 41)

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 22nd April, 2026 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

4. Petitions (Pages 43 - 49)

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. Membership of Political Groups of the Council, Political Balance and Entitlement to Seats (Pages 51 - 60)

To report on the establishment of political groups, the political balance of the Council and the entitlement of each group to seats on the authority's committees.

10. Corporate Parenting Partnership Board - Annual Report (Pages 61 - 96)

To note the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report.

11. Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting (Pages 97 - 116)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 13th April, 2026.

12. Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Pages 117 - 134)

To note receipt of the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes.

13. Planning Board (Pages 135 - 140)

To note receipt of the Planning Board minutes.

14. Licensing Board Sub-Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee (Pages 141 - 155)

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

15. 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).

16. 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).

17. Urgent Items

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Edwards', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Edwards
Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on
15 July 2026 at 2.00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING
22nd April, 2026

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

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

133. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on the death of former Councillor Alan Buckley who had served on the Council from 2010-2021 and had been Mayor for the 2018/19 Municipal Year. The Mayor sent her sympathy to Mr. Buckley's family and asked all present to observe a minute's silence.

Throughout the meeting, Members expressed their sympathies for former Councillor Buckley's family and noted how dedicated he had been to his local community.

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

134. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Baggaley, Ball, Baum-Dixon, Castledine-Dack, Knight, Pitchley and Tarmey.

135. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous Council meetings held on 14 January, 4 March and 13 March 2026.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 14th January, 4th March and 13th March 2026 be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

136. PETITIONS

Consideration was given to the report which set out the petitions that had been received since the last meeting. There were 2 petitions:

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- Grant Licensed Taxi Drivers access to bus lanes across Rotherham (59 signatures – Lead Petitioner: Councillor Ball)
- Improved Road Safety and School Crossing - Thorpe Hesley Primary School (117 signatures – Lead Petitioner: Katie Dawson)

Councillor Ball was unable to attend the meeting. Mrs. Dawson attended the meeting and spoke to her petition. In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment would provide a written response to each petitioner within 10 working days.

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 Thursday, 7th May 2026.

137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

138. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were 4 questions:

1. Mr. Ashraf - Can Council Leader Chris Read explain how Community Cohesion is served and the Equality Act followed, by him and other political speakers acquiescing to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's demand, selectively barring them from publicly condemning all Genocides including the live-streamed Genocide, recognised as such by the International Court of Justice and still continuing in Gaza and Palestine?

The Leader stated that Holocaust Memorial Day was first and foremost the designated day for remembering Jewish victims of the Holocaust. However, this did not mean that other genocides were not remembered. The Leader quoted the Chief Rabbi and said that honouring Jewish victims of genocide did not diminish compassion for others; it enlarged it because collective memory was not a finite resource. The lesson of the Holocaust was not that Jewish suffering mattered more, but that Jewish suffering mattered at all. When Jews were dehumanised and attacked, it was a sign that society was experiencing a fundamental moral malaise.

The Leader urged Mr. Ashraf not to put the situation in Gaza into competition with Jewish Holocaust. The Leader had condemned the tragedies in the Middle East and would continue to do so but it was unhelpful to put the 2 situations in conflict.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Ashraf stated that the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust disagreed with what the Leader had said. He asked the Leader to commit to condemning all holocausts and genocides at any future public functions without equivocation. Mr. Ashraf stated that he asked questions to advocate for a cause that he believed was righteous and to ask for the law to be applied equally to all without fear or favour.

The Leader stated that he and the Council condemned human rights violations whenever they happened. He reiterated that Holocaust Memorial Day was a particular day to remember a particular tragedy and a particular group of victims. It was vital to be conscious of the Jewish suffering during the Second World War which had shaped Europe subsequently. The Leader again condemned human rights violations in the Middle East.

2. Mr. Cowles - As Leader of RMBC, what action did you take following the email sent to you on 25th July 2018 with the attachment labelled as:

D2 Evidenced dishonesty involving RMBC officers and commissioners (Part 1 30.6.17)

As Mr. Cowles was unable to attend the meeting, a written response would be provided.

3. Mr. Shepherd - What were the reasons for not distributing the 1400 copies of 'Voices of Despair, Voices of Hope' purchased at a cost of £5600?

As Mr. Shepherd was unable to attend the meeting, a written response would be provided.

4. "T" - What action, if any, did you take as Leader of RMBC in response to this statement in Section 6 of the RMBC Briefing Note re D2 Evidenced dishonesty dated 16.12.20

"The council has never explained how the decision was reached to not distribute the publication Voices Of Despair, Voices Of Hope."

As T was unable to attend the meeting, a written response would be provided.

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139. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

140. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader was pleased to say that the Council's Adult Social Care Services had been rated Good by the Care Quality Commission and was now the second joint top-scoring authority in the region. He thanked Councillor Baker-Rogers, the Executive Director Ian Spicer, the wider Leadership Team and officers within the Directorate for their hard and incredible work.

National Primary School Offer Day had been on 16th April 2026 and 98.5% of applications for reception entry in September were allocated one of their 3 preferences. For those moving from Year Two to Year Three, 100% of first preferences were satisfied. These were exceptionally high figures when compared to many places in the country.

In relation to major investments, the Leader reported that the new Tram stop at Magna was now open, as was the waterside restaurant at Rother Valley Country Park. The children's play areas at Thrybergh Country Park and Rosehill Park had been completed. Public Realm work had commenced in Swinton. The Leader also stated that Rotherham Theatres had been awarded £200,000 in Government arts funding.

Finally, the Leader reported on the St George's Day event in Clifton Park that had taken place on Saturday, 18th April. He believed that it had been a great event that brought communities and people together. Whilst flags had been used in recent months to divide and scare, the event in Clifton Park united people of all backgrounds, religions and beliefs with that same symbol.

The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, Councillor Z. Collingham, was invited to respond. He congratulated all those involved in achieving the Good rating for Adult Social Care and asked if Outstanding was achievable. He also praised the work in relation to the Royal Mail Land Swap and Corporation Street developments. However, Councillor Collingham asked if the recent progress would mean that a greater focus could be applied to the old bank and to the Regal Cinema.

Councillor Collingham referenced the Street Safe Team who had been met with some criticism in Dinnington as it was felt by some that they were ineffective in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Councillor Collingham stated that this concerns had been foreseen and asked if the Leader had any further feedback and impact data regarding the Street Safe Team that demonstrated they were actually working and achieving their aims and objectives.

Councillor Collingham referenced the upcoming elections in Barnsley and Sheffield and asked if the Leader would promise to be ruthlessly pragmatic in channelling regional attention to Rotherham following the impact of what could be a sizable change in the region in relation to politics and personalities.

Finally, Councillor Collingham stated that there had been reports that the Prime Minister had misled Parliament, that inquiries were needed and that the Leader of the country did not know what was happening on his watch in his Government. When this last happened, the Leader and the Labour Group had been very vocal in calling for the resignation of the Conservative Prime Minister. He asked if the Leader still thought the same.

The Leader was invited to respond to Councillor Z. Collingham. He stated that achieving Outstanding was the next step, but it would take a lot of time and work. In relation to the old bank and Regal Cinema, the Leader confirmed that there remained challenges with those projects and he did not want those challenges to delay the other redevelopment work that could be undertaken.

The Leader did not have any further data relating to the Street Safe Team in the meeting but would provide the latest information from the Service outside of the meeting. However, he did state that positive comments had been made about the Street Safe Team from business owners in Swinton. In relation to Dinnington, the Leader stated that there were serious issues to address that could not be fixed by the Street Safe Team. It would take the Police, Neighbourhood Co-ordinators and Local Community Protections Teams to tackle those issues related to Anti-Social Behaviour. The Leader stated that he had not been asked to be directly involved in these issues but that could be requested.

In relation to the upcoming elections, the Leader confirmed that he would work with all parties across South Yorkshire for the benefit of Rotherham and the wider region.

The Leader declined to give a running commentary on the Prime Minister and Peter Mandelson situation as it seemed to change hourly. The Leader stated that he wanted a Prime Minister who would deliver for local communities, put money back into public services and be on the side of people who needed an active Government in place, and as such, he wanted a Labour Prime Minister, whoever that person might be.

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

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that he did not share their Leader's view on the St. George's Day event. He did not believe that the genuine concerns expressed by those who were being exploited by the far right had been addressed.

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The Leader stated that audience research had been undertaken as part of the event so that would be analysed. It was never the intention of the event to specifically appeal to those who had been conned by the far right and take them on a journey. It was about bringing people together so that they could be comfortable around different people. It was hoped that the event had reached different communities, particularly more white, low income communities that would not usually attend Council run events.

Councillor C. Carter asked if the café at Rother Valley Country Park would be appropriately staffed as she had visited the café at Thrybergh Country Park and it had been poorly run due to staffing level. She asked if assurances could be provided.

The Leader stated that he was confident that the cafés would be appropriately staffed as further staff had now been recruited at Thrybergh. He confirmed that a written response would be provided setting out further information on this.

Councillor Bacon stated that the Leader should not need to be asked to get involved in solutions for major anti-social behaviour issues. He should just do it. With regard to regeneration, Councillor Bacon stated that the paving had not been cleaned, and he asked if the Leader would work with organisation's such as Historic England and look at further funding for planning enforcement to change the way high streets across the Borough looked, with a particular focus on signage.

The Leader stated that he would be happy to let Councillor Bacon's residents know that Councillor Bacon was unable to sort the anti-social behaviour out in his Ward.

Councillor Currie stated that the Children's Capital of Culture initiative had been fantastic but, since it had now finished, he asked if the outdated signage could be taken down.

The Leader confirmed that it would be taken down.

Councillor Reynolds referenced the Street Safe Team and stated that some people did not want to be helped. He asked if warm places could be provided in the winter for homeless people He also stated that the Team were the best placed people to advise on what needed to be delivered.

The Leader confirmed that emergency shelter was available during adverse weather. He also confirmed that the Homelessness Team included people who had lived experience of homelessness themselves.

141. NOMINATIONS - MAYOR-ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR-ELECT FOR THE 2026-27 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Nominations had been invited for the positions of Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2026-27 Municipal Year.

One nomination for the position of Mayor had been received:

That Councillor Rashid be elected Mayor of Rotherham for the 2026-27 Municipal Year.

Proposer: Councillor Read Seconder: Councillor Ahmed

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

Councillor Rashid was appointed Mayor-Elect for the 2026-27 Municipal Year. His election as Mayor would take place at the Annual Meeting on 15th May 2026.

There had been 3 nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor-Elect as set out in the Mayor's Letter:

That Councillor Currie be elected Deputy Mayor of Rotherham for the 2026-27 Municipal Year.

Mover: Councillor Ryalls Seconder: Councillor Bennett-Sylvester

With the agreement of Councillor Ryalls and Councillor Bennett-Sylvester, Councillor Currie requested that his nomination be withdrawn as he wished to support the nomination for Councillor Brent. This request was accepted by the Mayor.

As such, 2 nominations were moved and seconded during the meeting as follows:

That Councillor Brent be elected Deputy Mayor of Rotherham for the 2026-27 Municipal Year.

Mover: Councillor Steele Seconder: Councillor Williams

That Councillor Tinsley BEM be elected Deputy Mayor of Rotherham for the 2026-27 Municipal Year.

Mover: Councillor Z. Collingham Seconder: Councillor Yasseen

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the nominations were voted on in reverse order of receipt.

The Conservative Group/Independent Member nomination for Councillor Tinsley was lost.

The Labour Group nomination for Councillor Brent was carried.

Councillor Brent was appointed Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2026-27 Municipal Year. His election as Deputy Mayor would take place at the Annual Meeting on 15th May 2026.

142. 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, thanked all Members and Officers involved in Scrutiny. Since the last Council meeting, the following had been undertaken, with further detail set out in the report:

- 9 formal Committee meetings held across all Commissions.
- 18 substantive items considered across all Commissions, excluding the pre-decision work.
- 14 opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny.
- 2 Q&A Sessions held (Leader of the Council and Mayor of SYMCA) which enhanced transparency, political accountability and understanding of strategic priorities beyond the Authority.
- 2 workshops (Rotherham Parent Carers Forum Update and PAUSE Project).
- 4 site visits were held (Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) Centre, Joint Lung Clinic, Market/Library Redevelopment, Rotherham Parent Carers Forum).

Councillor Bacon, in seconding the report, also thanked Members and Officers for their work.

Councillor Currie requested that provision of litter bins be included on the Scrutiny Work Programme. Councillor Steele agreed to look into the matter.

Resolved:

That Council receive the report and note the updates.

Mover: Councillor Steele

Seconder: Councillor Bacon

143. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR GREASBROUGH

Further to Minute No. 55 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th November 2018, consideration was given to the Ward update for Greasbrough 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 Beresford firstly thanked her Ward colleague, Councillor Elliott, and the Neighbourhood Team and Area Housing Officers. She then highlighted various aspects of the report which addressed the Ward Priorities. In relation to road safety and traffic, bollards and a vehicle activated sign had been installed. A 20mph zone had also been implemented. In relation to crime, a Bleed Kit had been installed in Greasbrough Park which had been funded by Ward Councillors. Many events had taken place to bring the community together, including VJ Day celebrations and Remembrance Sunday. Conversations were ongoing with Rockingham School to explore the potential installation of play equipment in the local area. The final Ward Priority was to improve the environment. Greasbrough Park had been awarded Green Flag status for the sixth year. It was the only park in the Borough not managed by the Council to have received this status. A skip day had also been organised.

Councillor Elliott also wished to thank the Neighbourhoods Team, particularly Shaun, Nic and Sarah who had provided invaluable support. He also thanked the Area Housing Officers, Janet, Diane, Pam and Eeram and the local Police team, Andy, Paul, Jackie, Ella, Emily and Abby along with the Waste Management Team, Lee and Chloe. Finally, Councillor Elliott thanked Super Brian who was one of the estate caretakers who also went the extra mile.

Resolved:

That the update report be noted.

144. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST

Further to Minute No. 55 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th November 2018, consideration was given to the Ward update for Hellaby and Maltby West 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 Ball was unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor Stables stated that the focus for her and Councillor Ball had been to listen to residents and deliver real visible improvements. They had organised the first Community Christmas Tree and St. George's Day event for Hellaby and Maltby West. Work had been undertaken alongside

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Council Services, Police and local groups to improve local outdoor spaces. This had included walkabouts, planting projects and a street signage initiative involving local school children. Residents had been supported with projects like Dementia Friendly Sessions, Adult Learning at Maltby Library and activities for children in the school holidays.

Councillor Stables spoke about addressing concerns relating to personal safety and home security. Events and initiatives had been held to bring people together and strengthen the community identity. This included Halloween and Christmas events and an Alzheimer's Festival. Councillor Stables thanked the Maltby Community Hub and Flux Rotherham for their support along with the Neighbourhoods Team. She confirmed that all their Ward budget was spent.

Councillor Tinsley seconded the report.

Resolved:

That the update report be noted.

145. NOTICE OF MOTION - FIRST CITIZEN - STRENGTHENING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN CIVIC LEADERSHIP

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

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.

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.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19(2), a recorded vote was requested and taken for this item as follows:

For: Councillors Bacon, Blackham, Bower, A. Carter, C. Carter, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Currie, Elliott, Fisher, Harrison, Havard, Hussain, Jones, Reynolds, Ryalls, Stables, Tinsley and Yasseen.

Against: Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Alam, Allen, Baker-Rogers, Bennett-Sylvester, Beresford, Brent, Clarke, Cowen, Cusworth, Duncan, Garnett, Harper, Hughes, Ismail, Jackson, Keenan, Marshall, McKiernan, Monk, Rashid, Read, Sheppard, Steele, Sutton, Taylor and Williams.

Abstain: Councillors Beck and Lelliott.

The motion fell.

146. NOTICE OF MOTION - LIGHTING COLUMNS - CUT UNNECESSARY RED TAPE SO THAT OUR STREETS CAN HAVE FLORAL DISPLAYS, CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, POPPIES, AND CCTV

An amendment to the original motion was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original Motion and, therefore, in accordance with Procedure Rule 18(14) the amendment was incorporated into the Motion for debate (inclusions highlighted in bold italics).

The original Motion was moved by Councillor A. Carter and seconded by Councillor C. Carter. The amendment was moved by Councillor Z. Collingham and seconded by Councillor T. Collingham.

The substantive motion was therefore:

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.

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.

COUNCIL MEETING - 22/04/26

- 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.

[Insert]

4. ***Request that the Cabinet Member responsible for Parish Liaison liaise with Parish Councils to identify any need for short term transitional support to preserve community events and initiatives this financial year.***

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

147. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS

Consideration was given to the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 19th January, 9th February and 16th March 2026.

Resolved:

That the report, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 19th January, 9th February and 16th March 2026 be received.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

148. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Allen

Seconder: Councillor McKiernan

149. 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

150. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Garnett

Seconder: Councillor Steele

151. PLANNING BOARD

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Jackson

Seconder: Councillor Ahmed

COUNCIL MEETING - 22/04/26

152. STAFFING COMMITTEE

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Alam

Seconder: Councillor Read

153. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Clarke

Seconder: Councillor Lelliott

154. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There were no questions to consider.

155. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

There were 10 questions:

1. Councillor Currie: Please could you tell me why each Ward has a set amount of litter bins that can be allocated but still ask the general public on the online form if they desire more?

The Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces, Councillor Marshall, stated that she completely understood the concern around the expectations around new bins. She offered assurances that all bin requests, whether submitted online by residents or raised by Councillors were assessed in the same way. A site survey was carried out for each location, and decisions made based on usage, safety, littering levels, and the overall number of bins.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Currie asked how many litter bins were allocated to each Ward and how they could be allocated more?

Councillor Marshall confirmed that a written response would be provided.

2. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: What information do we have regards the number of ASB incidents and neighbour disputes arising from parking disputes on RMBC housing managed estates?

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Beresford, explained that when the Service logged an ASB case, it was categorised according to the issue reported. The NEC Housing Management System used a range of categories, including vehicle related nuisance. There was no separate category for parking disputes. However, in the 2025/26 financial year there were 49 cases reported in the Anti-Social Behaviour category for vehicle related nuisance. It was not known if these related to parking disputes.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that parking issues could lead to bigger disputes. He asked if the Cabinet Member would recognise that parking issues could cause problems, disputes and tensions with neighbours and he asked whether it should be looked into.

Councillor Beresford agreed that parking issues could cause disputes to escalate, as could untidy gardens or barking dogs. She stated that the Service would continue to look at anti-social behaviour issues on the estates.

3. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: What information do we hold regards prospective tenants of RMBC housing declining properties or not bidding on properties due to inadequate parking?

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Beresford, explained that from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 there were 3 property refusals due to no car parking. The Council did not hold information relating to applicants who chose not to bid for properties due to parking considerations. Reasons for not bidding under the Choice Based Lettings Scheme were not captured or recorded within the system.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if the Housing Service could look at how long it took to let properties on older estates that had limited parking and how many bids went in for them. He was concerned that older estates would be left behind.

Councillor Beresford confirmed that she would look into it. However she stated that nearly all properties were very quick to let due to the demand.

4. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: When assessing the condition of our RMBC housing estates what assessments have been made of the blighting impact of limited parking on grass verges and green spaces on our estates?

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Beresford, explained that all new Council Housing developments and acquisitions took account of parking demands according to planning guidance and permissions. Access to public transport was a factor in considering planning applications for new housing and could inform the amount of car

parking provision required for a particular scheme, within national and local policy guidelines. Location specific estate parking and vehicular access needs were assessed on a case by case basis, looking at risk and feasibility.

To manage the substantial increase in car ownership since many of the housing estates were constructed, recognising that this had resulted in vehicles parking on grass verges, open spaces and edges of pavements, preventative measures were being employed, such as the installation of verge bollards, to protect green spaces. Where it had been able to do so, the Housing Service had also undertaken parking projects to improve parking availability.

In some locations, parking had been installed on grass verges or elsewhere to increase parking capacity, prevent highway obstructions etc. This work had been funded from various budgets, such as Ward housing budgets and the Housing Capital Environmental Works Programme.

Appropriate enforcement action was taken where such issues arose and where it was reasonable to do so, given the pressures that existed. This included tenancy enforcement action. Issues regarding verge parking and parking in communal areas such as green spaces, were dealt with by the Area Housing Teams, in liaison with other services, such as Highways and South Yorkshire Police.

It was worth noting that the Council managed a significant number of garage sites across many housing estates, which provided a secure alternative to street parking.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that the damage from cars on grass verges demonstrated that support was needed from Central Government to bring estates up-to-date. Since there was no Capital Programme regarding this at the Council, he asked if the Cabinet Member could urge Central Government to look into funding for grass verge repairs and to bring older estates up to date.

Councillor Beresford confirmed that she would enquire about funding.

5. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: How many requests have been received by RMBC for alterations to properties due to the purchase of or supply of electric vehicles via the Motability scheme?

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Beresford, explained that the Housing Service had received 30 applications from tenants for permission to install EV charging points since May 2021. Only one of those applications specifically mentioned the Motability Scheme.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that some residents had been told it would be better to rehouse them than install EV chargers. There were also many residents who could not afford to install their own EV chargers.

He asked what plans were in place to prepare all houses on the estates for the move to electric vehicles, so that residents could park outside their house and get them charged accordingly?

Councillor Beresford confirmed that there were no plans in the short term to install EV Chargers at all Council estate homes. She stated that the Council would continue to administer requests on a case by case basis.

6. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Can you please confirm if the ringfence around the Housing Revenue Account means funding via the Pride in Place Programme can or cannot be used to improve land owned by RMBC housing?

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Beresford, explained that the ringfence around the Housing Revenue Account did not prevent Pride in Place Programme funding being used to improve land owned by RMBC Housing.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked for confirmation that Pride in Place funding could be used to tackle blight on the Council estates that look a bit older.

Councillor Beresford stated that the Council did not decide where the Pride In Place funding was spent. That was for the Panel led by the Local MP to decide. However, if they did want to improve an area, and it was on Rotherham Council housing land, the Council would support it.

7. Councillor Yasseen: Despite overwhelming resident opposition in the consultation, the Council is proceeding with the Eastwood Lane cycle scheme. Can you explain how this decision reflects meaningful public engagement, what threshold of opposition would trigger reconsideration, and why alternative options or modifications have not been brought forward in response to clearly expressed community concerns about this proposal and its local impact?

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, Councillor Williams, explained that the Council's approach was exactly meaningful public consultation. A decision had not yet been made either to proceed with the scheme, or to drop it.

The Council carefully considered the responses from the first round of consultation and had developed alternative options and modifications to the concept ideas consulted on previously, based on what residents

COUNCIL MEETING - 22/04/26

said. A further consultation process was now commencing through which the results of this work would be shared: the proposal was now tighter, and the Council were keen to see what the views were from Rotherham's community.

When the consultation closed, the Council would consider all the responses and officers would draft a report on the findings. As part of that, an analysis of what this meant for the scheme going forward would be undertaken.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen asked if the Council would provide some evidential base about how the modal shift to cycling would happen and how CO2 emissions would reduce as a result of this scheme.

Councillor Williams stated that the infrastructure needed to be in place so residents could make informed choices about how they wanted to travel. He encouraged Councillor Yasseen and residents to get involved in the consultation.

8. Councillor Yasseen: The landlord I receive the most complaints about is the Council itself, particularly delays in engagement and action. Can you explain why the Council is not meeting the standards expected by its tenants, what steps are being taken to improve response times and accountability, and how tenants can have confidence their concerns will be addressed promptly and fairly?

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Beresford, explained that, as the largest social landlord in the Borough, and one of the largest stock holding authorities nationally, it was recognised that tenants expected a timely, reliable service from their landlord. The Council welcomed the feedback that helped improve services. Whilst service demand and complexity of need had increased, positive progress was being made following feedback from tenants. The most recent tenant satisfaction results highlighted strong core landlord responses, including tenants feeling safe in their home (81.5%), being treated fairly and with respect (83%), satisfaction with repairs and maintenance (78.9%), and being kept informed about matters that affect them (75.6%). These areas consistently scored higher than national comparators and reflected the professionalism of staff interactions, strong compliance arrangements, and improving communication.

The focus was now firmly on building a stronger Service response, underpinned by clear Service standards for contact, updates and escalation. These standards were embedded across Housing Services and supported by robust performance management and oversight, including routine monitoring of response times (which were now meeting or exceeding the Council's target), overdue actions and repeat contacts, with clear management escalation where standards

were not met. A tenant-led 'Learning from Complaints Panel' had also recently been launched.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen stated that the Council was not good at responding to residents in a timely manner. The smallest issue when on for months and it seemed that the Council was frightened of speaking to residents.

Councillor Beresford encouraged Councillor Yasseen to contact her directly if these issues continued.

9. Councillor Yasseen: Following the Government's recent announcement on Council Tax Debt Reform, including a 63-day grace period and mandatory repayment plans, can the Cabinet Member confirm when this Council intends to implement these changes, given national rollout is expected from April 2027, and whether our current policies already reflect this more supportive approach to residents in arrears?

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety, Councillor Alam, explained that the change to the grace period before recovery action could commence, contained within the Government's response to the Council Tax administration consultation, would require changes to Council Tax Legislation.

These changes would, therefore, be implemented in line with the Government's intended timeline from April 2027. Current legislation provided for a 14 day period from an instalment being missed to an application for a Liability Order being made. A reminder notice could be issued as little as one day after an instalment had fallen due, if not paid, the full balance fell due 7 days later and an application for a Liability Order could be made 7 days from that date.

The Council's current process was to set a timetable for the year which ensured no action to recover debt was taken outside the timescale set in law. However, the actual number of days' grace varied depending on the allocation of court dates by Sheffield Magistrates Court and the date an instalment fell due.

Wherever possible the Council worked with debtors to agree a repayment plan which took into account the customer's financial position.

There was no supplementary question.

10. Councillor Yasseen: In light of recent concerns surrounding decisions taken by the Labour Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, including the Mandelson appointment, can the Leader of the Council clarify whether any representations have been made to the Labour Government, and how they ensure residents' confidence is upheld when national

COUNCIL MEETING - 22/04/26

decisions risk undermining public trust in leadership and accountability?

The Leader stated that the Council made representations to the Government on a variety of topics at any given time. It had not made representations, to the best of the Leader's knowledge at least, either in regards to the appointment of ambassadors like Peter Mandelson or in a broader question of accountability in the way that you have described it.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen stated that Rotherham should be knowledgeable on this due to the historical response to CSE and its improvements journey and that this should be used to inform others on accountability and leadership. In that regard, she asked the Leader if he thought it reasonable to expect that knowingly associating or doing business with a well-known paedophile should have disqualified someone from being put forward for a diplomatic role.

The Leader had nothing further to add.

156. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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CR/LH	(01709) 822700	22700	Councillor Chris Read

24th April 2026

Mr Allen Cowles

Dear Mr Cowles

Council Meeting – Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Thank you for your question to Council on Wednesday 22nd April 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

As Leader of RMBC, what action did you take following the email sent to you on 25th July 2018 with the attachment labelled as:

D2 Evidenced dishonesty involving RMBC officers and commissioners (Part 1 30.6.17)

I can confirm that after receiving the email on 25th July 2018, my archive shows that I forwarded the email so the concerns could be considered in line with the council's processes at that time.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council**

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Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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CR/LH	(01709) 822700	22700	Councillor Chris Read

24th April 2026

Mr Martyn Shepherd

Dear Mr Shepherd

Council Meeting – Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Thank you for your question to Council on Wednesday 22nd April 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

What were the reasons for not distributing the 1400 copies of ‘Voices of Despair, Voices of Hope’ purchased at a cost of £5600?

I can advise that the reasons ‘Voices of Despair, Voices of Hope’ were not distributed have been previously communicated into the public domain, and directly to one of the co-authors of the booklet.

I can state that the reasons were communicated to a co-author via a Freedom of Information response (ref. FOI-714-15/16) on 7th December 2015. The booklet was not distributed because it was viewed by Council officers and the government-appointed Commissioners with responsibility for the Council at that time as being unsuitable for use by the Council.

Reasons included:

- an overemphasis on religion/faith (which could be unhelpful or non-inclusive),
- concerns about messages around pregnancy/abortion,
- a focus on graphic personal accounts with limited evidence of recovery / progress,
- lack of signposting to specialist support services,
- triggering images without support information or clear age guidance,
- the intended audience was unclear, and the tone might discourage victims to come forward

It was for these reasons that the Commissioners approved the officer recommendation not to use the booklet 'Voices of Despair, Voices of Hope.'

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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CR/LH	(01709) 822700	22700	Councillor Chris Read

24th April 2026

T

Dear T

Council Meeting – Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Thank you for your question to Council on Wednesday 22nd April 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

What action, if any, did you take as Leader of RMBC in response to this statement in Section 6 of the RMBC Briefing Note re D2 Evidenced dishonesty dated 16.12.20

“The council has never explained how the decision was reached to not distribute the publication *Voices Of Despair, Voices Of Hope.*”

I was assured that the reasons behind the decision had been explained.

The Council has explained on several occasions to one of the co-authors of “Voices of Despair, Voices of Hope” who was also the author of the document you refer to in your question, how the decision was taken to not distribute the publication. There have been numerous Freedom of Information requests (that are in the public domain) which cover this subject.

The decision not to distribute ‘*Voices Of Despair, Voices Of Hope.*’ was made following a review by Council officers. They also received supporting information from an external expert to aid their decision making. Senior officers then recommended to government-appointed Commissioners who were responsible for the Council at that time that the publication should not be distributed. Following this decision one of the co-authors of the publication was informed of the decision and how this decision was reached.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council**

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Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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12th May 2026

Councillor Zac Collingham
Group Leader
Via email: Zachary.collingham@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Collingham

Council Meeting – Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Thank you for your question at the Council meeting where you asked for an update on performance from the Street Safe Team.

The following high-level performance information covers activity up to **31 March 2026**.

During this period, the service issued a total of **68 enforcement notices**, comprising Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and Community Protection Warnings (CPWs).

Officers delivered a strong visible presence across the borough, completing **2,574 high-visibility patrol hours in the town centre** and a further **1,035 hours across township areas**. These patrols are proactive and preventative in nature and form the bedrock of day-to-day community safety work.

The team supported and attended **15 community and partnership events**, including Holocaust Memorial Day, Reclaim the Night, and the Christmas Light Switch-On, providing reassurance and engagement with residents and visitors.

Officers were involved in **26 incidents requiring police action**, which included arrests, providing statements, and acting as first reporters of incidents. This demonstrates effective joint working and intelligence sharing with South Yorkshire Police.

In addition, **36 direct requests for service** were requested by partners / managers or at the request of the public. Of these, **22 have been completed**, with the remaining **14 currently in progress** which are predominately hotspot locations for patrols, indicating responsive operational delivery against identified priorities.

Overall, this activity reflects a proactive and visible enforcement presence, strong partnership working, and continued focus on community safety outcomes.

I hope you find this helpful, but if you require anything further, please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

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

12th May 2026

Cllr Simon Currie
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Currie

Question at Council – Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Thank you for your supplementary question at the Council Meeting on 22nd April, where you asked how many litter bins were allocated to each ward and how they could be allocated more?

A list of bins per ward is provided below. I would stress the obvious point that each ward is very different in terms of its geography, populations, footfall and overall needs and hence the variation in numbers.

Zone	Ward	Singular Bin	Dual Bin	Solar Bin	Total
South	Anston and Woodsetts	118	16	1	135
South	Aston & Todwick	42	3	0	45
South	Aughton And Swallownest	44	1	8	53
Central	Boston Castle	141	12	50	203
South	Bramley & Ravenfield	66	17	1	84
South	Brinsworth	41	5	1	47
North	Dalton & Thrybergh	87	14	1	102
South	Dinnington	128	14	7	149
Central	Greasbrough	97	3	2	102

South	Hellaby And Maltby West	75	4	2	81
North	Hooper	96	14	0	110
Central	Keppel	79	5	0	84
North	Kilnhurst & Swinton East	54	10	2	66
South	Maltby East	110	12	9	131
North	Rawmarsh East	91	8	1	100
North	Rawmarsh West	78	3	5	86
South	Rother Vale	120	19	0	139
Central	Rotherham East	116	9	1	126
Central	Rotherham West	134	9	1	144
Central	Sitwell	100	11	1	112
North	Swinton & Rockingham	73	8	5	86
South	Thurcroft & Wickersley South	36	1	1	38
South	Wales	94	10	10	114
North	Wath	116	10	8	134
South	Wickersley North	71	15	1	87
	BOROUGHWIDE	2207	233	118	2558

North	North	595	67	22	684
South	South	945	117	41	1103
Central	Central	667	49	55	771
BOROUGHWIDE	BOROUGHWIDE	2207	233	118	2558

As I mentioned in Council, people can request a new bin via the website, and these are considered on a case-by-case basis. I have requested officers arrange a member's seminar to discuss with all members the process followed to respond to new litter bin requests. I hope this will be helpful for all members.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Lynda Marshall
Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces

Councillor Linda Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing

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Please Contact:
Councillor Linda Beresford

6th May 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Question at Council – Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Thank you for your supplementary question raised at Council on 22nd April 2026 where you asked if the Housing Service could look at how long it took to let properties on older estates that had limited parking and how many bids went in for them. You were concerned that older estates would be left behind.

I can advise that Rotherham operates a Choice Based Lettings scheme, which allows applicants to bid for available properties that best meet their individual needs and preferences, including location, property type and local amenities. As bidding is driven by applicant choice, it is not possible to directly quantify or isolate the impact that specific factors such as limited parking may have on the number of bids received for individual properties.

However, refusal data can provide some indication of applicant concerns. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, there were three recorded refusals of properties where the reason cited was “no car parking”.

Within your ward, the areas of Thrybergh and Dalton do not currently have any long-term void properties. This indicates that homes in these areas, including those on older estates, continue to be in demand and are being successfully let.

Overall performance data shows that during the 2025/26 financial year, the average re-let time across the borough was 31 days, demonstrating that properties are generally being re-let promptly and that older estates are not being disproportionately left behind within the lettings process.

The Housing Service will continue to monitor lettings and refusal data across all areas to ensure equitable outcomes and to identify any emerging issues that may require further consideration.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Linda Beresford

Labour Member for Greasbrough Ward
Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Linda Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing

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Please Contact:
Councillor Linda Beresford

6th May 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Question at Council – Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Thank you for your supplementary question raised at Council on 22nd April 2026 where you stated that the damage from cars on grass verges demonstrated that support was needed from central government to bring estates up to date. Since there was no capital programme regarding this at the Council, you asked if I could urge Central Government to look into funding for grass verge repairs and to bring older estates up to date.

You raised an important point about the quality of our neighbourhoods and the potential for investment from Central Government to help bring some of our older estates up to date, with a particular focus on addressing damage to grass verges caused by vehicles.

I promised to write to Government to raise this issue on behalf of the Council and I have attached a draft of the letter which I intend to send to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (the Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP) on this issue in the coming days.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



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

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 20 May 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 Council meeting held on 22 April 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 petition listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report and the lead petitioner or their representative be entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes 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 4 June 2026.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Improve Road Safety – Upper Wortley Road Slip Road

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 22 April 2026 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision-making processes.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The following petition has 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
Improve Road Safety – Upper Wortley Road Slip Road	33	Janet Porter	Regeneration and Environment

- 2.2 The details of the petition can be found in Appendix 1 and to 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 Council meeting held on 22 April 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, the petition will not be debated. It 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 petitioner within 10 working days of the meeting. Responses are therefore due by Thursday 4 June 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 - Improve Road Safety – Upper Wortley Road Slip Road

Petition to campaign for road safety measures to reduce the risk of road traffic accidents due to speeding vehicles on the Upper Wortley Road slip road from Oaks Lane.

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 20 May 2026

Report Title

Membership of Political Groups on the Council, Political Balance and Entitlement to Seats

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

No

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Chris Paddock, Interim Director Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, places on local authorities the duty to allocate seats to political groups and sets out the principles to be followed when determining such allocation, following formal notification of the establishment of political groups in operation on the Council.

There is a requirement to annually review the entitlement of the political groups to seats on the committees of the Council.

The allocation of seats must follow several principles two of which are:

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

There are presently 3 political groups in operation on the Council – the Labour Group (majority), Conservative Group (opposition) and Liberal Democrat (Lib Dem) Group – with 11 non-aligned councillors (members who are not in a political group).

There are 144 seats available on committees, boards and panels and under the calculation the Labour Group is entitled to 80 seats, the opposition Group (Conservative) 32 seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 7 seats. The seats allocated to

the non-aligned councillors is 25 and the Council has previously enabled these Councillors to take seats on the various bodies as permitted by the Legislation.

Recommendations

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

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

The Council's Constitution

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Membership of Political Groups on the Council, Political Balance and Entitlement to Seats

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, places on local authorities the duty to allocate seats to political groups and sets out the principles to be followed when determining such allocation. The main principles, which must be satisfied sequentially, include:
- (a) That the number of seats on ordinary Committees/Bodies which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that Authority, as is borne by the Members of that group to the membership of the Authority (i.e. the allocation of the **total** number of seats available must mirror the political composition of the council).
 - (b) That the number of seats on the Body (Committee, etc.), which are allocated to each political group, bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Body as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the Authority (i.e. the allocation of seats on **individual** committees must mirror the political composition of the council).
- 1.2 Local authorities are able to depart from the statutory provisions for the allocation of seats only to political groups where there is no vote against doing so.
- 1.3 Those members not in a political group may still at the discretion of the Council, be allocated a due share of seats, although the Council will decide how to allocate seats to non-aligned councillors.
- 1.4 In line with the provisions of the Council’s Constitution, appointments and allocations will be made to committees of the Council at its Annual Meeting. This report confirms and updates the entitlement to seats on committees.

2. Political Groups

- 2.1 The Proper Officer has received formal notification, under the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, of the establishment of three political groups in operation on the Council, namely:

Name of Group	Designated Leader & Deputy Leader (Number of Members)
Labour	Leader – Councillor Read Deputy Leader – Councillor Cusworth (31 Members)
Conservative	Leader – Councillor Z. Collingham Deputy Leader – Councillor Bacon (13 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Leader – Councillor Adam Carter (3 Members)
------------------	--

- 2.2 Councillors Elliott, Bennett-Sylvester, Ryalls, Hussain, Yasseen, Currie, Jones, Bower, Beck, Harrison, Havard and Sheppard are unaffiliated to a political group. For the purposes of this report, these councillors are regarded as non-aligned councillors.

3. Allocation of Seats

- 3.1 The allocation process must be applied 'so far as is reasonably practicable' to achieve a balanced outcome. The allocation of the 144 seats to the 3 political groups is determined by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Members of Political Group} \times \text{Number of Seats to be allocated}}{\text{Total Number of Members of Council}}$$

For the 144 seats available in applying principle (a) in paragraph 1.1 and providing for seats to non-aligned members in line with the Council's custom and practice, this gives:

Political Group	Seat Entitlement
Labour	80
Conservative	32
Liberal Democrat	7
Non-Aligned	25
Total	144

- 3.2 The table in this paragraph provides the allocation to all Councillors with table at paragraph 3.2a providing the allocation to Councillors only in a political group. The table in paragraph 3.2a will have effect if there is a vote against the recommendation.

	Seats Available	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Non-Aligned
Regulatory Committees/ Boards					
Audit Committee	5	3	1	0	1
Licensing Board	21	11	5	1	4
Licensing Committee	15	8	3	1	3
Planning Board	15	8	3	1	3
Staffing Committee	5	3	1	0	1
Standards and Ethics	8	5	2	0	1
Overview and Scrutiny					
Overview and Scrutiny	12	7	3	1	1

Management Board					
Health Select Commission	18	10	4	1	3
Improving Lives Select Commission	18	10	4	1	3
Improving Places Select Commission	18	10	4	1	3
Other Bodies					
Introductory Tenancy Review Panel	4	2	1	0	1
Joint Consultative Committee	5	3	1	0	1
		80	32	7	25
Total	144				

3.2a

	Seats Available	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Regulatory Committees/ Boards				
Audit Committee	5	3	1	1
Licensing Board	21	14	6	1
Licensing Committee	15	10	4	1
Planning Board	15	10	4	1
Staffing Committee	5	3	2	0
Standards and Ethics	8	5	2	1
Overview and Scrutiny				
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	12	8	3	1
Health Select Commission	18	12	5	1
Improving Lives Select Commission	18	12	5	1
Improving Places Select Commission	18	12	5	1
Other Bodies				
Introductory Tenancy Review Panel	4	3	1	0
Joint Consultative Committee	5	4	1	0
		96	39	9
Total	144			

- 3.3 In the table in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.2a above, the committees and panels listed have locally agreed provisions in respect of their membership which were determined by the Council. For ease of reference additional information relating to appointments is set out below:

Panel	Description of Role and Function
Employment Appeals Panel	Appeal Panels shall comprise three members of the Council selected from a pool of 8 members (two of whom shall be Cabinet Members, four who shall be scrutiny members and two whom shall be members of the opposition.)
Introductory Tenancy Review Panel	The Panel shall comprise of at least three elected members from the Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission or Improving Places Scrutiny Commission and a housing policy advisor.
Joint Consultative Committee	The Committee shall comprise of give Elected Members, representing Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, to include two Cabinet Members, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, one member of the principal opposition group and one other member (appointed at annual council).
Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety and two other Members.

- 3.4 Political Groups are invited to submit their nominations to the Head of Democratic Services in order for Council to consider a schedule of nominations and confirm appointments to committees, board and panels at its meeting on 20 May 2026.

4. Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs – Overview & Scrutiny

- 4.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2016, the recommendations of the Governance Working Group were approved which introduced a provision for the Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to be a member of the main opposition party and for the allocation of the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair on the Select Commissions according to the political balance of the Council.
- 4.2 Applying the principles of political balance to the positions available on the Council's Overview and Scrutiny bodies, the entitlement is set out in the tables below:

	Chairs	Vice Chairs
Labour	4	1
Conservative	0	2 (inc. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board)
Liberal Democrat	0	0
Non-Aligned	0	1

4.2a

	Chairs	Vice Chairs
Labour	4	1
Conservative	0	2 (inc. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board)
Liberal Democrat	0	1

4.3 It is a matter for the political groups to nominate Members as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny bodies, however the appointments must be made by the Council to the Chair and Vice Chair positions.

4.4 There is no provision in law or within the Constitution for the other bodies of the Council to appoint Chairs or Vice-Chairs according to the authority's political make up.

4.5 Political Groups are invited to submit their nominations for the positions, detailed in paragraphs 4.2 ahead of this meeting on 20 May 2026.

5. **Appointments to Joint Bodies**

5.1 The entitlement in respect of the political groups in operation in Rotherham is set out below.

5.2 The entitlement to seats for these bodies is calculated according to political balance across the four South Yorkshire local authorities.

5.3 Nominations will be required from the two main political groups in operation on the Council in respect of the seats available.

5.4

Joint Committee	Seats
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board	1 x Member 1 Member plus 1 substitute (Labour)
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority – Rotational Member	1 Member (Labour)
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Audit, Standards and Risk Committee	1 x Member 1 Member plus 1 substitute (Labour)

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2 x Members 1 Member plus 1 substitute (Labour) 1 Member plus 1 substitute (Conservative)
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Employment Panel	2 x Members 1 Member (Labour) 1 Member (Conservative)
SY Fire and Rescue	2 x Members 1 Member (Labour) 1 Member (Conservative)
SY Pensions Authority	2 x Members 1 x Member (Labour) 1 x Member (Conservative)
SY Police and Crime Panel	2 x Members 1 x Member (Labour) 1 x Member (Conservative)
YPO Joint Committee	1 x Member 1 x Member plus 1 x substitute (Labour)

6.0 Membership of Sub-Committees, Sub-Groups and Panels

- 6.1 The authority to appoint councillors to serve on external organisations and partnerships (outside bodies) is a matter for Cabinet and a report will be submitted to the June Cabinet meeting recommending appointments.
- 6.2 The Sub-Committees, Sub-Groups and Panels listed in the table below require the appointment of Members according to local conventions (those appointments required by Select Commissions will be made at those commissions' first meeting of the new municipal year). There is no requirement for political balance to be applied in respect of appointment to these bodies:

Sub-Committees, Sub-Groups and Panels	Membership Required
Education School Transport Appeals	Panel of six Members from a pool of councillors (other than Executive)
Emergency Planning Shared Service Joint Committee	Cabinet Member Finance and Community Safety or Deputy
Health, Welfare and Safety Panel	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety A member of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board A member from each Select Commission

	A member from the Member and Democratic Panel
Local Admissions Forum	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young Peoples Service
Parish Councils - Liaison Meetings	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working Other Cabinet Members depending on matters being discussed
Rotherham Schools Forum	One Member (non-Executive)
Transport Advisory Panel	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment (attendance open to all Members of the Council)

7. Consultation on proposal

- 7.1 The Local Government and Housing Act and the Council's Constitution provide for the appointment of members to serve on committees and other bodies as a power reserved to the Council.
- 7.2 The Council may determine not to appoint to the committees at this meeting, however this will delay the conduct of the Council's business until the next available Council meeting. This option is not recommended.
- 7.3 As listed in the recommendations section at the beginning of the report, the preferred option is:
1. That the entitlement of the membership of Council be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees (as per the table at 3.2).

Should there be a vote against the preferred option then further to paragraph 3.2a and the legislation appointments will fall only to those councillors who comprise political groups and the appointments will be made by Group Leaders.

8. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 8.1 The respective political groups have been advised of the requirement for political balance and have been requested to provide amendments to the Head of Democratic Services for the available seats ahead of this meeting.

9. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report. The 2026/27 budget for member allowances is £1,022,274.00 and covers basic and special responsibility allowances. There is also a budget of £104,017.00 which covers National Insurance.

9.2

There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

10. Legal Advice and Implications

10.1 The legislative requirements are set out at paragraph 1.1 above.

11.1 Human Resources Advice and Implications

11.1 There are no Human Resource implications associated with this report.

12. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

12.1 The appointment of members to serve on committees and other bodies of the council will indirectly impact on children and young people and vulnerable adults through the activities and decisions of those bodies. There are no apparent direct implications at the time of writing this report.

13. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

13.1 The appointment of members to serve on committees and other bodies of the council will indirectly impact on children and young people and vulnerable adults through the activities and decisions of those bodies. There are no apparent direct implications at the time of writing this report.

14. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

14.1 There are no implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change arising from this report.

15. Implications for Partners

15.1 The appointment of councillors to serve on its committees, boards and panels is designed to have a positive impact on the Council's relationship with partners and stakeholders to enhance the relationship through the presence of accountable and elected representatives.

16. Risks and Mitigation

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

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
01709 823566 or emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 20 May 2026

Report Title

Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Stuart Williams, Service Director, Children's Social Care

stuart.williams@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report accompanies the first annual report of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in relation to the work of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board 2025. It showcases the work completed to deliver the Council's duty as a Corporate Parent. The purpose is to set out how the Council delivers consistent high-quality care and how the Council, with partners, support opportunities for Children in Care, Care Leavers, and supports them with progressing key priority areas including placement sufficiency and youth participation. This Annual Report also summarises progress by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board against the Corporate Parenting Strategy and sets out priorities for 2026.

Recommendations

1. That Council note the progress made by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board in 2025.
2. That Council note the areas of focus for 2026.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report 2025

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Corporate Parenting Panel – 24 March 2026

Improving Lives Select Commission – 28 April 2026

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report

1. Background

- 1.1 Children and Young People Services have produced the first annual report of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board which is shared alongside this report as an appendix.
- 1.2 The report aims to highlight the work of the board, the successes in 2025, the scrutiny function and governance of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan and the areas of focus for 2026.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 defined in legislation corporate parenting duties for local authorities. It noted that local authorities must act as the best parents possible for children in their care, ensuring stable, positive experiences, and support for care leavers, including published offers for their transition to adulthood.
- 2.2 The Corporate Parenting Duty places a legal obligation on public bodies to act as responsible parents for children in care and care leavers, ensuring their stability, well-being, and opportunities. Ensuring these children achieve similar outcomes as their peers, with a focus on education, health, and becoming independent adults, supported by specific duties under the Children Act 1989 and other acts.
- 2.3 During 2025 there was a redesign of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board. The motivation for this refresh was to enhance corporate ownership and give the board and improved presence. The revised model also ensured a dynamic approach to progressing the action plan and in turn outcomes for children and young people. Throughout 2025 there has been a consistent commitment from senior officers and Members who have met regularly. Children and Young People Services would also like to place on record their gratitude to Democratic Services for their support.
- 2.4 Children's Social Care were subject to an inspection by Ofsted in November 2025. The outcome of this inspection was exceptionally positive with an overall judgement of 'Outstanding'. The published report notes "There is a strong and embedded commitment to corporate parenting and the rights of children and young people, underpinned by a strategic vision that translates into tangible action" in relation to corporate parenting.
- 2.5 The inspection also highlighted "The redesign of the corporate parenting partnership board creates meaningful opportunities for children to hold leaders to account alongside groups such as the 'In Care Voice' (children in care group) and 'Look Ahead' (care leavers group), young inspectors and young journalists, who also have real impact".
- 2.6 Children and Young People Services will have a continued oversight to the action plan associated with the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board to

ensure that the actions and areas of focus align to the current needs of Children in Care and Care Leavers. This will be informed by quality assurance activity, feedback from children and young people and external review.

2.7 Areas of specific focus for 2026 include:

- Improve Pathway Plans for Care Leavers,
- Ensure Care Leavers have access to Health Passports,
- Continue to improve local sufficiency for Children in Care.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Members are asked to note the progress of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board.

3.2 Members are asked to note the areas of focus for 2026.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Not applicable.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Not applicable.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Not applicable.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are clear risks associated to not delivering effective care and support to Children in Care and Care Leavers. This includes reputational risk and the associated individual implications for children and young people.

13.2 To ensure that the identified scheme of work is delivered there is strong governance and oversight system which includes monthly review by actions owners which is overseen by the Service Director. The action plan and exceptions report are also presented to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board at each meeting.

Accountable Officer(s)

Stuart Williams, Service Director

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
The Executive Director with responsibility for this report	Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services	01/04/26
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Cusworth	01/04/26

Report Author: Stuart Williams, Service Director, Children's Social Care
stuart.williams@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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CORPORATE PARENTING PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2025



www.rotherham.gov.uk

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present Rotherham's first Corporate Parenting Partnership Board (CPPB) Annual Report, which reflects our strengthened commitment to the children and young people who rely on our care, support, and advocacy.

The creation of the CPPB has been a significant milestone. Over the past year, the Board has amplified the voice and influence of children and young people, ensuring their insights drive improvements in health assessments, social work practice, education, and what a safe, nurturing home should feel like. We supported the Children in Care Pledge, the redesign of the Journey Hub, oversaw improvements to care leaver pathways, including strengthened housing prioritisation and expanded accommodation options, scrutinised the timeliness of health and dental assessments and promoted more integrated support for emotional wellbeing through closer multi agency working.

We continue to invest in in house residential and fostering services to increase local placement options. Our ambition remains clear: every child should grow up in a stable, loving home close to their community. Strong progress has been made, and our plans for 2026 build on this firm foundation. We have encouraged partner involvement and created meaningful opportunities for Rotherham's young people to shape decisions and strategic direction with their valuable accounts of lived experience.

Working collaboratively across the Council, its partners, and with our children and young people, we have strengthened our corporate parenting offer and embedded clearer governance, accountability, and shared ambition. The Board's governance ensured robust monitoring of priorities and contributed to wider system improvements that supported Rotherham's Outstanding Ofsted judgement for children in care services. Whilst we celebrate this achievement, we remain committed to further progress.

Being a Corporate Parent is one of our greatest responsibilities. This report acknowledges achievements, highlights areas for improvement, and reaffirms our commitment to always ask: ***"If this were my child, would this be good enough?"*** We will continue to remove barriers, strengthen support, and create the conditions for every child and young person to thrive.

Finally, I thank our children and young people for their trust and contributions, and recognise the dedication of our carers, staff, partners, and elected members who work tirelessly on their behalf.



Cllr Victoria Cusworth

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Chair, Corporate Parenting Partnership Board

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the first annual report of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in relation to Corporate Parenting. It showcases the work completed to deliver our duty as a Corporate Parent. The purpose is to set out how the Council delivers consistent high-quality care and how the Council, with partners, support opportunities for Children in Care, Care Leavers, and supports them with progressing key priority areas including placement sufficiency and youth participation. This Annual Report also summarises progress by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board against the Corporate Parenting Strategy and sets out priorities for 2026.

Highlights from 2025:

- Established the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board with strengthened partner membership and clear lines of accountability.
- Expanded opportunities for children and young people to influence decisions, including refreshed Voice and Participation groups and the launch of 'The Journey'.
- Continued investment in the in-house residential estate and foster carer recruitment to improve local placement sufficiency for children in care.
- Aligned themed priorities to Corporate Parenting sub-groups (health, housing and education) to accelerate delivery against priorities.

Areas for continued focus in 2026. Delivering the enhanced offer for care leavers; embedding the CYP Pledge; continued implementation of sub-group action plans; regional work for care experienced young people with a focus on housing allocation policies; and further focus on the voice and participation of separated migrant children.

BACKGROUND

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 defined in legislation **corporate parenting duties** for local authorities, improving support for **children in care and care leavers**. It noted that local authorities must act as the best parents possible for children in their care, ensuring stable, positive experiences, and better support for care leavers, including published offers for their transition to adulthood.

The Corporate Parenting Duty places a legal as well as a moral obligation on public bodies to act as responsible parents for children in care and care leavers, ensuring their stability, well-being, and opportunities, making sure these children achieve similar outcomes as their peers, with a focus on education, health, and becoming independent adults, supported by specific duties under the Children Act 1989 and other acts.

Core Responsibilities:

- **Stability & Support:** Ensuring safe, stable homes, education, and relationships.
- **Aspirations:** Having the same high aspirations for children in care as for their own children (the “would this be good enough for my child?” test).
- **Preparation for Adulthood:** Helping young people develop independence, access opportunities, and achieve positive life outcomes.
- **Collaboration:** Working across agencies (health, education, justice) to provide a joined-up approach.
- **Monitoring:** Paying attention to key issues like missing episodes and ensuring children’s voices are heard.

Locally in Rotherham, The Corporate Parenting Partnership Board replaced the Corporate Parenting Panel to strengthen the voice and participation of Children in Care (CiC) and Care Leavers and to broaden membership across key partners. As a corporate parent, the Council asks at every stage: ‘If this were my child, would this be good enough?’.

The Board oversees service delivery and outcomes of children and young people in our care and care leavers, working with elected members, officers, partners and, crucially, children and young people themselves. Each of the six strategic priorities is sponsored by an elected member and supported by lead officers and partners, with an associated action plan. Significant progress has been made to date in terms of delivery whilst maintaining a strong governance mechanism ensuring continual oversight and scrutiny

THE CORPORATE PARENTING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Board is co-chaired by the Lead Member for Children and Young People and the Service Director for Children's Social Care. Dedicated time is provided at each meeting to hear directly from children in care & care experienced children and young people via our Voice and Influence arrangements. This ensures authentic co-production of service development between members, officers, partners and most importantly young people.

The Lead Member has a wealth of experience from her role as former Scrutiny Chair for children and young people, Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Chair, and the joint vice chair of the regional LGA Board. In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee elected members hold the Lead Member, the Strategic Leadership Team, and our partners to account.

Children in Care and Care Leavers benefit from strong Corporate Parents. Senior Political leaders, Officers and Partners work together to support our children and young people to thrive.

Children in Care and Care Leavers – Performance.

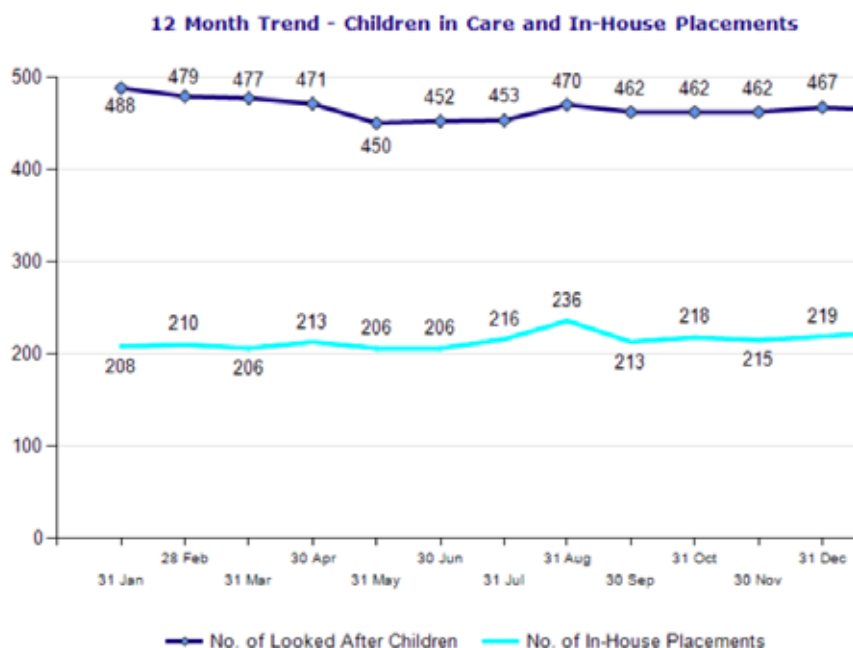
Working with children and young people rightly takes an individual approach and behind each number is a young person and their individual life experiences. Despite that, numbers are not unimportant, and these trends are a way of identifying the strength of our work and horizon scan to ensure resources are in place to meet the needs of children and young people now and in the future.

Performance reporting is advanced, comprehensive, and widely shared, demonstrating transparency in all aspects of children's services. This informs more nuanced reporting of specific issues into the Member arena. Regular detailed reports are an integral part of our Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, which allows challenge to all Corporate Parents.

To strengthen transparency and accountability (drawing on best practice from other authorities), the Council will continue to report a concise scorecard information to the Board. Headline indicators will include:

- Children in Care (CiC) and Care Leavers – numbers, entries, exits, UASC
- Placement type mix and stability (short- and long-term)
- In-borough placements and distance from home
- Initial and Review Health Assessments timeliness; dental checks
- SDQ completion and outcomes; CAMHS access and timeliness
- Education (attendance, exclusions, attainment) and Virtual School KPIs
- Care leavers: in touch, accommodation suitability, EET
- Advocacy uptake and issues raised/resolved

The chart below shows the Children in Care numbers over 2025.



The data shows that there has been a slight reduction in Children in Care numbers with a slight increase in those in house provision moving from 42% to 47%.

The table below shows movement of young people both entering and exiting care

Month	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025
Month Start	488	479	477	471	450	452	453	470	462	462	462
Month End	479	477	471	450	452	453	470	462	462	462	467
Admissions	10	12	12	4	16	19	25	8	17	19	20
Ceased	19	14	18	25	14	18	8	16	17	19	15
Net +/-	-9	-2	-6	-21	2	1	17	-8	0	0	5

There were significant efforts made in year to support some children on a Care Order return home; this cohort accounted for a significant number of the children ceasing to be in our care. There were also some seasonal trends in relation to children and young people entering care. Review of the young people’s personal circumstances identifies their entry into care was suitable and appropriate.

CHILDREN IN CARE EDUCATION

Rotherham's Children in Care continue to show extraordinary resilience, courage, and growth in the face of adversity. As Corporate Parents, we are immensely proud of every child and young person we support. Their journeys are shaped not only by their determination but also by the inclusive, trauma informed environments we strive to create around them. We recognise the unwavering commitment of the professionals who work within the teams supporting each child.

Their compassion, creativity, and trauma aware approaches are vital in helping our children feel safe, valued, and empowered to succeed. The Virtual School provides high-level support to all stakeholders, with rigorous tracking of progress, attainment, and attendance. We ensure every child (0–18) receives a high-quality, termly Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting that reflects their individual needs, strengths, and aspirations. Our team offers bespoke, child-centered advice, guidance, and challenge to the professionals around each child.

We also provide training and development opportunities focused on inclusive practice and trauma-informed approaches, delivered by our Education Advisers (VSEA), Educational Psychologists (VSEP), Speech and Language Therapists (VSSALT), and Sensory Occupational Therapist (VSSOT). We work in close partnership with education settings, social care professionals, external agencies—and most importantly, with our children themselves.

Together, we aim to reduce barriers, promote healing and belonging, and support every child to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We are incredibly proud of our Key Stage 2 children, who have performed exceptionally well, achieving outcomes above national comparators. This is a testament to their hard work, the dedication of our staff, and the strength of our curriculum.

There has also been a notable improvement in the Good Level of Development (GLD), reflecting the strong foundations laid in our Early Years provision. We are delighted that all of our 2, 3, and 4-year-olds are accessing high-quality Early Years education, ensuring every child gets the best possible start. Our mainstream secondary children have seen a decline in attainment, but was in relation to a specific group of children who experienced significant change around the end of year period. There has been an increase in the numbers of our Post 16 children accessing Higher education. There has been a slight decline in the percentage of our children in education, employment and training. Our children's attendance has remained stable and 2/3 of our children have attendance over 95%. There has been a slight increase in the percentage of children who are persistently absent.

The number and percentage of our children who have been suspended and the number of suspension incidents and days lost to suspensions have all increased this year. The percentage of suspended children with EHCPs has decreased. The Virtual School team work closely with schools to support intensive intervention work to reduce suspensions and support children at risk of suspension. Three children were permanently excluded, although one of these was rescinded, and eight children at risk of exclusion were maintained in school. In response to the challenges outlined above, Rotherham Virtual School has continued to adapt, develop, and strengthen the offer available to our children.

Further details relating to how we support our children in care with their education and the progress we have made can be seen in the Annual Report of the Virtual School 24/25.

CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS HEALTH

There were a number of initiatives in 2025 that were developed and implemented to support the health and wellbeing of Children in Care and Care Leavers.

Pathway to Primary Care

Work across South Yorkshire has included the development of review health assessments specifically aimed at care leavers and transitions. Inclusive of this work is the creation of a care experienced marker or 'flag' to add to GP records. This now enables the looked-after children's nursing team to ask for consent from young people to mark their health record with the care experienced flag. This will enable a seamless pathway to primary care, where GP services will understand if a young person is a care leaver, and be able to adopt a trauma informed response, such as enabling consistency with clinicians and offering longer appointment times. We have launched this pathway, working with the named GPs for Safeguarding across South Yorkshire and the pathway is being embedded within our primary care services in Rotherham.

Children in Care Privacy Card designed by TRFT Looked-after Children's Nursing Team

The Rotherham Foundation Trust Looked-after Nursing Team has designed a card to help protect the privacy of children in care and their carers. It was designed to reduce the risk of information breach, increase carers' sense of security and enhance awareness of the need for privacy and safeguards when interacting with children in care. This can be presented at routine appointments to indicate that the child being brought is a child in care. The Privacy Card is now in circulation gaining positive feedback.

Effective joint decision making via Dynamic Support Register (DST) for Children and young adults eligible for S117 and Joint Resource Panel for young adults who are continuing care eligible.

NHS South Yorkshire ICB have set up a working group to ensure children and young people in 38/52-week residential school settings are aligned to the DSR process. This is to build on the learning from the national panel review regarding children in residential settings with complex health needs.

Support in the community

A project has been established in Rotherham to support care leavers with independence by utilising drop-in sessions led by the looked after nursing team. After evaluating attendance, it was decided to pause the project, and re-launch with the learning gained from evaluation. This included the provision of more targeted support (about specific health themes) that may impact care leavers.

Sessions have been restarted and there are plans to offer an individual with a background of adoption and is a trained chef who would like to offer sessions to young people on shopping, budgeting, cooking and general life skills via the support from an adoption experienced Chef.

New Service Specification for looked-after Nursing Team to extend support up to the age of 25

A new service specification was developed and has been issued across South Yorkshire, that is intended for all children legally defined as a 'looked after child' based on statutory requirements to support Children in Care and Care Leavers up to the age of 25yrs based on an assessment of need. The service will work with partners to deliver care that focusses on the improvements it can make for Children in Care, Care leavers and their foster carers/adoptive parents/birth parents and relatives in terms of; clinical effectiveness, enhanced emotional and social benefits and health outcomes.

OUR PRIORITIES 2025

To ensure we continue to deliver the best standard of service to children and young people we developed a set of priorities to be themed areas of focus for the year. This was referred to as the Corporate Parenting Action Plan and was supported by wider project support from within CYPS.

Priority sponsors, leads and partners are set out below.

PRIORITY	SPONSORS / LEADS
<p>Promoting and celebrating success, ambition and aspiration for Children in Care and Care Leavers</p>	<p>Champion Member: Councillor Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</p> <p>Lead Officer: Monica Green – Assistant Director for Children’s Social Care (latterly Stuart Williams – Service Director Children’s Social Care)</p> <p>Supported by: Jane Wood – Head of Service for Children in Care Tony Morrissey – Head of Service for Safeguarding (latterly Chris MacDonald) Jo Hacking – Manager, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance</p>
<p>Leaving Care / Transitions and Preparing for Adulthood (PFA)</p>	<p>Champion Member: Councillor Fisher</p> <p>Lead Officer: Kirsty Littlewood – Assistant Director for Adult Care and Integration</p> <p>Supported by: Jane Wood – Head of Service for Children in Care</p>
<p>Suitable accommodation and placement sufficiency for Children in Care and Care Leavers</p>	<p>Champion Member: Councillor Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</p> <p>Lead Officer: Julie Warren-Sykes – Deputy Designated Nurse Safeguarding</p> <p>Helen Sweaton – Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Quality and Performance</p>

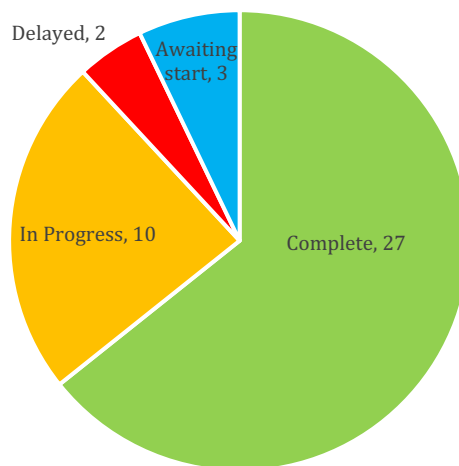
PRIORITY	SPONSORS / LEADS
<p>Education, Employment and Training</p>	<p>Champion Members: Councillor Brent – Vice Chair of Improving Lives Select Commission Councillor Knight – Wickersley North</p> <p>Lead Officer: Niall Devlin – Assistant Director Education and Inclusion</p> <p>Supported by: Tina Hohn – Virtual School Headteacher (Primary) Pete Douglas – Virtual School Headteacher (Secondary)</p>
<p>Fostering – Family Based Care</p>	<p>Champion Member: Councillor Ismail – Mayor</p> <p>Lead Officer: Stuart Williams – Head of Children’s Provider Services (latterly Jane Wood)</p> <p>Supported by: Jane Wood – Head of Service for Children in Care Vicky Chew – Service Manager – Fostering Service</p>

The Corporate Parenting Action Plan

The full plan is an Appendix to this report.

When considering the priorities of 2025 there has been significant progress made. There were 42 sub actions that were identified to support improving outcomes and services for children in care. Progress is summarised below:

PROGRESS OF ACTIONS



The three actions noted as 'awaiting start' were new actions following the ILACS inspection of November 2025.

Where there are actions that have been delayed, it can be seen from the action plan that there has been movement on this and there is a confidence that this will be completed in the early part of 2026.

CO-PRODUCTION AND VOICE

We have strengthened the voice and influence of children and young people through our Voice and Influence service. Young people act as Young Inspectors, support recruitment to key senior posts, co-chair agenda items, and help design and evaluate services.

In recent years we have reviewed our support to children in care and established our Voice and Influence Team, which brings together our advocates, Children in Care Council (Now called In Care Youth), Voice and Participation workers, Care Leaver Forum (now called Look Ahead) and Young Inspectors.

Consultation has taken place with our children and young people, and we continue to look at ways in which we can increase the engagement of our children and young people, including developing a virtual group to widen engagement. Both the In Care Youth and Look Ahead Groups play an active role in our Corporate Parenting Partnership Board and are influencing future agendas, based on their priorities. In addition, we have strengthened links with our separated migrant children; however, this remains a key priority moving forward.

In Care Youth and Look Ahead are represented on the Children and Young People's Partnership Board which provides an opportunity for design, scrutiny and oversight of partnership activity to achieve the strategic priorities set by the Rotherham Together Partnership.

The Voice and Influence Team work closely with the Children in Care service, along with our residential service to ensure that all young people in care understand their rights and entitlements.

In 2025 we refreshed our Voice and Participation groups and launched 'The Journey'—a safe space for those with care experience. Children and young people contribute to specific projects, training, regional and national events, and our programme of celebration events.

Key areas of involvement in 2025 included:

- Advisory group for mental health
- Foster carer recruitment and training
- Sharing experiences of Independent Visitors
- Refreshing our Corporate Parenting Pledge
- Improving the joint housing protocol for care leavers
- Input to the Leaving Care Local Offer
- Shaping local placement sufficiency and our new residential offer
- Workshops with social workers on 'what good looks like'
- Young people interview panels for key appointments

SUFFICIENCY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

We have continued to enhance and invest in our children's residential services, expanding the in-house estate and increasing the number of foster carers. This supports children to remain connected to their communities, friends, education and health services, and gives the Council greater influence over quality and outcomes.

The council has invested significantly in an ambitious residential development programme to create local homes for children. An additional £700k recurrent investment was provided by the Council in 2025 to ensure the residential workforce is equipped to provide the best possible care to our children and young people.

Where children cannot be placed within inhouse provision, we work closely with local private fostering agencies and residential settings to ensure children remain connected to their meaningful people and have the highest quality care, focused on supporting them to achieve their full potential. This is managed through a well established and mature commissioning and brokerage function within CYPS.

When children need to live away from the area social workers and the virtual school are tenacious in ensuring they have access to services that meet their needs.

The Council is committed to placing more children and young people in family-based settings. To achieve this the fostering service have delivered on ambitious plans to increase the number of approved foster carers. The performance should be considered in the national context of challenges in recruiting foster carers. We have commissioned an external partner to develop and implement a digital recruitment strategy and pathway, as part of the wider fostering recruitment plan. The digital approach uses industry leading online approaches to maximise the reach.

There has been a continued focus on the significant benefits of maintaining children in care within their wider family networks. Investment in the Family Group Conference Service has supported this further with a growing cohort of children in care remaining within their wider network when entering care and exiting care through permanence arrangements within their network by way of legal order.

THE YEAR AHEAD (2026)

The approach to Corporate Parenting is continuous, unwavering, and persistent. With that in mind, there is a need to ensure that there is a focused effort in the year ahead to continue to excel in our areas of strength but equally enhance areas of services which could be improved for some children in care.

Elements of care and support were identified as focus areas in the recent inspection in 2025. This identified specific work relating to Care Leavers which will be a focus of efforts in 2026, although some progress has already been made.

Specific elements of focus are set out below:

Area of focus	Actions to be taken	Impact
Improve Pathway Plans for Care Leavers.	Undertake a review of the current CYPS Pathway Plan for Care Leavers to identify the specific content required and implement an agreed revised approach that better supports Care Leavers and frontline practice. This will include production with care-experienced young adults.	Care Experienced Young People will have accessible plans that are unique to their own individual needs, without poor quality generated templates.
Ensure Care Leavers have access to Health Passports.	Undertake a review of Health Passports for Care Leavers via the Health and Wellbeing Board to identify and implement any required areas for improvement.	Care Experienced Young People have a comprehensive and consistent understanding of their health history when they leave care and progress into adulthood.
Improve local sufficiency for Children in Care.	Continue to recruit foster carers to care for children in our care. Continue to ensure robust commissioning arrangements for foster care placements within the Rotherham area. Complete the Residential Development Programme. Enhance our Supported Accommodation offer for Children aged 16+.	Children and Young People will have safe, suitable and local places to call home.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risks to delivering our strategy are overseen by the Board, with mitigating actions tracked through sub-group plans. Key risk themes include placement sufficiency, timeliness of health assessments and dental access, mental health support, engagement in education and EET, and access to suitable accommodation for care leavers. The action plan and priorities set out work underway to address these areas of risk and reports progress to the board.

IMPLICATIONS

There are no decisions sought within this report. Any financial, legal, workforce or equalities implications arising from specific actions will be considered through normal governance routes.

CONTACT DETAILS

Author	Stuart Williams – Service Director Children’s Social Care Children and Young People Services
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Appendix 1 (Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Priorities Action Plan)

OVERVIEW

This action plan provides the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board's 6 agreed areas of focus and agreed priorities. The plan supports the monitoring of progress in relation to the actions identified.

GOVERNANCE

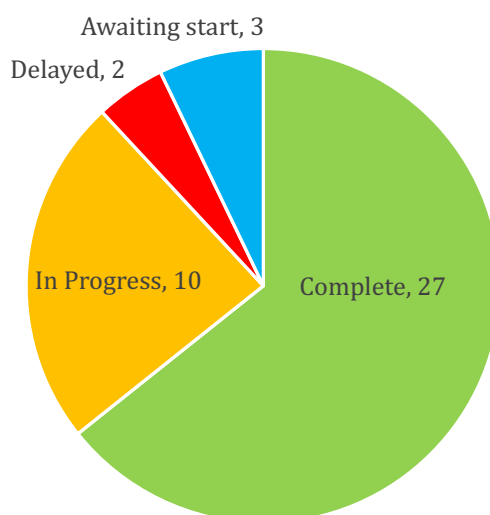
Progress against the timelines and expected outcomes outlined in this action plan will be reported and challenged at the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board every six weeks. Experts from the service are responsible for ensuring the timelines and outcomes of actions under their allocated priorities are met, overseen by 'Champions', consisting of a lead Councillor.

	Priorities	Champions
1	Promoting and celebrating success, ambition and aspiration for Children in Care and Care Leavers	Councillor Cusworth - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Stuart Williams - Service Director for Children's Social Care Jane Wood - Head of Service for Children in Care Chris MacDonald - Head of Service for Safeguarding Jo Hacking - Manager, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Lauren Roe - Communication and Marketing Lead CYPs
2	Leaving Care, Transitions and Preparing for Adulthood (PFA)	Councillor Fisher - Sitwell Ward Kirsty-Louise Littlewood - Service Director for Adult Care and Integration Jane Wood - Head of Service for Children in Care Kim Wilson - Service Manager, Children in Care and Care Leavers James Chapman - Service Manager, Children with Disabilities Service
3	Suitable accommodation and placement sufficiency for Children in Care and Care Leavers	Councillor Clarke - Chair of Standards and Ethics Committee Jane Wood - Head of Service for Children in Care Vicky Chew - Service Manager, Fostering Service Richard Fisher - Service Manager, Residential Care Services
4	Good health and emotional wellbeing including Mental Health/ recognition of Neurodiversity	Councillor Cusworth - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Julie Warren-Sykes - Deputy Designated Nurse Safeguarding Helen Sweatn - Joint Service Director, Commissioning, Quality and Performance Kim Wilson - Service Manager, Children in Care and Care Leavers
5	Education, Employment and Training	Councillor Brent - Vice Chair of Improving Lives Select Commission Councillor Sutton - Maltby East Niall Devlin - Service Director Education and Inclusion Kim Wilson - Service Manager, Children in Care and Care Leavers Tina Hohn - Virtual School Headteacher Primary Pete Douglas - Virtual School Headteacher Secondary
6	Fostering – Family Based Care	Councillor Ismail - Mayor Jane Wood - Head of Children in Care Paul Stinson - Head of Children's Commissioning Vicky Chew - Service Manager, Fostering

RAG Status is shown against the actions which indicate whether sufficient progress is being made, i.e. the right amount of progress in the right direction at the right pace.



PROGRESS OF ACTIONS



1. Priority 1 - Promoting and celebrating success, ambition and aspiration for Children in Care and Care Leavers

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
<p>Councillor Cusworth - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Stuart Williams - Assistant Director for Children's Social Care Jane Wood - Head of Service for Children in Care Chris MacDonald - Head of Service for Safeguarding Jo Hacking - Manager, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Lauren Roe - Communication and Marketing Lead CYPS</p>					
1.1	Celebration events to be held, promoting the achievements of our Children in Care and Care Leavers. Cllrs to be involved in attending and celebrating alongside the children/care leavers.	There has been a celebration event at Wentworth Woodhouse on 11th August 2025. There was a further event on the 2nd of October 2025 to celebrate our young people.	Jo Hacking	October 2025	Complete
1.2	Promotion of the celebration events amongst the community to enable the events to be facilitated.	Ongoing promotional activity to ensure our children and young people are aware of all the events to maximise attendance and participation. The launch of the Journey took place on the 29th of May 2025. This will act as a hub as a promotion for all activities for care leavers.	Jo Hacking	May 2025	Complete
1.3	Promotion of the needs of care leavers and how the community can support/engage including: - Volunteers to lead The Big Christmas Dinner.	We are creating The Pledge and will ensure that the offer from RMBC and wider partners is included in this. The initial launch was at the August 2025 Celebration Event, and a QR code and petition-style list of signatories is being developed for January 2026 for our Staff Engagement Event. Through our Leaving Care Service and the Journey, we have established that few care leavers in Rotherham are alone at Christmas. We have two offers for Christmas Dinner for our care leavers – Arc Cinema has offered places at their Christmas Buffet on Christmas Day, and Hollowgate are offering Christmas Dinner to care leaving young people.	Jo Hacking	26th December 2025	Complete
1.4	Ensure mechanisms for service delivery to be reviewed by children and young people and ensure that opportunities for coproduction are considered.	Young Inspectors inspect areas of service across the organisation and influence service plans to ensure the voice and views of children and young people are considered as part of continuous improvement work. Young Inspectors have already inspected the IRO service and Liberty House, and an inspection of the disability service is planned for February 2026.	Jo Hacking	December 2025	Complete

2. Priority 2 – Leaving Care, Transitions and Preparing for Adulthood (PFA)

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
<p>Councillor Fisher - Sitwell Ward Kirsty-Louise Littlewood - Assistant Director for Adult Care and Integration Jane Wood - Head of Service for Children in Care Kim Wilson - Service Manager, Children in Care and Care Leavers James Chapman - Service Manager, Children with Disabilities Service</p>					
<p>2.1 To improve the quality and accessibility of Pathway Plans so they are young person-centred, outcome-focused and clearly evidence planning, review and impact.</p>					
2.1.1	<p>New Action following Ofsted Feedback: Redesign and simplify the existing Needs Assessment and Pathway Plan so it is concise, accessible, and meaningful to young people.</p>	<p>A Development Day with Leaving Care PAs has taken place. Advanced Practitioners (Leaving Care and CiC) have completed work on what a good Pathway Plan would look like. This now needs embedding in further work to improve Pathway Plans.</p>	Beccy Hinnet/ Sarah Vallance	End of May 2026	In progress
2.1.2	<p>New Action following Ofsted Feedback: Integrate the new templates, Practice Guidance, PWP on a page and standard feedback letter from the worker to the young person following each review into one single Needs Assessment and Pathway Plan framework and procedure that supports consistent and high-quality practice.</p>	<p>A Pathway Plan on a page has been drafted and will be incorporated into the work to update the pathway plan template and guidance. AP from Leaving Care will undertake a training session on Pathway Planning with locality managers/teams by the end of May 2026.</p>	Beccy Hinnet/ Sarah Vallance	End of May 2026	In progress
2.1.3	<p>New Action following Ofsted Feedback: A final Need Assessment and Pathway Plan template and procedure to be designed alongside care leavers Voice and Influence Group and reflecting their feedback.</p>		Beccy Hinnett/ Sarah Vallance/ Voice and Influence Lead	End of June 2026	Awaiting start

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
2.1.4	New Action following Ofsted Feedback: Workforce Implementation and Training across localities of the revised Needs Assessment and Pathway Plan practice guidance.		Beccy Hinnet/ Sarah Vallance/ AP and APs from Leaving Care and CiC.	August 2026	Awaiting start
21.5	New Action following Ofsted Feedback: Audit and Dip Sample to take place 3/6 months after implementation of the new Needs Assessment and Pathway Plans		Toni Traynor/ Tracie Setter/QA lead	Nov 2026	Awaiting start
2.2 Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)					
2.2.1	Start transition early/ allocation of PA/TA for care leavers.	Allocation of PA at 16 yrs (14 yrs for co-allocation of CSC and Adult Transition team). All 16 years olds are allocated to PAs. We are focussing on earlier work being completed in preparation for independence via PAs. 16+ panels track the progress of young people to ensure that the plan is focussed on destinations and stability for care leavers.	Kim Wilson	July 2025	Complete
2.2.2	Provide independence skill support to care leavers	The Local Offer for care leavers has been published on the Council's website and is continually reviewed and updated. Number of CLs accessing supported accommodation Hollowgate, 16plus, dispersed accommodation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hollowgate - 9 young people currently in dispersed, 4 under 18 years of age. Externally commissioned 16+ placements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 18s - 25 in group living; 7 dispersed with floating support; 0 floating support only. Over 18s - 2 in group living; 40 dispersed with floating support; 2 floating support only. As part of the transition to adulthood, when appropriate, CLs are supported by their PAs to complete A Place of Your Own to help ensure they are tenancy ready. Tenancy support offer to foster carers and provider engagement will be tracked through permanency panel and the IRO service.	Kim Wilson	December 2025	Complete

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
2.2.3	Develop a digital offer to communicate support available for children and young people, ensuring it is inclusive and accessible to diverse groups, including those with SEN.	Helen has attended the IC Voice Group, the Look Ahead Group and the Guiding Voices Group to ask them what they would like to see from a digital offer to communicate support available to them. Feedback was overwhelmingly in favour of an App which provides a range of information. As the ask from young people was much broader than those who would move to adult social care, the PFA Board has proposed that this action transfer to the Local Offer for progressing. The Service Director will review this action with the relevant Heads of Service.	Helen Fisher	March 2026	In progress
2.2.4	Develop a model of engagement which ensures the voice of young people preparing for adulthood helps shape and improve services.	Meeting with Genuine Partnerships and RPCF to explore opportunities to collectively deliver the model through a partnership / consortium approach. A proposed model is being drafted for consideration in early 2026.	PFA Board /Kirsty-Louise Littlewo	March 2026	In progress
2.2.5	Launch a Transitions Guide which will support the young person, their family and carers, to prepare for the transition to Adult Services. The guide will be made available to young people, carers and families at the post-14 EHCP review.	Feb-26: A final draft of the Transitions Guide has been approved by the Preparation for Adulthood Board and provided to the Communications team on the 19th September 2025 for publication. The communications team have provided a draft template and continue to work on creating the on-line resource. No publication date has yet been confirmed. The guide will be available on the local offer page, with hard copies provided for services when necessary, so it can be amended and updated in response to feedback. Helen Fisher confirmed that the Look Ahead Group were pleased about the Transitions Guide, but that they often held different priorities, so the young people's version will needed to be developed with their input. Engagement with young people suggests their preferred method of accessing information is via an 'app' style site with fewer clicks required to get to key information. A meeting with ICT and Customer Services confirmed that once the content is available digitally this can be reviewed by young people to establish the priority information they would like to access and can them be presented in an 'app' style format.	Helen Fisher/ Helen Sweaton	Dec 2025	Delayed

3. Priority 3 – Suitable accommodation and placement sufficiency for Children in Care and Care Leavers

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
<p>Councillor Clarke - Chair of Standards and Ethics Committee Jane Wood - Head of Service for Children in Care Vicky Chew - Service Manager, Fostering Service Richard Fisher - Service Manager, Residential Care Services</p>					
3.1	Ensure that our care leavers have access to good accommodation options in good areas, where they can establish safe and secure homes /community connections.	<p>The local authority aims to ensure there are sufficient accommodation options for children in care and care leavers. This will involve enhancing the current in-house offer as well as continuing with effective commissioning arrangements. The local authority has their own in-house supported accommodation provision, which allows the placement of children in care (16+ with support needs) in either group living settings or in dispersed accommodation.</p> <p>There have been ongoing interactions from housing colleagues that ensure care experienced young people have suitable priority when seeking housing options in Rotherham. This aligns to a current local offer for care experienced young people and is reflected in the housing strategy.</p> <p>There is ongoing work across the region to consider reciprocal arrangements for housing priority status for care experienced young people.</p> <p>Dec 25: a cross-Council working group has been established to identify property options most suitable to meet current demand and includes work with external stakeholders. Options appraisals have been completed for all considered options and will be shared with the directorate leadership team.</p> <p>There is continuous support to foster carers to encourage staying put arrangements for children in foster care and this continues to be a priority.</p>	Richard Fisher/ Vicky Chew	January 2026	Complete
3.2	Provide access to a choice of accommodation options that suit the individual needs of our children in care and care leavers community – including those with additional needs, SEND, support needs and those ready for independence.	<p>Ensuring robust commissioning arrangements that provide children’s social care with placement options which include a combination of family based placements, supported accommodation and residential care options.</p> <p>Tracking of the use of unregulated accommodation. Weekly meetings take place to provide oversight and monitoring of any child in an unregulated provision and ensure swift movement of children and young people who are not placed in placement settings which are aligned to their individual assessed needs.</p> <p>Tracking of placement stability / breakdowns and placement moves.</p> <p>Significant priority given to kinship arrangements with resources available to support family decision making meetings which should include assurance that Family Group Conferencing and Family Network Meetings are happening as we would expect them to.</p> <p>There continues to be an ambitious programme of work to ensure the development of in-house residential care. This includes significant financial investment from the council. The local authority is taking the approach of developing a blended residential estate, which will equip us to offer placement opportunities for children and young people with a varying degree of need.</p>	Jane Wood/ Paul Stinson	August 2026	In progress

4. Priority 4 – Good health and emotional wellbeing including Mental Health and recognition of neurodiversity

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
<p>Councillor Cusworth - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Julie Warren-Sykes - Deputy Designated Nurse Safeguarding Helen Sweaton - Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Quality and Performance Kim Wilson - Service Manager, Children in Care and Care Leavers</p>					
<p>4.1 Provide information, including data to support and increase children’s and their carers’ understanding of the health assessment and need pathway and why it’s important to them.</p>					
4.1.1	Produce a letter or video which explains ‘what is a health assessment, and why is it important’ with a view to involving young people in its production. All children in care and are leavers will have a health passport.	<p>3/7/25 Spoken to Jo Hacking, lead of voice and influence to start initiating conversations. Early planning discussions have started, considering who might be involved and what external support we might need to complete.</p> <p>Jan-26: Evening meeting arranged for 20th Jan, where Looked-after Children’s Nurses will attend the IC Youth Group to establish with the group, and wider children in care not linked to the group, how they would want this to look, and what skills we have within the group to move this forward.</p> <p>Feb-26: Named Nurse attended IC Youth Group presented a video that Barnsley did, the YP felt they could produce better and had some suggestions. Given that the group is quite small they are also reaching out to YP from residential homes and UASC cohort to come with a plan. They have also had an offer from a young journalist to write the script for a video.</p>	Julie Warren-Sykes	October 2025	Delayed
4.1.2	All our Care Leavers will have a specific leaving care health summary. We will develop an audit schedule to monitor compliance with this.	<p>3/7/25 updated templates in system one, so that reports can be generated. Lynda Briggs, Named Nurse, will discuss with system one business analyst lead to identify when these reports will commence. Anticipated start date August. Reports to be run quarterly, for the previous quarter. To consider options to enable young people to receive as a digital offer. 22.10.25. Discussion took place with the new System Analyst, reporting templates to be established Nov 2025.</p> <p>Template complete. Named Nurse to meet with data analyst 17.11.25 to determine the launch date.</p>	Julie Warren-Sykes	Complete Nov 2025	Complete
4.1.3	Following each health assessment, ensure that a summary and outcomes and any plans are written and discussed with the child or young person. We will develop an audit schedule to monitor compliance with this.	<p>3/7/25 Every health assessment has a summary that is discussed with the young person. Looking into possibility of capturing reporting on when this summary is discussed with the child/ young person.</p>	Julie Warren-Sykes		Complete

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
4.1.4	Ensure children in care are aware of their rights to refuse health interventions based on Gillick competence.	3/7/25 To be incorporated within the media production on what a health assessment is. The video will give details of child/young person's rights to decline a health assessment. On the day of assessment, the young person provides verbal consent to enable the assessment to take place. Declined RHA Assurance Document produced. Sept 2025	Julie Warren-Sykes		Complete
4.2 Enable carers, children and young people to have a positive relationship with health services so that they are able to access services when needed.					
4.2.1	Provide information that there are alternative options to access health care including the services provided by pharmacists and the GPs.	3/7/25 A resource that has been developed around accessing the right healthcare from the right agency/ service provider at the right time (unwell/choose well). This will be entered onto health summaries. Exploration is underway around adding to initial health assessment letter for carers to access and to share with young people in their care. TRFT have a Rotherham Children's Public Health Nursing App, which has up to date details on services. Looked after children are encouraged to download this App. Decliner Pathway to be reviewed at the Regional South Yorkshire Meeting. Also to consider actions that are followed up. 26/9/25 The local offer for care leavers has been developed by Toni Trainer in conjunction with partners, and health information in relation to accessing health services has been added.	Julie Warren-Sykes	October 2025	Complete
4.2.2	Ensure children in care and care leavers can access public health messages.	15/7/25 Promote the 0-19 TRFT App. Leaving Care Service - using WhatsApp as a method to share with care leavers. Due to update Local offer for care leavers September and can be an opportunity for public health messages. Consideration of how we have a compassionate and non-judgemental approach to public health messages, such as Vaping, sexual health etc. Now part of the Local Offer.	Julie Warren-Sykes	December 2025	Complete
4.3 Monitor access to emotional well-being support for mental health and barriers to access (especially CAMHS).					
4.3.1	Raise awareness re: community resources to Foster Carers, Social workers and PAs to access timely support for emotional wellbeing. Emotional wellbeing can be improved via healthy lifestyles, inclusive activity and non-statutory services.	15/7/25 Potential to establish a cooking group for children in care to develop life skills, a volunteer has been identified who is keen to be involved. Jane Wood to liaise with Kim about this. Local Authority are providing training for foster carers (Trauma informed, Thera play, bonding through play, foundations for attachment, transitions, therapeutic life story work, non-violent resistance training etc). 0-19 Oral Health Lead continues to offer training to foster carers and is taking the lead on 'introduction to solid food'. In recognition about Foster Carers own wellbeing - a fostering transformation board to be established as a separate action (applies to fostering CPPB priority). 26/09/2025 A meeting has been arranged for health professionals to attend foster carers sessions. Oct 2025 RMBC Foster Carer Conference attended by Looked-after Children Nurses. Nurses invited to attend the training offer to carers by RMBC and Empower Team. 03/11/25 Relaunch of the Care Leaver Health drop-in sessions, including PAs.	Julie Warren-Sykes	October 2025	Complete

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
4.3.2	<p>Raise awareness re: community resources to Foster Carers, Social workers and PAs to access timely support for emotional wellbeing. Emotional wellbeing can be improved via healthy lifestyles, inclusive activity and non-statutory services. Revise SDQ process to ensure consistent completion and learning.</p>	<p>3/7/25 There will be a SDQ sub-group, first meeting 9th July. 15/7/25 - Meeting on the 9th hasn't gone ahead - to meet with Jane, Lynda, Sarah and Natalie and business support to look at this action again, meeting arranged for 30/7/25. 30/7/25 meeting for SDQ gone ahead, and we have mapped out our current position, another meeting set up for September to bring further information from each agency to assure ourselves we are capturing SDQ's for every child/young person, and to map out a process for what we do when a child or young person scores high or very high on SDQ - and how we capture this in reporting</p> <p>Meeting held on the 27/09/2025, some issues identified with the SDQ process as above. Data would indicate that these are not being completed consistently. This issue needs addressing. It is also unclear what happens when the SDQs outcome scores high. Currently data sits at 67%. Full comprehensive plan made that includes a process map to be developed. Reminders to be set 6 weeks after first SDQ sent to chase a reminder, reminders also to be sent to team managers. A full list of actions to be recorded in September's Health and wellbeing meeting. Jane Wood to send out. 01.10.25 Training delivered to Looked-after Children's Nurses. Audit required Quarter 1 2026</p> <p>Jan-26: To re-run the numbers on the SDQ (audit) to monitor impact from changes made (more tracking through IROs required). This to be progressed by next Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>Feb-26: The SDQ process was revised. This change involved 6 weekly SDQ reminders to be sent to carers as opposed to the 3 monthly reminder timelines. High scoring results are now shared each month with relevant managers including the Empower team so that they can take appropriate action. In addition, outstanding SDQ details are escalated each month with the case holders / team managers so that they can support carers with completion of the form.</p> <p>In terms of the completed returns, we have had 208 to date which have been uploaded to LCS. We have completed the annual reminder for the outstanding SDQ forms with a deadline by the end of March for the annual DfE return. We expect to therefore have a better understanding of our position over the next month as returns are registered on the system.</p>	Julie Warren-Sykes	End of March 2026 (for DfE annual return)	Complete
4.3.3	<p>Children in care have timely access to mental health services and where appropriate, referrals are expedited based on need. Monitor waiting lists for children in care who require this input or assessment and collate data.</p>	<p>3/7/25 This is in place for neuro assessment, but not as yet for post diagnosis support, this is an aspiration to be explored. The neuro assessment current wait list has been explored, and children have been expedited where appropriate. Further exploration on other services within RDaSH CAMHS will be undertaken through the SEMH sub-group. Discussed at length within Health & Wellbeing meetings. CAMHS representative to attend Dec CPPB.</p> <p>Children in care are now being prioritised on waiting lists as appropriate.</p>	Julie Warren-Sykes	Commence by 30th June 2025 Dec 2025 complete	Complete. (Review where further issues are raised).

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
4.3.4	<p>There is currently no trauma pathway that children in care can access in Rotherham. As Corporate Parents we will promote accessibility to services where the experience of trauma is determined as the primary concern and encourage the development of a specific trauma pathway.</p>	<p>3/7/25 There is a SEMH sub-group working on this. First Meeting has occurred, next meeting to concentrate on mapping out current pathways for social, emotional and mental health support.</p> <p>20/10/2025 Mapping of services carried out, to also incorporate the offers of any third sector organisations and empowers new remit. There still seems to be an identified gap around supporting social, emotional and mental health where the primary cause is determined to be trauma, particularly those that end up in crisis and might not be in the remit of empower. ACTION 1 SEMH group to look at some cases and do a small thematic audit to gain any learning from cases where young people have been in crisis. ACTION 2 Consideration of a small panel of professionals for children in care presenting with behaviours that challenge and having an impact upon their SEMH to consider systemic response.</p> <p>Feb-26: Thematic multi-agency audit planned 17th March with Social care, Named Nurse and CAMHS, to evidence if there is a need for a trauma pathway or a vulnerability panel. As part of this deep dive, we are also looking at the current pathways to specialised commissioning through the joint resource panel, so if we are identifying that there is an unmet need (and there are no universal services to meet it) such as a trauma-based package of care, then we can commission specialist support.</p>	Julie Warren-Sykes	Ongoing Monitoring Required	In progress
4.3.5	<p>NEW ACTION (follow on from 4.3.3):</p> <p>Quality Assurance and dip sampling with regard to the timely access of mental health support for children in care.</p>	<p>Feb-26: Plans made for dip sampling between Kim Wilson and Lynda Briggs Named Nurse, this will coincide with the thematic audit in 4.3.2</p>	Sarah Green and Kim Wilson	July 2026	In progress

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
4.4 Access to community-based health support and digital information. Interactive sessions (e.g. cooking)					
4.4.1	South Yorkshire ICB are looking at how to provide free prescriptions to care leavers, paper is currently sitting with Executive Directors. Awaiting a decision.	<p>7/25 in process, plan to present to exec board of the ICB 23/7/25. Paper was provided for discussion, but additional information requested to enable a further discussion, same provided.</p> <p>Oct/Nov 2025. Currently with Execs and awaiting outcome.</p> <p>Government announcement in relation to care leavers set to receive free prescriptions, dental and eyecare services up to age 25, assurance received via Chief Nurse to present at the next Corporate Parenting Partnership Board with an update.</p> <p>Feb-26: At this point the government has not yet published detailed operational guidance on how care leavers will claim the exemptions and when they will come into effect. NHS South Yorkshire executive chief nurse has been liaising with regional NHS England colleagues and NHSE have indicated that further guidance will arrive in the spring.</p> <p>Given this is a wider national approach, and we can see that progress is being made, Service Director agrees to the completion date moving to Spring 2026 from the initial date of Nov 2025.</p>	Julie Warren-Sykes	Oct/Nov 2025 Spring 2026	In progress
4.4.2	Launch the 'Pathway to Primary Care' to promote the needs of children in care and care leavers.	<p>3/7/25 in process, primary care pathway shared with Rawmarsh Health Centre, with a plan to extend out to all Rotherham GPs. read code available and the CIC team are using the flags (with consent). 26/09/2025 Training plan and PowerPoint developed. To send out PP to all safeguarding leads to share within practice and attend a protected learning time session to deliver this training. 20/10/25 pathway to primary care information sent to all practices and training session to be delivered at a GP Protected learning time event in January.</p>	Julie Warren-Sykes	January 2026	Complete
4.4.3	Ensure all children in care can access dentistry.	<p>15/7/25 903 results 91 % Flexible commissioning working well. Working closely with Leanne (oral health lead). There is a small concern that the practices offering flexible commissioning has decreased, so we will monitor and track impact.</p>	Julie Warren-Sykes	January 2026	Complete but ongoing monitoring required

Priority 5 - Education, Employment and Training

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
<p>Councillor Brent - Vice Chair of Improving Lives Select Commission Councillor Sutton - Maltby East Niall Devlin - Assistant Director Education and Inclusion Kim Wilson - Service Manager, Children in Care and Care Leavers Tina Hohn - Virtual School Headteacher Primary Pete Douglas - Virtual School Headteacher Secondary</p>					
<p>5.1 Full-Time Timetable and Within-Class Interventions To ensure Children in Care (CiC) follow a full-time timetable with minimal exceptions. This approach promotes within-class interventions and aims to improve overall attendance and outcomes.</p>					
5.1.1	Develop a Local Authority (LA) position statement regarding the withdrawal of children from lessons.	Presented at Corporate Parenting.	Pete Douglas/ Tina Hohn		Complete
5.1.2	Support schools with advice on how within-classroom interventions can be supported and developed.	Presented at Corporate Parenting.	Pete Douglas/ Tina Hohn		Complete
<p>5.2 Attendance and Suspensions Children in Care should have excellent attendance. It is crucial to ensure that CiC are attending full-time and decisions about attendance are focused on positive outcomes for children in care.</p>					
5.2.1	Understand the factors that increase the risk of suspension and exclusions, as well as the protective factors.	Analysis work completed and presented to performance board and SLT. Suspensions sample audit work to be completed Autumn term 2025. This will be completed Spring term 2026. Strategic leader task and finish group on suspensions of CiC to be completed end of spring term 2026 – on track will be organised after multiagency audit.	Pete Douglas/ Tina Hohn	End of spring term 2026	Complete
5.2.2	Develop a working protocol with social care on how to mitigate the causal factors and promote the protective factors.	This will be part of the task and finish group work completed by Spring 2026	Pete Douglas/ Tina Hohn/ Stuart Williams	End of spring term 2026	Complete
5.2.3	Provide advice to schools on the use of part-time timetables for Children in Care.	This is sent out annually from access to education. VSEA remind schools both in and OOA of our expectations around use, recording and reviewing of PTTT as required when being considered, or in place for a CiC.	Pete Douglas/ Tina Hohn/ Sarah Whitby		Complete

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
5.2.4	Provide training and advice to social workers on the legislative framework regarding part-time timetables.	Virtual School Heads to present at the All Service Managers' Event on 4th March 2026	Pete Douglas/ Tina Hohn	4th March 2026	In progress
5.3 Post-16 Provision					
Care Leavers need to be in education, employment, or training					
5.3.1	Improve attainment at the end of Key Stage 4, equipping students with the right skills to move forward.	This is covered within VSHT Annual report which should be through governance structures and to CPPB by Dec 25 or Jan 26. Calendared for CPPB on 24/03/26.	Pete Douglas/ (Tina Hohn)	January 2026	Complete
5.3.2	Promote Level Two apprenticeships and develop a post-18 pathway with a guaranteed offer to all Year 11 CiC.	We now have an offer from RNN that guarantees all Y11 CiC an offer of a place. There is a post-16 specialist within the virtual school team, who provides career advice and support with applications, CV writing, etc. This is offered as an extension to Post 18 care leavers at the fortnightly drop in at The Journey	Pete Douglas/ Christine Waugh		Complete
5.3.3	Improve the transition to post-16 education by providing post-16 settings with essential child-specific information.	Forms for Y11 CiC have gone out and returns are coming in. VSEA work closely to share appropriate information through the PP with post 16 settings to ensure high quality data is shared ahead of transition points.	Pete Douglas		Complete
5.3.4	Reconcile the data that family help and the virtual school hold about children who are NEET.	Data reconciliation has taken place.			Complete

Priority 6 – Fostering – Family Based Care

Ref	Action	Progress Update	Lead Officer	By When	RAG Status
Councillor Ismail - Mayor Jane Wood - Head of Children in Care Paul Stinson - Head of Children's Commissioning Vicky Chew - Service Manager, Fostering					
6.1	Improve our accommodation and placement options in order to meet the needs of our children in care and care leavers.	<p>The recruitment and assessment of new foster carers is a significant priority. The local authority is working hard to ensure RMBC is the agency of choice for those considering fostering. In doing so, we have engaged with sector experts to support our digital marketing campaign.</p> <p>Improved governance in relation to data capture; and intelligence relating to the number of approvals as well as the placement capacity this has created. This is now presented to the Directors Assurance Board.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement with commissioned providers within the region to ensure that there is a greater degree of placement option for children requiring foster care.</p> <p>Supported Accommodation development within the in-house estate to be an area of focus.</p>	<p>Vicky Chew – Service Manager Fostering</p> <p>Richard Fisher – Service Manager Residential Care Services.</p>	March 2026	In progress
6.2	Improve our sufficiency/ choice of placements in order to meet the demand for global majority children and asylum-seeking children.	<p>Improving sufficiency and choice of foster carers to meet the needs of children from the global majority and children seeking asylum remains a core priority for the service and an acknowledged ongoing challenge.</p> <p>The service has undertaken evidence-informed work to increase awareness of fostering among under-represented communities, including testing targeted digital approaches and refreshing fostering information in multiple languages. Alongside this, the service has begun strengthening links with local community and faith-based groups, recognising that meaningful engagement requires sustained relationship-building over time.</p> <p>While progress in increasing representation remains gradual, learning from this work is shaping future plans. Improving cultural representation within the foster carer cohort continues to be a long-term focus within the service's sufficiency strategy to better meet children's identity and belonging needs.</p>	Vicky Chew/Paul Stinson	December 2025	Complete – it has become BAU and will remain a focus as we go into any new arrangement post March 27.

THE CABINET
13th April, 2026

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alam.

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

142. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 2 questions:

1. Chrissy Meleady asked questions on behalf of T, a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Survivor who was unable to attend. Referencing the ongoing tribunal relating to CSE in Rotherham, the Leader was asked to publicly disown the statement T had asked him to disown by email on 27th March. Ms. Meleady also asked if the Council's Head of Legal Services understood her core responsibility was to stand up for victims and survivors of CSE and to respond to calls and emails. It was also stated that the tribunal was appalling legal expenditure.

The Leader stated that he had already informed T via email that he could not comment on matters that were subject to ongoing litigation or the subject of appeal. He also could not comment on circumstances surrounding individual members of staff.

2. Mr. Ashraf asked a question in relation to the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority and the ongoing conflict in Gaza. He asked for a detailed table to be provided containing information relating to the Pensions Authority's financial operations and the Pensions Authority Members' information. Mr. Ashraf also asked for the expenses information for the Rotherham Members of the Pensions Authority.

The Leader stated that this was not a question for Cabinet, but if Mr. Ashraf provided his question in writing, he would pass it on to the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority for a written response.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Ashraf asked for further information from the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, including emails received, petitions, signatories and divestment changes for a period of time, specifically related to the Gaza conflict.

The Leader again stated that, as a gesture of goodwill, the question would be passed on to the Pensions Authority. However, he reiterated that the appropriate place to ask these questions was at South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, not Rotherham Council meetings.

143. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th March, 2026, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

144. 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.

145. EXTRA CARE HOUSING MODEL

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to formally consult on how care and support was delivered to tenants in Extra Care Housing. Extra Care Housing (ECH) was nationally recognised and widely defined by offering self-contained residences for people aged 55 years and above, combining independent living with 24/7 onsite care and support and communal facilities. The model offered an alternative to residential care for people needing support to live independently for longer. In Rotherham, there were two ECH schemes, known as Potteries Court and Bakers Field Court, offering a total of 87 tenancies and support to 92 people.

The current model offered tenants a multi-layered approach to care and support, but this could be disjointed, intrusive and overcomplicated. Tenants received support from multiple organisations, which increased the number of professionals involved in a person's life. There were opportunities to strengthen the existing care and support to ensure person-focussed and strength-based approaches were embedded within the ECH model, ensuring a consistent approach across the schemes.

The current model emerged following the implementation of a previous decision in 2016 which led to the reshaping of the Council's enablement provision and the introduction of independent care providers to the ECH schemes. The ECH staffing complement was retained, initially to ensure a safe transfer of care and support. However, during this time, it emerged that there was an ongoing need for tenant care and support between independent care provider visits and therefore a hybrid model evolved. Essentially, there were two co-dependent systems within the ECH schemes, and neither could maximise delivery. This could compromise the type and amount of support tenants received. All Council-employed care enablers were level 2 qualified to deliver care and support. However, as the schemes were no longer registered with CQC, staff were not

permitted to deliver personal care. This change to the care enabler role had blurred the distinction between staff delivering housing related support and, over time, some duplication had emerged (for example, the provision of social contact and tenant activities, supporting emotional wellbeing and support with daily living tasks). The current model was inconsistent across the schemes in relation to access to support and was not delivering optimum outcomes or value for money. The costs of the schemes were £1.984m per year.

It was proposed that the schemes be registered with CQC (under one registration) so that Council employed staff could legally meet tenants' personal care and support needs. It was also proposed that the existing commissioned arrangements, including Direct Payments, would cease as fully trained staff would be available onsite to deliver an enabling approach, encouraging and motivating tenants to retain their independence for as long as possible. Strengths-based, personalised support plans, tailored to individuals' needs would ensure that people were supported proportionately, on a needs-led basis, accessible on a 24/7 basis. The staffing model would include built-in capacity to flex and adapt to individuals' changing needs. Housing related support would continue to be provided by the Council to ensure residents successfully maintained their property. The provision would be modelled on the existing enablement approach embedded within Adult Social Care Provider Services, and staff training needs would be identified to ensure high quality, well-led and safe care and support was provided in readiness for CQC registration. A summary of what this would achieve was set out in paragraph 3.6.

Approval was sought to formally consult on the option set out above. A 90 day public consultation would be delivered, providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to feed back on the proposal. This would involve stakeholders that would be immediately affected by the proposed changes to the model, including current tenants, families and carers, the workforce, Together Housing, commissioned providers, agencies and personal assistants.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the preferred option to remodel care and support to tenants in the ECH schemes, as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report.
2. Approve a formal, public consultation on this option for 90 days from May to July 2026.
3. Note that the findings of the consultation and proposed final model will be presented to Cabinet in September 2026 for approval.

146. FAMILY HUB PROGRESS UPDATE AND EXTENSION

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the successful delivery of the Family Hubs programme and the future of the programme as confirmed by the Government. It also recommended a consultation to formally deregister and rebrand the Children's Centre buildings to enable them to move into the Family Hubs system, bringing all delivery in line with the Department for Education's new Best Start Family Hubs programme and current guidance.

In 2022 Rotherham was one of 75 pre-selected Local Authorities (based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Average Rank) who were invited to sign up to the Family Hubs and Start for Life 3 year programme (ending in March 2025), without the need to complete a competitive bid, for grant funding of £3.4m. The aim was to have an improved 'whole family' approach to service delivery, with broader co-location of partners and services, utilising existing premises. It involved a highly transformative way of working, rather than simply investing in unsustainable front-line capacity. Cabinet accepted the proposed approach and the proposed spend of grant funding in February 2023.

Prior to the scheduled end of the programme, in January 2025, the Government announced a 12 month extension from 31st March, 2025 – 1st April, 2026. To support this work, grant funding of £1.1m was made available to Rotherham. The purpose of the extension was to support continued delivery of integrated services for families with children up to age 19 (and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and further develop and embed the Family Hub model, providing a one-stop-shop for families needing advice and support, particularly in areas with high levels of deprivation. In July 2025, in a Policy paper entitled 'Giving every child the best start in life', the Government set out its intention to strengthen support services for families, and to build on the Family Hubs and Start for Life approach (as well as their previous Sure Start approach), to create 'Best Start Family Hubs' across all areas of the country.

On 6th November, 2025 Rotherham received a provisional allocation of £5,052,800 for financial years 2026-29. There was now a clear and strong commitment from Government to retaining the Family Hubs identity, supported by the continued roll out of Family Hubs across the country and ongoing funding for Rotherham through the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme. The Council committed a further £370,000 in March 2024 to support Early Help Services including an additional 300 universal sessions for under 5s annually. These were divided equally across the Borough, providing universal activities such as new birth celebration sessions; baby massage; baby first aid; treasure basket sessions; reach, roll and play sessions; talking tots; toddler yoga; stay and play groups; and baby weigh sessions.

The report provided updates on Family Hubs; Connect Family Hubs and Community Network Family Hubs. The 7 dedicated workstreams under which the programme delivery would take place were set out in section 2.2 of the report. These were transformation (including digital connectivity); Parenting Support; Infant Feeding; Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships; Home Learning Environment; Start for Life Offer; and Parent Carer Panels.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the update and progress made in the delivery of the Family Hubs programme over the last year.
2. Approves a consultation on proposals to de-register the existing Children's Centres to enable the Council to move forward with the Family Hubs programme and for the decision, based on the consultation, to be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.
3. Approves, in line with Government requirements and to ensure consistency for families, that Family Hubs and Children's Centre buildings are renamed as either Best Start Family Hubs or "Connect" Best Start Family Hubs, in line with the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme expectations.
4. Notes the future of the programme with additional grant funding to embed the model and agrees that the decision to accept and allocate this funding be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

147. DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27 – 2028/29 for endorsement. The Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been developed through consultation with the Local Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) which reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP.) The refreshed Strategy would also incorporate the Partnership's vision and commitment to addressing Sexual Offences and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). In addition, future commissioning activity, including the Domestic Abuse Support Outreach Service, would be aligned with the revised strategic aims to ensure continuity and effectiveness in service provision. The current commissioned services had worked to align with the aims of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022–2027, with provider organisations playing an active

role in the DSAPG. The Council had a statutory duty to ensure a Domestic Abuse Strategy was in place.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy (2022–2027) had undergone a formal review. The review had highlighted the successful delivery of the Strategy's underpinning action plan, with many actions either fully completed with measurable outcomes or embedded into routine practice across partner agencies. These achievements demonstrated the strength of collaborative working and the integration of domestic abuse responses into core service delivery.

The 2022-2027 Strategy had provided a clear framework for co-ordinated efforts to tackle domestic abuse and had enhanced support for victims/survivors and their families. While the Strategy commitment was for a 5 year period, the Safer Rotherham Partnership had agreed that there was a need to remain responsive to evolving local and national contexts and as a result, the partnership had undertaken a fundamental review, resulting in a refreshed Strategy with additional or amended priority areas. The refreshed Strategy would span 3 years (2026/27 to 2028/29). This reduced period would allow for earlier reflection and adaptation to emerging trends and demands and reflected lessons learnt in the delivery of the current Strategy.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27 – 2028/29 (attached at Appendix 1.)
2. Note that regular oversight of the Strategy will be undertaken by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board and the Improving Lives Select Committee.

148. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to commence a Borough-wide Community Governance Review. The Council had a duty to keep under review the electoral arrangements of its parishes, including town and community councils. Following initial consultation, a draft recommendations report would be brought to Cabinet for approval in Autumn 2026, to be followed by a further consultation. Following this consultation on the draft recommendations, a final recommendations report would be brought to Cabinet. It was a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

A Community Governance Review (CGR) was the legal process that a principal council had to follow to consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. This meant making sure

that those living in the area, and other interested groups, had a say in how their local communities were represented. The former Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission had produced Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.

The last Borough-wide review in Rotherham took place in 2008. Since then, there had been significant new development and population movement across the Borough. The Borough had also been in dialogue with Ravenfield Parish Council who had expressed a desire to have a reconsideration of their Parish Boundaries. As set out in the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, it was considered good practice for a principal council to conduct a review every 10-15 years. Following the good practice arrangement set out in the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, conducting a Borough-wide review would allow any approved recommendations to come into force at the next scheduled elections on 4th May, 2028.

The Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review were attached at Appendix 1. The timetable for the Review was summarised in Section 5 of the report and set out in detail in Appendix 2.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. They requested that the consultation findings and final proposals be taken back to Scrutiny.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the commencement of a Borough-wide Community Governance Review.
2. Approves the Terms of Reference of the review as set out in Appendix 1.
3. Approves the timetable for review as set out in Appendix 2.
4. Approves that should any Community Governance Reviews be triggered by petition during the Boroughwide review, Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend the Terms of Reference as appropriate.
5. Note that a draft recommendations report will be brought for approval following the first round of consultation.
6. Note that a final recommendations report will be brought for approval following the second round of consultation. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend the report to Council.

149. STREET SAFE TEAM UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the development and progress of the new Street Safe Team for 2026. Established as part of the Council's approved revenue budget investment in March 2025, the initiative was designed to strengthen community safety and enhance public confidence in the town centres. Detail was provided on the progress achieved so far, and emphasised the vital role of partnership working, ongoing staff training, and meaningful community engagement in supporting the successful delivery of the Street Safe Team's objectives.

The aim of the Street Safe Team was to reduce both actual, and perceived Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and increase feelings of safety, also identified as a priority in the Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025–2028. The Safer Rotherham Partnership provided governance across varying partnership activities to maximise impact and track progress and performance, through the Safer Neighbourhoods Priority. The Street Safe Team aimed to improve feelings of safety and security in the Town Centres of Rotherham, Wath, Swinton, Dinnington and Maltby. The Team provided a visible, uniformed Council presence, with a particular focus on hot spot areas.

To measure the effectiveness of the new Street Safe Team, a combination of quantitative and qualitative performance indicators had been identified, aligned with community safety objectives. These included:

- Reduction in reported incidents - Monitoring trends in anti-social behaviour, street crime, and environmental nuisance reports within the designated areas.
- Number of proactive patrols, community interactions, and engagement events conducted by the Team.
- Feedback from residents through surveys and Street Safe reporting tools to assess perceived safety and trust in the Service.
- Evidence of collaborative working with Police, Housing, and other agencies, including joint operations and referrals.
- Volume and effectiveness of enforcement actions (e.g., warnings, notices) and compliance rates following interventions.
- Visibility and presence - Measured through patrol logs and community feedback on the visibility of the Team in priority areas.

Paragraph 2.3 detailed the work that had been completed by the Team up to February 2026. Overall, the Team had provided a high-profile community presence across Rotherham to challenge negative behaviours

and help to minimise harm to communities. The Team had been through a significant training and upskilling programme with the aim of meeting the requirements for initial deployment. The aim was to map out the further training requirements of the Team to support an omnicompetent skill set that could support the wider enforcement opportunities held by the Council.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the progress to date.

150. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES RELIEF - THE ROTHERHAM HOSPICE TRUST

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the application for business rates relief from the Rotherham Hospice Trust. The Rotherham Hospice Trust was a registered charity and the only adult hospice serving the people of Rotherham and its surrounding towns and villages. The Hospice offered specialist palliative care through a range of holistic services aimed at supporting patients to live life as fully as they could to the end of their life.

The Charity ran retail and cafe outlets throughout the Borough which were operated with the sole purpose of generating income to help fund the running costs of the Hospice. These were staffed and supported by a team of volunteers who gave their time to assist with daily operations, serve customers and help maintain a welcoming environment. The shops and cafes provided valuable social opportunities for the volunteers, many of whom were retired, socially isolated or looking to gain confidence and work experience. The shops promoted sustainability through the sale of donated goods, encouraging re-use and reducing waste. Overall, these retail premises played a vital role in supporting the Hospice's charitable aims, fostering local engagement and delivering lasting social impact throughout the Borough.

The Charity benefited from an award for discretionary rate relief at their main hospice premises and the retail and café outlets since 1st April, 2025, and it was now seeking additional support for the new premises which they had taken on from 25th November, 2025. The property would be used for the sorting and storage of donations. It would also be used to park the charity vans and provide additional office space.

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 facilities which were open to all sections of the community and worked to reflect the diversity of local communities in service delivery, volunteering, and staffing. The Charity was applying for discretionary relief with regards to their 2025/26 and 2026/27 rates liability. The cost to RMBC would be £441.59 for 25/26 and £1,248.91 for 2026/27.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 of the report for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial year.

151. COUNCIL PLAN UPDATE - YEAR AHEAD PLAN 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which presented the 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan for approval. The 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan was the second delivery plan that had been produced to deliver the Council Plan 2025-2030. It set out the key activities to be delivered over the upcoming financial year ending 31st March, 2027.

The Plan included 81 priority actions and 35 performance measures, alongside a further 12 Social Care measures. Six monthly progress reports would be produced for Cabinet and made publicly available. The reports would include progress and performance updates on the actions in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. The year-end progress report would include an update on the long-term measures of success. It was proposed that the mid-year progress report, covering the period April 2026 to September 2026, be reported to Cabinet in January 2027 and year-end report for the period October 2026 to March 2027 be reported to Cabinet in July 2027.

During the meeting the Leader confirmed that 4 changes were to be made to the Plan:

- Measure Reference P4 (Deliver at least 50 enforcement interventions, including formal warnings, FPNs and notices) – amended to include specific reference to the Street Safe Team.
- Measure Reference P31 (Increase the proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) to 45%) and P16 (Plant at least 500 trees across the Borough) – amended from the Cabinet Member from Finance and Community Safety to Street Scene and Green Spaces.
- Measure Reference SC1 (Proportion of adults with Social Care support, remaining at home) – amended the table to show that good is high, rather than not applicable and the target is 73% rather than not applicable.

Cabinet Members highlighted aspects of the Year Ahead Plan from their portfolio. Councillor Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, praised on the ongoing work in Public Health which had been very successful.

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy highlighted the commitment to deliver the first 12 Ward Road Safety Plans and to complete the designs for 5 pedestrian crossings. Regeneration work was continuing throughout the Town Centre with the

new Central Library set to open along with the completion of Phase one of the Town Centre Health Hub.

Councillor Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, highlighted the Best Start Plan and the focus on improving development in the early years of a child's life. She spoke in support of the Families First Partnership and of the Best Start Family Hubs programme. Work would continue on the Neighbourhood Strategy and on delivering the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces, spoke about the commencement of works on the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation scheme and the procurement of a contractor for the Treeton Lane/Catcliffe Bridge replacement scheme. Work would continue to development the Country Parks. Councillor Marshall encouraged everyone to attend the St George's Day celebrations in Clifton Park on 18th April, 2026.

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing, highlighted the work done to deliver new Council Homes across the last year and the work that would be done to continue the programme in the coming year. Work would also be done to improve the existing Council homes stock with refurbishments, repairs and energy efficiency works. Councillor Beresford also praised the work done to involve tenants in the Selective Licensing process.

The Leader spoke in support of the Delivery Plan, particularly the delivery of public realm improvements in Maltby and Swinton along with the work to be done on the Rotherham Gateway Station project. He highlighted the additional healthy holidays places that had been funded along with playground improvements and the in-house children's residential care programme. The Castleview Day Centre was also complete and over 65's would be able to access cheaper swimming at leisure centres.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussion had focussed on building programmes being off target, especially around the Dinnington area and HR issues.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Agree the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026-27.
2. Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2027.

152. CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND

Consideration was given to the report which set out the proposals for the use of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) for 2026/27 and the broad approach to determining the best use of the funding over the full 3 years. The CRF was announced in the June 2025 Government spending review as a successor to the Household Support Fund (HSF). It would initially operate for 3 years, from April 2026 to March 2029. The new Fund had broader aims than the HSF. Instead of focusing primarily on crisis support to vulnerable households, it put more emphasis on building financial resilience and creating a more connected local support system. The CRF also incorporated Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs). Rotherham's CRF allocation for 2026/27 was £5.2m. This represented an increase of around £300,000 on the combined HSF and DHP allocation for 2025/26.

Funding had to be allocated across 4 distinct elements:

- Crisis payment – providing support to those in crisis.
- Housing payment - providing financial support towards housing needs for those who faced a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.
- Resilience services - funding for services that improved financial resilience.
- Community co-ordination - investment in activities that connected and enhanced the local support landscape.

Further details on how the funding would be allocated in accordance with these requirements was set out in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.14. The specific year one (2026/27) proposals were outlined in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.14.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Debate had focussed on the impact of inflation and the impact of the ongoing conflict in Iran. Concerns were raised relating to the food parcels and voucher schemes.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Agree provisional allocations of the CRF for the following areas of activity in 2026/27:

Crisis Support

- a) £1m for an application-based crisis support scheme
- b) £1,402,600 to support families with children during the summer holidays
- c) £407,584 for Discretionary Housing Payments
- d) £1.7m towards the costs of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme

- e) £60,000 to local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas/New Year through a supplement to the crisis support service level agreement
- f) £20,000 to provide parcels of household items to be distributed via VCS organisations
- g) £18,000 additional funding for FareShare/food providers to meet increased food costs

Resilience Services

- h) £370,000 for Open Arms Rotherham
- i) £90,000 to provide additional financial support to care leavers

Community Co-ordination

- j) £50,000 to co-ordinate CRF elements, raise awareness, and improve data capture and referral systems

Administrative Costs

- k) £81,699 for DHP administrative costs
2. 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 CRF. This will include provision for other eligible actions in 2026/27 to ensure best use of the funding.
 3. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve amendments to existing service level agreements and approve new agreements where required, in relation to the allocations above.
 4. Agree to receive a further report in December 2026 setting out specific proposals for future years of the Fund.

153. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Playing Pitch Strategy – Part 1 (PPS) for approval. The PPS provided an up-to-date, robust, Sport England compliant assessment of the supply, demand and future needs for outdoor sports facilities in Rotherham. It covered football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, tennis and padel. It was essential for:

- Planning Policy (evidence base for Local Plan review to 2040)
- Developer contributions (Access to Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator)
- Investment (supporting bids to the sports funders such as the Football Association, English Cricket Board and Lawn Tennis Association)

- Protecting playing fields as per the National Planning Policy Framework requirements
- Meeting participation demand, across all pitch sports

The Strategy identified significant current and future shortfalls in multiple sports, particularly football (youth formats), cricket, rugby union and 3G pitches. It provided a clear action plan for the next 3-5 years, with strategic direction to 2040.

The most recent PPS for Rotherham was produced in 2005, followed by a subsequent review which led to adoption by Cabinet in 2009. However, the methodology utilised by Sport England had been updated and they no longer recognised the 2005 version. The new Sport England guidance was produced in 2013. It was not possible to produce a new strategy until now, due to lack of resource: the loss of the Sports Development Team due to Local Government austerity and changes to Sport England grant funding. Following the availability of funding via Section 106 in 2024 and the creation of the new Sport and Physical Activity Manager post, it had been possible to deliver a new Strategy.

The PPS would be presented in two parts. Part 1 covered the needs assessment related to playing pitch provision in Rotherham. Subject to approval of Part 1, Part 2 would outline a clear vision, cover how the recommendations would be implemented and resourced, working in collaboration with the stakeholders on the Playing Pitch Steering Group.

Paragraph 2.1 of the report set out the aims of the Strategy and detailed how the aims would be achieved. Paragraph 2.3 outlined the headline findings from the PPS for each individual sport. Paragraph 2.4 detailed the monitoring and delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

The report was considered by the Improving Places Select Commission who advised that the recommendations be supported. A report would be taken back to the Improving Places Select Commission once delivery of the Strategy was underway.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the headline findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy 2026–2029 Part 1.
2. Approve and formally adopt the Part 1 Strategy as the evidence base for:
 - a. Local Plan review to 2040
 - b. Planning decisions
 - c. Developer contributions (via Sport England PPS calculator)
 - d. Investment planning with National Governing Bodies

3. Agree to receive a further report on the Playing Pitch Strategy Part 2 which will set out the response to the recommendations contained in Part 1, including Rotherham Council's vision and implementation plan.
4. Agree that the PPS is monitored annually and reviewed every 3 years, or sooner if significant changes occur.
5. Delegate implementation oversight to the Service Director for Culture, Sport and Tourism, supported by the Sport & Physical Activity Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces.

154. STREET CLEANSING AND FLY TIPPING IMPROVEMENTS

Consideration was given to the report which provided a progress update on rural verge cleansing, outlined the forthcoming Gateway Maintenance Programme, and noted the agreed development of a second Rural Verge & Principal Gateway Cleansing and Maintenance (RVGC) team. In March 2025, Council had approved a £307k investment to create the new Team to improve the cleanliness and appearance of rural verges and key gateway locations across the Borough. Following recruitment and Traffic Management (TM) training, the Team became fully operational in October 2025.

Headlines to date (since mobilisation):

- 117 sites completed (133 remaining, targeted for completion by the end of March 2026.)
- 146 km of roadside verge litter-picked.
- 4,200 bags of waste removed and 12 tonnes collected, plus additional tonnage from several large fly-tipping jobs.
- Data capture enhanced: daily bag counts, weights, and hotspot intelligence (flytipping, asbestos, drug paraphernalia) now recorded to inform future schedules and enforcement.

From late March/early April the RVGC Team would switch to the Gateway Programme, while the established Verge Team commenced its May–October cycle. The gateway work was a new scheduled activity covering several key routes in and out of the Borough. The scope included detritus removal, weed treatment/clearance, litter-picking, removal of overhanging branches/hedges, grubbing out, and other tasks needed to improve gateway appearance. Officers would monitor progress, recognising that some locations might require a return visit to complete the full scope of works required. This Programme was in addition to any routine jobs logged by residents in these areas.

In March 2026, Council approved a further revenue investment of £272k to create a second RVGC team. Recruitment commenced in mid-March 2026 and a full-year update on both Teams' performance would be reported in April 2027.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note:

1. The progress delivered by the RVGC team since mobilisation.
2. The planned April–October Gateway Cleansing and Maintenance Programme and the improved data capture now in place to inform future scheduling.

155. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the progress of the 2025/26 Climate Emergency Action Plan to the end of December 2025 and proposed an action plan for the 2026/27 Municipal Year. Programmes for corporate property decarbonisation and electric vehicle infrastructure (EVI) were presented at Appendix 3a and 3b, respectively. Climate change data and performance measures were also reported (Appendix 5) for the 2024/25 carbon accounting period. A high-level summary of progress to date on Nature Recovery in Rotherham was provided, recognising the links between the Nature Crisis and Climate Emergency.

The table at paragraph 2.4 outlined the Council's performance measures in relation to its Net Zero by 2030 targets. Paragraphs 2.5 to 2.10 provided more detail on the emissions targets and performance.

The table at paragraph 2.13 presented the 2024/25 performance measures relating to the Net Zero by 2040 target. The Council continued to measure several Key Performance Indicators in relation to the Borough's performance. In general, emissions were declining, however the portion of fossil fuels in the Borough's energy mix remained high. UK-wide action to develop a net zero National Grid by 2030 would only affect approximately 20% of the Borough's energy emissions, which meant that local action to transition to low carbon heating types, such as air source heat pumps or heat networks was key to reaching net zero. It was expected that the above performance measures could evolve as work to develop the Council's Sustainable Rotherham Strategy continued. Work with partners to co-create this Strategy had already commenced with workshops taking place throughout October and November 2025. Actions proposed in the 2026/27 action plan associated with this report would also support the development of these measures. Appendix 5 provided more detail on the Council's emissions.

Paragraphs 2.17 to 2.24 detailed the work being done in relation to energy. In January 2025, the Council was successfully awarded funds as part of the final iteration of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS 4) to deliver decarbonisation works to 3 Council buildings - 115 Middle Lane South, Springwell Gardens Community Centre and Swinton Customer Service Centre and Library. The contract for these works had now been awarded, with final designs approved and works scheduled to commence in late March or early April. Decarbonisation works at these sites and at Peacock Lodge Children's Home all had expected completion dates in June 2026. It was expected that this project would reduce emissions by 35.35tCO₂e per annum.

The report also provided updates in relation to transport; housing; waste; built and natural environment; biodiversity; influence and engagement (Children's Capital of Culture); and adaptation.

The proposed action plan for 2026/27 was attached at Appendix 2. A critical piece of work would be the commissioning and delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan. This work would span the Rotherham Borough, provide proposed pipeline projects for the delivery of the Net Zero by 2040 target and directly feed into the Council's Sustainable Rotherham Strategy. It would also provide an opportunity for the development of investment proposals for renewables as part of the Council's wider estate.

A proposal for the delivery of actions to decarbonise the Council's estate over the next 5 year period was also presented as detailed in paragraphs 2.70 to 2.75.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Questions related to how realistic the 2030 net zero target was and the activity described within the report.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the key achievements and progress made as detailed in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.
2. Approves the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan proposed in Appendix 2.
3. Delegates the specification, procurement, contract award and subsequent delivery of (i) the Corporate Property Decarbonisation Programme, Appendix 3a, (ii) the EV Infrastructure Programme, Appendix 3b and (iii) works referenced under the Energy section of the Climate Change Action Plan 2026 2027, Appendix 2, as well as any changes to these programmes and works, to the Service Director of

Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

4. Delegates allocation of the Council's Capital Decarbonisation Budget and EV Infrastructure Capital Budget and the acceptance of any available funding streams such as from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Great British Energy or other Government schemes for delivery as per Appendices 3a and 3b to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.
5. Approves an amendment to the £1m renewable energy pilot project approved by Cabinet on 15th February, 2021, to deliver instead an invest-to-save renewable energy scheme comprising rooftop or car park canopy solar PV, as detailed in Appendix 4 and section 2.20 below; and also delegates authority for site selection, procurement and delivery of the amended scheme to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

156. DON VALLEY CORRIDOR

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the establishment of the 'Don Valley Corridor' as a strategic economic growth initiative and Regeneration Programme for South Yorkshire. It set out how the Programme would be co-ordinated and how Rotherham Council would work with its partners, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and Sheffield City Council (SCC), to jointly resource, collaborate and use a shared framework to prioritise, deliver and monitor activity within this Regeneration Programme.

The Don Valley Corridor (DVC) had been identified in South Yorkshire's Local Growth Plan as a spatial priority for growth and regeneration. It was also identified as a focus for growth in the Government's Northern Growth Strategy published on 19th March, 2026. The Corridor, as seen in Appendix 1, stretched from Sheffield City Centre through the Lower Don Valley to the Liberty Steel site at Aldwarke. Within this geography sat key regeneration priorities, including Rotherham Town Centre, Bassingthorpe and Rotherham Gateway station. The geography included some of the Borough's most deprived Wards as well as key employment areas at Aldwarke, Templeborough and the Advanced Manufacturing Park.

This geography combined the potential for inclusive housing and employment growth, alongside established innovation assets and existing infrastructure investment. Across the entire DVC geography, investment was expected to deliver in the region of 10,500 new homes, 18,500 new jobs and an annual Gross Value Added (GVA) uplift of £1.3bn, as confirmed in the 'Economic outputs from the development of strategic sites across the Don Valley' report by ADE Regeneration in November 2025.

In agreeing to partner on the DVC, the Council would move into the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone. A Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) was a non-statutory entity. It differed from a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) which was a statutory entity with special powers which needed to follow a specific legal process to designate. A MDZ did not confer statutory powers, change planning authority functions, alter land ownership or governance, create new administrative bodies, predetermine future delivery vehicles, or commit the partners to statutory or other intervention. It signalled to Government and potential public and private sector partners, that the Partnership was committed to using its existing strategic economic development and regeneration powers, resources and relationship to progress this Programme.

Commitment to this Partnership and the scale of this Programme required resourcing to co-ordinate activity across the geography and develop co-investment proposals. SYMCA would provide a core central co-ordinating team to drive strategic programme development across the Don Valley Corridor as a whole and would deliver any SYMCA-led projects or assist scheme delivery as required. The proposed model would see the establishment of a Don Valley Programme Board for co-ordination of cross border activities. This Board would report into SYMCA's Board and Investment Board as required.

Together the Partnership would create a comprehensive funding and delivery strategy by summer 2026. Behind this was the development of a co-investment model which would see local commitment of Gainshare in order to leverage in regional, national and private investment. Gainshare was funding provided by SYMCA which originated as part of the devolution deal with Central Government. Each Local Authority in South Yorkshire had been allocated an amount per year for 30 years, starting in 2020/21. Both Rotherham and Sheffield Councils would look to utilise some Gainshare funding to develop the Don Valley Corridor and thoughts on this would be developed as part of the funding strategy referred to in paragraph 2.5.1. Any specific propositions for the use of Gainshare funding would be subject to future Cabinet approval. Each Authority would commit £400,000 of its Gainshare revenue allocation toward Programme resourcing and feasibility work for priority projects for the first 3 years of the Programme.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the establishment of a Don Valley Corridor Programme and Partnership with SYMCA and SCC.

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2. Endorse the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone for the Don Valley Corridor with delegation to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy to agree the governance principles and implement the preferred model.
3. Agree to: allocate £400,000 of Gainshare revenue to the resourcing of the Programme and project feasibility for its first 3 years, this being subject to SYMCA's formal approval; and delegate to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with S151 Officer and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, the allocation of this £400,000 to specific activities.

157. 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.

158. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 11th May ,2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**1st April, 2026****Present:-**

Councillor Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health (in the Chair)
Councillor Cusworth Nicola Curley	Cabinet Member, Children and Young People's Services Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services
John Edwards	Chief Executive, Rotherham Borough Council
Bob Kirton	Managing Director, The Rotherham Foundation Trust
Emily Parry-Harris	Director of Public Health
Claire Smith	Director of Partnerships, Rotherham Place NHS SYCIB
Andy Wright	Chief Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police

Report Presenters

Joanne Britton	University of Sheffield
Jess Brooks	Public Health Specialist, RMBC
Rachel Copley	Public Health Practitioner, RMBC
Ruth Fletcher-Brown	Public Health Specialist, RMBC
Majella Kilkey	University of Sheffield
John Leaver	Rotherham Lived Experience Recovery Organisation
Lois Orton	University of Sheffield
Aneta Piekut	University of Sheffield

Also Present:

Councillor Brent	
Nicola Carroll	
Nicola Ennis	South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance
Darren Wilson	Rotherham United Community Trust
Dawn Mitchell	Governance Advisor

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Bramidge (RMBC), Kym Gleeson (Healthwatch Rotherham), Shafiq Hussain (VAR), Joanne McDonough (RDaSH), Jason Page (Rotherham Place NHS SYCIB) and Ian Spicer (RMBC).

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

54. 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.

55. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to report.

56. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th January, 2026.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th January, 2026, be approved as a true record.

57. COMBATING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Jess Brooks, Public Health Specialist and Combatting Drugs Partnership Lead, presented an update on the Combatting Drugs Partnership with the aid of the following powerpoint presentation:-

Background

- The Rotherham Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) was jointly Chaired by Rotherham Council's Director of Public Health and South Yorkshire Police's District Commander for Rotherham and has a vision to:

“Work together to combat illegal drug use in Rotherham – reducing crime, saving lives and challenging the notion of ‘recreational drug use’ which fuels a violent and exploitative market”

Membership

- The Combatting Drugs Partnership was made up of strategic decision makers across key partner organisations involved in addressing the challenges of drug related harm. These included but were not limited to:
 - Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)
 - Rotherham Alcohol and Drugs Service (ROADS) provided by WithYou
 - South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
 - The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (formally South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office)
 - Probation Service Yorkshire and The Humber and Barnsley and Rotherham Probation Delivery Unit (PDU)
 - Voluntary Action Rotherham and the Rotherham Recovery Community

Aims

- Work together to understand the local population and how both drugs and alcohol were causing harm in Rotherham
- Identify challenges in the system and the changes needed to address them
- Identify, consider and/or support external funding opportunities to enhance or increase the Partnership's ability to deliver its responsibilities and objectives

- Complete key tasks as set out by the Joint Combatting Drugs Unit (JCDU) – the Central Government cross-departmental body responsible for the Drug Strategy

Delivery Plan

- Pursue – to reduce drug supply and related crime and bring perpetrators to justice
- Protect – to protect those in treatment and recovery, their families and the wider community
- Prevent – to stop individuals becoming involved in drugs and support recovery and reduce harm when they do
- Prepare – to build community resilience to reduce the impact of drug harm

Prepare

Objectives

- Facilitate improved information sharing including with IT systems, increased intelligence and information sharing around exploitation of vulnerable people
- Explore training needs across the system and equip workers by providing education for professionals to improve reporting, referrals and information sharing and aid in early identification. Including communicating to workers the harmful impacts of drugs and alcohol
- Develop combatting drugs communications and engagement approach aiming to reduce use and tackle stigma

Key Progress

- CDP report for sharing key data on progress was refreshed and presented at each Partnership meeting
- South Yorkshire Police Intelligence Reporting form had been promoted to partners to provide intel to disrupt organised crime groups
- Drug and alcohol training offer expanded to include training on families, anti-stigma and bespoke training sessions for hospital teams
- New workstream and resource for implementation of new Challenging Stigma work being developed in collaboration with the Rotherham Recovery Community and learning for individuals with Lived Experience

Present

Objectives

- Develop continuity of care in criminal justice pathway including use of Court Orders, better prisoner release and connections with Probation Services
- Develop whole family approach to support and break intergenerational cycles of substance use

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- Develop wider support offer and capacity for increased numbers for alcohol and drugs treatment/support, reducing drug related harm and impacts on wider community including an offer for drug users – increasing access to a wider range of services aimed at raising awareness of harm and early identification

Key Progress

- Efforts were being made to focus on the quantity and quality of Community Treatment Orders (community sentences designed to help individuals address substance use issues and reduce the risk of re-offending) by working with Courts to maximise opportunities for those who were suitable and a review for the Court Orders with a focus on harm reduction
- Drug and Alcohol Early Help Team had continued to support the identification of substance use in families by embedding screening tools in assessments and establishing Drug and Alcohol Champions working across Rotherham
- Two new Drug and Alcohol School Workers in ROADS (the Drug and Alcohol Service) providing outreach to primary and secondary schools
- New Drug and Alcohol Outreach Services at MESMAC (Sexual Health Services) had been supporting people in the community with advice and referrals
- ROADS' Outreach and Engagement had expanded including through a market stall in the Town Centre raising awareness and identification of drug and alcohol issues

Protect

Objectives

- Reduce drug related harm
- Protect vulnerable people
- Implement co-occurring conditions, pathways and improved psychological support. Increasing access to physical and mental healthcare to promote long term recovery
- Develop and implement recovery pathway including independent recovery community, housing and employment support

Key Progress

- Availability of opioid overdose reversal drug, Naloxone, continued to be widened. Police Officers had been trained and could carry Naloxone to respond to possible opiate overdoses and peer distribution of take home Naloxone was now in place
- South Yorkshire-wide Emergency Plan created to help services and respond to the identification of harmful substances in the region
- A number of systems in place including the Mental Health Community Connector Pathway with VAR and the Mental Health Wellbeing Practitioners to support those with mental health needs

- The Rotherham Recovery Community continued to grow this year having several achievements including a consultation which had generated a plan for further development. The Rotherham Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) was now established

Pursue

Objectives

- Develop an effective pursue response with partners
- Develop increased focus on county lines-exploitation of children in line with Child Exploitation Strategy and target Organised Crime Groups which used most exploitive business/operational models with regards to child exploitation
- Disrupt organised crime

Key Progress

- A number of warrants had been executed and managed by appropriate trained officers under the supervision of an inspector working in conjunction with trained Drug Expert Witnesses within the Police as per ongoing work
- Increase in skills and expertise with Drug Expert Witnesses and Financial Investigator training and support
- Several operations, local and national, had been carried out resulting in arrests and seizures

Public Involvement

- As well as increasing involvement on sub-groups and wider areas of work, Public Involvement was facilitated by the following:
 - Each Partnership meeting included a section on Public Voice and Lived Experience to ensure senior leaders were hearing directly from those impacted by drugs in our communities
 - Rotherham CDP had established that every 1 out of 4 meetings was led by the Recovery Community and focussed on a recovery related topic. Most recently the Recovery Community hosted the CDP in November 2025, bringing in lived experience voices, the community consultation and future plans. This had continued to generate a way forward for lived experience involvement and the future CDP plan would involve lived experience voice, including affected others, in a way that was relevant, accessible and supportive
 - The Combatting Drugs Partnership's members also would attend the Rotherham Recovery Forum

John Leaver, Rotherham Lived Experience Recovery Organisation Chair, gave his own presentation to the Board focussing on the Rotherham Recovery Community:-

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- Commissioning work had been undertaken in Rotherham to bring together pre-existing organisations working in recovery with the ambition to develop into a standalone organisation – LERO. It was a natural progression to become sustainable and deliver more
- LERO still worked with VAR
- The Chair's role was to bring together those responsible for funding/statistics/data/outputs but still being mindful of the way it was being done and connect all those environments to the people the organisation was working with on a day-to-day basis
- It was fresh and raw recognising that the people that were part of it had lived experience and was the best form of learning. It was difficult for someone to transition and took a lot of work to support them into people who were able to work
- It was important that LERO was led by people that needed it as well so it could adapt and react. It was real people helping real people and would develop into sustainable activities and businesses to be reinvested
- There was a gap between treatment and recovery. LERO's role was to try and further bridge that gap when people left treatment/came through addiction and were trying to navigate life beyond that. This was a whole new challenge
- Often when a person came out of treatment it was very clinical and formal i.e. not the environment for someone to thrive. Making activities etc. as relaxed and informal as possible so that they felt comfortable was where you started to build consistency and start to see change
- Activities were not just central Rotherham based
- Everyone involved had their own challenge journey
- LERO were getting the keys for their new premises very shortly and had successfully obtained CRC status. It was important to recognise that they were not business people/academics/professionals and things did not always move as quickly as they would in other environments, however, it was progressing quite well
- LERO's ethos was reliability, relatability, honesty and community

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

- The lived experience was central to what services needed to do in Rotherham
- It was not just about saving money but people living rich lives and, if you got it right, it would save money e.g. hospitals less busy etc
- ROADS had 2 School Outreach Workers as well as the Public Health Team linking in and working with schools
- The “public voice” did span quite a wide age range because it tried to address anyone that was affected by drugs. ROADS did have an involvement process for young people but acknowledgement that it was probably under represented with regard to the younger voice

- Drug and alcohol issues were complicated and multi-faceted with lots of opportunity for partnership working and different ways to better involve them
- Work was currently taking place but would benefit from closer work with other agencies such as the local Drug Information Services, the Drug and Alcohol Death process and understanding the intelligence of harmful substances that were leading to death in Rotherham
- Stopping people becoming addicted in the first place would improve outcomes. Work was taking place with the current provider to raise awareness in schools; having conversations early about what harm addiction to drugs and alcohol did putting it in the context of people's lives.
- In Rotherham there was a particular issue with problematic alcohol use – not alcohol use necessarily leading to death but leading to levels of harm
- Naloxone was making a real difference
- Removal of the stigma was really impactful
- It was difficult to measure the prevalence of drug users. There was more updated information for the estimated number of opiate or crack cocaine users in Rotherham but it was only an estimate. There would be more information in the refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Discussion would take place outside of the meeting with regard to the possibility of a Co-Chair being a person with lived experience

It was noted that anyone interested in having Naloxone available in their buildings should contact Jess to discuss how that could happen.

Resolved:- That the progress made by the Combatting Drugs Partnership be noted.

58. LONELINESS ACTION PLAN REFRESH PRESENTATION

Ruth Fletcher-Brown, Public Health Specialist, and Rachel Copley, Public Health Practitioner, presented the refreshed Loneliness Action Plan.

Rotherham's first Loneliness Action Plan was developed in 2020 having had input from Health and Wellbeing Board partners. The Plan was refreshed in 2023 for a further 3 years. With the current plan ending in 2025, work had commenced with partner organisations to reflect on the work that had been achieved. The following powerpoint presentation was provided on the 2026-30 Action Plan:-

Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan 2026-230

Our Vision: Rotherham residents of all ages and backgrounds feel connected to others and the community around them

History of Rotherham Loneliness Action plans

- The first Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan was implemented in 2020 following a workshop event with key stakeholders in 2019. This followed on from the national strategy “A Connected Society” published in 2018
- 2020-2022 Action Plan. Completed actions included started rollout of Making Every Contact Count training, assisted Link Workers in understanding their local communities and the assets available which supported good social connections, inclusion of loneliness as a theme in the Be Well at Work Scheme and promotion of GISMO to people who lived and worked in Rotherham
- 2023-25 Action Plan. Completed actions included increased community hub capacity including Warm Welcome sites, ‘Spot the Signs’ campaigns used to raise awareness of the safeguarding risks linked to loneliness, updated Loneliness JSNA section including personal quotes, conducted several focus groups across the Borough about loneliness and mental health, inclusion of loneliness questions in Tenant Health Check, expansion of Loneliness MECC training throughout library venues, evaluation from COVID funded projects for the over 55s and Holding Difficult Conversations training delivered to frontline partners 6th October 2022 to help them tackle the drivers of hate

Governance of Loneliness Action Plan

- The implementation of the 2026-2030 Action Plan would be overseen by the Better Mental Health for All Group. These meetings were chaired by Public Health and had representation from Health and Wellbeing partners. The multi-agency group met bi-monthly and was tasked to implement the Plan and the Better Mental Health for All Action Plan. Progress against the action plan would be reported to the Mental Health and Learning Disability Transformation Group, a sub-group of the Rotherham Place Plan Board. Annual updates would be given to the Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board.

The partners represented on the Better Mental Health for All Group included:-

- Adult Health and Care Network
- Age UK Rotherham
- Children, Young People and Families Consortium
- Crossroads
- Healthwatch Rotherham
- NHS South Yorkshire
- RDaSH (mental health provider)
- Rotherham NHS Foundation Hospital Trust
- RMBC – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (including Neighbourhoods)
- RMBC – Children and Young People’s Services
- RMBC – Communications

- RMBC – Culture, Sport and Tourism Service, Regeneration and Environment
- Rotherham Federation
- Rotherham United Community Trust
- South Yorkshire Police
- Voluntary Action Rotherham

Why is Loneliness a Public Health Issue?

- Mental Health impacts – increased risk of Dementia and cognitive decline, links to poor mental health and suicide
- Physical Health impacts – increased risk of CVD and Stroke, increased risk taking behaviour
- Community impacts – safeguarding risks to vulnerable people e.g. cuckooing/scams, absenteeism and presenteeism

National Data

- 7% of people reported feeling lonely 'often' or 'always'. This increased to 9% for those aged 16-29 and 10% reporting chronic loneliness in Yorkshire
- Chronic loneliness was the persistent feeling of being alone and disconnected from others over an extended period even when surrounded by people
- Key cohorts of concern
 - 13% in disabled adults (4% in non-disabled)
 - 12% in unemployed adults (5% in employed)
 - 17% in Council properties (5% in owner occupied and 9% in private rented)
 - 23% in single parents (5% with 2 adults and child/ren, 12% single adults and 7% with 2 adults and no children)

Local Data

School Lifestyle Survey

- 16.6% of Y7s and 19.8% of Y10s reported chronic loneliness

RMBC Data

- Long term unemployment ranged from 1% to 14%
- People over 65 who lived alone ranged from 24% to 40%
- Social renting was as high as 46% in some MSOAs

What was Loneliness?

- Loneliness had different meanings to different people
- General definition of "a subjective, unwelcome feeling of lack or loss of companionship. It happens when we have a mismatch between the quantity and quality of social relationships that we have and those that we want"
- Focus groups were carried out across the Borough including veterans, carers and adults with neurodiverse conditions

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What are the effects of Loneliness

- People can start skipping meals
- Drink, drugs, gambling
- Personal hygiene deteriorates
- Might be good physically but not so mentally and emotionally
- Can affect people's decisions and make impulsive decisions

What are the causes of Loneliness

- Bereavement
- Disability and ill health
- Bullying and discrimination
- Financial and life pressures
- Safety

Loneliness Stakeholder Workshop – 4th November, 2025

- What is working well
 - Great voluntary sector
 - Trusted support services
 - Benefits of groups
 - Great partnership working
- Key areas of concern
 - Long term funding
 - Social awareness of loneliness as a health issue
 - Structural issues e.g. transport, housing
 - Level of responsibility given to volunteers
 - High levels of loneliness in specific groups and deprived areas
 - Cultural sensitivity
 - Groups and partners being missed
 - Continual rising of expectations
 - Successful projects being defunded
 - Lack of understanding and acknowledgement of

Action Plan Aims

- Aim 1: Make loneliness everyone's responsibility
 - Champion Five Ways to Wellbeing across all initiatives to promote positive mental health and social engagement
 - Deliver Making Every Contact Count (MECC) training to frontline staff
 - Deliver 'train the trainer' MECC
 - Continue to work closely with RMBC teams including Neighbourhoods, Commissioning and Culture, Sport and Tourism
 - Champion the Be Well at Work Scheme and share best practice to tackle loneliness and isolation within businesses to create a healthier workforce
- Aim 2: Connecting people to each other and their community
 - Maintain and promote GISMO as a key signposting resource
 - Promote the VAR e-bulletin
 - Recruitment and ongoing support for volunteers

- Use comms messaging to promote wellbeing support such as RotherHive and Say Yes campaigns
 - Make use of existing networks, partnerships and newsletters to regularly promote new opportunities for people to make meaningful connections
 - Promote resident-led activities and community hubs
 - Promote Library Services and the support and groups they offered
 - Promote organisations which support people to get digitally connected e.g. Age UK, CARD, RotherFed, Libraries
- Aim 3: Expand and use local data to guide action
- Maintain and regularly update the loneliness section of the JSNA so current data could inform decision making
 - Conduct additional loneliness focus groups to strengthen the community voice
 - Refresh MECC training materials to include the latest evidence and data
 - Analyse and publish findings from focus group research sharing with relevant partners to inform action
 - Promote the loneliness guide and measures to local partners
 - Share best practice including Living Experience with other Rotherham partners
 - Using data to support future funding bids

Action Plan Monitoring and Wider Discussions

- During both focus groups and stakeholder discussions, several topics were mentioned as barriers to reducing loneliness which needed to be advocated for by the Better Mental Health for All Group. The main barriers were digital inclusion and transport issues
- Key Monitoring Metrics – school lifestyle survey data, Public Health Outcomes Framework, Community Life Survey and Loneliness Guide and Measures results

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

- The issue of social media and the possible effects on young people required discussions across the board to ascertain a position being mindful both of the positive and negatives of social media and working with young people to gain their understanding of the role it played in their lives
- There was evidence that those with neurodiversity felt loneliness. Work had taken place with SpeakUp but more could be done with young people
- Covid-19 had significantly impacted some vulnerable groups at that point of their development
- The work around digital inclusion was trying to draw out that there were very clear safeguarding risks for children and young people as well as adults who were lonely. This issue needed to be included in

- the training and emphasise that not everyone online was their friend and ensure they were a “safe” person
- A diagnosis of chronic illness could exacerbate despair and loneliness. There was some existing work taking place that connected health care. The data was being pulled together and evaluated
 - The South Yorkshire Children and Young People’s Alliance was holding an event focussing on 16-24 year olds looking at youth and mental health. Rush House was the delivery partner. There would be peer evaluators for the young people to talk about the approach to support. One approach did not work for every young person
 - The causes of loneliness did not look significantly different to those identified 20 years ago, however, the context in which people experienced those causes had changed. Front line commissioning practitioners would say that the complexity was expressed in different ways
 - Loneliness was a banner that brought many physical and medical conditions together
 - People did not need a lot of connections but did need meaningful connection
 - Addressing loneliness was a corporate response
 - The focus group had interviewed people aged 20+ up to 97 years; children would be the next stage A recent presentation at a national group for the first time had seen the impact of housing conditions and fuel poverty on young people coming through
 - Transition for young people was really challenging all the way through to employment. CYPS carried out a lot of work with young people in an attempt to avoid them becoming NEET and go into the appropriate pathways and there were various new initiatives around that. There would be a particular focus on transition from Y5 through to Y8 as it appeared that was where the most challenges were to issues such as health conditions, development and healthy weight. Children not attending school impacted significantly on their emotional health and wellbeing, not developing appropriate peer groups and friends that would help take them through
 - There was also a gap of young people not in education either through non-attendance or being home educated and not necessarily having peer connection
 - The statistics regarding the feeling of loneliness in Council properties was the national picture but could be extrapolated for a similar picture in Rotherham

Resolved:- (1) That the vision and delivery mechanisms addressing loneliness and promoting connectedness across Rotherham be supported.

(2) That Health and Wellbeing Board members attend and contribute to the Better Mental Health for All Group which will oversee the delivery of actions within the Loneliness Action Plan.

(3) That the Board receive annual progress updates.

59. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY PRESENTATION

Further to Minute No. 33 of 26th November, 2026, Emily Parry-Harris, Director of Public Health, presented the reviewed 2026/27 forward plan which had been structured to clearly align with Strategy aims whilst maintaining the statutory responsibilities of the Board.

The following powerpoint presentation was provided to support the report:-

2025/26

Meeting	Priority focus at Board Meeting	Report/Strategy focus at Board Meeting	Other Significant Item(s)
June 2026	Aim 1	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	Integrated Care Strategy
September 2026	Aim 2	Director of Public Health Report	Other Special Interest Groups System Plans
November 2026	Aim 3	Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment	Better Care Fund
January 2027	Aim 4	Integrated Care Board	Review of system pressure for winter
March 2027	Review of year	Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Forward Plan

Looking Ahead

All items should

- Be clearly linked to at least one Strategy aim
- Demonstrate clear improvements and impact for Rotherham residents

The Board will look to

- Maintain a good balance across all 4 priorities
- Maintain a strong link with the Health Select Commission and liaise where items may be better suited to their agenda

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- Continue to be flexible to upcoming changes within partner organisations

The Executive Group will

- Return to meeting ahead of each formal Board meeting
- Assess the forward plan intermittently

June 2026 Agenda

- Strategic Needs Assessment refresh
- Suicide Prevention Action Plan update
- Breastfeeding Friendly Borough progress update
- Best Start Local Plan
- HWBB Annual Report
- Physical Activity/Moving Rotherham Board Update
- Place Board escalations and BCF

September 2026 Agenda

- Director of Public Health Annual Report
- Family Hubs Update
- Health Protection Assurance Report
- Neighbourhood Health Update
- Healthy Homes Update
- Carers Update
- Place Board escalations and BCF

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The NHS Neighbourhoods Plan would be considered in further iterations of the plan. A small working group would consider the guidance and work on the role of the Board and Rotherham Together Partnership
- There should be ability to be flexible and add any agenda items as necessary
- The Board had a statutory remit of its own but also recognised the Rotherham Together Partnership and the importance of agenda planning

Resolved:- (1) That the implementation of the aim-aligned meeting focus, as outlined at the meeting, by asking each presenter to outline any links between their item and the aim theme of the meeting be approved.

(2) That partners ensure future agenda items met the agreed strategic criteria demonstrating contribution to the outcomes and alignment with Health and Wellbeing Strategy aim theme.

60. ETHNICITY AND UNEQUAL AGEING: EXPERIENCES IN ROTHERHAM AND SHEFFIELD

Majella Kilkey, Jo Britton, Lois Orton and Aneta Piekut, University of Sheffield, were in attendance to present the UKRI-funded research project 'Ethnicity and Unequal Ageing' led by the University of Sheffield, co-produced with community partners including Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA).

The Board received the following powerpoint presentation:-

Ethnicity and Ageing in Rotherham

- Rotherham was ageing – 1 in 5 people were aged 65 years and older
- Rotherham was a diverse place with 252 unique ethnic groups
- 5% of households with at least one member whose main language was not English
- Rotherham's diversity had grown over time
- The increasing diversity of Rotherham would change who was 'older' in the town

Not everyone in Rotherham reached older age in the same position. Census data tell us that:

- The Roma and Irish Traveller ethnic groups were consistently excluded across most aspects of society
- Chinese, Indian and Bangladeshi groups were doing well in education and employment outcomes
- Ethnic inequalities were consistent across age groups demonstrating the enduring effect of ethnicity across the life course and over generations
- Need to unpack the census data to see what drives the outcomes

What did this project do?

- A multi-methods intersectional, life course framework, combining quantitative analysis with qualitative participatory methods
- Primary data collection in Rotherham and Sheffield:
 - Go-along and life history interviews with 80 people (37 in Rotherham/43 in Sheffield) aged 50+ identifying as Muslim, African, Roma or Irish, men and women
 - Creative co-production involving participatory arts-based workshops (12 in each place) with 40 of those individuals
 - Stakeholder engagement involving 15 individual interviews and 3 group meetings

Project Findings for Rotherham

- "Racially minoritised people/communities"
 - Individuals and communities minoritised through social, political and cultural processes of power and marginalisation linked to racialisation

- 'Minority' in terms of position of powers not in numbers
- Often majority populations, globally

Loneliness and Social Isolation was a Key Challenge

- Issues specific to racially minoritised communities in Rotherham
 - Some were new arrivals – challenges of rebuilding lives in new places (especially in later life)
 - English was not first language including for longer established communities – barrier to participation and accessing services and support
 - Stereotype of close knit family life in some communities – stigma around loneliness and assumption that intervention was not needed
 - Economic induced constraints to participation were likely sharper due to inequalities in socio-economic status
 - Health-induced constraints to participation were likely sharper due to accumulated life course disadvantage
 - Places where some racially minoritised communities lived contributed to isolation
 - Racism, and fear of, limited where people 'felt safe'

Sustaining Community Assets – BAMER-led voluntary organisations were lived-experience 'assets'

- Addressing Health Inequalities – saving lives during Covid-19 pandemic and support for ongoing health issues e.g. Dementia, Diabetes
- Community Wellbeing – tailored activities to combat loneliness, isolation including community outreach
- Citizen Advice and Advocacy – support with legal help e.g. pensions, citizen rights and in financial difficulties
- Translation and Interpretation – providing free of charge language services for meetings and documents
- Other Voluntary Work – older residents as community leaders and work to maintain clean and safe environments

In need of adequate financial recognition

- Provide key services free of charge
- Financially struggling, many ceased to exist putting pressure on those remaining
- Felt as they were not seen as equal partners

Challenging Loneliness through Social Connection

- The experience of having recently arrived in the UK/South Yorkshire often meant the loss of social networks
- Being racially minoritised could further contribute to feelings of social isolation
- Many older people taking part in the project highlighted the importance of:

- Engaging with friends, family and members of the wider community of all different ages
- The opportunity to connect with people from different backgrounds (Muslim, Irish, Roma, African, Caribbean) that they would not normally come into contact with

What older people told us needs to change – ‘We need more spaces for people of all ages and social groups to come together’

- Both younger and older people felt they wanted regular opportunities to reap the benefits of coming together
- They said it was important that opportunities were created for children and young people to come together with older members of the community
- They wanted more of the kinds of activities – creative sessions, performances, debates etc. – that had happened as part of the project

Project’s Key Message

- Loneliness and isolation was a universal challenge. Our findings highlight complex intersectional dimensions to this experience for racially minoritised populations, necessitating an approach that was proportionate to the high level of need

Project’s Key Recommendations

- Funding and support to allow ‘BAMER’-led community organisations to work together and with statutory services to achieve long term and sustainable change
- Making mainstream services e.g. libraries and initiatives e.g. social prescribing more inclusive (language, anti-racist, safe spaces)
- Catalysing connections across diverse older groups and younger generations including through arts and creative activities
- Recognising the importance of language inclusion: embedding language inclusion across health and wellbeing strategies; investing in ESOL for older people; valuing heritage languages; supporting multi-lingual arts and culture
- Addressing racially motivated hate crime that contributed to social isolation and reinforcing anti-racist practices in all services and spaces for older people
- Fostering age-friendly places and services through prioritising accessible, affordable spaces and inclusive public transport, in local planning

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

- The work of the project could inform the loneliness action plan
- Feeling that ‘white British’ should be included on the slide headed up “Challenging Loneliness through Social Connection” as the project was about the whole of Rotherham getting together and not about different ethnic groups

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- The project funding had now stopped. It may be possible to apply for funding from the University of Sheffield to ensure the findings have some impact
- The creative workshop had met the previous day and wanted to continue but there were not the project resources to do so, however, conversations were being facilitated with other funders

Resolved:- That the project's recommendations be endorsed.

61. ITEMS ESCALATED FROM PLACE BOARD

There were no issues to be escalated.

62. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD (PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS)

The minutes of the Rotherham Place Board Partnership Business meetings held on 17th September, 2025, were noted.

63. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD (ICB BUSINESS)

The minutes of the Rotherham Place Board ICB Business meeting held on 17th December, 2025 and 21st January, 2026, were noted.

64. BETTER CARE FUND

There was no information to report.

65. 2026-27 MEETING DATES

Resolved:- That meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board be held during the 2026/27 Municipal Year as follows:-

Wednesday, 10th June, 2026
 2nd September
 2nd December
 27th January, 2027
 24th March

all starting at 9.00 a.m., venue to be confirmed

PLANNING BOARD
9th April, 2026

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Allen, Currie, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Jackson, Sutton, Tarmey and Thorp.

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

69. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

70. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Currie declared a personal interest in application RB2025/1587 (erection of self build residential dwelling at Old School Yard, The Stables, Whiston) on the grounds of knowing the applicant.

Councillors Fisher and Thorp declared personal interests in application RB2025/1587 (erection of self build residential dwelling at Old School Yard, The Stables, Whiston) on the grounds of being Whiston Parish Councillors, but had not been involved in any discussions relating to this site.

Councillor Elliott declared a prejudicial interest in application RB2026/0071 (erection of three dwellinghouses at land at 17 Green Street, Greasbrough) on the grounds of being involved in discussions as a Ward Member for the previous application on site. He left the room whilst the application was discussed and did not observe the vote.

72. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19TH MARCH, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 19th March, 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

73. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferrals recommended.

74. 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 self build residential dwelling at Old School Yard, The Stables, School Hill, Whiston for Mr. I. Johnson (RB2025/1587)

Mr. K. Sherwood (on behalf of the Applicant)

- Erection of 3 dwellinghouses at land at 17 Green Street, Greasbrough for Mr. M. Miller (RB2026/0071)

Mr. J. Roberts (on behalf of the Applicant)

A statement was read out on behalf of Mr. D. Whitaker (Objector)

A statement was read out on behalf of Mrs. L. Gammons (Objector)

(2) That application RB2025/1587 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to a Unilateral Undertaking relating to a Self Build Dwelling and the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That application RB2026/0071 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and the inclusion of an additional condition relating to street lighting. The wording of which would be delegated to and agreed with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Board.

Councillor Currie declared a personal interest in application RB2025/1587 (erection of self build residential dwelling at Old School Yard, The Stables, Whiston) on the grounds of knowing the applicant.

Councillors Fisher and Thorp declared personal interests in application RB2025/1587 (erection of self build residential dwelling at Old School Yard, The Stables, Whiston) on the grounds of being Whiston Parish Councillors, but had not been involved in any discussions relating to this site.

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75. UPDATES

The Chair wished to place on record his thanks and appreciation to Nigel Hancock, Head of Planning and Building Control, who would be shortly retiring having worked for Rotherham for the past eighteen years.

In response Nigel Hancock played tribute to those who had assisted his role as Head of Planning and the value this contributed to the work involving the Planning Board

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member, acknowledged the service and support Nigel had provided to himself as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Board and as Cabinet Member and how Rotherham would greatly miss his involvement.

Individually some Planning Board Members also wished to pass on their own best wishes and gratitude for the support and training they had received and wished Nigel a well-earned and enjoyable retirement.

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PLANNING BOARD - 30/04/26

PLANNING BOARD
30th April, 2026

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Allen, Currie, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Hussain, Jackson, Sutton and Tarmey.

Officers also in attendance were:-

Mrs. L. Brooks, Development Manager
Mr. S. Evans, Planning Solicitor
Mr. S. Gammons, Manager, Transportation and Highways
Mr. R. Morrell, Planning Officer
Mrs. E. Ottewell, Development Manager
Mr. M. Peck, Planning Officer

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

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

76. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

77. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

79. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH APRIL, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 9th April 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

80. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

81. 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 six residential dwellings with associated parking at land south of 1 St. James' Close, Wath upon Dearne, Rotherham (RB2025/1072)

Mr. R. Lee (Objector)
Mr. J. Griffiths (Objector)

- Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, porch canopy to front/side and rendering to lower half of front and side walls at 21 Queensway, Moorgate, Rotherham (RB2026/0268)

Mr. M. Farrell (Objector)
Ms. J. Horsman (Objector)
Mrs. L Farrell (Objector) – Video Clips Shown

(2) That applications RB2025/1072 and RB2026/0268 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

82. UPDATES

As an update the Chair wished to place on record his and the Planning Board's congratulations to Emma Ottewell who had successfully been appointed to the position of Head of Planning and Building Control as a successor to Nigel Hancock who had retired.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
1st April, 2026

Present:- Councillor Garnett (in the Chair); Councillors Harper and Jones.

Also Present:-

Mr. Vasanthan Chelliah, Applicant
Mr. Chelliah's friend acting an interpreter
Mr. Nick Semper, Licensing Guys, Applicant's Agent
Ms. Jess Hall, Trainee, Licensing Guys
Mr. Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager
Ms. Katie Etheridge, Solicitor, RMBC
Mrs. Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor

36. CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) BY MR. VASANTHAN CHELLIAH FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF PREMISES SITUATED AT 25 MONKWOOD ROAD, ROTHERHAM S62 7JN.

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003) for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of premises situated at 25 Monkwood Road, Rotherham S62 7JN.

The applicant, Mr. Vasanthan Chelliah, was seeking authorisation to allow the sale of alcohol (for consumption off the premises) on every day of the week between 07:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Mr. Chelliah was present at the hearing together with a friend (acting as an interpreter when needed), Mr. Nick Semper (Licensing Guys) and Jess Hall (trainee).

Consultation on the application had been carried out in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council procedure. During the consultation period one "Other Person" had made representations to the application opposing the granting of the application. The representations had been reviewed and found that points 1 and 2 were accepted as relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives; points 4, 5 and 6 were not relevant considerations for the licensing process and advice was given with regard to points 3 and 7. The 2 points that were considered to be relevant considerations were:-

1. Increased Risk of Noise, Disturbance and Anti-Social Behaviour
Off-licence premises often attract groups who gather outside, particularly during evenings and weekends. This can lead to raised noise levels, shouting and general disturbance late into the night. Unfortunately anti-social behaviour is currently present on Monkwood

Road and I fear the opening of another off-licence will increase this

2. Potential for Crime and Disorder

Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour is a recognised issue around off-licence premises. There is a legitimate concern that the shop could attract loitering, public drinking and disorderly conduct, especially if alcohol is sold late into the evening. This would compromise the safety and security of residents including children and elderly neighbours

Mr. Chelliah had been provided with the details of the above and had written to the objector to address their concerns including a further offered condition regarding the clearing of litter from the exterior of the premises. Conciliation has failed to lead to the withdrawal of the representation.

The "Other Person" had been invited to the meeting and had been expected to attend. The Sub-Committee considered the written submission.

There had been no representations received from the Responsible Authorities.

The applicant had engaged with the Licensing Service and had offered to put in place a number of management controls should the application be granted. These management controls would be made a condition of Annex 2 of any licence granted i.e.:-

1. CCTV will be provided at the premises in the form of a recordable system, capable of providing pictures of evidential quality in all lighting conditions, particularly facial recognition.
2. Cameras shall encompass all ingress and egress to the premises, fire exits, outside areas, and all areas where the sale/ supply of alcohol occurs.
3. A monitor shall be mounted on the wall at the premises where it is clearly visible to all members of the public. The monitor shall show the live CCTV footage being recorded.
4. Equipment must be maintained in good working order, be correctly time and date stamped.
5. Recordings must be kept in date order, numbered sequentially and kept for a period of 31 days and handed to Police on reasonable request.
6. The Premises Licence Holder must ensure at all times a DPS or appointed member of staff is capable and competent at downloading CCTV footage in a recordable format to the Police/Local Authority on

reasonable request

7. The Recording equipment and tapes/discs shall be kept in a secure environment under the control of the DPS or other responsible named individual.
8. A challenge 25 age verification scheme will operate at the premises whereby any person who appears to be under 25 years of age, and unknown to the staff member serving as a person over 18 years of age, shall not be served alcohol unless they provide identification to prove they are over 18 years of age. Acceptable forms of identification will be:
 - a. a passport;
 - b. a photo card driving licence;
 - c. an EU/EEA national ID card or similar document;
 - d. an HM Forces warrant card;
 - e. a card bearing the PASS hologram; or
 - f. any electronic or biometric age verification technology approved by the licensing authority.
9. Appropriate signage advertising the operation of the Challenge 25 scheme must be displayed in the vicinity of all points of sale for alcohol.
10. A Refusals Register (electronic or written) must be maintained and kept at the premises and retained for a period of 12 months on a rolling basis. The following information must be recorded in the Refusals Register:
 - a. Any refusal of the sale of alcohol (e.g. suspected drunkenness, underage or proxy sale); and
 - b. Any visit by a relevant authority or emergency services, noting the time, day, date and identify of any visitors by name.
11. The Refusals Register must be inspected and endorsed by the DPS on a monthly basis and produced to the Police or an 'authorised person' (as defined by the LA'03) or an authorised Trading Standards Officer employed by the Council on demand.
12. An incident log must be kept at the premises and made immediately available on request to an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or the Police. The following information shall be recorded in this log:

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- a. all crimes reported to the venue;
 - b. all ejections of patrons;
 - c. any complaints received relevant to the Licensing Objectives;
 - d. any incidents of disorder; and
 - e. any visit by a relevant authority or emergency service.
13. All people involved in the delivery of alcohol, be this the Premises Licence Holder/Designated Premises Supervisor, employees or third-party courier, shall at the point of delivery be satisfied that the person to whom the alcohol is being delivered is 18 years or over. Deliveries shall:
- a. only be made to the address indicated on the order;
 - b. only to be made to bona fide business/commercial addresses or private residences and not to any public/open spaces (e.g. car parks, street corners, bus stops, public parks); and
 - c. be refused to any person who is, or who appears to be under the influence of alcohol, or drugs and the alcohol shall be returned to the licensed premises.
14. Delivery records shall be retained at the licensed premises for a period of 12 months and be produced on request for inspection by a Police Officer or an authorised person of the Licensing Authority.
15. All staff engaged in the sale of alcohol shall be trained in Responsible Alcohol Retailing prior to selling any alcoholic product.
16. All staff shall undergo refresher training in Responsible Alcohol Retailing on a rolling annual basis.
17. Staff training shall be recorded, and such records shall be kept on the premises and produced to the Police or an 'authorised person' (as defined by the LA'03) or an authorised Trading Standards Officer employed by the Council on demand.
18. All requirements and responsibilities pertaining to the lawful and responsible operation of the premises covered by primary legislation, will be complied with – e.g. Building regs, health and safety, fire prevention.
19. Noise or vibration shall not emanate from the premises so as to cause a nuisance to neighbours or residents.
20. Prominent, clear and legible signage shall be displayed at all exits to the premises requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quietly.

In response to questions, the applicant provided the following information:-

- The premises were to open as a convenience store later in the year following a full refurbishment and refit
- Mr. Chelliah was an experienced applicant having worked over 20 years in a family business convenience store offering a wide variety of products
- He was seeking to sell alcohol within a general range of goods available during normal opening hours
- There was no reported history of drunkenness, noise or anti-social behaviour concerns surrounding the applicant or any of his other family run businesses. Also there had been no incidents reported within the vicinity of the Monkwood Road premises during the last 6 months
- None of the Responsible Authorities had objected to the application
- Mr. Chelliah was moving to the area and would be the Designated Premises Supervisor together with 2 other members of staff (family members)

Resolved:- (1) That the application for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of premises situated at 25 Monkwood Road, Rotherham S62 7JN, be approved subject to the above offered conditions together with the following amendment/additional condition:-

Agreed amendment to Condition No. 5

“Recordings must be kept in date order, numbered sequentially and kept for a period of 31 days and handed to Police ~~on reasonable request.~~ within 24 hours of being requested.”

Additional offered Condition:-

“21. That discarded flyers, cigarettes, food packaging and any other similar litter will be cleaned from the immediate vicinity of the shop and disposed of appropriately.”

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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
20th April, 2026

Present:- Councillor Garnett (in the Chair); Councillors T. Collingham and Stables.

Also Present:-

Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah, Personal Licence Holder
Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan, Husband of Personal Licence Holder
Mr. Naga Rajesh, Licensing Agent

Mrs. Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, RMBC
Mr. Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager, RMBC
Mr. Lionel Desai, Solicitor, RMBC
Ms. Jo Belton, Licensing Enforcement Officer, South Yorkshire Police
Mr. Bob Sowter, Solicitor, South Yorkshire Police
Mrs. Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor, RMBC

**37. LICENSING ACT 2003 - LICENCE - VARIATION OF THE PREMISES
LICENCE ISSUED TO MRS. GEERTHTHANA PIRANTHIRAAH, IN
RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS S & S CONVENIENCE
STORE, SITUATED AT UNITS 2 & 3, BIRCHWOOD AVENUE,
ROTHERHAM, S62 7JP**

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. Geerththana Piranthiraah in respect of the premises known as S & S Convenience Store, Units 2 and 3 Birchwood Avenue, Rotherham S62 7JP.

The applicant was seeking to vary the Premises Licence in relation to condition No. 17 of the approved Premises Licence so as to allow Mrs. Piranthiraah's husband to work at the premises. Currently condition No. 17 states:-

"The previous Licence holder, Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan, will not have any management control over the operation of the premises nor work at the premises in a paid or unpaid capacity".

The applicant wished to vary the Premises Licence condition No. 17 to state:-

"The previous Licence Holder, Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan, will not have any management control over the operation of the premises."

Mrs Piranthiraah was present at the hearing together with her husband, Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan and Mr. Naga Rajesh, Licensing Agent.

Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, introduced the application for the variation of the Premises Licence highlighting:-

- The premises were first licenced in 2005 when the Licensing Authority took over the responsibility for licensing premises to sell alcohol from the Magistrates Court
- In June 2023 the Licence was transferred to Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan who became the Designated Premises Supervisor at the same time. On 24th March, 2025, an application was made for a minor variation of the Licence to add management controls to Annex 2 of the Licence with immediate effect
- South Yorkshire Police had made an application for the review of the Premises Licence in June 2025 on the grounds that Mr. Ramanathan had failed to promote the licensing objectives of preventing crime and disorder and protecting children from harm
- Whilst consultation on the review application was underway, the Licence was transferred with immediate effect to Ms. Birintha Ketheswaranin at the same time as an application to change the DPS to Mr. Sivatheesan Sivasubramanian.
- On 7th July 2025, the new Licence holder, Ms. Ketheswaranin provided evidence that she had full control of the premises together with the shift pattern of the new DPS. It was agreed that a further management control condition be added to the Licence preventing the previous Licence Holder (Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan) from managing and working at the shop. This condition became effective on 28th July 2025
- Ms. Birintha Ketheswaranin named herself as Designated Premises Supervisor in October 2025 and in the November made an application to vary the Licence so as to extend the authorised hour for the first sale of alcohol at the premises from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 a.m. This was granted on 16th December, 2025
- On 27th January, 2026, the Licence was transferred to Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah who became the Designated Premises Supervisor at the same time. Mrs. Piranthiraah was the wife of Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan who held the Licence between June 2023 and June 2025
- On 24th February, 2025, Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah made an application to vary the Premises Licence as stated above

It was noted that prior to 2024, the day-to-day operations and staff were managed by Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah for several years. Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan was employed full-time at the premises and responsible for cash and carry transactions and stock purchases. In late 2024, their child developed a medical condition necessitating her absence from the country for treatment. Mr. Ramanathan had had to manage all aspects of the situation alone which had led to some difficulties. Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah had now returned to the United Kingdom and taken over the businesses. She had also assumed the responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 as the Licensee and DPS. She wanted her

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husband to work for her as a member of staff without any management responsibilities.

Mr. Rajesh, Licensing Agent, addressed the Sub-Committee and explained the reasons for the variation application:-

- Both Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah and Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan were Personal Licence Holders in both England and Scotland and had lengthy experience in the licensing trade with no past issues
- They had taken over the premises in 2022 and there had been no issues for the first 2 years
- In early 2024 their eldest child had experienced serious medical issues with their second child born in July of the same year. It had been a very hard time for the family with Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah dealing with hospital appointments and a new born baby. They had left the running of the business to the staff most of the time
- In late 2024 Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah had taken the 2 children to Sri Lanka leaving her husband in England
- There had been 2 failed test purchases when Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan had not been in the shop. Realising he could not manage the premises he had transferred the management to someone else and walked out of the premises completely
- Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah had returned to the UK with the 2 children in December 2025. The couple had taken the business back early in 2026 together with the staff from the previous management
- None of the staff who had made the failed test purchases worked there now
- The implications of what had happened at the shop during Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan's management was fully understood, and was why the requested variation was a modification for him to work as a member of staff and not requesting that he be allowed to manage in the future
- Since the condition had been imposed, Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan had not worked in any capacity in the shop and he felt that sales had reduced as their customers were not receiving the customer service they had in the past
- Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah had taken over responsibility for the existing staff when she had resumed responsibility for the shop earlier in the year. The staff had been trained by the previous owner. There were now 2 new members of staff who had been trained by herself
- They did not want a repeat of the mistakes and Mrs. Geerththana Piranthiraah having 100% control of the premises all the time would help this, however, she would feel better when her husband was on the shop floor. It would help greatly if he was allowed to go to the cash and carry and fill the shelves
- Mr. Pireznthiraah Ramanathan's mother would be joining the family next month to help out with childcare

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 2 Responsible Authorities (Licensing Authority and South Yorkshire Police Unit) and from one Other Person – Councillor Baker Rogers, Ward Councillor.

South Yorkshire Police was opposed to the grant of the application as it believed that the proposed change would have significant impacts on the following licensing objectives:-

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The protection of children from harm
- Public Safety
- The prevention of public nuisance

- Objection to the removal of the condition that ensured Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan had no involvement in the running or management of S & S Convenience Store
- An allegation was made in August 2024 that children were being sold alcohol at the premises. The Licence Holder was informed and an action plan agreed to bring about required improvements on 24th October 2024
- The Licence Holder failed to bring about the required improvement and allegations of underage sales continued. Police attended the premises again on 23rd February, 2025, and found 3 intoxicated teenage girls at the premises. The girls had stated that the males working in the shop had supplied them with alcohol and allowed them to use the premises' toilet
- Police and Council Licensing Officers had visited the premises on 14th March, 2025, to discuss the serious nature of the incident and provided appropriate advice. The action plan was updated to include staff training
- A failed test purchase was carried out on 19th March, 2025, with a further visit made on 17th April to re-enforce the need for the Licence Holder to take immediate action to prevent the underage sale of alcohol
- A second test purchase was failed on 13th May, 2025 and an application seeking revocation of the Premise Licence was submitted on 15th May, 2025
- Subsequently South Yorkshire Police withdrew the review application. Whilst it was withdrawn, it was relevant to the representations of the Police as it set out the details of the operation of the premises during the period Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan worked at the premises
- Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan had stepped aside from the premises and was no longer the Personal Licence Holder or Designated Premises Supervisor. The business was transferred to a new Personal Licence Holder with the condition that Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan would have no management control over the premises

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or work in any paid or unpaid capacity effectively a prohibition of being involved in the premises in any way

- If he was to work in the premises, he would be seen as a senior member of staff by way of being one of the owners and would be deferred to by other staff members

The Licensing Authority was opposed to the grant of the application as it was believed that the proposed change would have significant impacts on the following licensing objectives:-

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The protection of children from harm
- On 9th April, 2026, a joint compliance visit had been made with the Police Licensing Enforcement Officer
- A lone male was working at the premises and had done so for approximately 3 weeks. There had been no evidence to suggest that he had received any staff training or undertaken the Safeguarding course as requested in conditions 16 and 17 of Annex C of the Premises Licence. The employee confirmed that he had not received any required training
- CCTV also revealed another new member of staff but again no documentation to evidence the required training had been given/undertaken
- Up-to-date authorisation for the sale of alcohol also could not be sourced
- The employee confirmed that the current Licence Holder and DPS, Mrs. Geerthhana Pireanthiraah did not routinely attend the premises and only viewed them via CCTV on a mobile phone
- Removal of Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan from employment and management role at the premises had been required in order to promote the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm. There had to be confidence that effective management controls were in place at the premises and that the manager of the premises could effectively supervise Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan

Councillor Baker-Rogers, Ward Councillor, was not in attendance but had submitted written opposition to the grant of the variation as she believed that the proposed change would have significant impacts on the following licensing objectives:-

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The protection of children from harm
- Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan used to be the Licence Holder. In June 2025 the Police applied to review the Licence as there was evidence that he had repeatedly sold alcohol to children.

- The review application was withdrawn when the Licence was transferred and the Licence Holder offered condition No. 18 of Annex 2
- In January, 2026, a second transfer application was made and transferred to the current Licence Holder, Mrs. Geerthana Pireanthiraah, the wife of Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan.
- Mr. Pireanthiraah Ramanathan had a history of selling alcohol to children. To allow him to work at the premises would undermine the licencing objectives of preventing crime and disorder and protecting children from harm

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 crime and disorder
- The protection of children from harm
- Public Safety
- The prevention of public nuisance

Resolved:- That the variation of the Premises Licence in respect of the premises known as S & S Convenience Store, Units 2 and 3 Birchwood Avenue, Rotherham S62 7JP be refused.

LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
20th April, 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Garnett, Jones, Monk and Thorp.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

35. 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).

36. APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

The Sub-Committee was informed that a request had been received from Mr. S.K. for consideration of his application for the renewal of his Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver Licence to be deferred due to the unavailability of his legal representative.

Resolved:- That the application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver licence in respect of Mr. S.K. be deferred until a future meeting.

37. EXEMPTION FROM ROTHERHAM MBC HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY REQUIREMENT SECTION 6.7 IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLES AS PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES OR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to an application from Mr. S.M. for an exemption from the requirements of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in respect of the licence plate and door signs being affixed to licensed vehicle XXXX ZGB. This request was made on the basis that the vehicle would be used for executive hire and corporate account clients/business executives.

Resolved:- (1) That the request from Mr. M.Q.A. for an exemption from the Council's Licensing Policy in relation to the requirements to affix a licence plate and door signs to his licensed vehicle XXXX ZGB be granted whilst the vehicle was being used for the purposes of "executive hire" only.

(2) That the future annual review and reconfirmation of the exemption be delegated to the Licensing Manager.

38. APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY - 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. B. for an exemption from the Licensed Vehicle Age Policy (Appendix 1 to the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy).

In February 2025 the applicant had submitted an application to renew the vehicle licence, however, the vehicle was aged over 10 years and would only be issued with a licence if the vehicle met the Council's Enhanced or Exceptional Condition Criteria. As the vehicle did not meet the requirements for the Euro 6 Standard, the applicant was advised that the vehicle would only be issued with a licence if it met the Exceptional Condition Criteria.

The applicant was unable to demonstrate that the vehicle met the Exceptional Condition Criteria, but due to his personal circumstances, the Licensing Manager had applied discretion and issued a licence covering a 12 month period expiring on 12th March, 2026. It was made clear that the licence would not be renewed beyond that date.

Another request had been submitted seeking a further exemption from the Council's Policy.

The Sub-Committee considered the reasons for the request in detail.

Mr. B. was in attendance at the meeting.

Resolved:- That the request for an exemption from the Licensing Vehicle Age Policy in respect of vehicle XXXX YCX be refused.

39. APPLICATION FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY - 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. H. for an exemption from the Licensed Vehicle Age Policy (Appendix 1 to the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy).

In April 2025 the applicant had submitted an application to renew the vehicle licence, however, the vehicle was aged over 10 years and would only be issued with a licence if the vehicle met the Council's Enhanced or Exceptional Condition Criteria. As the vehicle did not meet the

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requirements for the Euro 6 Standard, the applicant was advised that the vehicle would only be issued with a licence if it met the Exceptional Condition Criteria.

The applicant was unable to demonstrate that the vehicle met the Exceptional Condition Criteria, but due to his personal circumstances, the Licensing Manager had applied discretion and issued a licence covering a 12 month period expiring on 10th May, 2026. It was made clear that the licence would not be renewed beyond that date.

Another request had been submitted seeking a further exemption from the Council's Policy.

The Sub-Committee considered the reasons for the request in detail.

Mr. H. was in attendance at the meeting.

Resolved:- That the request for an exemption from the Licensing Vehicle Age Policy in respect of vehicle XXXX KSF be refused.

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