



Council

Wednesday 15 July 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:- **7 July 2026**

COUNCIL

Wednesday 15 July 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 15 July 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 9 - 75)

To receive the record of proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 15th May and 20th May 2026 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

4. Petitions

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. Recommendation from Cabinet - Primate Licensing (Pages 77 - 90)

To consider the recommendation from Cabinet relating to Primate Licensing.

10. Cabinet's Response to the Health Select Commission Scrutiny Review - Access to Contraception (Pages 91 - 112)

To note Cabinet's response to the Health Select Commission Scrutiny Review – Access to Contraception.

11. Thriving Neighbourhoods - Updates from Hooper Ward Councillors (Pages 113 - 114)

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

12. Thriving Neighbourhoods - Updates from Keppel Ward Councillors (Pages 115 - 116)

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

13. Notice of Motion - Protecting Children, Supporting Honest Businesses and Cracking Down on Illicit Vapes, Tobacco and Underage Sales (Pages 117 - 118)

To be moved by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Zach Collingham.

14. Notice of Motion - Debate Not Hate (Pages 119 - 120)

To be moved by Councillor Cusworth and seconded by Councillor Zach Collingham.

15. Notice of Motion - Stop Polluting our Rivers and Hiking our Bills (Pages 121 - 122)

To be moved by Councillor Adam Carter and seconded by Councillor Tarmey.

16. Notice of Motion - Supporting further measures for Water Safety - Save Lives for Sam (Pages 123 - 125)

To be moved by Councillor Ryalls and seconded by Councillor Tinsley.

17. Notice of Motion - Protecting Rotherham Residents' NHS and Council Data - Rejecting Reliance on Palantir (Pages 127 - 130)

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

18. Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting (Pages 131 - 160)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 11th May and 8th June, 2026.

19. Audit Committee (Pages 161 - 172)

To note receipt of the Audit Committee minutes.

20. Health and Wellbeing Board (Pages 173 - 191)

To note receipt of the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes.

21. Licensing Board and Licensing Committee (Pages 193 - 195)

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

22. Planning Board (Pages 197 - 206)

To note receipt of the Planning Board minutes.

23. Staffing Committee (Pages 207 - 209)

To receive and consider the reports, minutes and recommendations of the Staffing Committee including the recommendation to establish the role of Service Director of Streetscene, Fleet and Highways.

24. Standards and Ethics Committee (Pages 211 - 217)

To note receipt of the Standards and Ethics Committee meetings.

25. 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).

26. 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).

27. 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, flowing script.

John Edwards
Chief Executive.

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

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COUNCIL MEETING
15th May, 2026

Present:- Councillor Rukhsana Ismail (in the Chair); Councillors Rashid, Adair, Ahmed, Alam, Allen, Bacon, Baggaley, Baker-Rogers, Baum-Dixon, Bennett-Sylvester, Beresford, Blackham, Bower, Brent, C. Carter, Clarke, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Cusworth, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Garnett, Harper, Harrison, Hughes, Hussain, Jones, Lelliott, Marshall, McKiernan, Monk, Pitchley, Read, Reynolds, Ryalls, Steele, Sutton, Taylor, Tinsley and Williams.

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Barbel Gale	Governance Manager
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor and Clerk

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

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

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

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

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Ahmed

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

(Councillor Rashid assumed the Chair)

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR (COUNCILLOR RUKHSANA ISMAIL)

Resolved: That the Council tender its sincere thanks to Councillor Rukhsana Ismail for the excellent manner in which she has carried out all her duties as Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham. And that the best thanks of this Council be recorded for the kind and admirable way in which Miss Kaukab Amjid performed the duties of Mayoress.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

3. PRESENTATION OF THE PAST MAYOR'S PENDANTS

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

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

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

Mover: Councillor Steele

Seconder: Councillor Williams

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ball, Beck, A. Carter, Currie, Jackson, Keenan, Mault, Sheppard, Stables, Tarmey, Thorp and Yasseen.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to record.

7. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CADETS

The Mayor formally announced the names of the Mayor's Cadets for the Municipal Year 2026/27 to the Council:

Representing the Royal Air Force Air Cadets:

- Sergeant Silver Rose-Sleight

Representing the Sea Cadets:

- Ordinary Cadet First Class Zakariya Nazir

Representing the Army Cadets:

- Lance Corporal Monaghan

The Mayor invited Sergeant Rose-Sleight, Ordinary Cadet First Class Nazir and Lance Corporal Monaghan to receive their Mayor's Cadet badges and certificates.

8. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

COUNCIL MEETING
20th May, 2026

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

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Barbel Gale	Governance Manager
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor and Clerk

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9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked those that had attended his parade and Civic Service. He hoped everyone had enjoyed the day as much as he had. The tradition of reporting on recent mayoral activity would continue in July.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ball, Hall, Sheppard and Stables.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 22nd April 2026.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22nd April 2026 be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconded: Councillor Cusworth

12. PETITIONS

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

- Improve Road Safety – Upper Wortley Road Slip Road (33 valid signatures – Lead Petitioner – Janet Porter)

Mrs. Porter 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 within 10 working days.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the relevant Executive Director be required to respond to the lead petitioner, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Thursday, 4th June 2026.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were 4 questions:

1. T asked: Will this Council publicly demonstrate the value and benefit to the community consequent upon the legal expenses incurred relating to the ongoing avoidance of disclosures of information concerning child sex exploitation?

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

2. Mr. Shepherd asked: Following my last question, do you agree that at least some of the reasons given for not distributing the 1,400 copies of 'Voices' purchased at a cost of £5,600 made no sense at all? The intended audience was crystal clear - RMBC's workforce AND it was agreed that a RMBC leaflet showing support services would be placed in each copy?

As Mr. Shepherd did not attend, a written response would be provided.

3. Mr. Cowles asked: Was your only action about serious evidenced dishonesty about Voices of Despair Voices of Hope to send an email to those potentially involved in the evidenced dishonesty?

The Leader confirmed that he had reviewed the email which had been sent 8 years ago. At the time, he had raised it with senior staff and was assured that the concerns had been looked at properly. A couple of years later, a formal documented response was provided to the person who had raised the concerns. At the time it was agreed that officers could have dealt with some matters of process better but there was not the kind of evidenced dishonesty that was claimed by the complainant. The Leader could not recall conversations that took place 8 year ago. However, any decisions taken at that time would have been overseen by the Government Commissioners and any issues should have been reported directly to the Secretary of State.

In his supplementary, Mr. Cowles stated that there had been some prosecutions of perpetrators of CSE but, in his opinion, there had been no accountability so far for those who knew what was happening but took no action to prevent the abuse. He asked the Leader if he agreed that accountability was just as essential as responsibility.

The Leader agreed and stated that he had lobbied the Government at the time to ask them to look at what more could be done to hold to account people in professional positions who had overseen long-term failings. The Leader did state that the people complained about in the email referenced were not the same people who had overseen the previous failings in Rotherham prior to 2014.

4. Mr. Ashraf asked: Council Leader Chris Read with an itemized breakdown of all financial contributions including investments, subsidies, loans, core subscriptions, specific levies for functions like transport, and any match funding, contributions etc, as well as funds received a share of, from national sources, does Rotherham Council use to fund SYMCA?

The Leader stated that he knew Councillor Alam had written to Mr. Ashraf in the last few days and had written to him previously, advising him of the right place to raise his queries. At the Cabinet meeting held on 11th May 2026, the Leader had reported that the Council paid a £35,000 subscription to SYMCA. The Leader confirmed this had been incorrect as this was the subscription that used to be paid to the Sheffield City Region. The Council did not pay a subscription to SYMCA.

The Leader confirmed that the Council did not fund the day-to-day running of SYMCA but that payments were made for the delivery of services, most notably the Passenger Transport Levy which was £1,053,737 for 2025/26.

In order to get the exact information requested, the Leader advised Mr .Ashraf to use the Freedom of Information process at SYMCA.

In his supplementary, Mr. Ashraf stated that it raised red flags when he could not ask or receive a proper answer on where Rotherham money was going and said that Councillor Alam had made mistakes. In relation to SYMCA, he asked for the projected cost for commitments made and what financial or other returns Rotherham had received in return for the financial year 2025/26 and all preceding years.

The Leader reiterated that Councillor Alam had referred Mr. Ashraf to SYMCA's FOI process which is exactly what he should have done. This was the best way for Mr. Ashraf to get the information he wanted. No one was trying to hide any information. The Leader stated that this was the third time that Mr. Ashraf had now been told the most appropriate way to get the requested information.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

16. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader congratulated the Mayor on his appointment and Councillor Brent on his appointment as Deputy Mayor. He also welcomed Councillor Allen back to Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Communities.

Since the last meeting:

- The Crisis Payments scheme had launched, which offered payments of between £80 and £200 to residents who found themselves in a critical financial situation.
- The 800th Council house had been completed and the Council remained on track to deliver 1,000 Council homes by Summer 2027.
- The topping out event at Larch Road/Addison Road in Maltby had taken place.
- The Housing Service had celebrated the Housing Staff Awards.
- Foster Care Fortnight had started which celebrated the incredible work done by Foster Carers.
- The Great North Investment Summit had taken place in Leeds where multi-billion pound investment opportunities were launched.
- The Chancellor announced plans for major regeneration projects in South Yorkshire which included support for the development of the Rotherham Gateway proposal.

The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, Councillor Zach Collingham, was invited to respond to the statement. He too welcomed the Mayor to his new role. Councillor Collingham asked questions relating to:

- The bin lorry fire that had taken place the day before the meeting. He asked if there were any preliminary findings that could be shared in case there were any concerns for the rest of the fleet.
- The re-appointment of Councillor Allen to Cabinet. He welcomed the appointment but asked what it was designed to achieve.
- The results from the Local Elections held across the country in May 2026. Councillor Collingham stated that the results were a staggering rejection of the status quo and the Labour Party. He stated that, if there had been an election in Rotherham, the Labour Group would have been removed and would still likely be removed in 2 years' time. Councillor Collingham therefore asked if the Leader would deliver actions further and faster in the time remaining. This included reviewing the Capital Project delivery programme and ensuring the mistakes that had been made in relation to the Markets project were not replicated in the Housing Capital Programme.
- Basic service failures such as not collecting the bins, not cutting the grass and not knowing what was happening with lampposts. He asked should the Council be focussing on these rather than on the Street Safe Team, or the High Street Business advisors.

In response, the Leader confirmed that an internal review was taking place regarding the bin lorry fire and he was happy to share the findings when they were available. The reason for returning Councillor Allen to Cabinet and giving her the Communities Portfolio was to champion the issues that mattered most to residents.

In regard to improving the pace of delivery, the Leader stated that the ongoing work was the largest regeneration of Rotherham for some decades and this had coincided with a difficult economy and rising interest rates, particularly for the building sector. He was not satisfied with the way in which some schemes had been delivered, particularly the markets and the Chief Executive had been instructed to conduct a review into that. Given the Housing Programme was now 80% complete, the Leader did not envisage the same issues.

In response to the comments on the Local Election results, the Leader stated that he did not think any of the Conservative Members should feel confident going into an election as the results for the Conservative Party nationally were cataclysmic. He stated that the Rotherham Labour Group would continue delivering their promises, supporting the high streets and supporting communities. The Leader said that the Conservatives would remove measures to help high streets and communities.

Questions from Members were invited. Councillor Currie firstly stated that he was happy to see Councillor Allen return to Cabinet. He asked if Scrutiny could look more closely at the Council's finances and possibly have a separate Commission for finance. The Leader stated that it was not up to him how scrutiny was organised, but the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board did review financial monitoring reports and the Medium Term Financial Strategy on a regular basis.

Councillor Thorp queried the strategy behind the replacement of bin lorries, stating that the ones ordered 2 years ago were still not in the ownership of the Council. He asked how the Service would function with one less bin lorry and more houses being built. The Leader confirmed that the Council were pursuing the purchased vehicles. He stated that the Conservatives had suggested a strategy that would have seen older vehicles in service for longer which would not have helped.

Councillor Bacon referenced the regeneration schemes and stated that law and order was needed to maintain confidence. He asked the Leader and Mayor Oliver Coppoard to come up with a proper plan to combat anti-social behaviour. The Leader stated that, as Rotherham had the fastest growing economy in the north of England for the last 10 years, that should be a good sign for law and order. The Cabinet Member for Community Safety continued to work with the Police and other partners on a regular basis to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Leader also noted that the Labour Group had invested money into the high streets and via Select Licensing to improve anti-social behaviour. This was a proactive approach.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked for clarification on what the Crisis Payments could be used for and what long term help was available for those that required it. The Leader confirmed that additional money was going into the Open Arms service and the Council's partners were being encouraged to work more closely with libraries and the food bank network to make sure they were co-located where possible. The Council also continued to provide support to the Laser Credit Union.

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

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

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

authorities to annually review the entitlement of the political groups to seats on the Committees of the Council.

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

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

There were three political groups in operation on the Council:

Labour

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

Conservative

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

Liberal Democrat

Leader – Councillor Adam Carter
(3 Members)

There were 12 non-aligned Members: Councillors Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Bower, Currie, Elliott, Harrison, Havard, Hussain, Jones, Ryalls, Sheppard and Yasseen.

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

During the meeting Members discussed low attendance rates for Select Commissions and were reminded that substitutions could be made. Members also discussed the merits of moving meetings to the evening. The Leader confirmed that it was for individual committees to decide their schedules but stated that in his experience, later meetings did not improve attendance rates.

Resolved:

1. That the entitlement of the membership of Council be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of Members to Committees (as per the table at 3.2 and 4.2).

2. That approval be given to the appointment of Members to Committees, Boards and Panels, and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as detailed in the Mayor's Letter.
3. That approval be given to the appointment of Members to Joint Committees, as detailed in the Mayor's Letter and below:

NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND PANELS

Cabinet – 7L

Leader – Councillor Read

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Councillor Cusworth

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health –

Councillor Baker-Rogers

Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety –

Councillor Alam

Cabinet Member for Communities – Councillor Allen

Cabinet Member for Housing – Councillor Beresford

Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy –

Councillor Williams

Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces

Councillor Marshall

Audit Committee – 3L, 1C, 1N-A

Councillor Baggaley (Chair)

Councillor Lelliott (Vice Chair)

Councillor Monk

Councillor Blackham

Councillor Elliott

Independent Members:

Alison Hutchinson

Michael Olugbenga-Bababola

Licensing Board – 11L, 5C, 1LD, 4N-A

Councillor Hughes (Chair)

Councillor Garnett (Vice Chair)

Councillor Adair

Councillor Ahmed

Councillor Brent

Councillor Clarke
Councillor Harper
Councillor Monk
Councillor Robinson
Councillor Steele
Councillor Sutton

Councillor Thorp
Councillor T. Collingham
Councillor Reynolds
Councillor Stables
Councillor Ball

1 x Liberal Democrat Vacancy

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Councillor Bower
Councillor Currie
Councillor Jones

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

Councillor Hughes (Chair)
Councillor Garnett (Vice Chair)

Councillor Adair
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Brent
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Harper
Councillor Monk

Councillor Ball
Councillor T. Collingham
Councillor Stables

1 x Liberal Democrat Vacancy

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
Councillor Bower
Councillor Jones

Planning Board – 8L, 3C, 1LD, 3N-A

Councillor Mault (Chair)
Councillor Jackson (Vice Chair)

Councillor Adair
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Duncan

COUNCIL MEETING - 20/05/26

Councillor Sutton
Councillor Taylor
1 x Labour Vacancy

Councillor Fisher
Councillor Thorp
Councillor Reynolds

Councillor Tarmey

Councillor Currie
Councillor Elliott
Councillor Hussain

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

Councillor Alam
Councillor Cusworth
Councillor Ismail

Staffing Committee – 3L, 1C, 1N-A

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

Councillor Z. Collingham

Councillor Jones

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

Councillor Clarke (Chair)
Councillor Harper (Vice Chair)

Councillor Cowen
Councillor McKiernan
Councillor Lelliott

Councillor T. Collingham
Councillor Hall

Councillor Currie

Parish Councillor Mark Senior
Parish Councillor Anthony Griffin
Parish Council Representative Vacancy

Independent Members:

Mrs. Adela Bingham
Ms. Kate Penney
Ms Ruby Wright
Vacancy x 2

Independent Persons:

Mr. Phil Beavers
Mr. David Roper-Newman

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

Councillor Steele (Chair)
Councillor Bacon (Vice Chair)

Councillor Baggaley
Councillor Keenan
Councillor Lelliott
Councillor McKiernan
Councillor Monk
Councillor Sutton

Councillor Blackham
Councillor Tinsley

Councillor A. Carter

Councillor Yasseen

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

Councillor Keenan (Chair)
Councillor Yasseen (Vice Chair)

Councillor Adair
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Brent
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Duncan
Councillor Garnett
Councillor Harper
Councillor Ismail
Councillor Knight

COUNCIL MEETING - 20/05/26

Councillor Baum-Dixon
Councillor Fisher
Councillor Reynolds
Councillor Thorp

Councillor Tarmey

Councillor Harrison
Councillor Havard

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

Councillor Monk (Chair)
Councillor Sutton (Vice Chair)

Councillor Adair
Councillor Brent
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Garnett
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Ismail
Councillor Robinson

Councillor Blackham
Councillor T. Collingham
Councillor Fisher
Councillor Bennett-Sylvester (Gifted)

Councillor Currie (Gifted)

Councillor Bower
Councillor Elliott
Councillor Ryalls

Co-optees

Lauren Hickey
Mike Hemmingway
James Newman

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

Councillor McKiernan (Chair)
Councillor Tinsley (Vice Chair)

Councillor Adair
Councillor Cowen
Councillor Garnett
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lelliott
Councillor Mault
Councillor Rashid
Councillor Taylor
1 x Labour Vacancy

Councillor Castledine-Dack
Councillor Stables
Councillor Thorp

Councillor C. Carter

Councillor Beck
Councillor Jones
Councillor Bennett-Sylvester

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

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

Councillor Sutton (Chair)
Councillor Jackson (Vice Chair)

Councillor Tinsley

Councillor Ryalls

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

Councillor Alam (Chair)
Councillor Cusworth (Vice Chair)

Councillor Steele

Councillor Z. Collingham

Councillor Elliott

Health and Wellbeing Board – 2L

Councillor Baker Rogers (Chair)
Councillor Cusworth

Councillor Ismail (Observer)

JOINT AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board 1L

Councillor Read
Councillor Williams - Substitute

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Rotational Member 1L

Councillor Cusworth

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

Councillor Baggaley
Councillor Lelliott - Substitute

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

Councillor Steele
Councillor McKiernan - Substitute

Councillor Bacon
Councillor Baum-Dixon - Substitute

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Employment Panel 1L, 1 C

Councillor Steele
Councillor Bacon

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority 1L, 1C

Councillor Taylor
Councillor Ball

South Yorkshire Pension Authority – RMBC Chair for 26/27 1L, 1C

Councillor Sutton (S41 responsibilities)
Councillor Fisher

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel 1L, 1C

Councillor Ismail
Councillor Baum-Dixon

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation Joint Committee 1L

Councillor McKiernan
Vacant - Substitute

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconded: Councillor Cusworth

18. CORPORATE PARENTING PARTNERSHIP BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which showcased the work completed by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board to deliver the Council's duty as a Corporate Parent. The purpose was to set out how the Council delivered consistent high-quality care and how the Council, with partners, supported opportunities for Children in Care, Care Leavers, and supported them with progressing key priority areas including placement sufficiency and youth participation. This Annual Report also summarised progress by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board against the Corporate Parenting Strategy and set out priorities for 2026.

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 an 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 had been a consistent commitment from senior officers and Members who had met regularly.

Areas of specific focus for 2026 included:

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

In moving and seconding the report, Councillor Cusworth and Councillor Fisher both thanked the young people who had attended the Board and shared their voice and experiences.

Resolved:

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.

Mover: Councillor Cusworth

Seconded: Councillor Fisher

19. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

Consideration was given to the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held 13th April 2026.

Resolved:

That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 13th April 2026 be received.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconded: Councillor Cusworth

20. MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

In moving the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Councillor Baker-Rogers provided an update on the work undertaken. This included updates on the Combating Drugs Partnership, the Loneliness Action Plan Refresh, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and on Ethnicity and Unequal Ageing: Experiences in Rotherham and Sheffield.

In seconding the minutes, Councillor Cusworth praised the work on the Loneliness Action Plan refresh, in particularly the impact it would have on children and young people.

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Baker-Rogers

Seconded: Councillor Cusworth

21. PLANNING BOARD

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

Mover: Councillor Mault

Seconded: Councillor Jackson

22. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE AND LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

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

Mover: Councillor Hughes

Seconded: Councillor Garnett

23. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There were no questions to consider.

24. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

There were 27 questions:

1. Councillor Thorp: Do schools within the RMBC area, have to supply alternatives to the standard meal if meat products are served in that meal i.e. a Halal or Vegetarian alternative, or can any school serve meals for just the majority of pupils attending that school?

Councillor Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, explained that there was no specific national requirement that schools had to provide particular alternatives such as halal meals in every case. However, schools were expected to act reasonably in meeting the needs of their pupils and whether the Council provided catering, the service specification supported dietary needs.

In his supplementary, Councillor Thorp stated that he was specifically referencing one school who only served vegetarian food or halal meat. He asked if this was allowed.

Councillor Cusworth stated that she was not aware of that school, but she was happy to meet with Councillor Thorp to discuss this further and she would raise the matter with officers.

2. Councillor Thorp: Following on from question 1, if the school delivers meals just for the majority do they have to show this within their literature?

Councillor Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, explained that there was no specific requirement for a school to formally state in its literature that it provided meals in the way described. However, schools and catering providers were expected to be clear and transparent about their menu offer. This expectation came from a combination of National School Food Standards, wider legal responsibilities and, where applicable, local service specifics.

In his supplementary, Councillor Thorp stated that Oakwood Academy was only providing halal meat or vegetarian food; it did not provide non-halal meat, but this was not communicated. He stated that this was a problem.

Councillor Cusworth stated that Oakwood Academy was part of an Academy Trust and, therefore, outside the control of the Council. She did confirm she would discuss the matter further with Councillor Thorp.

3. Councillor Reynolds: As it nears completion, can we be told how much solar power the new Market scheme will generate. In simple terms will it power half the Market, all the Market, or all the Market and still export some power to the Grid?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy explained that there were 2 systems installed on the new Library and Outdoor Covered Market to maximum spatial capacity, generating 195kW peak output and it was expected that jointly they would generate 12.5% of both sites' annual predicted consumption. This was based on the new supply capacity, so it was likely that the real use of solar would be greater than 12.5%. This was due to day-by-day usage and consumption variance. Generation would also vary depending on season and operational activities, and there would also be a small amount of spill to the grid during closed hours of daylight or low use.

In his supplementary, Councillor Reynolds sought clarity around the 12% figure.

Councillor Williams confirmed that the solar installation was expected to power around 12% of the Market and Library overall power requirement.

4. Councillor Reynolds: What has been the total cost of the Solar installation for the Market?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy stated that the total cost was £298,000.

5. Councillor Ryalls: Would the recent successful prosecution of the rogue landlord on Foljambe Drive Dalton have been made easier if it had been in a Selective Licensing area, and if so, how?

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing firstly thanked Councillor Ryalls for her hard work on behalf of the impacted resident. It had been noted and was appreciated. In response to the question, Councillor Beresford stated that this case demonstrated that the Council would take robust enforcement action where serious hazards were identified. In this instance, officers had used existing Housing Act powers to investigate, serve a legal notice, and successfully prosecute when the landlord failed to comply. It was worth noting that this action followed a complaint, meaning the response was reactive in nature.

Selective Licensing could have made the process easier by providing additional tools. It introduced clearer and more straightforward offences through licence breaches, and supported a more proactive approach, with earlier identification of issues through licensing and inspection activity. In areas subject to Selective Licensing, issues were also less reliant on tenant complaints being made; sometimes tenants

were reluctant to make those complaints themselves. However, it was important to note that the absence of licensing did not prevent a successful prosecution in this case.

In her supplementary, Councillor Ryalls asked if the Dalton area could continue to be monitored and if it would be considered in the next round of Selective Licensing.

Councillor Beresford stated that the introduction of the Renters Rights Act would hopefully improve matters. Tenant engagement officers were also available to speak to tenants and provide advice. In relation to Selective Licensing, Councillor Beresford confirmed that Dalton had not been selected in the previous round as it had not met the required criteria. This was because it did not have the density of private rented properties required. However it would be assessed again for the next round.

6. Councillor Thorp: Can you give me a ball park figure of how much the total cost of the consultation to date including the design and costing format used to conduct the Ward Councillors' survey for the proposed new cycle lane from the Brecks, extending to join the Broom road cycle lane, and the surrounding roads included within this Active Travel funding?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy explained that he could not give a specific figure just relating to what the consultation was in order to get to the point of consultation, work had to be undertaken on design and feasibility. The total cost for the project referred to date, for all activities done so far, was just over £732,000 and this was funded from the Department of Transport's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.

In his supplementary, Councillor Thorp asked if Rotherham Council would be required to pay that amount if the final scheme did not go ahead.

Councillor Williams confirmed a written response would be provided.

7. Councillor Thorp: Why when the proposed new cycle lane project is announced from the Brecks to Broom Road, and an online consultation has been completed, then several in-person consultations at selected locations. Then a focus group is formed, but no RMBC Councillor is allowed to be present because we may have too much influence, why?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy stated that the focus groups referred to were held in early 2025 and were just one way of collating local views. They were designed as a place to capture independent, honest views from local residents. To ensure the feedback was non-political, Elected Members

were not invited to these sessions. This was not uncommon for a resident focus group process. Similarly, Elected Members were briefed and given the opportunity to comment on proposals in separate meetings with officers.

Councillor Williams also confirmed that, on the back of concerns shared by Councillor Thorp outside of the meeting, a number of actions were now underway.

In his supplementary, Councillor Thorp stated that he had been told that a member from a cycling group from London had been at one of the meetings to try and push for cycle lanes. He asked Councillor Williams if that was correct.

Councillor Williams confirmed that a written response would be provided.

8. Councillor Thorp: Why after online consultations, then in person consultations, then a series of focus groups, followed by a very thorough road-by-road and even junctions questionnaire giving 3-4 options and costings for each area, road, and junctions completed by all 6 Ward Councillors, do Highways believe they know better and submit a never before suggested road layout for Broom Lane?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy stated that the Council had listened to views from residents throughout the process of looking at active travel measures along Broom Lane and of course it was the role of Transportation officers to validate and bring forward proposals for consideration, which was what they had done. Given the focus of the funding made available by the last Conservative Government, officers had developed a design that incorporated Active Travel elements on Wickersley Road and Broom Lane and the associated surrounding neighbourhood. To meet the outcomes of the funding the Council had been given for the transport improvements on Broom Lane, the design had to create a balance of opportunity to access to cycle routes and safe pedestrian spaces.

As a result of the feedback the Council had received, new plans included options to reduce the impact on trees along the route, improved paving and more tactile crossings to assist pedestrians, signalised crossings at the Stag roundabout, plus a new controlled crossing and raised crossing close to Sitwell Academy on Broom Lane.

It was now the community's opportunity to inform the Council whether these interventions were happening in the right place at the right time or whether changes should be made. The Council was now inviting views and representations from everyone as part of the final

consultation stage, and only then would it be in a position to make a decision as to whether the scheme went ahead.

9. Councillor Thorp: Has any data been collected regarding the use of the new cycle lane infrastructure regarding any increase in use these schemes have created and if not why?

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11(8), question 6 would be responded to in writing.

10. Councillor Thorp: When new cycle lanes are suggested it talks of cycling, wheeling and walking; what data have you collected to show that only by introducing designated cycle lanes you can reduce the danger to pedestrians?

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11(8), question 7 would be responded to in writing.

11. Councillor T. Collingham: Following the motion agreed at Full Council on 22nd April 2026 to review barriers affecting the use of lighting columns, what immediate short-term support has been put in place for Parish Councils and community groups, including any interim financial assistance, guidance, or relaxation of requirements while the full policy review is undertaken?

Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities firstly apologised for the lack of timely communication on this matter with Parish Councils and other groups, stating that it was regrettable that the Council had not got this right. In relation to the interim assistance, Councillor Allen confirmed that the Council had agreed to:

- Pay 75% of the costs of the inspections of the lighting columns.
- Allow Parish Councils to raise their 25% contribution either this year or next year.
- Pay 50% of the costs for when re-inspections were required (which would be in 3 years)
- Allow Parish Councils to commission their own inspectors to speed up the process. The Council would also offer advice on suitable contractors.

Councillor Allen also confirmed that, as Parish Council Liaison was now under her portfolio, she would be taking this forward as a key learning point.

In his supplementary, Councillor Collingham asked how this proposal had been received by Parish Councils.

Councillor Allen confirmed that she would write to them and ask.

12. Councillor Bower: How can local residents have any faith in the consultation process for the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement when their views have been ignored throughout the process so far?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy did not accept the premise of the question. In any consultation the Council received a very wide range of views. Some would be actionable and some would not. However, when a public consultation ran, where there were responses along a theme that could confidently be addressed within the bounds of the funding and scheme, the Council was able to make those changes.

Councillor Williams stated that he set out in response to an earlier question change that had been proposed in relation to the Broom Lane scheme but, for example, on the Fitzwilliam Road scheme, the Council had not now taken forward proposals to close some of the side roads from Fitzwilliam Road – because of the feedback received in the first round of consultation. Possible radical changes to St Anne's Roundabout that would have restricted access to the south were also no longer being considered.

Councillor Williams encouraged those concerned to take part in the consultation, as that would be the basis for a final decision on the scheme.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bower expressed the strong feelings of residents on this scheme. He asked if the strict way in which the funding had been laid meant that there would be no funding if there were no cycle lanes. He asked if residents were just being consulted on so they could be blamed if the funding was not provided.

Councillor Williams offered his reassurances and the reassurances from the Head of Transportation Infrastructure Service that the consultation had to be meaningful.

Councillor Williams did question why Councillor Bower, a Green Party representative, was against cycle lanes.

13. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Following the success of the MiCard Barnsley reported at last week's Transportation Advisory Board is there and, if so, what is the plan to introduce the scheme in Rotherham?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy explained that at a South Yorkshire level, learning was being taken from MiCard in Barnsley to determine the viability of similar schemes elsewhere in South Yorkshire in the future. It would come at significant cost, but the Council continued to liaise with SYMCA and

will receive briefings on the evaluation of the MiCard scheme as appropriate which could inform future discussions.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if Councillor Williams would be happy to discuss the options with Cabinet, particularly in terms of looking at how Barnsley provided actual benefits in terms of uptake of usage, savings and better school attendance. There were massive benefits to be had, even though there would be a massive cost.

Councillor Williams was happy to have discussions with Cabinet and keep evaluating and monitoring the scheme in Barnsley.

14. Councillor Ball: There were 49 vehicle-related ASB cases on RMBC estates last year but only 3 parking-related refusals. What is your time-bound plan to fix verge damage and parking shortages?

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

15. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: When resurfacing footpaths in a street is it still our practice to offer discounted drop kerbs to residents?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy explained that, during planned footway resurfacing schemes, it remained the Council's practice to offer residents the opportunity to install dropped kerbs, for vehicle access, at a discounted rate, where it was operationally and economically viable to do so.

This arrangement applied only where full resurfacing works were being carried out and did not apply to micro asphalt or surface treatment schemes, as these did not involve using construction plant or resources required to accommodate new crossings. There were specific requirements that had to be met in order for any dropped kerbs to be included in a resurfacing scheme.

The Council sent all residents a letter, prior to the delivery of a footway resurfacing scheme, that offered residents who were considering having a vehicle access crossing the opportunity to have it installed at a reduced rate of £1,500 whilst these footway repairs were taking place.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if this could be reviewed in light of the issues relating to parking on grass verges and pavements. He asked if Scrutiny could review the matter to see if there was a cost benefit to an alternative approach.

Councillor Williams said he was happy to look into the matter and see if there was any further flexibility or options available. He confirmed that it was up to Councillor Steele and Scrutiny Members to set their own work programme.

16. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Can you please give an update on the timescale to re-instate some showering facilities to Thrybergh Country Park and how this is being communicated to users such as Rotherham Sea Cadets?

Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces explained that, unfortunately, it was going to take a long period of time to get the facilities in the building working. This was because the oil-filled boiler needed to be replaced which required extensive electrical and plumbing work. As the project also required additional power, the utilities provider had notified the Council that there would be an 18 week lead-in time, which along with time for design and tendering, meant the project would take an estimated 26 weeks to complete.

Councillor Marshall stated that she knew this was frustrating. Officers had been in touch with the Sea Cadets and were working on a number of temporary options.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that this had been going on since October 2025. He asked if a welfare unit could be set up in order to offer warm showers as the lack of warm showers impacted health and safety.

Councillor Marshall confirmed that she would raise this with officers. She also confirmed that the planned temporary arrangements would be in place by the end of May and that the Sea Cadets had been offered alternative arrangements at Rother Valley Country Park.

17. Councillor Tinsley: With the Government reviewing the legality of plug-in solar systems, which cost up to £500 and can save roughly £150 a year on electricity, is the Council reviewing the possibilities for council housing?

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing explained that, where the Council was currently installing solar PV as part of the Warm Homes and wider retrofit schemes, all systems were hard-wired. Plug-in solar panels were currently not legal to install in a UK home, although the Government's announcement suggested that regulations would be relaxed to allow for their use. If and when that happened, Council tenants would have the same rights as everyone else. However, there were a number of health and safety considerations that the Council needed to consider in terms of the possibilities for its Council housing as it must ensure that its approach prioritised safety and responsibility every step of the way.

Firstly, any potential installation would require checks on the wiring system to ensure that it would be able to handle the additional power flow safely. Beyond electrical considerations, the Council would need to consider the safety of balcony installations from both a fixings and weighting perspective to ensure that the structural integrity of its properties was not compromised. The Council also needed to be clear on achieving value for money alongside accountability and tenant responsibilities.

Whilst the market was constantly developing new technology to improve the energy efficiency of homes, the Council's retrofit strategy had to promote a fabric first approach to retrofit; ensuring that properties were as thermally efficient as they could be in the first instance in order to maximise the additional efficiency and effectiveness of new technology.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley asked if the Council were looking at preparing guidance for residents on the matter.

Councillor Beresford confirmed that guidance would be produced when the Government had provided more details on the proposals.

18. Councillor Tinsley: Is the Council keeping check on the progress of the Little London Maltby Development and its lack of progress?

Councillor Mault, Chair of Planning Board, explained that outline planning permission for the site known locally as The Derelicts was granted on 3rd November 2025. This included the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of 15 new dwellings. As part of that permission a condition was imposed that an application for approval of reserved matters be submitted within one year. At the moment the applicant was still within this timeframe, and Council officers would ensure that the developer was aware of their requirements.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley asked for confirmation that conversations were being held on this matter as this had been an issue for many years.

Councillor Mault confirmed that it was on the radar but the Council were limited in terms of what could be done as the developer was still within the agreed timeframe.

19. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Dalton Parish Council have been chasing information on £60,000 of s106 monies from the Gleasons Myers Avenue development for several months when can they expect an answer?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy explained that the S106 monies referred to have been received, and the Council's Green Spaces Team were aware of the request from Dalton Parish Council to use the monies to match fund a bid to develop a pump track. A Strategic Outline Case was currently being prepared, in line with the Council's Capital Programme Management procedures, to enable this to happen.

Subject to necessary approvals, this would progress through the stages, with key decisions and funding arrangements expected over the Summer, followed by delivery phases thereafter.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that it had been an incredibly frustrating process. He stated that his major concern was whether the Council was keeping a full and proper record of s106 monies when they were allocated to future developments, especially for Parish Councils. He asked if the back history could be reviewed to make sure that a proper register was being kept.

Councillor Williams confirmed that he had not had any other concerns raised to him so far during his tenure as Cabinet Member for this area but he was more than happy to pick up the conversation outside of the meeting and try and get Councillor Bennett-Sylvester that reassurance.

20. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Regards congestion on the A630 in Dalton and Thrybergh we have had 2 potential schemes in the last 5 years to tackle congestion fail to cross the line, suggestions from residents around lights, box junctions, removing bus lanes rejected, when can we expect a scheme to tackle this issue?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy explained that it had not yet been possible to find a viable solution to creating additional capacity to improve congestion, owing to site constraints and restrictions on Government funding. The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority was presently developing a scheme for improved bus priority on the A630 in Dalton, on which they consulted over the winter. Councillor Williams stated that this should help mitigate the impacts of congestion for buses along the corridor.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if more could be done to look at delays further along the system on Herringthorpe Valley Road in order to improve the traffic flow through this particular area.

Councillor Williams confirmed that he would raise this matter with officers and would try and facilitate officer attendance at CAP meetings. He also encouraged Councillor Bennett-Sylvester to include this matter in the Road Safety Plan.

21. Councillor Tinsley: Can new built housing with outstanding planning conditions be sold and moved into before being resolved?

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy explained that yes, in some circumstances not all conditions related to planning permissions needed to be discharged before occupation. If conditions that were required to be completed before occupation were not discharged, occupying the properties would be in breach of those conditions.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley stated that it had been reported that residents had moved into the new development on Highfield Park despite there being an outstanding condition relating to contamination. He asked if this could be looked into urgently.

Councillor Williams confirmed that officers were fully aware of the situation. A preoccupation condition requiring validation evidence for the land remediation was part of the Planning Commission and unfortunately had not been addressed. Officers were engaging with the developer alongside contaminated land colleagues to seek an acceptable resolution. However, if the matter could not be resolved promptly, then the Planning Service could consider any enforcement action that might be necessary and needed. The Planning Service were also taking legal advice to ensure the most appropriate course of action.

22. Councillor Tinsley: There has been little investment from the Council in Coronation Park Maltby with the exception of Ward Capital and Section 106 Money. With the Park still needing investment to make play areas safe, when will the Council be allocating money for Coronation Park?

Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces explained that the Council had made funds available via Ward Capital budgets which were in the control of local Members to spend on priorities within their Ward – such as investment in local parks. This and Section 106 funding had delivered a £75k in investment in the last 2 years. The Green Spaces Team carried out monthly inspections of play equipment across the Borough to ensure that it was safe. From the most recent inspection of the play area on 11th May, only low risk or very low risk issues were noted: paint chips, wear on chains, worn surfacing under the swings and minor damage to seats. The good news was that Coronation Park was safe to use. The next inspection was due in mid-June and if additional issues had arisen during this time, works could be ordered at that point.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley stated that Ward Members had had to scrimp and save to keep the Park open and the money could have been spent elsewhere. He did not think the Park was safe. Councillor Tinsley stated that the tennis courts had been shut for

nearly 3 years and was not included in the Playing Pitch Strategy. He invited Councillor Marshall for a walk around the Park so she could assess the safety herself.

Councillor Marshall accepted the invitation. She also encouraged Councillor Tinsley to consider applying for Pride in Place funding for the Park when that process was open.

23. Councillor Ball: The Rotherham Markets and Library scheme has now reached £46.84 million after a further £6 million overspend. When will the Chief Executive's investigation findings be published?

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

24. Councillor Ball: Despite overwhelming opposition to the Eastwood Lane cycle scheme, what exact opposition threshold would make you abandon or change it?

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

25. Councillor Ball: RMBC is still the landlord with the most tenant complaints over delays. What are current average response times, and when will the new standards show real improvements?

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

26. Councillor Tinsley: How much in revenue is the Council set to lose from lower collection number in cans and plastic due to the incoming deposit return scheme?

Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces explained that, at present, there was no confirmed figure for how much income the Council could lose as a result of the Deposit Return Scheme. This was because the scheme was still being finalised nationally, and key details, such as payment arrangements and operational design, were not yet agreed.

In his supplementary, Councillor Tinsley asked for confirmation that conversations were being held regarding this matter as it was due to be introduced in 2027.

Councillor Marshall confirmed it was being looked in to. She also stated that she very much welcomed the proposals due to the amount of litter collected by the verge cleansing teams.

27. Councillor Tinsley: When fitting new heating systems such as air source heat pumps, do the Council review associated electric tariff prices to run these, in comparison to using traditional gas heating Systems?

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11(8), question 6 would be responded to in writing.

25. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

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Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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Our Ref:	Direct Line:	Extension:	Please Contact:
CR/LH	(01709) 822700	22700	Councillor Chris Read

5th June 2026

T

Dear T

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

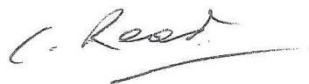
Thank you for your question to Council on Wednesday 20th May 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Will this council publicly demonstrate the value and benefit to the community consequent upon the legal expenses incurred relating to the ongoing avoidance of disclosures of information concerning child sex exploitation?

The Council has not incurred any legal expenses to avoid the disclosure of information relating to CSE and continues to maintain that it has acted properly in relation to the issues raised through the tribunal process.

Legal proceedings, via tribunals, have been brought against the Council by an individual resulting from their Freedom of Information (FOIs) requests. These FOIs relate to a booklet produced by a third party (i.e. not the Council). As would be expected by the public the Council engage fully in these processes and allow the tribunal to reach its conclusions on the basis of rigorous evidence.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

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Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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1st June 2026

Mr Martyn Shepherd

Dear Mr Shepherd

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your question to Council on Wednesday 20th May 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Following my last question, do you agree that at least some of the reasons given for not distributing the 1400 copies of 'Voices' purchased at a cost of £5600 made no sense at all? The intended audience was crystal clear - RMBC's workforce AND it was agreed that a RMBC leaflet showing support services would be placed in each copy.

I do not. To reiterate, 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.

On a subject so sensitive as the best way to train staff in responding to the sexual abuse of children, and the resulting trauma, I will always take advice from professionals in the field. In the decade since the events that you refer to, I have yet to hear any advice from all the people who have worked with us who feel that the book should be used for this purpose.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

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5th June 2026

Cllr Zachary Collingham
Via email: Zachary.collingham@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Collingham

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your question as part of my statement at the Council Meeting on Wednesday 20th May 2026, where I agreed to share the findings of the internal review of the recent vehicle fire involving a refuse collection vehicle.

The internal review has now been completed, involving officers from Environmental Services, Fleet, and the Council's Health and Safety team.

Due to the severity of the fire damage, it has not been possible to establish a definitive root cause. However, the review indicates that a mechanical failure, potentially within the hydraulic system, is the most likely cause.

Prior to the incident, a fault (rattling noise) had been reported. The vehicle continued to operate for a short period following this report, which may have contributed to the escalation, although this cannot be confirmed. However, this is not unusual practise to have the vehicle if working and no warning lights to report back to depot.

Whilst the exact cause cannot be determined, the review has identified several areas where improvements can be made to further strengthen safety and operational processes. These include:

- Reviewing and improving defect reporting and escalation procedures
- Strengthening communication between drivers and supervisory staff
- Providing additional fire safety training for operational staff
- Continuing to monitor and review learning through regular service meetings

The Council's Health and Safety team is supporting this work to ensure appropriate standards and compliance.

I would like to reassure you that the crew involved acted appropriately in safely evacuating the vehicle and contacting emergency services, and no injuries were sustained.

The Council remains committed to learning from this incident and taking all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of similar occurrences in the future.

For reference, you may also wish to know that the order for replacing the Council's fleet of refuse collection vehicles has now been placed following the tendering process.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

**Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member
for Children and Young People**

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Please Contact
Councillor Victoria Cusworth

Direct Line
07359 106527

17th June 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Thorp

Questions raised at Council Meeting – 20th May 2026

Thank you for raising your questions at Council regarding catering provision, including at Oakwood Academy.

At this stage, we have not yet been able to formally confirm the detailed menu and current provision directly with the Academy. However, based on the information available, their catering is stated to comply with Red Tractor standards. This means that all meat used is from animals that have been stunned prior to butchering, in line with UK welfare requirements.

By way of clarification, the distinction between pre-stunned halal meat and traditional UK butchery relates to the method used at the point of slaughter following stunning. In both cases, the animal is stunned beforehand. Under pre-stunned halal methods (which are now the most commonly used in the UK to meet welfare standards), the animal is stunned and then the throat is cut in accordance with halal requirements, before being processed mechanically.

Under traditional non-halal UK methods, the animal is stunned and typically dispatched using a captive bolt (a mechanical bolt applied to the head), followed by bleeding and then standard mechanical processing.

Whilst non-stunned halal slaughter can occur in some limited circumstances, the Red Tractor assurance mark referenced by Oakwood requires pre-stunning. This means that, if halal meat is being served, it would be sourced from a pre-stunned supply chain that meets UK animal welfare standards.

In terms of the wider point raised, it is lawful for a school to provide halal meat and/or vegetarian options only, provided that food standards are met and there is suitable choice available. This approach is not uncommon, particularly where schools aim to provide a menu that is suitable for the widest range of pupils.

The more significant issue you have highlighted relates to communication. It is important that parents and pupils are clear about the nature of the food being provided so they can make informed choices.

As Oakwood Academy is an academy, responsibility for catering sits with the Trust rather than the Council. Food standards, including the provision of a healthy and balanced diet sits between the Academy and the Department for Education.

I would be happy to discuss with you further and invite officers to explain the process if you wish to do so.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Victoria Cusworth

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

Labour and Co-op | Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward

Peer Mentor and Member Peer | Local Government Association Labour Group

**Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for
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1st June 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Thorp,

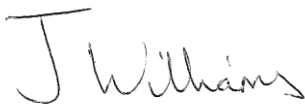
Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for the supplementary question you raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May where you asked if Rotherham Council would be required to pay the amount I referenced in relation to the total costs to date on the Broom City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement proposals if the final scheme did not go ahead.

As I mentioned in the meeting, the funding is awarded from the Department for Transport through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement managed by SYMCA. I have sought further clarification on the supplementary point you raised, and I can advise that the development work the Council has undertaken so far on the scheme will be covered by this funding, regardless of the stage of work reached or whether the Council delivers a final project or not.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



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

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**Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for
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JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

11th June 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Thorp,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for the supplementary question you raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May where you stated that you had been told that a member from a cycling group from London had been at one of the meetings to try and push for cycle lanes. You asked me if that was correct.

I have been advised that the focus group that you are referring to happened in the first round of consultations on the Broom Lane and Fitzwilliam Road schemes. Unfortunately, officers haven't kept the precise records of attendance because once the results of discussions were captured and anonymised for inclusion in the consultation report, the record of attendance was destroyed under GDPR because the Council no longer needed the personal details of the attendees.

I'm sorry that I can't be of any further help.

Yours sincerely,



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

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**Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for
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JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

23rd June 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Thorp,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May. I have set out your question and my response below. I am sorry for not writing back to you sooner on this matter.

Has any data been collected regarding the use of the new cycle lane infrastructure regarding any increase in use these schemes have created if not why?

I can advise that year one monitoring was completed in 2025, and I asked officers to share this information with you, which I understand has been done. I understand there will be further monitoring undertaken in 2027 three years after completion.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



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

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28th May 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Thorp,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May. I have set out your question and my response below.

When new cycle lanes are suggested, it talks of cycling wheeling and walking. What data have you collected to show that only by introducing designated cycle lanes you can reduce the danger to pedestrians?

In relation to your reference on reducing the danger to pedestrians, there are some reasons as to why pedestrian safety may have been mentioned in this context:

- Firstly, if in the context of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement proposals then these are not only cycling schemes. These projects can include, for example, measures such as new and improved crossings and traffic calming measures which would be expected to improve pedestrian safety regardless of whether cycle lanes are progressed or not.
- Secondly, in some cases cycle lanes can indirectly offer benefits for pedestrians. Typically, this would be where wide roads are narrowed which reduces the length of crossings for pedestrians and can be expected to reduce traffic speeds.
- Thirdly, by providing a separate space for cyclists away from vehicles and pedestrians then it could reduce cycling on the footway which may endanger pedestrians.

I'm afraid that without a specific example, I can only respond in general terms. However, if you do have an example not addressed by this response then please do let me know and I will ask officers to provide a more detailed answer for you.

Yours sincerely,



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

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Councillor Sarah Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities

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Councillor Sarah Allen

28th May 2026

Cllr Tom Collingham
Elected Member

Via email: tom.collingham@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Collingham

Question at Council – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your supplementary question at Council on Wednesday 20th May 2026 where you asked me how the proposal for the use of lighting columns had been received by the Parish Councils.

I can confirm that as of Wednesday 27th May, 11 Parish Councils had contacted the Street Lighting service indicating that they wanted support from the Council.

I am aware that 4 Parish Councils intend to install baskets without testing and if this is the case then the Council will have to unfortunately consider removing them.

I will be personally keeping an eye on progress moving forward.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Communities

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Councillor Linda Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing

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Councillor Linda Beresford

27th May 2026

Cllr Simon Ball
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your question at Council on Wednesday 20th May 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

There were 49 vehicle-related ASB cases on RMBC estates last year but only three parking-related refusals. What is your time-bound plan to fix verge damage and parking shortages?

As I've mentioned before, with the road layout we have and the ever-increasing demand for parking spaces, there is no one plan that would ever resolve this problem in every part of the borough. There are of course things we are doing to try to ease the issue:

When designing new council housing developments, the Council takes into consideration parking provision in line with planning guidance and relevant approvals and considers both the provision of parking for new homes and any impact on existing residents.

On our existing estates, preventative measures have been employed in many locations to mitigate the impact of the rise in car ownership. This has included the installation of verge bollards and the creation of new parking spaces in appropriate locations.

We also manage a significant number of garage sites across our neighbourhoods, which provide a secure alternative to street parking, where residents choose to use these for parking purposes.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



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

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

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JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

11th June 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your supplementary question at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May where you asked if offering a discounted drop kerb to residents when resurfacing footpaths could be reviewed in light of the issues relating to parking on grass verges and pavements. You also asked if Scrutiny could review the matter to see if there was a cost benefit to an alternative approach.

I have met with the Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services to discuss including this as part of a scrutiny review that is being worked up on pavement parking. It is currently on the Improving Places Select Commission work programme (date to be confirmed). Once further information is available, I will write to you again to update you.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



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

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

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Please Contact
Cllr Lynda Marshall

Direct Line
01709 822465

5th June 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Question at Council – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your question at the Council Meeting on Wednesday 20th May, where you asked for an update on the timescale to re-instate some showering facilities to Thrybergh Country Park and how this was being communicated to users such as Rotherham Sea Cadets?

Further to our conversation on Monday 1st June, I would like to confirm that officers are going to look into a Portable shower unit for Thrybergh Country Park. Depending on whether one can be sourced, how it will be heated, and the cost of it, further discussions may need to take place with the Sea Cadets before any decision is made.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Lynda Marshall
Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces

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**Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for
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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

11th June 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your supplementary question at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May where you stated that you had major concerns about whether the Council were keeping a full and proper record of S106 monies when they were allocated to future developments, especially for Parish Councils.

I have now had the opportunity to meet and discuss your concerns with the Head of Planning. The Council currently have an effective system in place to ensure a comprehensive and accurate record of all Section 106 monies received by the Council. This is supported by an established software solution (Exacom), alongside dedicated staff responsible for the ongoing monitoring and review of contributions.

The system records key information including the level of S106 contributions required, relevant trigger points and deadlines for receipt, and the service area or consultee that requested the contribution. This enables effective tracking and oversight of obligations from agreement through to receipt.

Following my conversation with officers, we do recognise that there is currently a gap in wider access to this information across Council services, and this is an area that officers are actively seeking to improve. The aim is to make Exacom more widely accessible, allowing services with appropriate logins to view information on a read-only basis or, where appropriate, to have write access to relevant sections. This would support both monitoring and timely notification to services.

I hope this gives you assurance that records are kept and maintained.

Yours sincerely,



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

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JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

23rd June 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your supplementary question at Council on Wednesday 20th May 2026 where you asked if more could be done to look at delays further along the system on Herringthorpe Valley Road in order to improve the traffic flow through that particular area.

I'm sorry for not coming back to you sooner. I have been waiting on further information from the service before writing to you.

As you may be aware, a scheme is proposed by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to provide additional bus priority on Doncaster Road to mitigate for congestion for public transport, although it is acknowledged this is not expected to have any impact on Herringthorpe Valley Road. A public consultation was held on these proposals earlier in the year with details available on the SYMCA website at <https://www.southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/explore/bus-lane-review>

In looking ahead at the next round of funding through Transport for City Regions 2027-2032 and the criteria set by Government, I'm advised it does not include relief of traffic congestion. However, it continues to support public transport priority, measures to facilitate walking and cycling as well as measures to support the delivery of new homes and to reduce the incidence of death and serious injury on the roads. As such, I'm afraid it is unlikely the Council will be able to bring about any congestion relief scheme at this location in the near future.

I'll be happy to arrange officer attendance at a suitable ward meeting to discuss your concerns further; officers will be in touch with the Neighbourhoods team to make the necessary arrangements.

I appreciate this may not be the answer you were hoping for and if you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact the Head of the Transportation Infrastructure Service, Lucy Hudson, by email at transportation@rotherham.gov.uk or on telephone number 01709 382121.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor John Williams

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

**Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for
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JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

1st June 2026

Cllr Simon Ball
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Ball,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May. I have set out your question and my response below.

The Rotherham Markets and Library scheme has now reached £46.84 million after a further £6 million overspend. When will the Chief Executive's investigation findings be published?

The Chief Executive has commenced the commissioning of an independent investigation. It is expected that the investigation will be complete within a small number of months, after which the Chief Executive will report as appropriate to the relevant Council committee.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



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

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

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JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

1st June 2026

Cllr Simon Ball
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Ball,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

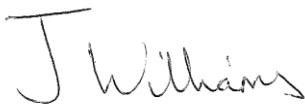
Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May. I have set out your question and my response below.

Despite overwhelming opposition to the Eastwood Lane cycle scheme, what exact opposition threshold would make you abandon or change it?

I can advise that as with all consultations, we are seeking views of the public, not running a referendum. The Council has changed the proposal but there was actually relatively little engagement with the Eastwood Lane scheme in particular and given the size of the surrounding community, we're keen to hear from more people in this latest phase.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



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

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Councillor Linda Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing

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Please Contact:
Councillor Linda Beresford

27th May 2026

Cllr Simon Ball
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your question at Council on Wednesday 20th May 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

RMBC is still the landlord with the most tenant complaints over delays. What are current average response times, and when will the new standards show real improvements?

I'm interested in how you make that claim and would be interested to know what information you hold on the borough's other landlords and their response times.

However, we do know a lot about the council's response times. We know that in terms of emergency repairs, the service offered by Rotherham Council to complete works within *4 hours* exceeds regulatory requirements even for a *24-hour* response.

In terms of non-urgent repairs, the average response time against the 28-day target is 13 days. Performance for February 2026 shows that 99.3% of emergency repairs were completed in time and nine out of ten of non-urgent repairs.

Our most recent tenant satisfaction results highlight strong core landlord responses - consistently scoring higher than national comparators and reflect the professionalism of staff interactions, strong compliance arrangements, and improving communication.

Of course, we know that when people do face delays that can be frustrating and worrying, and we always want to do better.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Linda Beresford

Labour Member for Greasbrough Ward

Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Sarah Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities

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Please Contact:
Councillor Sarah Allen

28th May 2026

Cllr Adam Tinsley
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Tinsley

Question at Council – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Thank you for your question at Council on Wednesday 20th May 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

When fitting new heating systems such as air source heat pumps, do the council review associated Electric tariff prices to run these, in comparison to using traditional Gas Heating Systems.

I can advise that when considering the installation of air source heat pumps, the Council does assess likely running costs compared to traditional gas systems.

While heat pumps are more energy efficient, electricity is currently more expensive than gas, which means they can in some cases cost more to run. However, this can be offset over the life of the system through lower maintenance requirements, longer asset life and the need to meet Energy Performance Certification (EPC) legislation, and this overall balance is considered as part of the investment decision

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Communities

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 15 July 2026

Report Title

Recommendation from Cabinet - Primate Licensing

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

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Lewis Coates

01709 823117 or lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

All

Report Summary

Recent changes to Animal Health legislation include the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 which provide for the licensing of primate keeper. This report seeks to set an appropriate fee for the Primate Licence application.

Recommendations

That Council approve the fees in respect of Primate Licences, in accordance with the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, be set at £199 for Licence applications and any variation or renewal applications.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 0 Primate Licensing Cabinet Report
Appendix 1 Equalities Screening Assessment
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[The Animal Welfare \(Primate Licences\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)

[Licensing process for keeping primates - GOV.UK](#)

[Statutory guidance on the use of penalty notices for animal health and welfare offences - GOV.UK](#)

[Penalty notices for animal health and welfare offences - GOV.UK](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title

Primate Licensing

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

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Lewis Coates

01709 823117 or lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected.

All

Report Summary

Recent changes to Animal Health legislation include the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 which provide for the licensing of primate keeper. This report seeks to set an appropriate fee for the Primate Licence application.

Recommendations

That Cabinet recommend to Council that the fees in respect of Primate Licences, in accordance with the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, be set at £199 for licence applications and any variation or renewal applications.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Screening Assessment

Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[The Animal Welfare \(Primate Licences\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)

[Licensing process for keeping primates - GOV.UK](#)

[Statutory guidance on the use of penalty notices for animal health and welfare offences - GOV.UK](#)

[Penalty notices for animal health and welfare offences - GOV.UK](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Primate Licensing

1. Background

- 1.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 came into force on 6th April 2026. It requires all private keepers of primates to be licensed by the relevant Local Authority.
- 1.2 It is estimated that up to 5,000 primates are being kept privately as pets in the UK. At this stage, the number of keepers in Rotherham is not known.
- 1.3 The legislation, introduced through secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and passed into law on the 5th of March 2024, prohibits the keeping of primates as pets unless individuals can meet the rigorous conditions of a new licensing scheme, which includes the requirement for licence holders to seek veterinary input on the appropriate care of their animals. Primates have complex welfare and social needs, and the standards are designed to ensure that only those who can demonstrate the highest levels of animal welfare will be permitted to keep primates.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 stipulates that where primates are kept outside of premises covered under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, that activity is licensable.
- 2.2 An individual who keeps, or is proposing to keep, a primate may apply for a Primate Licence. The application must specify a range of details including the species of primate, and the number of primates of each species to be kept under the licence. It must detail the sex, species, date of birth (or if not known, the approximate date), and the number of any microchips implanted, for each primate.
- 2.3 Before issuing a licence, a suitable officer must inspect the premises specified in the application to determine whether the licence conditions are likely to be met if the application were to be granted. If licence conditions are likely to be met, then a licence can be issued. Conversely, if licence conditions are not likely to be met, then the application must be refused.
- 2.4 Where the Council is satisfied that a licence can be issued, the licence can be issued for three years unless the applicant specifies a shorter period. The Regulations make further provisions for renewal, variation, revocation and surrender of licences, together with provisions in the event of the death of a licence holder.
- 2.5 Where a three-year licence is in place, a suitable officer from the Local Authority must inspect the premises at least once during the licence period in respect of compliance.
- 2.6 The Council may set a fee for the application and a fee for any inspections. There is already a fee set for Dangerous Wild Animal Licences which cover

the same direct and indirect costs of licensing as proposed for Primate Licensing. Consequently, the same fee of £199 is proposed for the Licence fee along with any variation or renewal applications.

- 2.7 It is an offence, under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, to own a primate and not be licensed under these Regulations. Where conditions of a licence are breached, this is an offence and the Council may serve a Rectification Notice to detail a timeframe in which compliance must be achieved.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Council is statutorily obliged to consider applications under the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, for which a fee of £199 for Licence applications and any variation or renewal applications will be charged.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 There has been no public consultation in relation to the proposal however relevant officers have been engaged in developing the proposals within this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The recommendations, if agreed, will be applied following the decision being made.
- 5.2 The Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement is accountable for implementing the decision.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 This report proposes introducing a £199 Primate Licence which will be subject to approval at Council. The level of income this fee will generate is not known.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 ('the Regulations') introduced a licensing regime to protect the welfare of primates kept in England. The Regulations apply to the keeping of any primate in England on or after 6 April 2026 unless the primate is kept under a Zoo Licensing Act 1981 licence or an Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 licence.
- 7.2 The Local Authority is responsible for administering and enforcing the licensing regime and must also comply with the Statutory Guidance: Licensing Process for Keeping Primates.

- 7.3 Section 6 makes provisions to allow primate keepers to apply for a licence to keep primates. Section 13(6) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 does provide for offences for failure to licence licensable activities.
- 7.4 Section 7 details the means by which any applications should be determined with Section 8 describing the details to be contained within any licence granted together with a three-year licence period, or shorter if requested by the applicant.
- 7.5 Section 14 makes it an offence for a Primate Licence holder not to comply with licence conditions, for which upon summary conviction a fine might be imposed.
- 7.6 Regulation 13 addresses fee setting; a Local Authority is able to charge a fee in respect of an application and may also charge a fee in respect of any inspection. In accordance with the Statutory Guidance the Local Authority must set fair and reasonable fees and in doing so give consideration to Open for business: LGA guidance on locally set licence fees, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (now Department for Business and Trade) and guidance for business on the provision of services regulations, Principles in the Regulators' Code and Local Government Animal Welfare Group guidance.
- 7.7 Local authorities must provide information to applicants and licence holders on payment options.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 A screening assessment has been carried out in Appendix 1.
- 10.2 There are no equalities or human rights implications.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 An assessment has been carried out in Appendix 2.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no implications for partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 If fees were not set for primate licences the Council would not be fully utilising provisions provided to support regulatory work.

14. Accountable Officers

Lewis Coates, Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	15/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	17/06/26

Report Author: Lewis Coates

01709 823117 or lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk

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

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Regulation and Enforcement
Lead person: Lewis Coates	Contact: Lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
☐ Strategy / Policy	☐ Service / Function ☒ Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This report screens the Cabinet paper to establish fees for provisions under the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024

Appendix 1

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Lewis Coates	Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement	23 rd April 2026

6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	23 rd April 2026
Report title and date	The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	6 th July 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	23 rd April 2026

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				

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

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

None

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

No. The setting of fees in respect of these statutes is an administration process.

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

The setting of fees in respect of The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 and Animals (Penalty Notices) Act 2022 is an administration process with no impacts and consequently no mitigation or monitoring necessary.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Lewis Coates Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Not applicable.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not applicable.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 639 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council –15 July 2026

Report Title

Cabinet's Response to the Health Select Commission Scrutiny Review - Access to Contraception

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

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

Report Author(s)

Amelia Thorp, Public Health Specialist
amelia.thorp@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

At its meeting on 21st November 2024, the Health Select Commission agreed to proceed with undertaking a scrutiny review into access to contraception in Rotherham, recognising the importance of supporting residents to make informed choices about their reproductive health. The findings of the Review were endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSMB) at its meeting on 3rd February 2026 and presented to Cabinet on 9th February 2026.

This report provides Cabinet's response to the recommendations from the scrutiny review on Access to Contraception in Rotherham.

Recommendations

That Council note the response to the recommendations, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report.

List of Appendices Included

Cabinet Report – Cabinet's Response to the Access to Contraception Review
Recommendations

Appendix 1 Recommendations Review
Appendix 2 Part A – Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment
Page 1 of 2

Background Papers

[Access to Contraception Review Report. Cabinet 9 February 2026](#)

[Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, 3 February 2026](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Health Select Commission – 22 January 2026

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 03 February 2026

Cabinet – 08 June 2026

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 08 June 2026

Report Title

Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Access to Contraception Scrutiny Review

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

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

Report Author(s)

Amelia Thorp, Public Health Specialist
amelia.thorp@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

At its meeting on 21 November 2024, the Health Select Commission agreed to proceed with undertaking a scrutiny review into access to contraception in Rotherham, recognising the importance of supporting residents to make informed choices about their reproductive health. The findings of the Review were approved by the Health Select Commission on 22 January 2026, endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) at its meeting on 3 February 2026 and presented to Cabinet on 16 March 2026.

This report sets out the proposed Cabinet response (detailed in Appendix 1) to the findings and recommendations from the scrutiny review of Access to Contraception in Rotherham.

Recommendations

That the proposed Cabinet response to the Health Select Commission recommendations in respect of the Access to Contraception Review, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, be approved.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Response to the Health Select Commissions' Recommendations –
Access to Contraception Scrutiny Review
- Appendix 2 Part A – Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Access to Contraception Review Report](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Health Select Commission – 22 January 2026

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 03 February 2026

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Access to Contraception Scrutiny Review

1. Background

- 1.1 The Health Select Commission met in November 2024 to scope and prioritise potential review topics. From this, the Commission established the focus for the Access to Contraception Review, which sought to strengthen community-level access to advice, guidance and all forms of contraception, to support residents to make informed choices about their reproductive health.
- 1.2 The Review was undertaken throughout 2025, beginning with the formation of a working group to agree the evidence gathering methods and key lines of inquiry.
- 1.3 The working group included the following Health Select Commission Members:
- Councillor Keenan (Chair)
 - Councillor Bennett-Sylvester
 - Councillor Havard
 - Councillor Fisher
 - Councillor Duncan
 - Councillor Thorp
 - Councillor Brent
 - Councillor Harper
- 1.4 Evidence was shared and submitted by experts and operational colleagues from the Council and its partners. Topics such as availability of contraception in Primary Care, barriers to access, and wider societal influences on access were discussed.
- 1.5 The resulting recommendations were approved by the Health Select Commission on 22 January 2026 and endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) on 3 February 2026. The recommendations were then presented to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 16 March 2026.
- 1.6 This report sets out the proposed Cabinet response to the findings and recommendations from the scrutiny review.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The evidence presented to the Health Select Commission included reports of Rotherham residents being unable to access long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) within the borough. Recent data shows that overall, the number of LARC prescriptions in Rotherham has increased between 2016 and 2024. Within this period the types of services issuing LARC in Rotherham has changed, with more LARC being prescribed at specialist

sexual health services. Whilst evidence pertaining to LARC served as a starting point, the working group opted to expand the scope of the review to gain an overview of the current offer of all types of contraception across the borough.

- 2.2 Evidence was obtained via requesting information from GP practices, web research and reviewing briefing papers. Following this a site visit and three evidence gathering sessions with partners involved in delivering and commissioning contraception across the borough were conducted.
- 2.3 The evidence gathering was structured around five key themes within which the resulting recommendations were grouped. These are:
- 2.4 1. Commissioning and Service Delivery
 - 2.4.1 This recommendation focuses on improving equitable access to contraception across Rotherham by strengthening how and where services are delivered. It recommends that relevant Council services explore the feasibility of mobile or rotating sexual health outreach clinics, enabling access to a full range of contraception, including long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), in rural and underserved communities. In addition, it proposes integrating sexual health services within the new town centre health hub, offering flexible, reliable and discreet drop-in access. Together, these measures aim to reduce geographical and practical barriers, tackle stigma, and ensure more consistent access to contraception for residents.
 - 2.4.2 It is proposed that Cabinet accepts this recommendation, with an action for Public Health and Commissioning services to work with the current sexual health provider to review existing outreach provision and consider the feasibility of further expansion within the scope of the current Sexual Health Contract. In addition, it is proposed that relevant Council Services and partner organisations explore the feasibility of delivering sexual health services, including contraceptive advice, guidance and provision, within the new town centre health hub.
- 2.5 2. Education, Public Awareness and Messaging
 - 2.5.1 Recommendation 2 focuses on strengthening education, public awareness and communications on contraception and sexual health across Rotherham. It calls for the Council to work with partners to deliver a borough-wide, sex-positive public health campaign that promotes safe, informed and consensual sexual activity, using modern and targeted messaging to reach young people and challenge misinformation. It also encourages schools to provide consistent, comprehensive PSHE, including practical contraception education and clear information on confidentiality, alongside improved engagement with parents to support understanding of the benefits of informed sexual health choices.
 - 2.5.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. Specifically, it is suggested that relevant Council Services work with the Sexual Health Provider to explore opportunities to expand existing

promotional activity. This should include, but not be limited to, increased promotion of the sexual health and contraception offer across other services to support effective signposting into sexual health provision, as well as promotion through appropriate websites and social media channels. Any promotional activity should be informed by the findings of the Sexual Health Needs Assessment to enable targeted messaging and ensure alignment with the actions set out in the Sexual Health Action Plan. In addition, it is proposed that assurance is sought from all schools that comprehensive Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is being delivered consistently across the borough, with support provided to schools where required.

2.6 3. Digital Access and Information

2.6.1 Recommendation 3 focuses on improving digital access to clear, accurate and youth-friendly contraception and sexual health information. It proposes improving Council public health webpages to make them easier to navigate and more relevant for younger audiences, with clear signposting to services, advice and guidance. It also recommends developing a single, centralised digital landing page that brings together information on sexual health, contraception and available services, enabling residents to more easily find and use the support they need.

2.6.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. An action is proposed to review the Rotherham Council website to ensure it effectively signposts users to reliable information on sexual health, contraception and local services. Following this review, it is suggested that the need to develop a dedicated landing page is considered.

2.7 4. Youth Access and Confidentiality

2.7.1 This recommendation focuses on improving young people's confidence in accessing contraception by strengthening understanding of confidentiality and expanding targeted outreach. It recommends raising awareness of the Fraser Guidelines and NHS App privacy settings to reassure young people that their information can be kept confidential when seeking contraception and sexual health support. It also calls for closer working with youth-focused partners, including MESMAC and other relevant services, to expand outreach, improve visibility and ensure inclusive, borough-wide access, particularly for LGBTQ+ young people and other vulnerable groups.

2.7.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. It is suggested that an action is taken forward to ensure any awareness-raising activity is aligned with the actions set out in Recommendation 3, to support a consistent approach to promotion. In addition, it is proposed that any actions to expand existing outreach provision or development of potential partnership working are linked to the actions outlined in Recommendation 1, ensuring activity is considered in partnership with the current sexual health provider and aligned with the existing Sexual Health Action Plan.

2.8 5. Data, Monitoring and Strategic Alignment

2.8.1 Recommendation 5 focuses on strengthening the use of data and strategic alignment to inform future decision-making on contraception and sexual health. It recommends improving the visibility of local contraception services by mapping clinic, pharmacy and drop-in locations, making it easier for residents to identify where support is available. It also calls for the regular review of local data on teenage pregnancies and terminations to identify emerging trends and target interventions effectively, and for the findings and recommendations of the review to be embedded into the next commissioning cycle and the development or refresh of the borough's sexual health strategy and action plan.

2.8.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. It is suggested it is aligned to proposed actions relating to Recommendation 3 which is to ensure that information about local services is appropriately signposted online and via other services working in the community. It is recognised that local data is already routinely monitored by Public Health and Commissioning to inform the delivery and commissioning of the current sexual health service. It is suggested that the review recommendations are considered within the commissioning cycle and the development or refresh of the borough's sexual health strategy and action plan.

2.9 Recommendations 6 and 7 focus on oversight, accountability and partnership working. They propose that the full set of recommendations and wider ambitions agreed by the Health Select Commission are formally submitted to Cabinet for consideration and response. Following Cabinet consideration, any recommendations that fall within the remit or influence of external organisations should then be shared with relevant health partners and commissioners to support collaboration, alignment and collective action in improving access to contraception and sexual health services.

2.9.1 It is proposed that Cabinet accepts these recommendations. It is acknowledged that the progression of this work requires collaboration from a wide range of stakeholders, therefore it is suggested that the proposed actions are overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1: that Cabinet approves the proposed responses to the scrutiny review recommendations, as set out above and at Appendix 1. This is the recommended option.

3.2 Option 2: that Cabinet rejects the proposed responses to the scrutiny review recommendations. This is not recommended since without responding as summarised above, the proposed measures to improve contraception accessibility for Rotherham residents would not be implemented.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Since Cabinet received the scrutiny review recommendations in respect of access to contraception in Rotherham on 9 February 2026, there has been no further consultation.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Scrutiny review recommendations in respect of Access to Contraception were considered by the Health Select Commission on 22 January 2026 and OSMB at its meeting on 3 February 2026. They were received by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 March 2026. Under the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Cabinet must formally consider its response to the scrutiny review recommendations within two months of receipt.
- 5.2 Proposed responses to each scrutiny review recommendation are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report: each proposed response has an associated timescale for delivery or further consideration, as detailed at Appendix 1.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications from adopting the recommendations.
- 6.2 Any future plans will need to be fully costed and funding identified.
- 6.3 Where recommendations propose to engage third party suppliers or modify existing contracts with providers this must be done in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Procurement Act 2023, Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023) dependent on the action required and route to market identified.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Some of the scrutiny review recommendations involve considering feasibility of proposals which may involve amendments to the current Sexual Health Contract. Any such changes to the current contractual arrangements will need to be agreed with the provider and documented through appropriate contract variations.
- 7.2 Other than the above there are no direct legal implications arising from the Recommendation within the report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications for the council, however, should there be additional resource required to deliver on the recommendations this should be done in line with appropriate HR policy and procedure.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 In order to agree the recommendations there are partnership implications which need to be considered in relation to young people and vulnerable adults.

9.2 If agreed, the recommendations will be incorporated into the Sexual Health Action Plan. The Sexual Health Action Plan will be overseen by the Sexual Health Partnership any implications for children, young people and vulnerable adults will be considered within its development.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An equalities screening assessment can be found in Appendix 2 and supports the recommendations in Appendix 1.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A carbon impact assessment (Appendix 3) has been completed and indicates that the recommendations may influence CO₂ emissions; however, it is not yet possible to determine whether this impact will constitute an increase or a decrease.

11.2 Delivery of outreach services may result in an increase in emissions due to the travel required by the service provider; however, the increased accessibility should reduce the travel required by the service user, and more convenient outreach locations could also make services accessible by public transport routes.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The recommendations from the Access to Contraception Review require coordinated action among key stakeholders. If agreed, the actions will be incorporated into the Sexual Health Action Plan, overseen by the Sexual Health Partnership, to ensure effective collaboration across all partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks are that the agreed actions will not be completed. This will be mitigated by partnership agreement for an appropriate action plan and partners agreeing to lead on areas of the plan which will be reported to the Sexual Health Partnership. The Public Health Senior management team will receive service reports on a quarterly basis to ensure compliance with the contract for sexual health services.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Executive Director Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	14/05/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	12/05/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	12/05/26

Report Author: *Amelia Thorp, Public Health Specialist*
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 amelia.thorp@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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Appendix 1.

Response to the Health Select Commissions' Recommendations – Access to Contraception Scrutiny Review

	Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response (detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)	Officer Responsible	Action by (Date)
1	Commissioning and Service Delivery a) That the relevant Council Services consider and review the feasibility of mobile outreach clinics or rotating sexual health outreach services where contraception, including LARC can be accessed in rural and underserved areas. b) That the relevant Council Services and relevant partners consider including sexual health services, specifically including contraceptive advice guidance and provision, in the new town centre health hub, ensuring flexible, reliable and discreet 'drop-in' access and reduced stigma.	Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are: a) For Public Health and Commissioning to work with the current sexual health provider to review existing outreach provision and consider the feasibility of further expansion within the scope of the current Sexual Health Contract b) For Council Services and partner organisations to explore the feasibility of delivering sexual health services, including contraceptive advice, guidance and provision, within the new town centre health hub	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	September 2026
2	Education, Public Awareness and Messaging a) That the relevant Council Services work in collaboration with appropriate partners to strengthen and extend the reach of a borough-wide, sex-positive public health campaign promoting safe, consensual, and informed sexual activity that makes effective use of the contraceptive and sexual health services available in Rotherham. The Commission particularly advocates the use of modern messaging strategies that harness the power of local 'influencers' via social media platforms (e.g. TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram) wherever possible to reach younger demographics with engaging, accurate contraception and sexual health messaging that reaches them directly in places they naturally frequent and counteracts disinformation. b) That the relevant Council Services encourage schools to deliver consistent, comprehensive PSHE, including ongoing practical contraceptive education and	Partially Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are: a) For Council Services to work with the Sexual Health Provider to explore opportunities to expand existing promotional activity. This should include, but not be limited to, increased promotion of the sexual health and contraception offer across other services to support effective signposting into sexual health provision, as well as promotion through appropriate websites and social media channels. b) To gain assurance from all schools that comprehensive Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is delivered to all young	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	May 2027

	awareness of confidentiality rights and works with them to improve parental engagement and understanding of the benefits of making informed contraceptive and sexual health choices.		people across the borough, and offer support where required		
3	Digital Access and Information a) That the relevant Council Services work to improve Council public health websites to deliver youth-friendly information on contraception and sexual health services and providing/signposting to relevant sources of information, advice and guidance aimed at assisting that demographic to make informed choices. b) That the relevant Council Services work to develop a centralised digital resource or landing page consolidating sexual health information, service locations, and confidentiality guidance, with links to age group/demographic specific issues and information.	Partially Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are to: a) Review the Rotherham Council website to ensure it effectively signposts users to reliable information on sexual health b) Consider the need to develop a dedicated landing page following the review of signposting on the Council website	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	May 2027
4	Youth Access and Confidentiality a) That the relevant Council Services consider how, ideally in collaboration with relevant partners such as schools and NHS services, to raise awareness of Fraser guidelines and NHS app privacy settings to reassure young people about confidentiality when accessing contraception. b) That the relevant Council Services work with MESMAC and other relevant youth services to expand outreach and ensure visibility and borough wide accessibility of services, particularly for LGBTQ+ and vulnerable groups.	Partially Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are to: a) Align this work to Recommendation 3 to ensure awareness raising is aligned with any wider promotional work b) Align this work to Recommendation 1, ensuring outreach activity is considered in partnership with the current sexual health provider and aligned with the existing Sexual Health Action Plan.	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	December 2026
5	Data, Monitoring and Strategic Alignment a) That the relevant Council Services include the location of sexual health clinics, drop-in centres, and pharmacies providing emergency contraception on the Rotherham mapping system (where grit salt bin locations, planning applications etc. can be found), or create a standalone map resource to allow Rotherham residents to easily identify all locations in the borough where they can access contraception. b) That relevant Council Services review local data on terminations and teenage pregnancies to assess emerging trends, identify the root causes and facilitate the formulation and implementation targeted interventions that address their drivers.	Partially Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are to: a) Align with actions outlined in recommendation 3 to ensure that information about local services is appropriately signposted online and via other services working in the community b) Recognise that local data is already routinely monitored by Public Health and Commissioning to inform the delivery and commissioning of the current sexual health service. c) Consider the review recommendations within the commissioning cycle and the development	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	December 2026

	c) That relevant Council Services ensure that the recommendations, observations and broad ambitions from this review are considered in the next commissioning cycle in 2027, and in the development/revision of the borough's sexual health strategy and action plan.		or refresh of the borough's sexual health strategy and action plan.		
6	That the recommendations and wider ambitions as approved by Health Select Commission, be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and response.	Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet accepts this recommendation.	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	May 2026
7	Following submission to Cabinet, that those recommendations within the control and influence of external bodies, are shared with relevant health partners and commissioners for consideration and response.	Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet accepts this recommendation. The proposed action is for the progression of this work to be overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board.	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	July 2026

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Appendix 2.

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Response to the Health Select Commissions Recommendations – Access to Contraception Scrutiny Review	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Sexual Health
Lead person: Jacqui Wiltschinsky	Contact: Jacqueline.wiltschinsky@Rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
☐ Strategy / Policy	☒ Service / Function
☐ Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Cabinets response to scrutiny recommendations arising from a Health Select Commission review into access to contraception. A number of recommendations were put forward and a subsequent cabinet response was received. Although some of the recommendations are outside of council services remit this will be shared with partners and subsequent actions will follow. It is also a partnership response to the recommendations and therefore will need a collective action plan going forward.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		No
Could the proposal affect service users?		No
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		No
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		No
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		No
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		No

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

The recommendations provided by cabinet response are for council services and partners to work together to provide improved contraception in Rotherham. Therefore, as part of this work a shared action plan will be agreed and reported through the Sexual Health Partnership.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance

and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

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

N/A

- **Key findings**

N/A

- **Actions**

N/A

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
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Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
--	-----

Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A
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5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Jacqui Wiltschinsky	Consultant in Public Health	20/03/26

6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	20/03/26
Report title and date	
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Will be submitted for Cabinet May 2026.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

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Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	If the recommendation to increase delivery of outreach services is taken forward there may be increase emissions from transport due to the travel required.	If the recommendation to increase delivery of outreach services is taken forward the distance service users are required to travel to access services may be shorter which may reduce overall emissions from transport.		
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
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Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

Not applicable.

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

No

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

The Access to Contraception Review recommendations may influence CO₂ emissions; however, it is not yet possible to determine whether this impact will constitute an increase or a decrease

Delivery of outreach services may result in an increase in emissions due to the travel required by the service provider, however the increased accessibility should reduce the travel required by the service user, more convenient outreach locations could also make services accessible by public transport routes.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Amelia Thorp Public Health Specialist Public Health Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Not applicable.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not applicable.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 619 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

HOOBER WARD

Covering Brampton, Harley, Manvers,
Nether Haugh, Wentworth and West
Melton



Councillor Rajmund
Brent



Councillor Denise
Lelliott



Councillor John
Williams

Report to Full Council

July 2026

Hoober Ward Priorities

1. Improving road safety
2. Addressing environmental issues and making good use of green spaces/community assets for everyone
3. Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
4. Support opportunities for bringing people together, enhancing community spirit and support the communities and its groups to thrive

How these ward priorities were agreed

Priorities were agreed following consultation throughout the ward in numerous ways and locations to help us understand what matters most to Hoober residents and ensure that everyone within the ward had the opportunity to have their say. This was done via in person sessions at community groups, coffee mornings, drop-ins and Councillors' Surgeries alongside a digital questionnaire distributed through ward channels with a paper questionnaire delivered to those with no digital access. The data from this was then collected and analysed along with information from services, partners and ward data.

How these priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Our approach to neighbourhood working is rooted in the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy, with our community at the heart of everything we do. Our vision is for every neighbourhood to be a thriving place, where people are supported to work together to achieve a good quality of life, and where residents feel happy, safe and proud of where they live. We aim to encourage and enable residents to recognise and use their own assets - their strengths, knowledge, and skills - to help shape and improve the things that matter most to them. At the same time, we build on existing neighbourhood assets, including community buildings, green spaces and community, faith and voluntary groups, to create stronger, more resilient communities.

Partnership working

Partnership working underpins everything we do. We collaborate with a wide range of organisations across the community and voluntary sector, alongside council services and key strategic partners within the locality. We have strengthened existing relationships while also identifying and developing new partnerships to support projects and initiatives. By embedding partners into our core activities, we have been able to extend our reach, solve problems collaboratively, create new opportunities and co-deliver work that makes a meaningful difference to people's lives.

Progress so far

1. Improving Road Safety

- With joint funding from Wath Ward Councillors, we have partnered with Transportation to introduce a new vehicle activation sign around road safety issues on Melton Green, West Melton and continue to explore further traffic calming solutions for this area.
- Two successful community speed watch sessions in Harley in collaboration with South Yorkshire Police following the introduction of a new traffic calming scheme.
- Worked closely with Housing to install bollards on Coleridge Road, improving both parking and traffic flow for residents.
- Partnership approach continues - working with South Yorkshire Police, Community Protection Unit, Housing, Highways, local organisations and residents to tackle ongoing parking and congestion challenges in the Ward.



2. Addressing environmental issues and making good use of green spaces/community assets for everyone



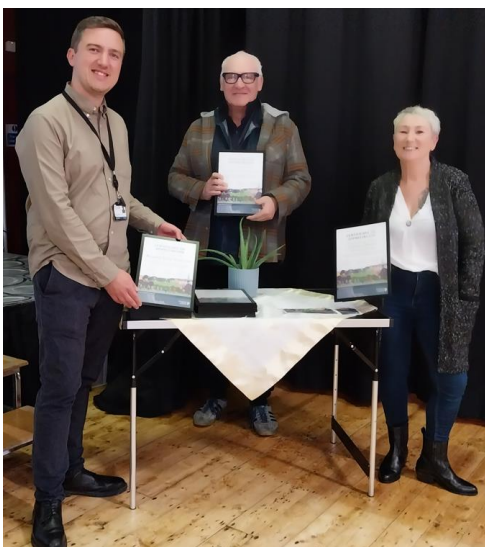
- Joint funding with Housing and Wentworth Parish Council enabled provision of community skips, helping residents clear waste and take pride in their neighbourhoods.
- Partnership with Manvers Residents Association and Street Scene to introduce "Pick Up Your Litter" signage in Manvers.
- Planned investment in improvements at West Melton Park to create inclusive, enhanced facilities.
- Exploring upgrades to Cortonwood Lions Lodge play area in Brampton Bierlow following resident feedback.
- New bench installed at Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground to create a welcoming community space.
- Supported Brampton Bierlow Parish Council with their community garden.
- Ongoing multi-agency walkabouts with partners and residents to listen, respond to concerns and drive visible local improvements.

3. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour remain a key priority discussed at every Community Action Plan Meeting.
- Ongoing partnership work - SYMCA, South Yorkshire Police, Green Spaces, Housing, Brampton Bierlow Parish Council and residents, to tackle off-road bike issues.
- Coordinated actions include:
 - ❖ Restricting access points
 - ❖ Installing CCTV
 - ❖ Clear legal signage
 - ❖ Increased patrols by South Yorkshire Police Off-Road Bike Squad
- Commitment to keeping residents informed on actions and progress.
- Continued multi-agency approach combining enforcement, education and prevention.
- Targeted awareness campaigns, clear reporting guidance and regular updates via social media and e-bulletins keeping communities informed and involved.



4. Support opportunities for bringing people together, enhancing community spirit and support the communities and its groups to thrive



- Promoted local services and opportunities via e-bulletins, social media, surgeries, Parish Councils, leaflets and targeted communications
- Supported community groups through attendance at events and securing funding for projects which align with Ward priorities.
- Backed projects including:
 - ❖ South Yorkshire Performance Academy (supporting ages 10 to 25 years)
 - ❖ Landscaping with Harley Mission Trust and Wentworth Village Community Association
- Delivered partner-led drop-in events - loneliness, wellbeing, cost of living, fuel poverty, cancer awareness and access to benefits.
- Hosted a Community Celebration Event, leading to the creation of the Hoover Community Group Networking Partnership.
- Organised annual Christmas activities, including trees and a festive light switch-on event in West Melton.
- Responded to 2024 riots by supporting Manvers through wellbeing drop-ins and community activities with the Residents Association, funded via Community Recovery Funding.

KEPPEL WARD

Covering Grange Park, Kimberworth,
Kimberworth Park, Scholes and Thorpe
Hesley



Councillor Simon
Currie



Councillor Tony
Harrison



Councillor Gill
Garnett

July 2026

Report to Full Council

Ward Priorities

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

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

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

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

Progress so far -

1. Address Concerns in relation to Road Safety/Traffic

We work closely with RMBC Transportation Team who regularly provide us with updates on work in our Ward. Here are some examples: -

- Funded 4 parking buddies to Redscope School entrances to advise 'No Parking'.
- Worked alongside Local Policing team re. parking around Thorpe Hesley School.
- Met with Thorpe Hesley School Council to discuss issues that are important to them - one concern was speed of vehicles and a speed gun survey was carried out.
- Scholes Village to have Vehicle Activated Sign, Gateway features and Signage.
- Brook Hill has been resurfaced and relevant markings re-instated inc. 20mph

www.rotherham.gov.uk/keppel-ward

KEPPEL WARD

Covering Grange Park, Kimberworth,
Kimberworth Park, Scholes and Thorpe
Hesley



Councillor Simon
Currie



Councillor Tony
Harrison



Councillor Gill
Garnett

2. Improve Facilities for young people

- Engaged with Thorpe Hesley Primary School as part of a wider consultation to install play equipment on Lodge Lane, along with a bench in memory of a local young woman, Kimberly Fuller.
- Two other play areas have been upgraded with additional pieces of equipment.
- Council Elections at Redscope school - the children followed election procedures and count before announcing which children had been elected.

3. Address concerns in relation to crime and ASB

We work closely with South Yorkshire Police and partners to tackle local issues -

- Installation of additional knee-high fencing on St Johns Green to prevent young people using wildflower mounds as an unofficial BMX track.
- Removal of N20 oxide cannisters - hot spot areas are being patrolled by the local policing team.

4. Improve the environment

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

- 3 Christmas tree locations - last year these were sponsored by local businesses rather than funding through ward budgets.
- Wildflower planting Chislett Centre driveway - seeded by Redscope School pupils.
- Grange Lane - preventative measures to stop fly tipping.
- Screen installed around bin store at St. John's Green.
- S61 litter Picking Group - helping keep the ward litter free.

5. Support your community

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

- Lamppost poppies erected in both Thorpe Hesley and Kimberworth Park.
- Chislett Christmas hampers for users of Charlies Pantry.
- Noticeboard at St Johns Green to promote activities.
- Artworks Santa Grotto – an annual event since 2019. Councillors attend as elves and help out at the workshops, along with funding the activities.
- St Johns Church - VJ Day celebrations and Christmas events.
- Thorpe Hesley / Scholes – Spring, September and Christmas Tree festivals.

And a final word on working in partnership

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

www.rotherham.gov.uk/keppel-ward

NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 15 July 2026
	Proposer: Cllr Tinsley
	Seconded: Cllr Z Collingham
	Title of Motion: Protecting Children, Supporting Honest Businesses and Cracking Down on Illicit Vapes, Tobacco and Underage Sales

This Council notes that:

1. Illegal tobacco, counterfeit cigarettes and illegal vaping products continue to be sold within communities across Rotherham, undermining honest local businesses, exposing consumers to unsafe products and fuelling organised criminal activity.
2. There has been a visible surge in dedicated high-street vape shops and unregulated mini-marts, often situated close to local schools. This has led to an alarming rise in both youth access to vapes, and the proliferation of illegal vapes, whether illegally large, illegally strong, or illegally spiked with dangerous psychoactive substances, including THC (cannabis) and synthetic cannabinoids.
3. Residents, parents, schools and responsible retailers continue to raise concerns about underage sales and the growing availability of illegal vaping products to children and young people, as do elected members.
4. Parliament has strengthened legislation through the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026, increasing the importance enforcing standards in the run up to a new licensing regime.
5. National enforcement agencies have identified organised criminal groups as being heavily involved in the illicit tobacco and illegal vape trade, which has been linked to both the drug trade and the slave trade.
6. Trading Standards is the lead enforcement authority and effective enforcement relies on partnership with South Yorkshire Police and other agencies. The Police are unable to act alone.
7. Whilst successful operations have taken place, the response to increasing intelligence and complaints indicates the Council's Trading Standards team is understaffed and under resourced. This paralyses local enforcement and undermines public protection, with inaction and delayed investigations enabling rogue traders to operate with impunity.

This Council believes that:

1. No child in Rotherham should be able to walk into a shop and illegally purchase nicotine products.
2. No adult in Rotherham should be able to purchase illegal nicotine products.
3. The overwhelming majority of retailers operate responsibly and enforcement should be firmly targeted at rogue traders.
4. The illegal sale of tobacco and vaping products harms public health, damages legitimate businesses and funds organised crime.
5. Those who knowingly sell illegal products or sell nicotine products to children should face the strongest sanctions available.
6. Fixed financial penalties can be an anticipated 'cost of business' for rogue traders and the Council must be equipped, where appropriate, to make full use of Closure Orders, prosecutions, seizure powers and the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Request an urgent review of Trading Standards staffing, capacity and resources.
2. Request Trading Standards, Council Legal Services and South Yorkshire Police adopt a robust, intelligence-led enforcement approach, using Closure Orders against non-compliant retailers where possible to demonstrate a highly visible, zero-tolerance approach as a deterrent to other rogue traders.
3. Increase intelligence-led underage test purchasing and proactive operations.
4. Request that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) considers this issue within six months and, where appropriate, refers elements to the relevant Select Commission(s). OSMB should receive a further progress report within 12 months.
5. Request the Leader of the Council writes to Government seeking increased funding for Trading Standards for the Council's increased enforcement role.
6. Continue partnership working with South Yorkshire Police, schools, NHS and public health partners to protect children and disrupt organised criminal networks.

NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 15/07/26
	Mover: Councillor Cusworth
	Seconded: Councillor Z Collingham
	Title of Motion: Debate Not Hate

Summary/Background:

The intimidation and abuse of councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; preventing elected members from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election, and undermining public life in democratic processes.

That this Council notes:

1. That increasing levels of toxicity in public and political discourse is having a detrimental impact on local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors feel safe and able to continue representing their residents.

This Council commits to:

1. Commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and officers and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does. The council further agrees to sign up to the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support those in public life facing abuse and intimidation.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Write to the local Member of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign. (A template letter is available from the LGA)
2. Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians. (A template letter is available from the LGA)
3. Ensure the Council has a clear reporting mechanism which councillors can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment and abuse of councillors and officers.

4. Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and councillor safety.
5. Work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families and discuss the need to take a preventative approach that accounts for the specific risks that councillors face, as they do with other high-risk individuals, like MPs.
6. Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.

NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 15/07/26
	Mover: Councillor Adam Carter
	Seconded: Councillor Tarmey
	Title of Motion: Stop Polluting Our Rivers and Hiking Our Bills

That this Council:

1. Notes with great concern the figures recently released by the Environment Agency that show there was 16,412 hours of sewage discharges in local rivers and waterways in Rotherham last year. This is despite drought being declared across many regions of the UK. Untreated sewage discharging is only legal in periods of extreme rainfall in which drain systems are at risk of being overwhelmed. Across England, a total of 2.65 million hours of sewage discharging took place into natural areas last year. This is a reduction on the previous year. However, during a year of drought and record dry weather across certain months, Council believes the level of sewage discharging at both local and national level is as disgraceful and unacceptable as ever.
2. Council further believes that local residents should not bear the cost of water companies upgrading decades worth of crumbling infrastructure, while these companies continue to make profits. However, in our borough, average water bills are set to rise by 6% for Yorkshire Water customers and 10% for Severn Trent customers this year.
3. Council notes the introduction of a Clean Water Bill in the Kings Speech to Parliament that promises to create a super-regulator with wider enforcement powers over the economic and environmental performance of water companies. Though this has been welcomed, many campaigners believe it does not go far enough, fast enough.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of the State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to make clear the position of this council and to demand that all loopholes allowing water company bosses to continue to take home huge bonuses are removed.
2. Invite the Chief Executives of Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent to a special meeting of Full Council to answer questions from councillors and members of the public and to establish urgent commitments and timescales to improve their infrastructure and reduce sewage discharges in

Rotherham.

3. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to environmental charities The Rivers Trust, River Action and Surfers Against Sewage to demonstrate the council's commitments and support to work with partners to improve water quality in Rotherham.

To be completed by Governance

Date received by Governance/Head of DS:	05/07/26
Date sent to Monitoring Officer:	05/07/26
Date approval from Monitoring Officer received:	

NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 15/07/26
	Mover: Councillor Jodie Ryalls
	Seconder: Cllr Adam Tinsley BEM
	Title of Motion: Supporting further measures for Water Safety Save Lives for Sam

Summary/Background:

The recent, devastating surge in water-related fatalities across the UK—hitting heartbreakingly close to home right here on our doorsteps in South Yorkshire—demands immediate action. The recent losses in our local community, including the tragic incidents at Rother Valley Country Park and the River Don in Mexborough, are a stark, agonizing reminder that this is a persistent and entirely preventable public safety crisis. The overwhelming majority of these drownings continue to occur in everyday inland waters during routine activities.

In direct response to this ongoing emergency, we highlight the launch of the Daily Mirror's 'Save Lives for Sam' campaign. This vital movement campaigns for a long-overdue, cohesive national strategy regarding water safety. Alongside this, we recognize the tireless efforts of 'Sam's Army', whose dedicated campaigning is driving a critical nationwide push for change.

Together, these campaigns demand urgent accountability from landowners, the rollout of widespread public safety education, and the formal legislative passing of 'Sam's Law' to mandate life-saving rescue equipment around high-risk open waters. Through collective action, we can strive to prevent further tragic losses, protect our local communities, and ensure no more families have to endure such devastating heartbreak.

That this Council Notes:

1. That every year, an average of 33 children lose their lives to drowning in England.
2. The launch of the Mirror's "Save Lives for Sam" campaign, which highlights the urgent need for a cohesive national strategy on water safety.
3. The tireless efforts of Sam's Army in campaigning and raising awareness to prevent further tragic losses.

4. The proposal of Sam's Law, which calls for a legal requirement for adequate, maintained safety equipment at all high-risk bodies of water.
5. The lack of a dedicated Minister for Water Safety, leading to a fragmented approach to water safety education and infrastructure.
6. This Council recognises that the prevention of drowning is a public health imperative requiring a coordinated national response, and that local authorities require stronger national support, guidance and legislation to protect residents effectively.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Formally endorse the "Save Lives for Sam" campaign and support the ongoing work of Sam's Army.
2. Write formally to: The Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Democracy, Samantha Dixon MBE MP; The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP; and The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP; urging them to take the following urgent action:
 - a. Urgently appoint a dedicated Minister for Water Safety and Drowning Prevention, to provide clear national leadership, accountability and coordination for both prevention work and operational response, working alongside a designated lead department.
 - b. Commit to greater long-term support for prevention and public education, including national support so that every child and young person receives consistent, high quality water safety education regardless of where they live.
 - c. Work closely with the National Fire Chiefs Council and the National Water Safety Forum to strengthen national coordination, raise standards and ensure consistent public messaging on water safety.
 - d. Implement Sam's Law to mandate and protect essential water safety equipment at all high-risk bodies of water.
3. Request that the Leader of the Council also writes directly to our local Members of Parliament, urging them to support these measures and to advocate for a national, long term public awareness campaign on water safety and support a Minister for Water Safety and Drowning.
4. Conduct an internal review of all council-managed open water sites within the borough—encompassing both physical safety infrastructure and staffing arrangements—to ensure the highest safety standards, and report the findings of this review to the relevant Scrutiny Committee within four months.

We call on all Members to support this motion and to work together, across parties, to help prevent future avoidable drownings in our communities and across the nation.

To be completed by Governance

Date received by Governance/Head of DS:	06/07/26
Date sent to Monitoring Officer:	06/07/26
Date approval from Monitoring Officer received:	06/07/26

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NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 15/07/26
	Mover: Councillor Yasseen
	Seconded: Councillor Bower
	Title of Motion: Protecting Rotherham Residents' NHS and Council Data - Rejecting Reliance on Palantir

That this Council:

Notes that:

1. In November 2023, NHS England awarded a seven year contract worth up to £330 million to Palantir Technologies to provide the NHS Federated Data Platform. The platform brings together information already held in different NHS systems to support patient care, hospital management, waiting-list planning and wider NHS decision making.
2. Palantir is a foreign (US based) private software and data analytics company with extensive involvement in military, intelligence, surveillance and immigration enforcement systems.
3. The Federated Data Platform infrastructure can access and process identifiable and highly sensitive patient information. Therefore raising legitimate questions about which companies should be trusted to operate essential NHS data infrastructure, what access their personnel may require and how that access is independently monitored.
4. The information people share with their GP, hospital and other health services may include diagnoses, medication, mental health, disability, sexual and reproductive health, family circumstances and other deeply personal information. Residents should not need to understand a complex technology contract to know who is handling this information and why.
5. Palantir has supplied technology to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement for immigration surveillance and enforcement operations. In January 2024, Palantir also announced a strategic partnership with the Israeli Ministry of Defence to provide technology in support of "war related missions". These activities have resulted in serious ethical and human rights concerns about the company.
6. The British Medical Association (BMA) has passed a resolution declaring Palantir an unacceptable partner for the NHS Federated Data Platform. The resolution calls for an end to Palantir's continued expansion within the NHS, the termination of existing NHS contracts with Palantir and to support doctors who refuse to use data

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products supplied by companies associated with warfare and human rights violations.

7. Medact, Amnesty International and patient and health worker organisations have also raised concerns about human rights, transparency, public trust, procurement, privacy and long term dependence on a single supplier.

8. On 3 June 2026, the cross-party House of Commons Science, Innovation and Technology Committee recommended that the Government exercise the February 2027 break clause in the Palantir contract. It called for either an NHS developed replacement or an alternative supplied by UK owned and UK based providers, together with a costed exit plan.

9. This is already a local issue. The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust is using its Federated Data Platform instance for outpatient data quality and patient waiting list validation and is progressing further use of the platform.

10. Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust has confirmed that its current use of Palantir is limited to non-patient data, with a separate governance process required before any expansion.

11. NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board has signed up to the Federated Data Platform but stated that, as of June 2026, none of the data collected within the ICB was flowing into the platform.

12. The National Data Guardian has reported that more than three million people have exercised the National Data Opt-out and has warned that uncertainty or misunderstanding about how health information is used can undermine public trust. A further loss of confidence could lead more people to object to the use of their information, making NHS data less complete and potentially worsening inequalities in health planning and outcomes.

Believes that:

13. People should not have to choose between receiving healthcare and trusting what will happen to the personal information they provide.

14. The issue is not simply that Palantir is a foreign company, The concern is the growing strategic dependence of essential British public services on a private overseas corporation whose ownership, corporate priorities and principal legal jurisdiction sit outside UK democratic control.

15. The most sensitive NHS and Council information should be managed through systems that are publicly accountable, transparent, independently scrutinised and subject to meaningful democratic control.

16. Contractual data safeguards are necessary but safeguards alone do not answer legitimate concerns about the suitability, values and wider activities of a company entrusted with operating critical public infrastructure.

17. Decisions about NHS data infrastructure should take account of ethical conduct, human rights, public confidence, data protection, national resilience, value for money and the risk of becoming technically or contractually dependent on one supplier.

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18. Public money allocated to the Federated Data Platform would be better invested in developing sustainable NHS digital expertise and publicly accountable UK based infrastructure.

19. Rotherham Council holds highly sensitive information relating to children, adult social care, safeguarding, housing, benefits, employment and vulnerable residents. The Council should apply the same high standards to its own data and should not knowingly allow Palantir technology to process Council held information.

Resolves to:

20. Call on the Government to exercise the February 2027 break clause in NHS England's Federated Data Platform contract and publish a fully costed and clinically safe plan to transition to an NHS owned and operated solution or to a transparent UK owned and UK based alternative.

21. Call on The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust and Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust to:

- pause any further rollout or expansion of Palantir technology;
- add no new patient datasets, functions or purposes to the platform while the national contract remains under review;
- publish the relevant Data Protection Impact Assessments and equality assessments, and

22. Call on NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board not to begin transferring ICB held information into the Federated Data Platform and to support the development of a publicly accountable alternative.

23. Request the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider adding to its work programme a referral to the Health Select Commission to examine:

- the present and proposed use of Palantir technology by local NHS organisations;
 - which patient and non-patient datasets are being processed;
 - the effect on patient confidence, data objections and the National Data Opt-out;
 - the equality implications, particularly for minority communities and groups.
- alternative systems and the potential costs and risks of withdrawal;
- and how Rotherham residents will be consulted before any significant expansion of its use.

24. Council to seek appropriate legal and procurement advice, to adopt a formal policy that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will not knowingly procure, commission, license, deploy or permit Palantir technology to process Council-held information, either:

- Directly;
- through a principal contractor or subcontractor;
- through partnerships in which the Council is responsible for, or jointly controls, the information.

This policy should apply to Palantir Technologies, companies within the Palantir corporate group and products or services operating on Palantir platforms.

25. Council to send a copy of this motion to:

- the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care;

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- the Chief Executive of NHS England;
- the Chair and Chief Executive of NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board;
- the Chair and Chief Executive of The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust;
- the Chair and Chief Executive of Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust;
- Rotherham Local Medical Committee;
- the British Medical Association;
- all Members of Parliament representing the Rotherham borough.

To be completed by Governance

Date received by Governance/Head of DS:	06/07/26
Date sent to Monitoring Officer:	06/07/26
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THE CABINET 11th May, 2026

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

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

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
Judith Badger	Executive Director of Corporate Services
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment
Chris Paddock	Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Others in attendance:

Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor and Clerk

159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

160. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Ashraf stated that Councillor Alam had not responded properly to a question he had asked on 4th February, 2026, despite having many Council Officers to help. Mr. Ashraf explained that he had asked if Rotherham Council knew how much taxpayers' money they sent to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority or if the Council needed the Combined Authority's permission to release that information. He asked Councillor Alam to respond to the question. Mr. Ashraf also confirmed that he would email his question to Councillor Alam again.

The Leader stated that the Council paid £36,000 per year into the Combined Authority for membership.

Councillor Alam stated that he would review the emails and respond.

In his supplementary question, Mr Ashraf asked for a timescale for the response.

Councillor Alam stated that it would be the usual 10 working days.

161. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13th April, 2026 be approved as a true and correct record.

162. 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.

163. GENERAL ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to adopt the refreshed General Enforcement Policy. The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 required the Council to have regard to the Regulators' Code when setting policies and procedures that guided regulatory activity. A 30 day public consultation was conducted from 1st January, 2026, followed by internal consultation in February 2026.

The refreshed General Enforcement Policy was more strategic in content, with operational detail signposted to service-specific procedures. Material changes included clearer references to the Council's role as a landlord, updated legislative references, strengthened statements on delegation and emergency arrangements, an expanded partnership-working section, and refined enforcement options. The proposed General Enforcement Policy was attached at Appendix 1, with consultation analysis at Appendix 2.

During the meeting, the Service Director for Community Safety and Street Scene outlined the achievements from the previous Policy, including exceeding targets in relation to fly tipping enforcement and community notices.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approves the refreshed General Enforcement Policy (Appendix 1) for publication and implementation, having had due regard to the Regulators' Code and the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006.

164. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES RELIEF - LIFESKILLS YORKSHIRE LTD

Consideration was given to the report which presented the application for the award of Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd.

Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd. was a not-for-profit organisation which was registered with Companies House as a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. The organisation aimed to equip adults with learning difficulties and/or autism to gain education, employment skills and other skills to develop their independence and social confidence. The service users were funded, in the main, via a direct payment award from RMBC Learning Disability and Autism Team. The organisation provided training on functional Maths and English, internet safety, keeping well in hot/cold weather, employment skills and money handling/budgeting to attendees. Attendance was on either one or 2 days each week with the majority attending twice weekly.

The building was open on weekends to the general public as a family activity centre run by an associated company. This partnership with the associated company formed part of Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd.'s offer to RMBC Learning Disability and Autism Team by guaranteeing the availability of work experience and volunteering opportunities and facilitating the development of employment skills in accordance with the care plans in place.

Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd. was seeking an award for discretionary rate relief to assist them in continuing to provide this service. The company was incorporated in August 2024 and had therefore not yet filed any accounts with Companies House to date. Accounts were available in draft form for the first year of trading and had been provided in support of this application.

It was recommended that the application be approved, with a cost to RMBC of £10,147.17 for 2025/2026 and £8,595.58 for 2026/2027.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report for the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 financial years.

165. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY 2026/2031

Consideration was given to the report which presented the findings from the review of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-2026 and sought approval for the new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026/2031. Homelessness remained a significant challenge across the UK, with local authorities facing sustained increases in demand for support against the backdrop of rising housing costs, welfare reform, and ongoing cost of living pressures. Nationally, levels of homelessness continued to rise, with latest estimates (December 2025) reporting that 382,618 people in England were homeless, the highest figure recorded representing an 8% increase in just one year. The

national pressures were reflected locally in Rotherham, where the number of people approaching the Council for homelessness assistance increased by 25.6% between 2023/2024 and 2024/2025, rising from 1,448 to 1,818.

Paragraph 1.11 of the report set out a summary of the key achievements from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for 2023/2026. This included a 65.4% increase in successful prevention outcomes within 56 days between 2022/2023 and 2024/2025. Progress also continued towards the Council's target of 1,000 new Council homes by summer 2027, with 791 delivered as of 20th April, 2026 and with planning underway for the next programme cycle.

In addition, the report outlined the 8 week consultation and engagement process undertaken with residents, people with lived experience, officers, and key stakeholders. Feedback from this process, alongside national policy, local evidence, and wider housing and homelessness intelligence, had informed the development of the new Strategy. The Council had statutory duties under the Homelessness Act 2002, which required local authorities to carry out a homelessness review, to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on that review, and to publish a new Strategy at least once every 5 years.

The Strategy was structured around 4 strategic priorities and set out the Council's approach to preventing homelessness and rough sleeping over the next 5 years. The 4 priorities were:

- Priority 1 – Prevent homelessness through early, proactive intervention (paragraph 2.7 to 2.9 of the report.)
- Priority 2 – Increase the supply of and access to suitable, affordable housing (paragraph 2.10 to 2.13.)
- Priority 3 – Ensure support reaches those most in need at the right time (paragraph 2.14 to 2.17.)
- Priority 4 – Tackle rough sleeping through prevention and rapid response (paragraph 2.18 to 2.21.)

The Strategy also highlighted the key issues affecting households experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Rotherham, detailed how the Council would work collaboratively with partners to respond to these challenges and demonstrated alignment with wider Council strategies and plans.

A cross working action plan would be developed with key partners including health, social care, community safety and the voluntary sector, to monitor progress and delivery against the Strategy over the 5 year period. While the Council had a statutory obligation to lead on the development and publication of the Strategy, the action plan was to be

collectively owned by partners and stakeholders, reflecting that tackling homelessness was a shared responsibility across the whole system. Cabinet was asked to delegate approval of the action plan and any subsequent updates following its annual reviews to the relevant Executive Director. It was anticipated that minor data updates of the Strategy could be required prior to publication. Cabinet was, therefore, asked to delegate approval of any final amendments to the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. They also made 2 additional recommendations:

- That the Action Plan clearly indicates any essential (“must deliver”) actions from scalable or discretionary activity, including setting out risk mitigation arrangements where funding or capacity reduces, and ensures any material departure from planned delivery be reported to the relevant Select Commission.
- That specific performance measures be developed for households with multiple support needs, covering prevention successes, and repeated homelessness, and that this cohort be reported separately in monitoring reports.

Both recommendations were accepted by Cabinet.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy consultation summary report.
2. Approves the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026/2031.
3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to approve:
 - a) Any minor data amendments to the Strategy prior to publication.
 - b) The Action Plan, following its development, including any amendments arising from annual reviews.
4. Agree that the Action Plan clearly indicates any essential (“must deliver”) actions from scalable or discretionary activity, including setting out risk mitigation arrangements where funding or capacity reduces, and ensures any material departure from planned delivery be reported to the relevant Select Commission.

5. Agree that specific performance measures be developed for households with multiple support needs, covering prevention successes, and repeated homelessness, and that this cohort be reported separately in monitoring reports.

166. SELECTIVE LICENSING UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which set out the operational model, responsibilities, governance and expected outcomes for both the liaison function and the capital funding in relation to Selective Licensing.

The Council had made declarations for 6 new Selective Licensing areas which commenced in February 2026 for a period of 5 years. While traditional Selective Licensing tools had enabled the Council to regulate private landlords and deal directly with specific housing problems, during the consultation undertaken prior to declaration, the Council also heard from both tenants and landlords about wider problems in their communities. These included environmental and anti-social behaviour problems, and a lack of direct support to tenants.

To maximise the positive outcomes of these new designations, including improved housing standards, stronger community engagement, and enhanced regulatory intervention, as part of the 2026/27 budget setting process, the Council had agreed an additional revenue investment of £362,000 per annum. This aimed to increase the impact of enforcement and regulatory activity, provide additional direct support to tenants, as well as provide increased capacity to ensure local stakeholder groups were well run and well supported. In addition, the Council also agreed the allocation of a £500,000 capital budget over 4 years, 2026/2027 to 2029/2030, spread across the 6 areas, to deliver targeted improvements that complemented enforcement activity. This Capital Programme would be shaped by the local stakeholder groups, and local teams.

In response to consultation feedback, the Council had agreed to establish new Stakeholder Panels in each of the designated areas. Stakeholder Groups would be multi-agency groups representing residents, landlords, partners, Elected Members and Council Services. The Groups would identify improvement priorities, review performance of the scheme and impacts locally and propose or review potential capital projects. The Panels would also advise on community impacts and emerging issues.

During the meeting it was confirmed that the posts described in paragraph 2.2.1 of the report had been recruited to.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. They also made 2 additional recommendations:

- That officers set out a clear escalation plan where licence application rates fall below expectations and provide the relevant Scrutiny Commission with regular updates on licence uptake, enforcement activity, and any risks to the effectiveness of the Scheme.
- Ensure that communications requesting nominations for the Stakeholder Groups clearly indicate that applicants who require reasonable adjustments will be duly considered.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the report and progress to date.
2. Approve the approach to the Community Liaison roles and Stakeholder Panels.
3. Approve the approach to establishing the Capital Programme, with stakeholder groups identifying local priorities and delegate agreement for the final governance arrangement to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Service Director for Legal Services.
4. Instruct officers to set out a clear escalation plan where licence application rates fall below expectations and provide the relevant Select Commission with regular updates on licence uptake, enforcement activity, and any risks to the effectiveness of the Scheme.
5. Instruct officers to ensure that communications requesting nominations for the Stakeholder Groups clearly indicate that applicants who require reasonable adjustments will be duly considered.

167. THE ROTHERHAM TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP - ROTHERHAM PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the Rotherham Together Partnership's (RTP) new Rotherham Plan, which replaced the expired Rotherham Plan 2025. The new Plan set out the RTP's vision for partnership working over the next decade, focused on the successful delivery of the 4 identified gamechangers for the Borough, to improve quality of life for residents across Rotherham and address inequalities.

The RTP was a partnership which brought together 8 key local organisations across the Borough (RMBC, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire ICB, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust, Voluntary Action Rotherham, and RNN Group), facilitating strategic collaboration on key issues with the aim of improving quality of life for residents. A number of thematic partnership boards and operational groups had been established.

Since forming in the early 2000s, initially as Rotherham's statutory Local Strategic Partnership, this collective of partners had delivered significant developments for the Borough. The first partnership strategy committed to delivering the Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP) at Waverley as a breakthrough project. Since 2017, the Partnership's work had been guided by the strategic priorities set out within the Rotherham Plan 2025, resulting in wide-ranging achievements including the development of the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre, opening of University Centre Rotherham, delivery of the world leading Children's Capital of Culture festival year, development of immersive careers education site at Skills Street and opening of the town centre's first cinema in 30 years at Forge Island.

The Partnership had identified 4 gamechangers for Rotherham, as set out in paragraph 2.6 of the report, which would define the Borough over the next decade and catalyse improvements for residents. These were:

- Growing a fair and thriving economy.
- Enabling strong and thriving communities.
- Unlocking the full potential of Rotherham Gateway.
- Creating vibrant town centres.

The gamechangers comprised key investments and developments which would require a collaborative approach from the RTP to ensure successful delivery. Further to that, the Partnership would seek to address inequalities which presented barriers to residents benefitting from the gamechangers.

A 2 year delivery plan would be developed in the first instance, to map outcomes and partner commitments to reach the first milestone within the plan. Following that a 3 year delivery plan would be developed to reach the 5 year milestone, offering a natural review point for the Strategy.

Resolved:

That Cabinet endorse the Rotherham Together Partnership's new strategic direction as set out in the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036: A decade of opportunity, focused around the 4 identified gamechangers.

168. ROTHERHAM MARKETS AND LIBRARIES

Consideration was given to the report which provided a summary of the challenges encountered during the delivery phase of the Wath Library and Rotherham Markets and Library schemes. These challenges had resulted in increased costs and the need to revisit aspects of scope and delivery. Cabinet were asked to approve an increase to the budget allocations for both projects, reflecting the outcome of detailed design development, construction stage risk resolution and updated cost forecasts.

In July 2024, Cabinet approved the delivery of a new Wath Library. The scheme for Wath Library was developed with the aim of transforming a prominent site in one of the Borough's principal settlements, with high quality place making in order to restore the cultural heart of the town centre, increase footfall, boost the local economy, and restore a sense of pride within the community. The scheme included demolition of the existing Library and the creation of a brand new Library to deliver a modern, inviting, and inclusive community facility. The redevelopment was designed to enhance the visitor experience between Biscay Way and the High Street to encourage visitors into the town centre. The scheme was approved at Planning Board in October 2024 and demolition of the old Library began in February 2026.

At the July 2024 meeting it was reported to Cabinet that the total scheme cost was £9.9m. In July 2025 the Council appointed Tilbury Douglas as the preferred contractor to undertake Stage 4 designs. Having refined the scheme costs, a cost increase of £2.04m had been identified. Cost increases were largely due to:

- Increase in demolition costs of around £800k, largely due to the presence of previously unidentified and significant levels of asbestos.
- Percentage fee increases as related to increase in construction costs.
- Inflationary increases aligned with an extended delivery window due to delays in tendering, contractual negotiations, design and cost assessments.
- Additional design fees to reflect the requirement for more extensive design work.

Prior to approaching Cabinet, an extensive analysis of potential value engineering options had been carried out, including considering the Library Service's brief to identify opportunities to reduce operational and construction costs. The outcome of this work was a potential option for a smaller building footprint and changes to the external design. However, these alterations would have required a full redesign and new Planning approval, causing significant delays to the project. In addition, an increased level of design costs meant that the alternative would not deliver value for money due to the significant reduction in amenity space.

A summary of the resultant cost and budget implications in relation to Wath Library was provided in Appendix 1.

In 2017, Rotherham's Town Centre Masterplan identified 7 major development opportunities, all aimed at creating a more diverse, vibrant and attractive town centre that drove increased footfall. Within this vision, which had now been substantially delivered, Forge Island and the Markets and Library were identified as the 2 catalytic major projects for Rotherham, anchoring the western and eastern approaches into the town centre respectively. Future plans were now being developed for Rotherham Gateway, which would improve the northern approach to the Town Centre via Effingham Street, and exciting plans for new housing

would complete the southern approach to the Town Centre along Sheffield Road and Westgate.

The Markets complex was recognised as a key anchor in the Town Centre, both for its historic significance and the potential to be a modern, attractive destination to draw people back into the heart of the town. The Markets occupied one of the most prominent and strategic positions in Rotherham Town Centre. The relocation of the Library into this area, the creation of a health hub, the proximity to Rotherham College, the Interchange, and key pedestrian routes cemented this part of the Town Centre as a community, enterprise and service hub, creating a unique opportunity to create a cohesive cluster of essential services, leisure, and social spaces.

The scope and costs for the project had been reported to Cabinet throughout the development of the Scheme. The last reported cost in March 2024 was £40.89m. The scope as reported previously was set out in paragraph 2.11 of the report submitted. Over the course of the project's development, a number of challenges had arisen which has rendered the achievement of the agreed scope undeliverable for the current agreed budget. Further, the delivery of the Outdoor Covered Market and Library had continued, in line with the agreed contract, resulting in insufficient budget to complete the project to the agreed scope.

The challenges encountered related to:

- Delivery Challenges (paragraph 2.15 to 2.16 of the report)
- Project Specification (2.17 to 2.18)
- Value Engineering (2.19)
- Provisional Sums (2.20)
- Health & Safety and Compliance (2.21 to 2.22)
- Design (2.23 to 2.25)
- Unidentified Cost Elements (2.26)
- Contingency (2.27)
- Governance and Resourcing (2.28)
- Eastwood Lane (2.29 to 2.30)
- Public Realm and Events Space (2.31)
- Enabling Activity (2.32)

Taken together, these challenges had resulted in additional costs to the budget previously agreed at Cabinet and, therefore, a recommendation was made to increase the project budget by £5.95m. A summary of the resultant cost and budget implications in relation to Rotherham Markets and Library was provided in Appendix 5.

While the challenges encountered for both Schemes were summarised throughout the report, the Chief Executive of the Council had agreed to commission an investigation into the development and delivery of the

Rotherham Markets and Library project which had resulted in the cost increases.

During the meeting both the Leader and Councillor Williams expressed their frustration at the current situation. They both stated that it was not acceptable, and they understood the anger felt. However, both stressed the need to deliver the projects.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. They also made 3 additional recommendations:

- That future capital monitoring reports include a clear narrative for the Rotherham Markets and Library scheme explaining how key risks have changed, how contingency has been used, any new cost pressures, and the actions taken to manage them, so Cabinet and Scrutiny can see whether the project was genuinely stabilising.
- Request that the Chief Executive's investigation into the development and delivery of the Rotherham Markets and Library project, focusing on causes of cost increases be conducted by an independent external organisation and the findings be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at the appropriate point.
- Notes that the Chief Executive has commissioned a separate independent end-to-end review of the capital project processes with a focus on large scale development projects with a view to identifying learning and developing recommendations on how to embed best practice going forward and that the findings be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at the appropriate point.

Cabinet accepted all 3 additional recommendations.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the revised budget of £12.02m for the Wath Library Scheme, including an increase of £2.04m to be funded from unallocated Local Regeneration Grant, as set out in Appendix 1.
2. Approve the revised budget for the Rotherham Markets and Library Scheme, increasing the total project budget to £46.84m, representing an additional £5.95m, funded as set out in Appendix 5.

3. Note that the revised budgets reflect the completion of the detailed design, resolution of construction stage risks and the establishment of a more robust and deliverable position for both projects.
4. Note the intention of the Chief Executive to commission an investigation into the development and delivery of the Rotherham Markets and Library project which has resulted in the cost increase noted in Recommendation 2.
5. Agree that future capital monitoring reports include a clear narrative for the Rotherham Markets and Library Scheme explaining how key risks have changed, how contingency has been used, any new cost pressures, and the actions taken to manage them, so Cabinet and Scrutiny can see whether the project was genuinely stabilising.
6. Request that the Chief Executive's investigation into the development and delivery of the Rotherham Markets and Library project, focusing on causes of cost increases be conducted by an independent external organisation and the findings be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at the appropriate point.
7. Note that the Chief Executive has commissioned a separate independent end-to-end review of the capital project processes with a focus on large scale development projects with a view to identifying learning and developing recommendations on how to embed best practice going forward and that the findings be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at the appropriate point.

169. SUPPORTING HIGH STREETS

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the establishment of the new Supporting Our High Streets Team and sought approval for the activities guiding the Team's programme of work in principal towns across the Borough. As part of the budget approved by Council on 4th March, 2026, a revenue investment entitled "Supporting our High Streets" was agreed. Building on the success of the existing Town Centre Co-ordinator role, this project sought to expand this approach, with a focus on business support, in Rotherham Town Centre and across the other principal towns in the Borough; Wath, Swinton, Dinnington and Maltby.

The main purpose of the roles was to engage with high street businesses in the Borough's principal towns, and to provide a point of co-ordination for businesses in relation to the various activities in each locality: events, Streetscene, Street Safe and crime, business investment, local

promotional opportunities and signposting to other business support services.

The posts would have a specific function of liaison with the local business community, providing a local presence, identifying issues of concern, and signposting to other Council services for assistance, where appropriate. They would provide visible and routine engagement in the identified areas and be a known face to businesses and local Ward Members, providing regular updates on activity and working to solve problems as they arise. Initial business advice would be provided along with help to co-ordinate local promotions. The Team would also lead on the delivery of the successful Shopfront Grants Project, which had received a further 12 months of funding through the Local Growth Fund for 2026/2027.

Various indicators would be used to measure the impact and success of the activities, and would include the number of businesses supported, the amount of vacant building floorspace brought back into use, and the take up of business support and grants by Rotherham businesses.

Appointments to the roles were anticipated in May 2026 with staff onboard, trained and operational by July 2026.

During the meeting, Councillor Williams noted that this was a scheme proposed by the Labour administration of which he was proud. He also noted that Opposition Groups had opposed the Scheme.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the establishment of the new Supporting Our High Streets Team.
2. Approve the activities guiding the Supporting Our High Streets Team's programme of work in principal towns across the Borough.

170. ROTHERHAM ROADS PROGRAMME 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which described how Rotherham's highways were strategically managed and maintained, in accordance with the agreed Highway Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP). The report reviewed the current strategy for the management and maintenance of Rotherham's highways and the impact the recent Council funding had on the highway network. Further, the report described the current performance, both in terms of the condition of Rotherham's highways and the delivery of highway maintenance services. This additional investment in Rotherham's roads was making a real improvement to the highway network. This was evidenced by the improvement in the condition of the estate roads and classified network and a continued reduction in the number of potholes reported and highway claims received against the Council.

Paragraph 2.2.6 of the report set out the allocation of budgets across the highway network in 2026/27. The indicative Highway Works Programme included a schedule of works to improve the accessibility of the footway network. These measures provided people with visual impairments, wheelchair users and others with improved access to the network. The existing footways on the planned list would be adapted with new dropped kerb lines and blister/tactile paving to assist access and promote safer locations to crossroads and access to footways. 34 pairs of crossings would be delivered across the network in locations requested by residents, local Councillors and interested groups. The Programme also included footway repair and the delivery of a surface treatment to priority sections of the footway network across the Borough.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note the programme and delegate any amendments necessary for practical delivery or safety purposes to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

171. 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.

172. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 8th June, 2026, commencing at 10.00am.

THE CABINET
8th June, 2026

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

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Allen.

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
Judith Badger	Executive Director of Corporate Services
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment
Chris Paddock	Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Rebecca Wilson	Interim Service Director of Adult Care and Integration
Alex Hawley	Consultant in Public Health
Sam Barstow	Service Director of Community Safety and Street Scene
Polly Hamilton	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism
Kevin Fisher	Service Director of Property and Facilities
Lynsey Linton	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development
James Kitchen	Head of Health and Safety
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Lesley Harrison	Cabinet and Management Support Manager
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor and Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 6 public questions:

1. Councillor Thorp asked a question regarding Minute No. 9 on the agenda (Disposal of Land at Worrygoose Lane, Whiston). He asked how the development had got planning permission if it was landlocked with no way out. He was also concerned with how the £4.5million would be spent. Councillor Thorp asked if the money could be spent in the Sitwell Ward, like had happened with a development in Swinton Ward.

The Monitoring Officer explained that the ownership of this particular piece of land was not known at the time planning permission was granted.

For the purposes of planning permission, land ownership was irrelevant. The matter before Cabinet was to address land ownership. They did not have the authority to address planning matters.

The Leader stated that the Swinton scheme was different in that it was always intended as a regeneration scheme in which the Council did a deal with the developer. However, he would be happy to have conversations with Councillor Thorp regarding the options that could be delivered to benefit residents in the local area.

Councillor Thorp accepted the invitation to hold a conversation with the Leader.

2. Andrew Claxton also asked a question in relation to Minute No. 9 on the agenda (Disposal of land at Worrygoose Lane, Whiston). He confirmed that he had already submitted a formal complaint regarding this matter. Mr. Claxton stated that the Council Planning Department granted a lucrative outline planning permission which artificially inflated the value of the ransom strip. He said he was concerned because the Council should strictly separate regulatory duties (like Planning) and the corporate financial interests of the Council. He asked if there was a conflict of interest because of this and what proof existed that the £4.5million valuation had been obtained from independent valuations.

The Monitoring Officer explained that the Planning Board Members did not have a conflict of interest when granting the planning permission as they were unaware of the land ownership matter when making this decision. In relation to ensuring safeguards were in place for when the Council was a landowner of a site seeking planning permission, it was confirmed that all matters were dealt with through the formal Committee process and in public. This was done in this circumstance. The Monitoring Officer directed Mr Claxton to the publicly available Cabinet report for the legal implications.

Mr. Claxton asked if the issues raised concerns regarding the competence of the Planning Department as they had failed to identify this issue.

The Leader explained that the Planning Department was not responsible for knowing the ownership of the land and it was not a matter considered as part of the planning application process. The Leader did agree that not knowing the ownership did not speak highly of the Council.

3. Dawn Ordish asked a question in relation to fly tipping in Eastwood and Rotherham generally. She asked why some rubbish was removed by Enviro-Crime but other bits were ignored. Ms. Ordish stated that just cleaning up at great expense each time was not the solution but something needed to be done, particularly in Eastwood, as residents did not want to live on a rubbish tip.

The Leader agreed that residents should not have to put up with fly tipping. The circumstance that existed in Eastwood was not acceptable, nor was it acceptable anywhere. He explained that an investment had been made in the 2026/27 budget for additional Civil Enforcement staff for Selective Licensing areas and it was expected that there would be a marked improvement in enforcement.

The Service Director of Community Safety and Street Scene explained that the Council was seeking to achieve consistent outcomes across the whole Borough in terms of the cleanliness of communities. There were some areas, including Eastwood, that suffered higher levels of fly tipping, and the Council needed to act accordingly. The Council did seek to take action in all possible circumstances, but it was not always possible to identify perpetrators. In terms of national data, Rotherham did perform quite well in terms of taking action.

Ms. Ordish stated that she could not believe that anywhere in the country was worse than Eastwood. As soon as the rubbish was cleared, more was back the following day. Enviro-Crime attended to put stickers on the rubbish but did not remove it. Ms. Ordish stated that St Ann's Road looked awful and could lead to racism.

The Leader reiterated that the situation in Eastwood was not acceptable. The tape being used by Enforcement Officers was part of the investigation process. Whilst the waste was easy to remove, in order to find the perpetrators, a full investigation was required. It was confirmed that if rubbish was dumped in the garden of a private property, it was the responsibility of the owner of that property to remove it.

The Leader confirmed that the Council would look into the matter if Ms. Ordish provided the details of the property. The Leader also confirmed that a Selective Licensing Board was being brought together, for residents, landlords, tenants and Council staff, to make sure everyone was working together to find solutions to matters like this.

4. Rachel Johnson expressed concerns regarding an overgrown hedge that was obstructing a public footpath and preventing wheelchair users, mobility scooter users, parents with pushchairs and other pedestrians from using the pavement safely. She stated that she had reported this to the Council but was told that people could use the footpath on the opposite side of the road instead. Ms. Johnson asked what action the Council would take and within what timescale to remove the obstruction and restore full access to the pavement.

The Leader and Service Director stated that they would need to know the specific location but stated that, on the face of it, the proposed action of using the footpath on the opposite side of the road did not seem right.

Ms. Johnson stated that she had reported several hedges and instances where footpaths were unavailable. The Council said DEFRA guidance

meant hedges could not be cut until September because of bird nesting season. Ms. Johnson did not feel this was correct.

The Leader confirmed a written response would be provided.

5. Kath Reeder asked a question regarding empty properties on Cambridge Street that had been empty for 25 years. Ms. Reeder stated that she had been trying to find out who owned the properties for 20 years but had never got an answer. She was concerned that they had been taken over by stealth and used EU funding.

The Leader stated that he did not know the particular circumstances of this matter. In general terms, if people owned buildings, they could keep them empty as long as they were kept safe. The Leader confirmed that he would get officers to look into the matter and provide a written response.

6. Mohammad Ashraf asked for the names, roles and functions of the people on the Selective Licensing Board and Stakeholder Steering Group. He also asked if all of the roles had been filled.

It was confirmed that the Terms of Reference had been drafted and were being consulted on. The roles had not yet been recruited to and there was still plenty of opportunities to get involved.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11th May, 2026, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Appendix 2 to Item 10 was exempt, but the meeting remained open to the press and public throughout.

5. OUTCOME OF THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSION ASSESSMENT OF ROTHERHAM ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the achievements regarding the Council's Social Care Service in achieving a 'Good' rating. It also summarised the key strengths and opportunities for development as detailed in the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) assessment report, which was attached at Appendix 1, of how well the Council was meeting its duties under Part 1 of the Care Act (2014). The assessment took place from 14th to 17th July, 2025, with publication of the final CQC report in March 2026.

The Assessment Notice was received from the CQC on 10th February, 2025, officially beginning the assessment period. Over 300 pieces of

evidence were submitted on 28th February, 2025, covering 38 Information Return statements which formed the basis of the CQC's understanding of how the Local Authority functioned and delivered its care functions. Following this, 50 case files were submitted and a 3 hour online opening presentation took place. The on-site assessment, undertaken by a 7 person CQC team, consisted of 3 days of group and individual interviews, with the experience described as positive by staff, partners, stakeholders and people with lived experience.

The draft report was received on 3rd February, 2026, with the delay due to sickness within the CQC Assessment Team, and the final report was returned on 4th March, 2026, rating Rotherham Adult Care as 'Good' with a score of 73%, placing it joint second in Yorkshire and the Humber. The report was published on 20th March, 2026, and reflection sessions and a celebration event were taking place to acknowledge strengths and inform development actions.

Local authorities were assessed against 4 themes:

1. Working with people
2. Providing support
3. How the local authority ensures safety
4. Leadership

Paragraph 2.4 of the report highlighted key strengths for each of the 4 themes. Paragraph 2.5 highlighted areas to be considered for development for each of the 4 themes.

During the meeting, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, the Leader and Deputy Leader placed on record their thanks to all the teams involved in achieving the "good" rating and to former Councillor Roche who had led on the improvements.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the achievements of the Council's Adult Social Care Service in achieving a 'Good' rating.
2. Notes the contents of this report highlighting the areas of strength and the opportunities for development, reflected in the CQC assessment report.
3. Supports the intention to address the areas for development as detailed in the report via a development plan to be agreed by the Executive Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

4. Agree to receive a progress update on delivery of the development plan in June 2027.

6. **RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH SELECT COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION SCRUTINY REVIEW**

Consideration was given to the report which presented Cabinet's response to the Health Select Commission's recommendations following a review of Access to Contraception in Rotherham. At its meeting on 21st November, 2024, the Health Select Commission agreed to proceed with undertaking a scrutiny review into access to contraception in Rotherham, recognising the importance of supporting residents to make informed choices about their reproductive health. The findings of the Review were approved by the Health Select Commission on 22nd January, 2026, endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) at its meeting on 3rd February, 2026 and presented to Cabinet on 16th March, 2026.

The evidence gathered was structured around 5 key themes, within which the resulting recommendations were grouped. The response to these was as follows:

- Commissioning and Service Delivery – accepted (section 2.4 of the report.)
- Education, Public Awareness and Messaging – partially accepted (section 2.5.)
- Digital Access and Information – partially accepted (section 2.6.)
- Youth Access and Confidentiality – partially accepted (section 2.7.)
- Data, Monitoring and Strategic Alignment – partially accepted (section 2.8.)

Proposed responses to each review recommendation were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and each proposed response had an associated timescale for delivery or further consideration.

Scrutiny Members were thanked for their work on this matter.

Resolved:

That the proposed Cabinet response to the Health Select Commission recommendations in respect of the Access to Contraception Review, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, be approved.

7. **HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY AND STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the statutory requirement for the Council to maintain a Health and Safety Policy that set out the organisation's approach to managing health and safety. The revised Policy and Statement of Intent was presented for consideration

and recommended for approval, following extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

The report also summarised the key changes made since the Policy was last approved by Cabinet, reflecting findings from recent reviews and consultation exercises. It also set out how the Policy's key objectives would be delivered and monitored, with specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) referenced as the primary route through which the Policy would be implemented, embedded, and operationally managed across the Council. The Policy further took account of the change in Chief Executive since the Policy was last approved.

Section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 placed a statutory duty on the Council, as an employer, to prepare, implement and maintain a written Health and Safety Policy that set out the organisation's approach to managing health and safety. The Act also required the Council to ensure that this Policy was effectively communicated to all employees, so they understood the standards, responsibilities and procedures expected of them. Compliance with this duty was essential to ensure that the Council demonstrated robust governance, promoted safe working practices and fulfilled its legal obligations in protecting employees and others affected by its activities.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who regulated Health and Safety Practice, state in their guidance that as a minimum the Policy should address 3 clear areas:

- A statement of intent – articulating a clear commitment from the organisation to protect the health and safety of its employees and those affected by its work activities. This should be signed by the most senior person in the organisation and reviewed regularly.
- Responsibilities and accountability for health and safety - a clear expression of officers, positions and roles that have specific responsibilities for health and safety across the organisation, including reporting lines and any relevant delegations of this responsibility.
- Arrangements for health and safety – aimed to provide details of the practical arrangements in place and how the Council will achieve its Policy aims.

The Council's Health and Safety Policy & Statement of Intent (Appendix 1) was constructed in line with the guidance and good practice recommendations made through statutory bodies such as the HSE. A detailed Standing Operating Procedures representing the Organisational Arrangements for the Management of the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) was referenced at Appendix 2 to provide assurance on the robust nature of the Council's arrangements for Health and Safety.

The introduction of an annual Health and Safety report into Cabinet would further strengthen corporate governance and oversight.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the revised Health and Safety Policy and Statement of Intent.
2. Agree to receive an annual report relating to Health and Safety performance.

8. FINANCE UPDATE JUNE 2026

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update to Cabinet on a number of financial matters. The report was provided as an interim update for Cabinet on the Council's financial outturn 2025/26, in advance of the more detailed Financial Outturn 2025/26 report to be submitted to Cabinet in July 2026. The updates follow on from the approval of the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report at Council on 4th March, 2026, which set out the forecast outturn position for 2025/26.

The report reflected that the Council's financial outturn position for 2025/26 had improved from a projected £3.4m overspend, as reported to Cabinet as part of December's Financial Monitoring report, to an overspend of £0.3m. Headline information explaining the improvements was detailed within the report.

The report also provided updates on the Council's delivery of the Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme. The 2025/26 Scheme provided additional support of up to £126.12 to low income households most vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills. A total of £1.777m had been awarded across 17,558 accounts with 10,989 being reduced to nil in 2025/26.

An update on the Household Support Fund (HSF) was also provided. The Council was awarded a full year HSF grant for 2025/26 of just under £4.4m. This was to support vulnerable households with energy, food and other cost of living pressures. As of 31st March ,2026, the Council had fully spent this grant allocation, including through delivering 141,748 Free School Meals vouchers to support families across the school holidays. HSF contributed over £413k to the delivery of the Council's Energy Crisis Support Scheme, supporting 1,657 households with £250 towards their fuel bills. Care leavers were supported with £90k of HSF covering energy and food costs and over 17,558 households received extra support towards their Council Tax bills. In addition, the HSF supported Voluntary and Community Sector provision to provide 657 vulnerable households over the Christmas and New Year period and distributed crisis food parcels throughout the year.

The report provided updates on a series of proposed variations to the Council's Capital Programme that required Cabinet approval. These were:

- The Corporate ICT Capital Programme (2.4.2 of the report)
- Matrix and Century Fire Stopping Works (2.4.3)
- Rother Valley Country Park Waterfront Café and Events Space (2.4.4)
- Ash Dieback Mitigation (2.4.5)
- Property Flood Resilience (2.4.6)

During the meeting, the Leader highlighted the Property Flood Resilience work. Following Storm Babet, communities impacted by flooding were entitled to apply for property flood resilience measures through a Grant arranged by Central Government (DEFRA) but administered by Local Authorities, known as the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Grant. Eligible flood-hit property owners would be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme. It was noted that the Grant was set up to allow residents to pay more to enhance protection beyond the minimum offered through the Grant. However, top up by the Council was recommended as this may be unaffordable in a number of cases and residents had incurred significant costs and disruption as a result of the floods to date. The works would support the overall aims of the Council's Drainage Capital Programme. It would also lead to cost avoidance for the Council in the future, for example in clean-up costs and diverted staff time.

The scheme would utilise £171,026 of unallocated budget (corporate borrowing) from the Drainage Capital Programme to fund any works which could not be covered by the grant.

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the update on the revenue budget financial outturn 2025/26.
2. Note the Council's progress on the delivery of the Local Council Tax Support Top Up payment scheme.
3. Note the update to the Household Support Fund for 2025-26.
4. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in section 2.4 of the report.

9. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT WORRYGOOSE LANE, WHISTON

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in land at Worrygoose Lane, Whiston, and to delegate authority to the Service Director Property and Facilities Services to complete all matters necessary to give effect to that disposal.

The land, which was surplus to operational requirements, was required to provide lawful access to a residential site allocated within the Council's adopted Local Plan and, therefore, represented a ransom strip, without control of which the wider site could not be developed. Following engagement with the adjoining landowners and the developer, the Council obtained independent valuation advice from the District Valuer to establish the value of the Council's land as a ransom strip. This valuation informed subsequent negotiations and provided assurance that the terms ultimately agreed reflected market value, taking account of relevant abnormal development costs.

During the course of negotiations, a number of offers were made by the developer and adjoining landowners. At one stage, all offers were withdrawn while alternative options for accessing the site were explored, resulting in a period of limited engagement with the Council. At a later stage, a change in developer and a refreshed commercial approach led to negotiations being re-opened and ultimately concluding in a final agreed offer of £4.5m for the Council's land.

An Option Agreement relating to the disposal had already been entered into and exercised. This report, therefore, sought approval to regularise the governance position and to determine whether the disposal should now proceed. The decision was in relation to the disposal of a Council-owned asset, taken in accordance with the Council's property and financial governance arrangements.

Notice under the Option Agreement was served on 21st April requiring completion by 6th May, which has since passed. While this position had contractual implications for the Council, this did not diminish or fetter Cabinet's ability to determine whether the disposal should proceed. Cabinet were being asked to consider and determine the disposal notwithstanding the contractual position. Should Cabinet resolve not to approve the disposal, the Council would be required to address and manage the resulting legal and financial implications. These were set out in Sections 5 and 6 of the report with additional information provided in Exempt Appendix 2.

The disposal enabled the realisation of value from a Council-owned asset and also enabled delivery of a wider residential development, including affordable housing, as already identified within the Council's Local Plan and wider objectives to deliver new residential and affordable residential across the Borough.

During the meeting, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the decision before Cabinet related only to the sale of the land, and not to any related planning matters.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:-

1. Approve the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in land at Worrygoose Lane, Whiston, as per the attached plan in Appendix 1.
2. Delegate authority to the Service Director Property and Facilities Services to carry out and complete all necessary and related activities to give effect to the disposal, including completion of legal documentation and receipt of all monies due to the Council, net of any fees or charges due.

10. NEW APPLICATION FOR BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FOR ROTHERHAM OPEN ARTS RENAISSANCE

Consideration was given to the report which presented the application for the award of Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy.

Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance, Hope Centre, Grove Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S60 2ER, was a registered Community Interest Company (CIC), not-for-profit organisation which was registered on Companies House as a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. The organisation was dedicated to supporting creative practices and promoting arts in Rotherham. The organisation provided free and low-cost access to creative spaces for local artists and creatives working with people of all ages and backgrounds. They aimed to remove financial and social barriers to participation and ensure the activities and studios were welcoming, inclusive and accessible to all.

The organisation had taken on an additional property to enable them to meet the local demand. This was allowing them to extend their existing work, providing more opportunities for local creatives and community groups with the provision of additional studio space, a pottery studio and a small gallery space for local artists to share their work with the community.

Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance had benefitted from an award of discretionary rate relief on their long-term property at Westgate Chambers, Westgate since 2011. They were now seeking additional support, backdated to 2025/26 for the property they occupied from 1st May, 2025, which had recently been added to the rating list by the Valuation Office.

The cost to RMBC for the 2025/26 year would be £3,815.03 and £4,115.02 for 2026/27.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

11. RENTERS RIGHTS ACT POLICY CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to consult on a Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy to sit alongside the Council's General Enforcement Policy and a Civil Penalty Calculation Mechanism, for delivering Civil penalties under the Renters' Rights Act 2025 and other relevant legislation. This was necessary to comply with national legislation and guidance, delivering a transparent process for applying Civil Penalties across a range of housing legislation. It offered a consistent approach with other local authorities in the region and provided an option to tailor the financial impact of the legislation to the local housing market.

The Renters' Rights Act 2025 ["the Act"], and associated Statutory Guidance, introduced significant changes to Local Housing Authority enforcement powers, including expanded civil penalties, statutory "starting points" for financial penalties, and a range of new investigatory powers. The Act had not been included within the 'Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007' and, therefore, was outside of the scope of the Regulator's Code and the principles of good regulation which were outlined within the Council's General Enforcement Policy.

The proposed Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, along with the Civil Penalty Calculation Mechanism, consolidated housing enforcement tools, including those outside the national Regulator's Code, ensuring consistency, proportionality, and compliance with the legislation which would not disproportionately impact the local private rented sector.

As a result of the new legislation and guidance, there were 6 areas which required inclusion or amendment in relation to the Council's Policy. These were all addressed in the draft Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, attached as Appendix 1, and the Civil Financial Penalty Calculation Mechanism, attached as Appendix 2 and 3 respectively. These were:

- New offences and powers under the Renters' Rights Act 2025.
- Updated Civil Penalty calculation methodologies.
- Statutory "starting points" for penalty calculations.
- The ACEHO National Model Enforcement Framework.
- Local economic conditions impacting penalty viability.
- Increases in the level of Rent Repayment Orders.

It was proposed that the consultation would commence in late June 2026 and run for 6 weeks. It would be designed to reach residents, businesses, neighbourhood groups, local charities, faith groups, landlord groups, tenants, owner occupiers and visitors, focused on those impacted by the private rented sector. The approach would concentrate on online and email engagement, utilising the corporate consultation mechanism where possible. Paper-based opportunities would be included. It was expected that the response to the consultation, and the final proposed Policy, would be presented to Cabinet in November 2026 after full consideration of the responses.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. OSMB requested that the consultation period be extended into September. During the meeting, the Chair of OSMB requested that the consultation be extended for a further 4 weeks. Cabinet agreed to extend the consultation by 2 weeks. This reflected the concerns raised by OSMB but meant that the original timeframe could still be adhered to.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve consultation on the draft:
 - a. Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, derived from the Association of Chief Environmental Health Officers (ACEHO) National Model Enforcement Policy; and
 - b. Civil Penalty Calculation Mechanism, including local market adjustment.
2. Note that a future report with the outcome of the consultation and revised policy documents will be presented to Cabinet in November 2026.
3. Agree that the consultation run for a period of 8 weeks.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

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

13. LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of the pre-consultation draft of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Appendix 1), outlined the governance and consultation timetable, and sought Cabinet support for the Council's participation in the formal consultation process.

The South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy was being prepared by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), which was the designated Responsible Authority under the Environment Act 2021, working collaboratively with Rotherham, Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster local authorities and the Peak District National Park Authority as Supporting Authorities. The South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (SYLNRS) sought to identify existing valuable habitats, priority species, priorities for nature recovery, and opportunities for enhancing biodiversity across the sub-region. The Strategy had been developed collaboratively with the 4 South Yorkshire Local Authorities and the Peak District National Park Authority, alongside voluntary and public sector partners.

The SYLNRS provided a strategic evidence base for nature recovery. While it did not place legal obligations on landowners, it would support funding bids, inform wider policy, and help attract public, voluntary and

private sector investment into South Yorkshire's green environment. Local planning authorities, in preparing new local plans and in development management decision-taking, would have regard to the LNRS and reflect the requirements of the LNRS within the preparation of a new Local Plan.

The draft Strategy was supported by a series of technical annexes (Annexes A–E), which provided the underlying evidence base, mapping and methodological detail that informed the preparation of the Strategy.

The Strategy was scrutinised by the Improving Places Select Commission who advised that the recommendations be support. They made an additional recommendation in relation to additional habitat banks which was accepted by Cabinet.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the pre-consultation draft of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, including the proposed governance and consultation arrangements led by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces, to:
 - a. agree and submit the Council's final consultation response to SYMCA on the draft South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, as set out in paragraph 3.1.
 - b. Endorse the final version of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy in autumn 2026, following the public consultation process and prior to final sign-off by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.
3. Agree that, as part of the Council's wider work on biodiversity net gain, it be requested that the Service give consideration to prioritising the development of additional habitat banks within the Borough, to ensure that these are established in advance of any large-scale infrastructure projects which could create an urgent requirement to compensate for habitat loss.

14. 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.

THE CABINET - 08/06/26

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 6th July, 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
16th June, 2026

Present:- Councillor Baggaley (in the Chair); Councillors Blackham, Elliott and Monk.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lelliott, Alison Hutchinson (Independent Person) and Michael Olugbenga-Babalola (Independent Person).

Also Present:-

Judith Badger, Executive Director, Corporate Services

Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance

Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit

Rob Mahon, Service Director of Financial Services

Scott Matthewman, Service Director, Strategic Commissioning

Simon Moss, Service Director, Regeneration and Environment

Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager

Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton (External Auditors)

Liz Luddington, Grant Thornton (External Auditors)

Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor and Clerk

1. COUNCILLORS ALLEN AND MCKIERNAN

The Chair thanked Councillors Allen and McKiernan for their work on behalf of the Audit Committee.

2. COUNCILLOR MONK

The Chair welcomed Councillor Monk to her first meeting of the Audit Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting nor had any questions been received in advance of the meeting.

The member of the press present at the meeting did not have any questions.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute Nos. 13 (Internal Audit Progress Report – Appendix G as defined in Paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime) and

Minute No. 14 (Risk Management Directorate Presentation – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17TH MARCH, 2026

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 17th March, 2026.

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

7. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN AND PROGRESS REPORT

Liz Luddington, Engagement Lead and Key Audit Partner, and Greg Charnley, Audit Senior Manager, Grant Thornton, presented the 2025-26 External Audit Plan. As a result of the good arrangements in place both the production of draft financial statements and engagement with Grant Thornton, Rotherham had not been affected by any of the backstop provision for local authority audits.

In order to meet future statutory deadlines for 2025-26, Grant Thornton would be working towards an internal deadline of 30th November, 2026. A detailed project plan for the audit fieldwork period was scheduled from the beginning of July through to early November.

It was the aim for the audit work to be operationally completed by the end of October with the key outputs and reports being drafted and agreed with management in the first half of November prior to the Audit Findings (ISA260) report on the accounts and the Auditor's Annual Report on the Council's value for money arrangements being submitted to the 24th November meeting of the Audit Committee.

The report covered the key issues both for the national and local contexts. Areas of significant risk were the same as in previous years, centring around management over-ride of controls, closing valuation of land and buildings (including Council dwellings) and valuation of local government pension scheme defined benefit pension fund net balance. Materiality was calculated on a similar principle as previous years but if items went above those thresholds they would be considered separately within the audit.

The planning work for the 2025-26 audit had commenced in March 2026 and continued into April. The final accounts work would begin in July through to November.

Audit fees were set by PSAA as part of their national procurement exercise. Grant Thornton had been awarded the contract with effect from 2018-19 and was successful in the re-tendering exercise conducted in 2023. The scale fee set out in the PSAA contract for the 2025-26 audit was £429,398.

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

8. PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2025-26

Consideration was given to a report presented by Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance, which introduced the draft Statement of Accounts, which had been published on the Council's website on 10th June 2026. This was slightly later than the original date of 31st May, 2026 allowing for effective quality and assurance checks to be performed, however, it complied with the 30th June statutory deadline for the publication of draft accounts. The period for local electors to exercise their rights for the public inspection phase had commenced on 11th June, 2026 and would end on 22nd July, 2026, then follow on to the external audit phase of the process.

It was proposed that the final accounts would be produced by the end of September 2026. However, Grant Thornton had indicated that, due to capacity constraints, it was likely to be late November for the completion of the audit of the accounts.

The Statement of Accounts included 4 appendices, the first was the narrative report, which was a more concise and easier to follow overview of the Council's financial standing, which covered the key areas of the accounts. Appendix 2 was the highlights report setting out key matters reported in the 2025-26 accounts; Appendix 3 was the unaudited statement of accounts 2025-26 and Appendix 4 showed the Council's response to enquiries from Grant Thornton with regard to issues that informed their audit risk assessment. The areas covered included fraud, laws and regulations and accounting estimates.

The accounts have been produced in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice.

In response to a question, it was clarified that when new build assets were applied to the asset register they were included at cost i.e. what was paid for the actual building. After a year they were revalued and often significantly less than the cost of building them. The significant reductions in expenditure in 2025-26 reported within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement were primary due to revaluation losses in 2024-25 resulting from the implementation of IFRS16 and the practical completion of Forge Island. The operational leases would be moved onto the balance sheet. The reduction in other operating expenditure reflected a loss on disposal in 2024-25 primarily caused by the derecognition of Council assets when schools became academies.

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

Resolved: That the draft unaudited 2025-26 Statement of Accounts be noted.

9. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025-26

Consideration was given to the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the 2025-26 financial year as presented by Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager. This was published alongside the Council's Statement of Accounts on 10th June, 2026. The paper briefly set out the process that was followed to construct this AGS and had been updated in line with the new guidance from CIPFA and had 2 new sections - Executive Summary and Forward Look.

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

Each Executive Director had overseen a self-assessment of governance within their Directorates comprising of a self-assessment form based on the Principles and Sub-Principles in the Code of Corporate Governance by each Service Director as well as a review and update of the detailed issues raised in the 2024-25 AGS. Each Executive Director and Service Director was also required to submit a Statement of Assurance based on the information arising from their review of current and previous governance issues. These were then reviewed by the Corporate Governance Group also considering which issues were of sufficient significance to require reporting in the AGS.

It sets out the assurances in place to evidence conformance with the Council's Code of Corporate Governance which was approved by the Committee in September 2025 and included the results of an internal self-assessment led by the Corporate Governance Group and review of previous issues identified.

The statement concluded that governance arrangements were effective overall during 2025-26 and highlighted progress made throughout the financial year as well as highlighting areas for further improvements.

The final statement would be submitted to the November meeting together with the final statement of accounts and updated to include any emerging governance issues.

It was suggested that there may be some benefit to further separate those services that were assessed as partially conforming with only a small number of sub-categories within the code.

Resolved: That the draft 2025-26 Annual Governance Statement be noted.

10. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2025-26

Consideration was given to the Annual Treasury Management Report, presented by Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance, which was the final treasury report for 2025-26. Its purpose was to review the treasury activity for 2025-26 against the Strategy agreed at the start of the year. The report also covers the actual Prudential Indicators for 2025-26 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

The Council received an Annual Treasury Strategy Report in advance of the 2025-26 financial year at its meeting on 5th March, 2025, and the Committee received a mid-year report at its meeting on 25th November, 2025, representing a mid-year review of treasury activity during 2025-26. In addition, quarterly updates were received by Audit Committee on 29th July, 2025 and 17th March, 2026.

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

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

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

The underlying economic and financial environment remained difficult for the Council to predict. Inflation had fallen back from historic highs in recent years and the Bank of England continued to cut interest rates. However, market sentiment had been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict. Commentators anticipated a growing risk of inflation meaning interest rates would likely not be cut for some time and may increase to counteract inflationary pressures arising from steepening energy costs. The cost of long term borrowing from PWLB had also increased during the year, in part reflecting this sentiment. With regard to investments, the main challenge was concerns over investment counterparty risk. This background encouraged the Council to continue maintaining investments short term and with low risk counterparties.

During 2025-26 the Council had continued to pursue its short-term borrowing strategy in line with advice from its Treasury advisers. Borrowing was taken only as needed and would be refinanced in the next

few years. This had resulted in a significant increase in the net under borrowed position. The Council would continue to monitor the interest position with a view to taking out further long term borrowing if there were dips in the long term borrowing rates but currently was utilising short-term borrowing to cover immediate borrowing need in anticipation of lower rates in the future. This process was separate from the Council's financial monitoring which tracked planned and actual expenditure against planned budgets.

The Council had reduced its investment balances in recent years as funds had been used to meet loan maturities rather than refinancing at historically high interest rates. In 2025-26 the Council had borrowed an additional £142M from local authorities and PWLB. In addition the Council had repaid £110.2M of principal on a mix of local authority and PWLB loans.

It was noted that the report would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 6th July, 2026.

The Chair queried how much of the closing CFR (£25.7M less than approved via the Mid-Year report) was due to slippage on a number of capital schemes or was it due to grant funding. It was explained that wherever possible attempts would be made to maximise external funding sources which sometimes had an impact on the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as it did not need to borrow. The Chair would be provided with a breakdown of the figures.

Resolved:- That the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators outturn position, as set out in Section 2 and Appendix 1 of the report submitted, be noted.

11. HIGHWAY STRUCTURES AUDIT REPORT UPDATE

Simon Moss, Service Director, Regeneration and Environment, presented a report setting out the actions taken and implementation of the recommendations made with regard to the Partial Assurance Internal Audit report on highway structures.

Under the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, the Highway Authority was to carry out General Inspections (GI) every 2 years and Principal Inspections (PI) every 6 years. PIs could be risk assessed to reduce the frequency up to 12 years.

In 2024 it was acknowledged that there was a significant backlog of inspections and a range of actions were determined to manage and reduce the risk profile. One of the actions was to invite Internal Audit to undertake a further detailed review.

Internal Audit had issued a Partial Assurance opinion on the report with 9 recommendations:-

Recommendation One – Risk Reporting

This action was completed prior to the final audit report being circulated in December, 2025.

Recommendation Two – Risk Appetite

This action was completed prior to the final audit report being circulated in December, 2025.

Recommendation Three – Mine Workings

As the action was for future works, there was no deadline. However, as part of pre-construction information, a section for mine working had been highlighted in the PCI packs to be completed in the future.

Recommendation Four – Weakness in inspection data

This action was completed prior to the final audit report being circulated in December, 2025.

Recommendation Five – Safety Inspections

This action had started prior to the final report being circulated in December, 2025, however it was an ongoing activity.

Recommendation Six – Ownership of Highways Structure Assets

This was an ongoing action and agreed that it would be managed on a case-by-case basis where there was ambiguity in records of the asset ownership.

Recommendation Seven – Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) disclosure

This action was completed prior to the final audit report being circulated in December, 2025 as the HAMP update was in November, 2025.

Recommendation Eight – Continuing Professional Development

This was an ongoing action. It was agreed that at the time of appointment of staff (permanent or temporary) that suitable checks would be carried out as part of the onboarding process. For contract staff, suitable checks would be carried out annually at a point where purchase orders needed to be extended/renewed.

Recommendation Nine – Follow-up Inspections

This was ongoing activity.

In 2025, the Council had 365 structures listed on its highway asset register. Of those, only 9 structures had a GIs within the 2 year validation period and 43 PIs within the 6 year validation period. As of June, 2026, all the structures had an up-to-date GI and carried out within the 2 year timeframe.

The approach to PIs was to commission external contractors for the inspections which could be carried out inhouse due to third parties e.g.

Network Rail Canal and River Trust etc. In the last year 40 PIs had been commissioned and a further 50 carried out inhouse. 81 structures now had a valid PI within the timeframe with a further 31 to be reviewed and approved.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- It was hoped that all the PIs would be complete by the end of the next financial year
- The Team in place now were suitably qualified, however, some of the PIs were being outsourced due to the specialist equipment required
- The increase in inspections was leading to an increase in defects found leading to challenging demands for resources

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

12. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which provided information on the role of Internal Audit; the work completed during 2025-26 and highlighted the key issues that had arisen therefrom. It provided the overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the adequacy of the Council's control environment, risk management and governance. It also provided information regarding the performance of the Internal Audit function during 2025-26.

Based upon the Internal Audit work undertaken and, taking into account other internal and external assurance processes, it had been possible to complete an assessment of the Council's overall control environment. In the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit, the Council had overall an adequate and effective framework of governance, risk management and control.

There had been a reduction in the number of audit reports with Partial/No Assurance opinions from the previous year. Management continued to proactively seek audit assurance where concerns existed. Whilst the Partial Assurance opinions had identified weaknesses in the control environment or compliance with controls, the weaknesses were not material enough to have a significant impact on the overall opinion on the adequacy of the Council's governance, risk management and control arrangements at the year end. The work undertaken during the year had clearly focused on the key risk areas of the Council and targeted to specific areas of concern.

The report included:-

- Legislative requirements and Professional Standards
- The Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the control framework, risk management and governance
- Resources and audit coverage during the year

- Summary of audit work undertaken during 2025-26, including both planned and responsive/investigatory work
- Summary of other evidence taken into account for control environment opinion
- Summary of audit opinions and recommendations made
- Internal Audit performance indicators

Audits were carried out in all areas of the Council during the year with the overall level of control found in audits to be good. 88% of audits resulted in a Substantial or Reasonable Assurance opinion with 6 Partial Assurances.

During 2025-26, 197 recommendations (210 in 2024-25) were made to improve the internal control, risk management and governance arrangements across the Council. Of these, 17 (32 in 2024-25) were in the highest category (red).

There had been one staffing change during the year due to an experienced member of team having retired. The post had proven difficult to recruit to but the new postholder would be taking up the position shortly together with a trainee auditor. During 2025-26 this had had a minor impact on the number of days performed, however, it was the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit that resource levels throughout the year provided sufficient capacity to provide an adequate level of assurance to the Audit Committee and Executive Director of Corporate Services. Sufficient work was completed during 2025-26 to enable the Head of Internal Audit to provide her overall opinion.

The Global Internal Audit Standards (UK Public Sector) required a quality assurance framework to be established including both internal and external assessments of the work of Internal Audit. CIPFA undertook a comprehensive External Quality Assessment of the Internal Audit function during Autumn 2025 which measured conformance against the Global Internal Audit Standards, the CIPFA Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government (the Code) and the Associated Application Note: Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector.

The assessment confirmed that the Internal Audit function was “Generally Conforming” overall to the Standards and Principles. This was the highest classification that CIPFA awarded.

The Committee sought reassurance, given the availability and movement of staff members, that the resources sufficient to deliver the Internal Audit Plan. The Head of Internal Audit confirmed that she was confident moving forward having recruited to the senior auditor position and the new trainee auditor. It was hoped to be fully staffed by the end of the summer.

Resolved:- (1) That the work undertaken during the 2025-26 financial year and the key issues that had arisen therefrom be noted.

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

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

13. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which provided a summary of Internal Audit work completed during 1st February to 30th April, 2026, and the key issues that had arisen.

The plan attached as part of the report showed the position up to the end of April 2026, the progress of the 2025-26 audit plan, the reports finalised between February and April 2026 and performance indicators for the Team. Since the last report there had been 6 audit actions that had been deferred which had reduced to 4 by May.

Internal Audit provided an opinion on the control environment for all systems or services which were subject to audit review. The report detailed the audit opinions and a summary of all audit work concluded in the last quarter. 11 audits with 15 reports, had been finalised since the last Audit Committee, 2 of which had received Substantial Assurance, 12 received Reasonable Assurance opinion and 1 Partial Assurance.

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

It was noted that the Liquid Logic audit had been undertaken by Salford IT on the Authority's behalf and had raised an issue with the 'Super User' profiles. The Service had taken immediate action in reducing access across the CYPS and Adults Directorates. During the time of Salford reporting the issue, Internal Audit had undertaken deep dive testing to ascertain there had been no inappropriate activity. This had been reported to the November meeting of the Committee (Minute No. 53 of 25th November, 2025 refers).

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken since the last Audit Committee, 1st February to 30th April, 2026, and the key issues that have arisen from it be noted.

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

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

14. ADULT CARE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK MANAGEMENT REGISTER

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Scott Matthewman, Service Director Strategic Commissioning, providing details of the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate.

A detailed breakdown was given of the Directorate's approach to risk management and the efforts to ensure transparency and the understanding of risk management by all staff.

In response to a query further information and assurance was provided on the risks rated red within the Directorate, which included risks, ACHPH-R49, ACHPH-R51 and 52,

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

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

15. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee for July 2026 to June 2027. The plan showed how the agenda items related to the objectives of the Committee. It was presented for review and amendment as necessary.

Resolved:- That the Audit Committee forward work plan, as now submitted, be approved.

16. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral.

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 16/06/26

17. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business for consideration.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
10th June, 2026

Present:-

Councillor Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health (in the Chair)
Jude Archer	Rotherham Place NHS SYCIB (substituting for Claire Smith)
Nicola Curley	Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services
John Edwards	Chief Executive, Rotherham Borough Council
Kym Gleeson	Manager, Healthwatch Rotherham
Shafiq Hussain	Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Rotherham
Bob Kirton	Managing Director, The Rotherham Foundation Trust
Jo McDonough	RDaSH
DS Anna Sedgewick	South Yorkshire Police (substituting for Andy Wright)

Report Presenters:-

Gilly Brenner	Public Health Consultant
Ruth Fletcher-Brown	Public Health Specialist
Carole Foster	Moving Rotherham Programme Manager
Alex Hawley	Consultant in Public Health
Oscar Holden	Health and Wellbeing Board Support Officer
Sam Longley	Public Health Specialist
Lorna Quinn	Public Health Intelligence Principal,

Also Present:-

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ismail, Andrew Bramidge (RMBC), Jason Page (Rotherham Place NHS SYCIB), Emily Parry-Harries (RMBC), Claire Smith (Rotherham Place NHS SYCIB), Ian Spicer (RMBC) and Steph Watt (Rotherham Place NHS SYCIB).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

2. 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.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to report.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st April, 2026.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st April, 2026, be approved as a true record.

5. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Lorna Quinn, Public Health Intelligence Principal, gave the following powerpoint presentation on the annual refresh that had taken place:-

Purpose of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

- To identify the key issues affecting the health and wellbeing of Rotherham's residents, both now and in the future
- It was an ongoing iterative process presented as a suite of resources including interactive reports, briefings, downloadable reports and datasets that were updated regularly as new analysis and insight became available
- A recently developed health and wellbeing bulletin could be shared alongside the quarterly intelligence update

Section 1 – Breastfeeding

Strategic Goal

- The first 1001 days were where the foundations of future health and wellbeing were built
- There was a strong body of evidence to show breastfeeding was beneficial to children in numerous ways including long term outcomes
- Rotherham still fell below England in breastfeeding prevalence but rates were improving – 44.1% in 2024/25 following 5 years of sustained improvement

JSNA Data

- Although currently 11.5% points behind England, Rotherham's rates were improving in line with national trends and comparable to rates across England 5 years ago
- Rotherham was currently placed 4th amongst its statistical neighbours, ahead of its statistical neighbours within South Yorkshire
- Although national data showed a sustained improvement, more recent data from the Infant Feeding Team indicated that this may have plateaued

Delivery – Infant Feeding Team

- Breastfeeding support was a commissioned service delivered by the NHS Infant Feeding Team and supported 1,756 mothers in 2025/26 – up by 318 on the previous year (22% increase)

- The Service provided support across 5,931 contact events in 2024/25 – up by 708 on the previous year (a 13.6% increase), 34% of contact events were with mothers from the 20% most deprived deciles targeting support to help close the inequality gap

The Offer – Infant Feeding Team

- The Team delivered breastfeeding sessions, attendance at breastfeeding drop-in sessions, the Ferham Mother, Baby and Toddler Group (targeted intervention for Pakistani/British Pakistani mothers which had seen a growth in attendance over the year and attendees coming to sessions at other locations) and Level 1 and 2 breastfeeding support training delivered to family hubs, staff and voluntary sector workers

Challenges Ahead

- Infant Feeding Team had seen a 22% increase in mothers supported and a 13% increase in contact events with no increase in staffing
- There was a risk that if the upward trend continued nationally, the gap between England and Rotherham widened, therefore, widening health inequalities between Rotherham's children and the national average

Section 2 – Long-term Conditions

Strategic Goal

- Good health was foundational to all of our lives but many people in Rotherham were living with chronic conditions
- Prevention, early diagnosis, intervention and management of these conditions was key to helping people live as independently and as healthy as possible
- Rotherham had a higher prevalence of long-term conditions so prevention and management was key to achieving some of the strategic aims

JSNA Data – Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

- CVD covered 4 main conditions, 3 of which data was held on:
 - Coronary heart disease prevalence in Rotherham was 3.8% - slightly higher but in line with the England level of 3%
 - Stroke and TIA prevalence was 2.4% above the England level of 1.9%
 - Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) prevalence was 0.7% in line with the England level of 0.6%
- The key difference in Rotherham was it had significantly higher rates of hospital admissions for CHD than England – 564 per 100,000 compared to 386 for England and significantly higher under 75 mortality – 62.5 per 100,000 compared to 40.6

JSNA – Respiratory Conditions

- Respiratory conditions affected 1 in 5 people in England and was the third biggest cause of death
- Asthma prevalence in Rotherham was 7.9% compared to 6.5% in England, COPD was 3.2% (1.9% in England) and lung cancer was 160.15 per 100,000 compared to 111.99 in England
- Outcomes were worse for people in Rotherham with significantly higher rates of mortality for respiratory disease overall and under 75 mortality for preventable respiratory disease
- All age mortality rate for respiratory disease in Rotherham was 160.82 compared to 111.29 for England (2024)
- Under 75 mortality for preventable respiratory disease was 27.17 per 100,000 in Rotherham compared to 19.32 in England

JSNA Data – Musculoskeletal Conditions

- Musculoskeletal conditions (MSK) impacted quality of life with pain, limited motion and reduced ability to take part in daily life
- Those living with multiple conditions, MSK had been reported to cause the greatest impact on overall wellness, independence and quality of life due to increased pain and limited movement
- 22.9% of Rotherham residents reported having a long term MSK compared to 18.4% in England
- Rates of reported MSK conditions in Rotherham had remained relatively stable since 2018

Early Detection – NHS Health Checks

- Hypertension was the single most modifiable risk factor for CVD
- QOF prevalence of hypertension for 2024/25 was 17.6% higher than the England level of 15.2%
- The upward trend after 2020 both locally and nationally was due to the restart of the NHS health checks along with NHS Community Pharmacy Blood Pressure Check Service alongside other screening in Primary Care post-Covid
- Increase in QOF prevalence was likely due to more cases of hypertension being detected rather than an increase in the level present in the population

Intervention – Rotherham Healthwave

- 2025/25 Healthwave received 9,827 referrals, 131% of the annual target
- 48% of residents referred to the Service came through the self-referral pathway
- 31% were referred into Smoking Cessation Services, 16% were referred into Weight Management and Physical Exercise Services
- 23% referred to Healthwave did not go onto any service either through declining referral (17%) or were not contactable (6%)

Intervention - Smoking

- Smoking contributed towards numerous long-term conditions including COPD, CVD and cancers and residents of Rotherham smoked at rates above the England average
- 13.5% of Rotherham residents were current smokers compared to 10.4% in England
- The Local Enhanced Service (Swap to Stop) received 388 referrals in 2025/26
- 129 or 33% referred to LEL quit at 4 weeks below the target of 55%
- Smoking Cessation Service received 1,394 referrals in 2025/26
- 1,011 were reordered giving the Service a 73% quit rate – more than the 55% target with 57% of quitters still quit at 3 months

Intervention – Weight Management

- Excess weight was a significant but modifiable risk for hypertension, cardiovascular disease and MSK
- 1,026 residents were referred to Tier 2 weight management interventions in 2025/26 exceeding the target of 1,000
- 37% achieved a 5% weight loss at 12 weeks (the end of the programme) and 35% maintained 5% weight loss at 6 months, over the targets of 15% (12 weeks) and 10% (6 months)
- 85 residents were referred to Tier 2 plus, under the service target of 100
- 54% of residents referred to Tier 2 plus achieved 5% weight loss at the end of the programme (24 weeks) far more than the 10% target

Intervention – Long-term Conditions

- Being physically active had numerous benefits for physical and mental health and was crucial for preventing or managing many long-term conditions
- Wellbeing and physical activity programme could help prevent falls, make daily tasks easier, improve mental health and tackle social isolation
- 3,276 residents assessed reported a 60 minute increase in time they spent physically active

Section 3 – Sexual Health

- Improvements could be seen in HIV testing rate which had been increasing over time. Although currently still lower than England, the rate was increasing and remained higher than Rotherham's statistical neighbours
- HIV testing rates had declined during 2020 and 2021 but were on their way to being higher than the pre-Covic period

National Picture

- Nationally seeing increases in Syphilis diagnostic rate, however, Rotherham had seen a decrease and it remained significantly better than that for England. It was a similar picture for the Gonorrhoea diagnostic rate, however, the Chlamydia detection rate for 15-24 year

old females in Rotherham remained significantly higher than that for England

Opportunities for Improvements

- The HIV late diagnosis indicated showed the proportion of those who were considered to have late diagnosis (over 91 days) or advance HIV. It was the most important predictor of mortality and morbidity among those with HIV infection
- For 2020-2022 Rotherham was in the lower third of its nearest neighbours (better) but it had been increasing and now sat in the top half of local authorities and significantly higher than England
- Lots of people were being tested in Sexual Health Services but there needed to be a better understanding in wider health services.

Delivery

- The Sexual Health Service had moved into a new space the location of which was easier to access whilst maintaining confidentiality
- Expansion of pharmacy provision of contraception and a higher rate of long acting reversible contraception in the hospital (less so in Primary Care). The access to contraception review had taken place to identify opportunities where provision could be expanded and made more accessible across the Borough

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- New guidance had recently been published highlighting JSNAs having much more statutory significance and formal requirements to evidence some of the impact it was making together with HWBB partners
- Rotherham's Midwifery Team had been awarded UNICEF Gold accreditation in January 2026, one of only 13 Trusts in the country
- Excellent work was taking place with the Smoking Cessation Service and Breathing Spaces but how was that communicated to the general public
- What was known about the 18-24 year old cohort in Rotherham and the relationship between inactivity and health
- In the current climate there would be no more resources allocated e.g. Infant Feeding Team so had to look at innovative ways of working and how to reach the population as effectively as possible particularly those hard to reach groups

Resolved:- That the update to the 2026 JSNA be noted and its use be promoted within organisations.

6. ROTHERHAM SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN 2025-2028

Ruth Fletcher-Brown, Public Health Specialist, presented a progress update on the 2025-28 Action Plan with the aid of the following powerpoint presentation:-

Suicide Rates for Rotherham 2022-2024

- The latest suicide data showed that Rotherham had seen a small increase in suicides from 12.6 (2021-23) per 100,000 to 13.3 (2022-24). However, the rate was statistically similar to the average for England at 10.9 per 100,000
- Rotherham mirrored the national picture with males still accounting for most of the deaths to suicide in Rotherham. The rate had slightly increased in 2022-24 to 19.0 per 100,000 compared to 17.2 in 2021-23. However, it was still statistically similar to the national average for England at 16.8 per 100,000
- Female deaths in Rotherham was 7.8 (2022-24) per 100,000 which had decreased from 8.1 (2021-23). It was statistically similar to England at 5.5 per 100,000

Aim 1 Making Suicide Prevention Everyone's Responsibility

- Bespoke training for staff across the partnership
- SPEAK – Suicide Prevention Explore, Ask, Keep-Safe. 14 x SPEAK sessions (8 x online and 6 x face-to-face)
- Training commenced mid-April and would be targeted at schools/colleges who would then be able to access the 'Sinking Feeling' Toolkit
- Autism Suicide Prevention Campaign launched on 10th September, 2025

Aim 2 Support to those bereaved, affected and exposed to suicide

- Sudden and Traumatic Bereavement Pathway updated and available on TriX
- Walk with Us Resource – original and new easy read version delivered to all schools and colleges in Rotherham
- 72 staff from across Rotherham Partner organisations attended a workshop in May 2026 about talking to children who had been bereaved which promoted Amparo support and Walk with Us
- Supporting children, young people and adults living and or working in South Yorkshire with practical and emotional support
- Regular Zoom training sessions for practitioners and during awareness weeks
- Amparo attended community events and promoted the service at CYPs staff event
- Support provided to community and staff groups who had been affected by suicide
- Cup of Calm drop-in sessions

Aim 3 Reducing suicides amongst high risk groups by reaching people where they live and work

- Testing of the Rotherham Contagion Plan April 2026 facilitated by DHSC colleague

- Community Response plan meetings in geographical areas where higher number of suicides had been seen – training for local practitioners, distribution of mental health newsletter
- Rotherham Samaritans Wellbeing Pathway Activity
- Be the One Autism and Suicide Prevention Work
- Domestic Abuse and Suicide Prevention training
- Chronic pain work including chronic pain pathway (Rotherham PARTS NHS)
- Vista Project – attempted suicide prevention pilot implemented in response to real time data which showed a previous attempt as one of 3 top themes for those who had died by suicide
- Vista commenced April 2025 and ran to mid-July 2026
- Support for people who had attempted suicide or had suicidal ideation where it was a life event. Chronic illness, bereavement/loss, feelings of worthlessness and rejection and social isolation were the most common reasons for individuals accessing the Service
- The project used Recovery Star to monitor progress so each programme was individualised. At Quarter 3, all patients demonstrated improvement in at least 3 areas of the Recovery Star. The tool covered 10 domains and, whilst not all were applicable to every individual, patients showed progress in an average of 5.3 out of 10 areas
- Although the data was small, since the project started in April 2025, it appeared there had been a reduction in those accessing home treatment and a reduction in the number of acute contacts (individual and overall)

Aim 4 Using data to inform delivery of suicide prevention in Rotherham

- Frequently used locations – work with South Yorkshire Police, BTP and National Highways
- Suicide Operational Group – using the real time data to inform practice at a Place level
- South Yorkshire Coroners Audit with support from Coroners and Sheffield University

Additional Support

- Kooth, Qwell, EYUP-Shout, Rotherham Samaritans, RotherHive, Andy's Man Club, ASK, MATT, RAW, Men Actually Talk and Crisis Line

South Yorkshire Wide Activity

- Memorial event, real time surveillance, training – older adults and LGBTQI+ communities, Coroner's Audit, Amparo, Walk with Us, Neurodiverse Groups and Suicide Prevention toolkit, 4 Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide Groups in Rotherham

Next Steps

- Implementation of the action plan was overseen by the Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Group. Partners of the HWBB were represented
- Some actions would take place at a South Yorkshire level subject to funding
- The Board would receive updates on progress and any emerging concerns
- Development of a South Yorkshire Suicide Prevention Plan on a Page 2026/27

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- There had been 39 attendees at the training so far
- Awareness raising was very important. It was common for people to be fearful of asking the questions if they were worrying about somebody and was why Papyrus had been commissioned
- Early intervention and prevention was important as well as work around loneliness and isolation and how to encourage people to have mindful conversations
- Concern regarding the 16-24 year old NEET population. There was a lot of talk about this particular age group and their mental health nationally with raising rates of anxiety and loneliness. Work was to take place looking at the rates in Rotherham as well as work being carried out in Employment Solutions. The challenging environment that some of the young people found themselves in could not be underestimated

Resolved:- (1) That the progress made to date by Partners to deliver actions within the Rotherham Suicide Prevention Action Plan, 2025-2028 be noted.

(2) That the Partnership work across South Yorkshire, which would also support delivery at Place, be noted.

(3) That the Board continue to receive regular updates on progress against priority areas identified in the action plan with any emerging concerns escalated when necessary, including concerns regarding funding pressures.

7. **RMBC BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY BOROUGH DECLARATION**

Sam Longley, Public Health Specialist, presented progress made over the past year.

Background

- Healthy Weight Declaration adopted January 2020
- Focus on Early Years, pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Breastfeeding Friendly Borough proposal agreed June 2022

Aim

- Support families to make informed choices
- Create supportive environments for breastfeeding
- Reduce stigma and improve outcomes

Informed and Supported Choice

- 8 out of 10 women stopped earlier than planned often due to lack of support
- Compassionate approach promoted with no stigma or judgement
- In Rotherham families valued the support provided by the Infant Feeding Team

Health Inequalities

- Lower rates in deprived communities
- Improving rates helped reduce inequalities
- Targeted support was essential

Wider Benefits

- Environmental benefits (reduced formula impact) with cost savings of £50-100 per month
- Supports families during the cost of living pressures

Progress

- Breastfeeding initiation – 60.87% (2025-26)
- Rates improving year on year
- National average 75%
- Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks in Q3 of 2025-26 was 45%

Targeting Inequalities

- -50% of support in most deprived 30% areas
- 21.4% in most 10%
- Strong progress towards reducing inequality

Key Achievements

- UNICEF Gold accreditation (Midwifery January 2026)
- Family Hubs Stage 1 Baby Friendly achieved
- Infant Feeding Strategic Group established

Community and Environment

- Breastfeeding-friendly venues expanding
- Directory of supportive businesses in development
- Campaigns and events delivered

Future Focus

- Stage 2 Baby Friendly preparation
- Expand peer support network

- Engage businesses and partners
- Strengthen ante-natal offer

Discussion ensued with the following items raised/clarified:-

- Teenage mothers were a particularly hard to reach group. The Health Visiting Teams were targeting young mums in terms of ante-natal contact and services they could offer. Within the Family Hubs ante-natal was a key target and how young mothers could be engaged in terms of parental support groups
- Heat mapping of where the population lived and where groups specifically for teenagers were offered because often it was a barrier of people the young women did not see as their peers; work was in progress and logistically creating something
- The Parent Panel gave opportunities to ask parents around this together with work with Jade etc. to find out what teenagers would like

Resolved:- (1) That the support for the ambition for Rotherham to become a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough be re-affirmed.

(2) That future updates to the Board be provided within the Best Start Local Plan reporting cycle.

8. **BEST START LOCAL PLAN AND BEST START AND BEYOND FRAMEWORK**

Alex Hawley, Consultant in Public Health, presented an update including national policy changes with the aid of the following powerpoint presentation:-

National Policy Context

- Overlapping changes across Health, Education, Early Help
 - 75% good level of development by 2028
 - Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies
 - Healthy Child Programme guidance
 - SEND Reforms
 - Families First Partnership
 - NHS shift: prevention and community

What this means locally

- Best Start Local Plan required – published by end of March 2026
- Alignment across multiple programmes
- Focus on school readiness outcomes
- Strong partnership delivery needed

Rotherham Targets for Good Level of Development (GLD)

- 73.3% children achieve GLD 2028
- 56.6% GLD for FSM pupils
- Explicit focus on reducing inequalities

Our approach in the Plan

- A Shared Vision
- Work in genuine partnership with parents and carers
- The 4 cornerstones:
 - Welcome and Care
 - Communicate
 - Value and Include
 - Work in Partnership
- Quality of Early Years
- Smooth transitions
- Early intervention
- Tackling inequalities early
- Connected services

6 Priority Areas

- Strengthening early communication, language and literacy for all children
- Increasing access to early education for disadvantaged children
- Improving the quality of Early Years Provision including Reception for all children
- Identifying needs early and supporting children with SEND and vulnerable families
- Providing joined-up family support through Rotherham's Family Hubs
- Tackling inequalities across the 0-5 system

Key Challenges

- Complex system of overlapping programmes
- Risk of duplication vs added value
- Maintaining clear outcomes focus
- Capacity across whole 0-25 pathway

Implementation Priorities

- Detailed needs assessment
- Theory of change and metrics
- Map activity and identify gaps
- Develop implementation plan
- Involvement of all key partners across Health, Education, Early Help, Social Care, voluntary sector and others e.g. potentially important role for Housing

Next Steps

- A more in-depth needs assessment for GLD
- Develop and agree a theory of change logic model for GLD
- To agree a set of metrics to measure change and progress towards the desired outcomes
- To map existing operational or planned activities within related programmes

- To identify gaps and opportunities for adding value
- To determine lead officers for agreed new activity
- Develop a high level implementation plan for the Best Start Local Plan
- To agree a key topic focus for applying the Best Start and Beyond Framework within school age cohort
- To agree a forward plan of reporting into the Health and Wellbeing Board for Best Start Local Plan and other outcomes within Aim 1

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The SEND forward plan had been submitted in accordance with the 19th June, 2026, deadline
- The delivery plan had to be submitted to the DfE by the end of the week (12th June)
- There were a series of interlinked initiatives coming on stream with the Government vision that there be a Best Start Programme which included Family Hubs, Families First Programme and SEND
- The national consultation on the SEND proposals had just closed but the Local Authority had to submit a plan around managing SEND for the next 2 years without knowing what the outcome of the consultation was
- Health colleagues had been very supportive in developing the Expert at Hand model together with an expectation that SEND specialists would sit within the Family Hubs which would link to the Best Start Programme
- There would be a lot more work around the Youth Hubs and the expectations for the older age range (16-24 years)
- It was a very challenging landscape as were the targets set particularly for GLD which would be difficult to achieve. Representations had been made to the DfE
- There would be Best Start Inclusion Practitioners in each Family Hub. Some guidance had been received earlier in the week which was more specific than previously issued
- Clearly very much in the early stages of work and the implementation plan for Best Start was much different to what was happening. It was felt useful to step back and assess the situation in order to add value and fill any gaps rather than immediately develop a delivery plan
- There was no similar target to that of GLD and pupils on Free School Meals for children with SEND and was one of the key challenges. This had been part of the statement back to the DfE when initial targets had been issued
- The need to acknowledge that children with SEND could still achieve some major development even if they could not achieve everything

Resolved:- (1) That the Board endorse the published Best Start Local Plan be approved.

(2) That the refreshed version of the Best Start and Beyond Framework be approved.

(3) That the range of policy updates reported in the briefing and the concomitant local system response be noted.

(4) That one overview report on the Best Start Local Plan be submitted to the Board together with one more focused topic-based report during the course of the year with sufficient time allowed within the agenda to facilitate discussion.

9. **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD 2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT**

Oscar Holden, Health and Wellbeing Board Support Officer, presented the Board's 2025-26 annual report which outlined the activity and progress made during the first year of delivery under the refreshed 2025-30 Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The following powerpoint was shown in conjunction with the report submitted:-

Context

- Life expectancy at birth in Rotherham was 77.8 years for males (79.1 years nationally) and 80.9 years for females (83.1 years nationally) (2021-23)
- The average healthy life expectancy at birth was 56 years for males (61.5 years nationally) and 55.6 years for females (61.9 nationally)
- 21.1% of the population with a limiting long-term health problem or disability in 2021 (17.5% nationally)
- Rotherham had an ageing population with 55,872 people aged 65 years or over. This was 20.2% of the population (18.4% nationally)
- Rotherham was more deprived than 82% of local authority districts in England

Aim 1: Enable all children and young people, up to age 25, to have the best start in life, maximise their capabilities and have influence and control over their lives

Baby Packs

- Universal Early Help offer providing every expectant family with essential baby items via midwives whilst linking parents into Family Hubs and support services from pregnancy
- Helped reduce financial pressure, improve Early Years outcomes and ensured all children had an equal start

Children's Capital of Culture

- Borough-wide programme of free creative, cultural and sporting activities shaped by young people with strong youth leadership and participation
- Builds confidence, skills, wellbeing and a sense of belonging whilst tackling inequalities in access to opportunities

Aim 2: Support the people of Rotherham to live in good and improving physical health throughout their lives, accessing and shaping the services and resources they need

Neighbourhood Health Pilot

- National pilot delivering proactive, community-based care, identifying residents at risk earlier and supporting them locally to manage long-term conditions
- Focuses on prevention areas such as diabetes, heart health, smoking and obesity, reducing hospital demand

Winter Plan

- Multi-agency system response to winter pressures including vaccination programmes, respiratory hubs and expanded out-of-hospital care
- Led to shorter wait times, improved urgent care access and better support for vulnerable residents

Aim 3: Support the people of Rotherham to live in good and improving mental health throughout their lives, accessing and shaping the services and resources they need

Be The One Campaign

- Suicide prevention initiative encouraging residents to recognise distress, start conversations and seek help early
- Included community engagement and lived experience stories to reduce stigma and build confidence to act

Poverty Proofing (RDaSH)

- Review of Mental Health Services to identify and remove financial barriers such as travel costs and access issues
- Introduced practical changes (e.g. outreach appointments, clearer support information) improving access, engagement and equity in care

Aim 4: Sustain an environment where detrimental impacts from commercial and wider determinants of health are reduced and opportunities for healthier living are nurtured

Healthy Homes Plan

- Strategic focus on improving housing conditions e.g. damp, cold, fuel poverty to prevent illness and reduce health inequalities
- Encourages upstream intervention and cross-sector collaboration beyond traditional healthcare

VCSE Sector Collaboration

- Recognises voluntary organisations as key partners in tackling issues such as isolation, poverty and access to support
- Strengthens community resilience, early interventions and trusted links to vulnerable groups

Looking Ahead

The ambition for 2026-27 was to build upon our progress and to deliver the following:-

- Carry out the agreed action plan and core activities in 2026-27
- Continue to work collaboratively as a partnership to monitor the delivery of activities to meet the aims and measure against the priorities of the Strategy
- Continue to support and accommodate the ongoing changes across the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System and ensure we continue to deliver against the aims in the new and emerging landscape
- Influence other bodies and stakeholders including those with a role in addressing the wider determinants of health to embed health equity in all policies across Rotherham
- Continue to focus on reducing health inequalities between the most and least deprived communities
- Champion positive news stories coming from across the health and wellbeing network and share best practice across partners
- Continue to produce an annual report each year with case studies giving people the chance to hear about what the Board had achieved and its impact

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The report contained a good range of case studies, not just for the Council, but Health and VAR
- The relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and Neighbourhoods in relation to the recent Government announcements needed to be defined and should be referenced in the report

Resolved:- (1) That the content and key achievements of the Annual Report 2025/26 be noted.

(2) That the Board contribute to the finalisation of the case studies provided for each priority of the Strategy and suggest any improvements.

10. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY/MOVING ROTHERHAM BOARD

Gilly Brenner, Public Health Consultant, and Carole Foster, Moving Rotherham Programme Manager, provided a development year update on the Moving Rotherham Partnership with the aid of the following powerpoint presentation:-

Why be active

- Benefits for individuals, the economy and communities

The Challenges

- Health inequalities were unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population and between different groups within society. They arose because of the conditions in which we were born, grow, live, work and age

Development Year Aims – build the foundations for a co-ordinated, inclusive, place-based physical activity system in Rotherham

- Test new approaches to engage inactive and underserved communities
- Strengthen system leadership, partnerships and shared learning
- Understand what works (and what does not) through real delivery
- Gather insight to shape a long term Moving Rotherham Strategy

How we did it

- FLUX - creative physical activity engagement outdoors
- Every Move Counts - long term condition referral scheme
- Place-based community work through Yorkshire Sport Foundation and local delivery providers
- Inclusive activity network development
- Schools and faith-based CYP engagement
- System enablement work (communications, workforce, planning)

What was the impact

- Increased visibility of physical activity, more conversations about physical activity across the Borough
- Strengthened cross-sector co-ordination and relationships
- Enhanced engagement in trusted community settings
- Generated rich consultation insight and some important key learning themes
- Increased system capability through training and development e.g. through Active Practice Charter and Inclusive Active Network

How evaluations were shaping future bid – the full bid should prioritise

- Trusted settings as delivery anchors
- Utilising the strength of existing networks and building new cross-sector networks
- Community-led co-design and ensure voices of people with lived experience shared
- Joined-up clinical and community pathways, embed into existing routine pathways
- Adaptable and flexible to different groups in both communications and delivery ensuring inclusivity and accessibility throughout
- Creative and inclusive delivery models

Moving Rotherham Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Rotherham

- Developing 5 year Physical Activity and Sport Strategy “Together we create the conditions where everyone in Rotherham can move more, in ways that feel enjoyable and meaningful, to improve health, happiness and quality of life”

How change will happen

- Core principles reflecting how partners think change should happen
 - Join things up
 - Start with people
 - Explore and be brave
 - Build for the long term
 - Embed equity, diversity and inclusion

How we will collaborate

- Working together was essential to achieving change. No single organisation could do it alone
 - Big Active Network
 - Other networks – inclusive activity, sports
 - System leaders
 - Moving Rotherham Board
 - Health and Wellbeing Board and Cultural Partnership Board

Our Priorities – 3 priority audiences

- Children and young people, people with long term health conditions and/or disabilities and communities where activity levels were the lowest

3 enabling themes

- Communication, inclusion and place making and system change

Understanding our progress

- Creating a more active Borough within a constantly changing context was a significant and long-term challenge
- Essential that focus on creating the conditions that enabled sustainable change

Key Milestones

- 1st June, 2026 – bid submission
- 22nd September, 2026 – decision expected

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The England Active Lives research, a national benchmarking exercise, had recently released data for activity levels and inactivity levels. Rotherham had seen inactivity levels reduce by 4% and activity levels increase 5%
- Yorkshire Sport Foundation’s Active Sports Programme was an Early Years initiative

- Work was taking place with SYMCA on the Memorandum of Understanding of Physical Activity
- RDaSH, in conjunction with Sport England, was carrying out some work in Doncaster integrating physical activity into its Talking Therapy Services with the early outcomes looking very good in improving mental health. It was a pathway rolled out under Talking Therapies for those people with long term conditions and/or mental health conditions. There was an opportunity to explore if it was something that could be replicated in Rotherham
- The Trust had seen huge change in the way clinical systems worked e.g. smoking cessation. Behaviour change was required to embed into the system that clinical physical inactivity could be treated with some physical activity. If you were more active it would help reduce loneliness etc. so could only help
- Methods of monitoring and evaluation had been considered during the compilation of the plan but did require further work. Consideration was needed as to how to add value and build the “voice” in as well as some concrete measures to help with tracking against measures. Although Active Lives provided some information the sample size was not huge

Resolved:- That the Moving Rotherham Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2026-31 be endorsed and the delivery of the Moving Rotherham Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2026-2031 supported.

11. BETTER CARE FUND

The Board noted the narrative return which had been completed and returned in accordance with the 19th May, 2026, deadline.

Bob Kirton, TRFT, expressed concern at the increased demand the Trust was experiencing and welcomed the review of how urgent and emergency care was delivered.

12. ITEMS ESCALATED FROM THE PLACE BOARD

There were no issues to report.

13. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD MINUTES - PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS

The minutes of the Rotherham Place Board Partnership Business meetings held on 18th February and 15th April, 2026, were noted.

14. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD MINUTES - ICB BUSINESS

The minutes of the Rotherham Place Board ICB Business held on 18th February, 2026, were noted.

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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
19th May, 2026

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

Also Present:-

Mr. Heward Shinwari, Applicant

Mr. Taimor Hairat, Supporter acting as Interpreter

“Other Person” Objector No. 10

Mrs. Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer

Ms. Katie Etheridge, Solicitor, Legal Services

Mrs. Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor and Clerk

38. CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) BY MR HEWARD SHINWARI FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF PREMISES SITUATED AT 21 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 21 Monkwood Road, Rotherham S62 7JN.

The applicant, Mr. Heward Shinwari, was seeking authorisation to allow the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises on the days of Monday to Saturday between 0700 and 2300 hours and Sunday between 0800 and 2200 hours.

Mr. Shinwari was present together with Mr. Taimor Hairat acting as interpreter.

Consultation on the application had been carried out in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council procedure. During the consultation period 15 “Other Persons” had made representations to the application opposing the granting of the application as well as the Licensing Authority. The representations had been reviewed and found that 5 of the representations received from “Other Persons” had not been accepted due to the senders having failed to provide the Licensing Office with their name and address.

The Licensing Authority had made representations requesting that, if the Sub-Committee was minded to grant the application, that the management controls offered by the applicant be disregarded and the conditions set out in their representations imposed.

Mrs. Kraus informed the Sub-Committee that subsequently the applicant had amended his application so as to offer the 14 conditions requested by the Licensing Authority and, accordingly, these would automatically be applied to Annex 2 of any licence granted. Therefore, the Licensing Authority had withdrawn its representations.

Mr. Shinwari had been provided with the detail of the representations from “Other Persons” but had not attempted conciliation.

All the “Other Persons” had been invited to the meeting. Only one was in attendance, Other Person No. 10 as listed in the report.

General questioning of Mr. Shinwari commenced including who would be working in the shop, who was the Designated Premises Supervisor etc. However, once detailed questioning by the Sub-Committee, Licensing Service and the objector started, Members became concerned that there were issues of understanding through language barriers.

In the interest of fairness to all parties concerned, the Sub-Committee felt that the hearing should be adjourned and reconvened with an independent Pashto interpreter, sourced by the Council, in attendance to assist Mr. Shinwari.

Resolved:- That the hearing be adjourned in order for an independent Pashto interpreter to be in attendance at a reconvened hearing to assist the applicant.

LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
15th June, 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester, Brent, T. Collingham and Harper.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

3. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to 2 applications for the renewal/review of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. S.K. and S.M.

Mr. S.K. was in attendance at the meeting with his legal representative.

Mr. S.M. was in attendance with 2 Trade Union representations.

Resolved:- (1) That the application for the renewal of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. S.K. be granted together with a warning with regard to dishonesty.

(2) That the hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. S.M. be revoked.

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PLANNING BOARD
14th May, 2026

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie and Hussain.

Officers also in attendance were:-

Mrs. L. Brooks, Development Manager
Mr. N. Davey, Transport Officer
Mr. S. Evans, Planning Solicitor
Mrs. E. Ottewell, Head of Planning and Building Control
Mr. M. Peck, Assistant Development Manager

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

83. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

84. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

86. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30TH APRIL , 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 30th April, 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

87. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

88. 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 13 dwellings and garages at land at Haugh Road, Rawmarsh for Mrs. J. Murray (RB2024/1621)

Mr. N. Tariq (on behalf of the Applicant)

Mr. K. Dowell (Objector)

Statement read out on behalf of Mr. T. Marsh (Objector)

- Application to vary conditions 02 (approved plans) and 06 (rota details) imposed by RB2025/0493 at 17 Crowgate, South Anston (RB2026/0215)

Mr. L. Hallam (Applicant)

(2) That application RB2024/1621 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That application RB2026/0215 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to the addition of a further recommendation about tree protection to now read:-

27

Prior to the commencement of development evidence shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority that the development shall take place in accordance with the approved Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan. This shall include a written record of the project arboriculturist and site visits and set of photos detailing the tree protection fencing. The approved tree protection fencing shall be retained throughout the duration of the development.

Reason

To ensure appropriate tree protection in the interests of protecting the visual amenity of the area, contributing to the quality and character of Rotherham's environment, air quality and adapting to and mitigating climate change in accordance with Rotherham's Core Strategy Policies CS3: Location of New Development, CS19Green Infrastructure, CS20 Biodiversity and Geodiversity, Policy CS21 Landscape, CS28 Sustainable Design.

89. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

PLANNING BOARD
4th June, 2026

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Duncan, Fisher, Jackson, Reynolds, Taylor and Thorp.

Councillor Jackson assumed the Chair in relation to application RB2025/1576 only.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie and Elliott.

Officers also in attendance were:-

Mrs. L. Brooks, Development Manager
Mr. S. Evans, Planning Solicitor
Mr. S. Gammons, Transport Officer
Mrs. E. Ottewell, Head of Planning and Building Control

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

1. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

2. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mault declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2025/1576 (installation of 3 No. enclosed padel courts with acoustic mitigation and floodlighting along with relocation of existing cricket nets at Upper Haugh Cricket Club, Harding Avenue, Rawmarsh) on the grounds of being a local business owner and living in the locality. He left the room whilst the item was discussed and did not observe the vote. Councillor Jackson assumed the Chair in his absence.

Councillor Duncan declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2026/0412 (application to vary conditions 02 (hours of use of external area) and 03 (use of television screens externally in covered area) imposed by RB2023/1386 at Ravenfield Arms Hollings Lane Ravenfield) on the grounds of being a Ward Member and had been contacted by local residents. She left the room whilst the item was discussed and did not observe the vote.

Councillor Reynolds declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2026/0412 (application to vary conditions 02 (hours of use of external area) and 03 (use of television screens externally in covered area) imposed by RB2023/1386 at Ravenfield Arms Hollings Lane Ravenfield) on the grounds of living in the local area. He left the room whilst the item was discussed and did not observe the vote.

Councillor Taylor declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2026/0412 (application to vary conditions 02 (hours of use of external area) and 03 (use of television screens externally in covered area) imposed by RB2023/1386 at Ravenfield Arms Hollings Lane Ravenfield) on the grounds of being a former Cabinet Member and having prior knowledge about the application. For transparency reasons he left the room whilst the item was discussed and did not observe the vote.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 14th May, 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

5. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

6. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the applications below:-

- Installation of 3 no. enclosed Padel Courts with acoustic mitigation and floodlighting along with relocation of existing cricket nets at Upper Haugh Cricket Club, Harding Avenue, Rawmarsh (RB2025/1576)

Mr. D. Ramsay (Applicant)
 Mr. I. Jukes (Supporter)
 Councillor Baker-Rogers (Supporter)
 Mr. T. Hyde (Supporter)
 Mr. I. Cunningham (Supporter)
 Mr. J. Rigg (Supporter)
 Councillor Steele (Objector)
 Mr. R. Mighali (Objector)
 Mrs. N. Mighali (Objector)
 Mr. E. Elliott (Objector)

Ms. T. Clapman (Objector)
Mrs. A. Mannion (Objector)
Mr. P. Hitchen (Objector)

Statements were also read out on behalf of:-

Mr. J. Doran (Supporter)
Councillor Sheppard (Supporter)
Mr. and Mrs. Harrison (Objectors)
Ms. M. Johnson (Objector)
Mr. M. Horsbrough (Objector)

- Installation of a Synchronous Condenser Facility with associated ancillary infrastructure, access and landscaping, land at Grange Lane, Templeborough (RB2026/0146)

Ms. E. Wagland (Applicant)

Statements were read out on behalf of:-

Mr. R. Smith (Objector)
Ms. L. Allott (Objector)

- Application to vary conditions 02 (hours of use of external area) and 03 (use of television screens externally in covered area) imposed by RB2023/1386 at Ravenfield Arms, Hollings Lane, Ravenfield, Rotherham (RB2026/0412)

Mr. R. Kelly (Applicant)

A statement was also read out on behalf of Ravenfield Parish Council (Objector)

(2) That application RB2025/1576 be deferred to allow for the attendance of the relevant Environmental Health Officer to answer questions at the next meeting.

(3) That application RB2026/0146 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(4) That application RB2026/0412 be refused for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and listed in the submitted report.

Councillor Mault declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2025/1576 (installation of 3 No. enclosed padel courts with acoustic mitigation and floodlighting along with relocation of existing cricket nets at Upper Haugh Cricket Club, Harding Avenue, Rawmarsh) on the grounds of being a local business owner and living in the locality. He left the room whilst the item

was discussed and did not observe the vote. Councillor Jackson assumed the Chair in this absence.

Councillor Duncan declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2026/0412 (application to vary conditions 02 (hours of use of external area) and 03 (use of television screens externally in covered area) imposed by RB2023/1386 at Ravenfield Arms Hollings Lane Ravenfield) on the grounds of being a Ward Member and had been contacted by local residents. She left the room whilst the item was discussed and did not observe the vote.

Councillor Reynolds declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2026/0412 (application to vary conditions 02 (hours of use of external area) and 03 (use of television screens externally in covered area) imposed by RB2023/1386 at Ravenfield Arms Hollings Lane Ravenfield) on the grounds of living in the local area. He left the room whilst the item was discussed and did not observe the vote.

Councillor Taylor declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2026/0412 (application to vary conditions 02 (hours of use of external area) and 03 (use of television screens externally in covered area) imposed by RB2023/1386 at Ravenfield Arms Hollings Lane Ravenfield) on the grounds of being a former Cabinet Member and having prior knowledge about the application. For transparency reasons he left the room whilst the item was discussed and did not observe the vote.

7. UPDATES

Councillor Thorp asked for an update in relation to the following applications:-

RB2023/1033 – development at Fosters Garden Centre, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh and the enforcement of the relevant conditions.

RB2019/0552 – development of 450 dwellings, Whiston and the current position with regards to access.

The Head of Planning and Building Control confirmed responses would be provided via email.

PLANNING BOARD
Thursday 25 June 2026

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

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Hussain and Reynolds.

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

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

9. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mault declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2025/1576 (installation of 3 No. enclosed padel courts with acoustic mitigation and floodlighting along with relocation of existing cricket nets at Upper Haugh Cricket Club, Harding Avenue, Rawmarsh) on the grounds of being a local business owner and living in the locality. He left the room whilst the item was discussed. Councillor Jackson assumed the Chair in this absence.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 4th June, 2026 be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

12. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

13. 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:-

- Installation of 3 No. enclosed Padel Courts with acoustic mitigation and floodlighting along with relocation of existing cricket nets at Upper Haugh Cricket Club, Harding Avenue, Rawmarsh (RB2025/1576)

Mr. D. Ramsay (Applicant)
 Mr. I. Jukes (Supporter)
 Mr. J. Rigg (Supporter)
 Mr. T. Hyde (Supporter)
 Mr. I. Cunningham (Supporter)
 Mr. P. Hitchen (Supporter)
 Ms. S. Hough (Supporter)
 Mr. R. Mighali (Objector)
 Mrs. N. Mighali (Objector)
 Mr. E. Elliott (Objector)
 Ms. T. Clapman (Objector)
 Mrs. A. Mannion (Objector)
 Mr. M. Mannion (Objector)
 Ms. F. Mannion (Objector)
 Mrs. K. Johnson (Objector)
 Ms. M. Horsbrough (Objector)

Statements were also read out on behalf of:-

Mr. J. Doran (Supporter)
 Councillor Baker-Rogers (Supporter)
 Councillor Sheppard (Supporter)
 Councillor Steele (Objector)
 Mr. M. Higgins (Objector)
 Mr. Harrison (Objector)

(2) That the Planning Board declare that it was minded to grant application RB2025/1576 and the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the applicant, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Board, be authorised to determine the conditions/reasons for the grant of this application. In the event that agreement could not be reached on the application consideration be given to returning it back to the Planning Board.

(Councillor Mault declared a pecuniary interest in application RB2025/1576 (installation of 3 No. enclosed padel courts with acoustic mitigation and floodlighting along with relocation of existing cricket nets at Upper Haugh Cricket Club, Harding Avenue, Rawmarsh) on the grounds of being a local business owner and living in the locality. He left the room whilst the item was discussed)

14. UPDATES

The following update information was discussed:-

Call for Sites for the New Local Plan

The Head of Planning and Building Control advised the Planning Board about how the existing Local Plan covered the period from 2013 to 2028. Following a review of the Core Strategy and wider changes introduced through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 and associated planning reforms, the Council decided not to progress the Core Strategy Partial Update and instead prepared to develop a new Local Plan.

The new Local Plan was required to identify sufficient land to meet development needs into the 2040's. The Call for Sites, therefore, formed a key enabling step ahead of the formal plan-making stages, which were expected to commence later in 2026.

The Call for Sites opened on 22 June 2026 and ran for 10 weeks until 28 August 2026. This was an early-stage information-gathering exercise to identify potential sites across the borough for a wide range of land uses. It did not allocate land, confirm suitability for development, or grant planning permission. All submissions were to be assessed at a later stage and further information could be requested to understand suitability, scale, deliverability and site constraints.

Submissions were made through the Council's consultation platform (Citizenspace). The Planning Policy team provided support with completing the form and could be contacted by various methods.

The Council sought a broad range of potential sites, including those for housing, employment and commercial uses, retail and leisure, environmental uses, infrastructure and community facilities, renewable energy, waste management and minerals.

Sites could be submitted by any interested party, including landowners, developers, public bodies and members of the public. Previously promoted sites needed to be re-submitted to ensure the Council held current and consistent information.

Residential sites were generally required to be at least 0.25 hectares or capable of delivering five or more dwellings, although some smaller specialist housing opportunities were also considered relevant.

Employment, commercial and retail sites were generally expected to be capable of delivering 500 square metres or more of floorspace.

The Call for Sites was publicised through the Local Plan consultee database.

The Council's Strategic Leadership Team were also informed at its June meeting and Members were briefed via a note prior to the start of the Call for Sites.

Submitted sites were to be published on an online map at a later stage of the plan-making process, with only key site details made public. Personal data was managed in line with data protection requirements.

There were to be three stages of public consultation during the formal 30-month plan-making period. Public feedback on site options and the emerging strategy was anticipated at the second consultation stage in mid-2027, in accordance with the approved Local Development Scheme.

Resolved:- That the updated be received and the contents noted.

STAFFING COMMITTEE
Monday 6 July 2026

Present:- Councillor Alam (in the Chair); Councillors Z. Collingham, Jones, Marshall and Read.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

3. 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.

4. RECRUITMENT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR ROLES IN REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Consideration was given to the report which set out proposals to establish and appoint to the posts of Service Director of Streetscene, Fleet and Highway and Service Director of Regulatory Services, Community Safety and Protection and other associated changes. The current Service Director of Community Safety and Streetscene had successfully applied for another senior role elsewhere, which had provided an opportunity to consider this role and other roles in the Directorate leadership structure, in accordance with the current and future priorities and opportunities for the Council.

The Regeneration and Environment agenda had become more prominent and with increasing complexity across the local government sector, at local, regional and national level. This included opportunities presented by Rotherham Gateway, changes to delivery requirements through the insourcing of Household Waste Recycling Centres, changes to regulatory functions and other Regeneration and Economic Development programmes. The Executive Director had commenced formal consultation, via the recognised trade unions, and with relevant postholders on proposed changes to the structure. This included a proposal to create a new role of Service Director of Streetscene, Fleet and Highways in recognition of these priorities and challenges.

The current and proposed structure of the Directorate was detailed at Appendix 1 and Staffing Committee were asked to agree the structural change.

Staffing Committee was asked to recommend to Council the establishment of the new post of Service Director of Streetscene, Fleet and Highways and, subject to approval by Council, refer the matter to the Senior Officer Appointments Panel to commence the recruitment process. This post would have responsibility for:

- Highways and Flood Risk
- Environmental Services
- Fleet and Transport Services

Staffing Committee were asked to note that the post of Service Director of Community Safety and Streetscene be re-titled as Service Director of Regulatory Services, Community Safety and Protection and that the job description had been updated to reflect this. Staffing Committee were asked to agree plans to immediately begin the selection process for the Service Director of Regulatory Services, Community Safety and Protection and refer the matter to the Senior Officer Appointments Panel. This post would have responsibility for:

- Regulatory Services
- Planning and Building Control
- Emergency Planning and CCTV
- Community Safety and Enforcement

It was also noted that the post of Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport be retitled to Service Director of Regeneration, Development and Transport. This post would have responsibility for:

- Regeneration
- Transport Infrastructure
- Economic Development

There were no changes to the Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism post.

Local benchmarking was appended to the report for transparency at Appendix 2. Within the approved revenue budget for the Directorate, there was sufficient budget for one of the Service Director posts proposed within this report. The £134k of costs associated with the additional Service Director post would be funded corporately from within the Council's overall Budget.

During the meeting, the Members asked questions in relation to recruitment and the rationale behind moving the planning department. All were happy to support the proposals and placed on record their thanks to the outgoing Service Director of Community Safety and Streetscene, Sam Barstow.

Resolved:

That Staffing Committee:

1. Approve the structural change to the Regeneration and Environment Directorate.
2. Support the recommendation to establish the role of Service Director of Streetscene, Fleet and Highways **and refer to Council for approval;**
3. Subject to approval by Council, refer the process to the Senior Officer Appointments Panel to undertake recruitment to the post of Service Director of Streetscene, Fleet and Highways;
4. Refer the process to the Senior Officer Appointments Panel to undertake recruitment to the post of Service Director of Regulatory Services, Community Safety and Protection.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Committee's consideration.

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STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
11th June, 2026

Present:- Councillor Clarke (in the Chair); Councillors T. Collingham, Harper and McKiernan, along with Parish Councillors Griffin and Senior and Mrs. A. Bingham (Independent Member).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie, Mrs. K. Penny (Independent Member) and Mr. D. Roper-Newman (Independent Person).

Also in attendance were:-

Mr. P. Horsfield, Monitoring Officer
Mr. S. Fletcher, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Mr. P. Beavers, Independent Person

The Chair wished to place on record her thanks to Councillor Lelliott and other members who had been part of the 2025/26 Standards and Ethics Committee. In addition, she offered a warm welcome to the new Vice-Chair and new members for the 2026/27 municipal year.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for (Minute Nos. 9 and 10 (Whistleblowing and Complaints) on the grounds that the appendices to those reports involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH MARCH, 2026

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th March, 2026.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th March, 2026 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to the report and appendix presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, requesting that the Standards and Ethics Committee reviews the Code of Conduct.

The current Model Code of Conduct as provided by the LGA remained as it was drafted in 2020. The Code of Conduct was reviewed by the Committee last year in its current form, with no suggested amendments. The Monitoring Officer had reviewed the Code of Conduct and was, therefore, happy with its current content, however, the Committee may suggest any amendments they feel would be beneficial.

Furthermore, the Government recently carried out a consultation and provided a consultation response in relation to introducing measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime in England, partly to ensure consistency of approach amongst Councils in addressing breaches of their member Code of Conduct. One of the items which the Government had stated it would take forward consulted on, was the introduction of a mandatory minimum Code of Conduct for local authorities in England, as opposed to the current optional model code.

The report and model Code set out the importance of regulated behaviour and it was imperative that any changes be monitored and the Committee updated accordingly.

Resolved:- That following a review of the Code of Conduct no amendments were suggested.

5. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Consideration was given to an update by the Deputy Monitoring Officer on the Civility and Respect Pledge which was for local Councillors providing training and good governance. On this basis Parish and Town Councils were encouraged to make a commitment and sign up and support the Pledge.

The Committee recognised the benefits of local councils signing up and the Deputy Monitoring Officer had attended the Parish Network Group to encourage Parish and Town Councils to do so. Currently participation stood at approximately 50%, compared to the NALC national average of 20%.

The Civility and Respect Pledge was considered a key initiative for local councils, particularly in addressing issues of abuse and harassment.

The Committee had previously written to Parish Councils to encourage them to sign up and indicated that it wished to do so again.

The Chair requested that correlated data be brought forward, identifying which Councils had signed up to the Pledge which could also assist in analysing complaint levels. This was intended to determine whether any links could be drawn between complaint levels and Parish Councils that had not signed up and to use this evidence as a lever to encourage further uptake.

The Committee discussed when there had been any reported improvements in sign-up and were advised that the previous figure of 43% had increased to 50%. It was noted that some Parish Councils felt they already operated in a civil and respectful manner and, therefore, did not consider it necessary to sign up.

The Committee was encouraged to see progress and that the position compared favourably with the rest of the country where overall uptake remained low. There may be some valid reasons why some councils had not signed up.

The importance of ensuring that all Parish Councils operated correctly was emphasised with appropriate safeguards in place to deal with issues as they arose.

The Committee welcomed the suggestion that a further reminder be circulated on the benefits and to encourage Parish Councils to sign up to the Pledge.

Resolved:- (1) That the update on the Civility and Respect Pledge be received and noted.

(2) That the Deputy Monitoring Officer send a further reminder to Town and Parish Councils on the benefits to encourage them to sign up to the Pledge.

6. STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Consideration was given to the latest update on the Government's proposed Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework, the consultation for which the Committee had submitted comments. This had been with a view to the Government bringing forward primary legislation, including enhanced powers for local authorities including suspension and disqualification for members persistently found in breach of the Code of Conduct, as well as a mandatory Code of Conduct.

It was noted that the proposed legislation had not been included in the King's Speech. The LGA had expressed disappointment that this much needed reform was absent and the Government had responded that legislation would be brought forward when parliamentary time allowed. It was acknowledged that the Committee would be kept updated should there be any further developments, although it was recognised that the Government currently had other priorities.

The Chair asked how the Committee could maintain momentum with the LGA and whether it could continue to feed into the process.

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE - 11/06/26

The Committee was advised that it could continue to lobby, including engaging with local MPs, and suggested that it would be beneficial to write to them to reinforce the Committee's position.

Resolved:- (1) That the update be received and the contents noted.

(2) That the LGA and local Members of Parliament continue to be lobbied for the bringing forward of the much needed reform for strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework.

7. DEBATE NOT HATE WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to the update by the Deputy Monitoring Officer on the Working Group's latest meeting which looked in detail at the collaboration with the Police and how Councils reported and shared information.

The Committee was advised that the next meeting was to concentrate on the principle of creating a culture of safety and respect, which was recognised as a significant and wide-ranging topic. Other areas previously considered included Councillor wellbeing, online safety and health and safety with substantial work being undertaken across these themes.

It was stated that a report would be brought to the Committee in September, setting out the Working Group's findings and any recommendations arising.

The Chair highlighted the positive work emerging from the Working Group, particularly in relation to defining its remit for potential election candidates and considering how individuals could be better protected and supported. It was noted that the current landscape could be challenging and, if left unaddressed, might hinder democratic participation.

The Chair also emphasised the flexibility of the Working Group's arrangements, including the availability of hybrid meetings and the option to join via Microsoft Teams and encouraged other Committee Members to participate.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Committee Members to invite expressions of interest in joining the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, 21st July 2026 at 1.00 p.m.

Resolved:- (1) That the update be received and the contents noted.

(2) That an invitation be issued to other Committee Members to join the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, 21st July 2026 at 1.00 p.m.

8. REGISTER OF INTERESTS - PARISH COUNCILS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Monitoring Officer which set out the findings of a review of Parish and Town Council members Registers of Interests.

The review considered Parish and Town Council websites and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) records. A representative sample of Parish and Town Councils was examined at Councillor level to identify gaps in publication and accessibility.

The exercise found that Registers of Interests were held centrally by RMBC for all Councils reviewed and, therefore, compliance across Parishes and Town Councils as a whole was considered high. However, transparency varied significantly between Councils and in some cases, Councillors were listed without clear links to their Register of Interests.

Frequently occurring issues presented, such as Registers existing but not being consistently linked to individual Councillors and some Parish and Town Council websites relying entirely on RMBC for publication and often information appears fragmented or difficult to access.

Improvements which could be made include all Parish and Town Councils should provide direct links from each Councillor to their Register of Interests and a consistent Borough-wide format being implemented for publishing registers, although this may be dependent on the website provider for the Parish and Town Councils. If this was not possible Parish and Town Councils should be encouraged to ensure that their Registers were easy to locate, clearly labelled and accessible to the public.

As such the review concluded that Parish and Town Councillors' Registers of Interests were in place across the Borough. However, inconsistencies in publication and accessibility reduced transparency.

Furthermore, from 29th June 2026, Section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 ('2026 Act') removed the requirement for a Local Government Member's home address to be published in Council registers of interest. The newly added Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 required that Councils did not publish details of a Member's home address in public registers of interest unless an individual Member explicitly requested it.

To aid transparency, public registers of interest would still state that an interest existed, but that the address was withheld under the new Section 32A. The exact address details would still need to be declared, remain available internally to Councils and would continue to prevent conflicts of interest. Parish and Town Council Clerks have been informed about this change.

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It was considered appropriate to write to Clerks to request that they review the Registers of Interests and ensure they were published on their websites or appropriately linked to the RMBC website.

The Chair referred to the Committee's experience of working with Clerks and the potential barriers to publishing Registers of Interests, noting that it could be a substantial task, although managing and updating websites was generally manageable.

The Committee was advised that most Parish Councils were compliant and had the information available on their websites. However, it was noted that larger Parish Councils, with greater resources, were better placed to ensure appropriate arrangements were in place. Smaller Parish Councils sometimes found this more challenging, although it was emphasised that this should not detract from the importance of transparency as a key principle.

The Committee queried whether there was any correlation between Parish Councils that had not published Declarations of Interests and those that had not signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge, suggesting there may be some overlap.

It was, therefore, noted that overall figures were available, but not broken down by individual Parish Councils. It was suggested that the Parish Liaison Officer be approached to obtain more detailed information and to explore whether any links could be identified between complaints, registers and pledge uptake, with a view to targeting further attention where needed.

It was suggested the Parish Liaison Officer may best be placed to provide some support where needed.

The Committee established that the majority of Parish Councils did have a website, although in some cases Registers of Interests were not published or there was no link to the Council's website, which may be due to training or resource issues or a lack of proficiency in website management.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.

(2) That the Parish Liaison Officer be approached to obtain more detailed information on Parish Councils and to explore whether any links could be identified between complaints, registers and pledge uptake, with a view to targeting further attention where needed.

(3) That the Parish Liaison Officer consider offering additional support to those Parish Councils that may be struggling to maintain registers and website management.

9. A REVIEW OF CONCERNS RAISED PURSUANT TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report and appendix presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, which provided an overview of the Whistleblowing cases which have been received over the past year.

Particular reference was made to the appendix to the report which set out clearly the description of the concerns received and action taken.

Resolved:- That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters be noted.

10. REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, detailing the progress with the handling of complaints relating to breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Town and Parish Councillors. The report listed the current cases of complaint and the action being taken in respect of each one.

Reference was made to each related case and recommended outcomes/actions identified were highlighted.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Committee's consideration.

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