Council

Wednesday 4 November 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:- **27 October 2026**

COUNCIL

Wednesday 4 November 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.
TARMEY, Drew S.
Vacancy

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 4 November 2026 at 2.00 p.m.

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

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1. Announcements

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

2. Apologies for Absence

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

3. Minutes of the previous Council Meeting (Pages 7 - 44)

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9 September 2026 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

4. Petitions (Pages 45 - 52)

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. Care Leavers' Charter (Pages 53 - 83)

To consider the recommendation from Cabinet to endorse the Care Leavers' Charter.

10. Cabinet's Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Menopause (Pages 85 - 111)

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

11. Thriving Neighbourhoods - Updates from Ward Councillors for Rawmarsh East (Pages 113 - 115)

To receive an update from ward councillors from Rawmarsh East on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

12. Thriving Neighbourhoods - Updates from Ward Councillor for Rawmarsh West (Pages 117 - 119)

To receive an update from ward councillors from Rawmarsh West on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

13. Notice of Motion - Let's have pride in Rotherham (Pages 121 - 122)

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

14. Notice of Motion - Support Care Leavers (Page 123)

To be moved by Councillor Cusworth and seconded by Councillor Clarke.

15. Notice of Motion - Education Emergency (Pages 125 - 127)

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

16. Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting (Pages 129 - 164)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 14 September and 12 October 2026.

17. Audit Committee (Pages 165 - 176)

To note receipt of the Audit Committee minutes.

18. Health and Wellbeing Board (Pages 177 - 189)

To note receipt of the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes.

19. Licensing Board and Licensing Committee (Pages 191 - 212)

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

20. Planning Board (Pages 213 - 223)

To note receipt of the Planning Board minutes.

21. Standards and Ethics Committee (Pages 225 - 233)

To note receipt of the Standards and Ethics Committee meetings.

22. Members' Questions to Designated Spokespersons

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

23. Members' Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairpersons

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

24. Urgent Items

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.



John Edwards
Chief Executive.

The next meeting of the Council will be on
13 January 2027 at 2.00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING
9th September, 2026

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

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

53. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor congratulated Rotherham's The Reytons on securing their second number one album. It was an outstanding accomplishment, particularly for an independent band that had remained true to its vision and forged its own path to success. He thanked them for their commitment, determination and for continuing to showcase Rotherham on a national stage.

It was noted that the 46th Rotherham Show had recently taken place, and the Mayor had been delighted to attend.

Members joined the Mayor in remembering Dolly Parton following her recent passing and celebrated her 2007 visit to Rotherham. She brought with her the inspirational campaign to get children reading and into literature via the launch of her Imagination Library. The Mayor offered his condolences to her family and friends.

The Mayor also asked Members to join him in remembering Pauline Heaps who had sadly passed away recently. Pauline was a dedicated community figure in Maltby and a long-serving member of Maltby Town Council, serving her community for many years. The Mayor placed on record his thanks for Pauline's years of public and community service, and sent his sincere condolences to her family, friends and everyone in Maltby who knew her.

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

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen and Sutton.

55. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 15th July 2026.

In reference to Minute 40 – Notice of Motion – Stop Polluting Our Rivers and Hiking Out Bills – Councillor Steele confirmed that Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent had been invited to a special meeting of scrutiny. To date, Severn Trent had confirmed attendance. Yorkshire Water had not yet responded. All Members would be invited to the meeting with Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Members being invited to make recommendations.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th July 2026 be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover: Councillor Read Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

57. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was one public question from Mr. Ashraf:

Council Leader Chris Read, further to my question on 17th November 2025 and the subsequent commitments made by yourself I now ask for your public commitment to fully endorse the "Rotherham raising the Palestinian flag annually in Solidarity and Compassion" motion, and to extend the usual cordial invitations on mine and the communities of Rotherham's behalf, for this and all subsequent years.

The Leader thanked Mr. Ashraf for his question and his dedication to this cause. The Leader fully expected the Council to fly the Palestinian Flag on the day requested as it had done in the two previous years.

In his supplementary, Mr. Ashraf invited Members of Parliament, Councillors, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, local dignitaries and Council Officers to the flag raising event. He asked that support of the Palestinian

campaign move forward in a much more co-operative way, with more compassion.

The Leader confirmed that he shared the sentiments of the question and confirmed that all wanted to do what could be done to challenge the unspeakable atrocities taking place in the Middle East on a regular basis.

58. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

59. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader started his statement by associating himself with the Mayor's comments regarding the passing of Dolly Parton. Her visit to Rotherham in 2007 was fondly remembered along with her fierce advocacy for children's education.

Since the last Council meeting:

- Five of Rotherham's Green Spaces had again been recognised with the prestigious Green Flag Status; Clifton Park, Greasbrough Park, Rother Valley Country Park, Ulley Country Park and Rotherham Crematorium and Cemetery in East Herringthorpe.

- The Council had received an award for its tenant engagement activity receiving Exemplar Status from TPAS (the national tenant involvement experts). The Council was currently one of only five organisations to hold this award.

- Thousands of children from across Rotherham had taken advantage of the free swimming places in the Council's leisure centres – totalling just short of 28,000 visits altogether. There were a further 30,000 visits to the Clifton Park Watersplash in the hot weather. There had been 4,500 visits so far this year from people aged over 65 to leisure centres, taking advantage of the half price pilot.

- Provisional data showed all Rotherham students achieved higher A Level grades this year, with 74.9% achieving A* to C grades in A Levels and equivalent qualifications, an increase of 1.8% compared with last year.

- 73.1% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in English, exceeding the national average of 71.4%, while 58.5% achieved grade 5 or above, compared with 55% nationally.

- The Rotherham Show had taken place. The Leader stated that it was lovely to see so many families enjoying the event which remained the biggest free cultural festival in the north of England. He thanked all staff involved.

The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, Councillor Zach Collingham, was invited to respond to the statement. He agreed with the comments regarding the Rotherham Show which had been another success for the Borough. It was also good to hear that the Borough had some high standard parks and increasingly educated young people.

In relation to the 28,000 visits to the leisure centres, Councillor Collingham asked if there was any evidence as to whether those people would have gone anyway, without the discount.

He also questioned how the Council was already forecasting a £10.9 million overspend, just 4 months into the financial year. Councillor Collingham asked:

- What assurances could be provided regarding the Council's understanding of the drivers behind the overspend;
- What was being done to address those drivers within the Council's control;
- What long-term plan was in place to reduce reliance on external providers.

In relation to Dinnington, Councillor Collingham asked the Leader if he was embarrassed that a flagship regeneration project was going to take the Council over four years to deliver, having encountered numerous delays.

Reference was made to Doncaster Sheffield Airport and reports that it was due to run out of money. He asked if the Leader was concerned that it was not listed as an agenda item at SYMCA's next board meeting.

Regarding the petition due to be discussed under Minute No. 60, Councillor Collingham asked the Leader to agree with him that Councillor Thorp was an asset to the Borough. He also asked if the Leader would learn anything from Councillor Thorp who had garnered more responses on his petition than the number of responses to the last two Council Plan consultations combined.

In response, the Leader stated that it was his understanding that free swimming had driven an increase in the number of children able to attend leisure centres and he was happy to provide those figures to Councillor Collingham.

Regarding the projected overspend, the Leader explained that nearly every local authority would project an overspend in Quarter 1. Those that did not would likely have overbudgeted and the Leader did not think that was a good way of setting budgets or priorities at the start of the year. In relation to the specific pressures, it was confirmed that there were a larger number of children in external residential placements than expected. This was not something the Council could control. The Leader explained that

the most expensive 11 children in placements cost the Council more than £10million per year. One child who needed to come into care would cost one million pounds. However, that needed to be spent in order to keep children alive. In addition, it was confirmed that work had been underway for a number of years to improve early help to prevent children going into care and to build a number of in-house residential provisions which helped cut costs and improve quality for Children In Care. The Leader asked Councillor Collingham and Opposition Members to engage with reality and look at the record of the Council in balancing its budget for many consecutive years.

The Leader stated that he was concerned about the delays in Dinnington, however, many of those delays related to matters outside of the Council's control and issues that could not have been identified before the Council had ownership of the buildings or was on site. He was proud of the work being done to deliver improvements for the Dinnington residents.

The Leader did not wish to speculate on Doncaster Airport. Conversations continued and he was in regular contact with South Yorkshire's Mayor on the matter. The situation remained that they wanted to see the Airport re-open but that it could not be done at any cost.

Regarding Councillor Thorp, the Leader stated that he respected the work that had been done. However, he stated that it was not in any way comparable to engagement on the Council Plan. Asking 'would you like to stop some cycle lanes, yes or no' was not the same as asking residents to engage on a whole range of public service delivery across a half a billion pound a year budget.

Questions from Members were invited.

Councillor Reynolds asked why the overspend on the Library had not been included in the £10.9m figure. He also asked if it was open yet.

The Leader confirmed that the projected overspend related to the General Fund whereas the Library was a capital project. Work was still ongoing on the Central Library, and it was expected to open in Quarter 1 of next year.

Councillor Bacon referenced the green spaces and asked whether SYMCA would act on its promise to use money confiscated from criminals to fund big cleans. To date only £8,000 had been raised and one big clean undertaken.

The Leader stated that there was no suggestion of the Mayor reneging on the method of funding promised. He was happy to ask the question and report updates back to Councillor Bacon if there were any.

Councillor Marshall stated that it was fantastic that 28,000 children had attended the free swimming sessions. She asked the Leader if he agreed that, given the number of children who had very sadly died in open water

during the 2026 summer, every penny that had gone into free swimming was worth it if one life had been saved.

The Leader stated that this was absolutely right and he was proud to have helped keep children safe, as opposed to the many years when money was being taken away from public authorities which put children in danger.

Councillor Cusworth asked if the Leader agreed that, not only had Rotherham children achieved brilliant exam results, but they had done so in schools starved of investment, supported by exhausted teachers and parents struggling with the cost of living crisis. She wished to place on record her thanks to the teachers, non-teaching staff and parents who had supported the Borough's children in achieving the above national average results.

The Leader did associate himself with those comments and stated that an enormous debt of gratitude was owed to so many professionals who not only turned up during school hours, but who also gave their own evenings, weekends and holidays to improve the lives of children.

Councillor Baker-Rogers asked the Leader if he agreed with her that the uptake of free swimming by children and discounted swimming by senior citizens was fantastic to see. She also wished to place on record her thanks to Dolly Parton and the Imagination Library.

The Leader did agree with Councillor Baker-Rogers.

60. PETITIONS

Consideration was given to the report which provided Members with details of all petitions received by the Council since the last Council meeting on 15th July 2026. One petition had been received, asking the Council to Review and Rebalance Rotherham's CRSTS Active Travel Schemes - Prioritise Pedestrian Safety Over Dedicated Cycle & Bus Lanes. This petition had received 3,609 valid signatures.

The lead petitioner, Councillor Thorp, was given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition was then discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with the Petitions Scheme and Council Procedure Rule 13(7) the Council were to decide how to respond to the petition and could decide either:-

(a) to take the action the petition requested;

(b) not to take the action the petition requested for reasons stated in the debate;

(c) to commission further investigation into the matter, which might include reference to a particular Committee for its views, prior to consideration at a future meeting of the Council; or

(d) to refer the petition to the Cabinet where it related to an executive function, in which case the Council might make recommendations to the Cabinet, but Cabinet would not be bound by those recommendations in discharging its executive functions.

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, thanked Councillor Thorp and other Councillors for their work on this matter on behalf of their residents. Regarding the Broom Road scheme, Councillor Williams confirmed that this scheme would not be taken forward as the consultation and petition had clearly indicated that residents did not support any of the proposed measures. Regarding the Eastwood scheme, Councillor Williams explained that there had been broader support for some of the measures so officers in the Transportation Service had been tasked with producing revised proposals that better reflected the feedback received. The Leader had announced these changes in a statement in August 2026. Councillor Williams stated that he had been clear throughout that the consultation process would be meaningful and that it was part of the Labour Groups manifesto that it would not go ahead with active travel schemes if the community did not support them. The administration had engaged, listened and acted on the feedback given.

As the Cabinet Member responsible for active travel, Councillor Williams confirmed that the first ask of the petition, which was to review the schemes, had already been completed. In relation to the re-allocation of funding, it was confirmed that there was now greater flexibility in what the funding could be used for. He confirmed that the administration accepted the asks of the petition.

Councillor Yasseen wanted to thank Councillor Thorp personally for ensuring residents were listened to. She was glad that the administration were finally listening to residents as they did not listen during phase one, two or three. Residents and communities had been ignored for a long time, particularly around road safety.

Councillor Bower stated that this was being presented by the administration as a result of the consultation which was not accurate. The consultation had not reflected what Elected Members had fed back. The scheme had been driven by the Mayor of South Yorkshire, not from the residents or Elected Members. It was a top-down driven agenda that made people doubt local democracy. Councillor Bower stated that £750,000 had been spent on this so far, which could have instead funded what was actually wanted and needed in terms of road safety. He encouraged the administration to influence the Mayor and get him to listen to what people actually wanted.

Councillor Reynolds said that the petition should act as a reminder to all Members that they represented the people and it was about the people telling the Members what they wanted, not the other way around. He hoped that would continue.

Councillor Currie also praised Councillor Thorp for being an excellent Councillor. He encouraged Members to be more like Councillor Thorp, to stop being negative on social media and instead get out into communities and speak up for residents.

Councillor Adam Carter spoke in support of the petition. He also wanted to make sure that there was more flexibility within the funding and that scrutiny reviewed how much officer time and money had been spent on the process so far.

Councillor Ball refuted what Councillor Williams had said. He explained that the bus lane in Hellaby had been installed despite 70% of people saying they did not want it.

Councillor Cusworth stated that the administration had listened to the consultation. She also explained that the scheme in Boston Castle referred to by Councillor Yasseen was different in that the funding was very prescriptive around cycle lanes. In relation to the money spent on the Broom scheme to date, Councillor Cusworth stated that a certain amount had to be spent in order to have proposals to consult on. She stated that the Council could either listen to residents and stop the scheme or continue with it because money had already been spent. It could not do both.

Resolved:

That Council:

1. That the petition be received;

2. That the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment provide a response to the lead petitioner, Councillor Thorp.

3. That the actions set out in Appendix 1 of the report submitted be agreed.

61. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Consideration was given to the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26. It provided an overview of activity undertaken by Scrutiny over the last year through key lines of inquiry, evidence gathering, and findings leading to recommendations. In addition, it also provided a selection of the year's achievements of Scrutiny as a supplement to full agendas and minutes of Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the three Select Commission meetings throughout the year.

Councillor Steele, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, thanked all Members and Officers involved in Scrutiny. He noted that, throughout 2025/26, Scrutiny had considered 97 substantive items, completed pre-decision scrutiny on 42 reports, held 12 workshops, completed three reviews and progressed another two, had six site visits and had 15 off-agenda briefings. One decision had also been subject to the call-in procedure.

During the meeting, the Chairs of the Select Commissions set out the work they had completed and thanked all involved.

Resolved: That Council note the report.

Mover: Councillor Steele Seconder: Councillor Bacon

62. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Consideration was given to the Audit Committee Annual Report 2025/26 which brought together in one document a summary of the work undertaken. The production of the report complied with current best practice for Audit Committees allowing it to demonstrate how it had fulfilled its terms of reference and shared its achievements with the Council. It also served as a useful reminder to the organisation of the role of the Committee in providing assurance about the Council's governance, risk management and financial and business controls.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) had previously issued guidance to local authorities to help ensure that Audit Committees operated effectively. The guidance recommended that Audit Committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities. The Annual Report was attached at Appendix 1.

The Audit Committee met on six occasions in the year to 31st March 2026, in accordance with its programme of work. The frequency of meetings ensured the Audit Committee could fulfil its responsibilities in an efficient and effective way. During this period the Committee assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk management arrangements, control environment and associated counter fraud arrangements through regular reports from officers, the internal auditors and the external auditors. The Committee sought assurance that action had been taken, or is otherwise planned, by management to address any risk related issues that had been identified during the period. The committee also sought to ensure that effective relationships continue to be maintained between the internal and external auditors, and between the auditors and management. The specific work undertaken by the Committee was set out in the report.

During the meeting, Councillor Baggaley, Chair of the Audit Committee, thanked all Members and Officers involved in Audit. He wished to place

on record his thanks to Simon Dennis, the former Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager who had retired earlier in 2026, for all of his hard work, particularly during the training sessions.

Resolved: That the Audit Committee Annual Report 2025/26 be approved.

Mover: Councillor Baggaley Seconder: Councillor Ismail

63. PLANNING REFORM AND REQUIRED PROCEDURAL AMENDMENTS

Consideration was given to the report which recommended that the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect the provisions of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025.

The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 introduced significant measures to reform Planning Committees in England, including a national scheme of delegation for Planning functions and a cap on the size of Planning Committees.

The Town & Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 would come into force on 31st October 2026, at which time councils would be required to operate in accordance with the amended framework and statutory guidance which was published on 1st June 2026. To do so, the Council's Constitution needed to be amended.

The draft regulations set out requirements for certain types of application to be determined under officer delegation, i.e. may not be determined by a Planning Committee:-

(a) Schedule 1 to the draft regulations set out that applications for planning permission for householder, minor residential and minor commercial development, as well as a number of supplementary and technical consents which must be determined under officer delegation. Further detail on what a Schedule 1 application would be were provided in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

(b) Schedule 2 set out the types of application which could be referred to a Planning Committee subject to the Gateway Tests which were set out in Regulation 5 and this required agreement between the nominated Member (e.g. the Chair of the Committee) and officer (usually the Chief Planner or equivalent), but which otherwise must be delegated to an officer. These included any types of application for planning permission which were not in Schedule 1, variations of permissions, and special controls such as Listed Building and Tree Preservation Order consents. Further detail was provided in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.9 of the report.

The Regulations also provided for the number of Members on a Planning Committee or Sub-Committee to be no more than 13. At present, the Planning Board in Rotherham had 15 members and as such this needed to be reduced. This had also required a review of the entitlement of the political groups to seats on the Committees of the Council.

During the debate on the item, Councillors Adair and Currie were thanked for their contributions to Planning Board and Councillor Blackham was thanked for his work on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Resolved:

That Council:-

1. Note the content of the report;

2. Approve amendment of the Constitution as set out in the Report and in particular the additions of Schedule 1 and 2 detailed in Appendix 1;

3. Note the reduction in size of the Planning Board to the maximum 13 Councillors permitted;

4. Approve the allocation of seats, in accordance with the political balance calculations, as set out in report;

5. Approve the appointment of the Head of Planning Services and the Chair of Planning Board as the Proper Officer and the Nominated Member as per the statutory guidance; and

6. Delegate authority to make consequential amendments to guidance documents and the Scheme of Delegation (such as to the Probity in Planning: Code of Practice) to the Service Director: Legal Services and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Head of Planning Services, the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy and the Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Board.

The following changes to nominations to Committees, Boards and Panels, as set out in Appendix B to the Mayor's Letter, were also approved:

Audit Committee

Councillor Lelliott (Vice Chair) – Remove
Councillor Ismail (Vice Chair) – Add

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (as of 31st October 2026)

Councillor Blackham – Remove
Councillor Currie – Add

Planning Board (as of 31st October 2026)

Councillor Adair – Remove
Councillor Currie – Remove

JOINT AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Audit, Standards and Risk Committee

Councillor Lelliott (Substitute) – Remove
Councillor Ismail (Substitute) – Add

Mover: Councillor Mault Seconder: Councillor Jackson

64. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR KILNHURST AND SWINTON EAST

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

Councillor Cusworth moved the report. She noted that the Ward priorities had been aligned with those of the Council in order to address serious levels of deprivation, low car ownership and low educational attainment across Kilnhurst and Swinton East. There had been a heavy focus on supporting children and giving them the opportunities to achieve their potential. Annual Christmas events were held which also encouraged families and neighbours to get to know each other. This helped with community cohesion. Further, a substantial amount of money had been provided to reinvent the Swinton Academy Library. All of the improvements made would be transferrable into the new building once complete. This had been a joint effort with the Ward Members from Swinton Rockingham Ward. It was also confirmed that £500 had been awarded to each of the primary schools in the Ward for books or other library equipment.

Councillor Harper seconded the report. He thanked Nicole Mighali, Neighbourhood Co-Ordinator for all of the incredible work she had done throughout the Ward. Work had been undertaken to clear the stream and a community forum had been established to enable the community to continue making improvements to Kilnhurst and Swinton East. Events had been held in the area known locally as The Patios, such as the Summer Bash which had been a great success. Councillors were still working to make improvements to the MUGA, to improve road safety and to support the British Legion. A Park and Stride event had been very successful, with a number of children walking to school and learning about road safety.

Resolved:

That the update report be noted.

65. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR MALTBY EAST

Further to Minute No. 55 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th November 2018, consideration was given to the Ward update for Maltby East as part of the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy. An update report had been provided as part of the agenda and each Ward Member was invited to speak. Due to a family bereavement, Councillor Sutton was not present at the meeting to speak on the update.

Councillor Tinsley BEM moved the report and set out the Ward priorities for Maltby East. It was noted that the CAP meetings were always well attended and involved regular walkarounds in the community. Tea and coffee were provided for community groups and the Maltby Beach Festival had run for the previous two years. The Silver Dollar event was incredibly successful and had encouraged over 60s to dance. A cultural kitchen had been run in partnership with Rotherham United Community Trust and others to introduce different foods and activities into Maltby East. Progress was being made on the refurbishment of the community centre.

Work continued on improving Maltby High Street and the local economy. This involved listening to and working with residents and businesses to address local issues such as pavement parking, anti-social behaviour and the appearance of the High Street. The Shopfront Grants scheme had been used by a number of businesses in Maltby. A large amount of work had been done on Coronation Park, including improving the inclusivity of the play equipment.

Councillor Tinsley thanked Claire Moseley, Neighbourhood Co-Ordinator, along with other partners who worked across the Maltby East Ward.

Councillor Cusworth seconded the report, and in doing so, passed on the condolences of the Chamber to Councillor Sutton.

Councillor Currie encouraged those in Maltby to get involved with the Pride in Place Programme where up to £20million of funding was available.

Resolved:

That the update report be noted.

66. NOTICE OF MOTION - WE DESERVE OUR FAIR SHARE OF SPEEDING FINE REVENUE TO HELP MAKE OUR ROADS SAFER

It was moved by Councillor Tarmey and seconded by Councillor C. Carter that:

This Council notes:

1. That speeding fines across England generate around £100 million per year, all of which is paid directly to HM Treasury, with no share returned to local authorities.

2. That councils are responsible for maintaining highways, improving road safety, delivering traffic calming schemes, and responding to persistent community concerns about speeding and dangerous driving.

3. That local authorities frequently fund enforcement infrastructure – such as average speed cameras, ANPR enforcement points, signage, and engineering works – yet receive no income from the fines issued as a result of these measures.

4. That communities across the Borough consistently call for greater investment in traffic calming, crossings, school street safety, and active travel protection.

5. That the South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership brings together law enforcement agencies and local councils across the region. However, Council also notes that there are currently no robust mechanisms for Elected Members to direct the placement of safety cameras within their Wards. This leads to a mismatch between public and Elected Member perceptions of the need for enforcement activities and the observed locations of mobile cameras.

This Council believes:

1. That a fairer national funding model is required to ensure that money raised from speeding offences is reinvested into the communities where those offences occur.

2. That enabling councils to retain a proportion of speeding fine revenue would create a stable, locally controlled funding stream for road safety improvements.

3. That ring fencing such funding would directly support the Council's objectives to reduce casualties, protect vulnerable road users, and improve public confidence in local road safety.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Write to HM Government, the Secretary of State for Transport, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting that:
   a. Local authorities receive 50% of the annual revenue generated from speeding fines issued within their area; and
   b. This funding be ring fenced exclusively for road safety improvements, including average speed cameras, engineering measures, enforcement support, school safety schemes, and active travel protection.

2. Write to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for South Yorkshire to request that robust mechanisms are put in place to allow Elected Members to better direct enforcement action within their Wards.

3. Request that the Local Government Association (LGA) and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority support this call for reform and lobby Government for a fairer distribution of speeding fine revenue.

4. Investigate the feasibility of procuring mobile pairs of average speed cameras that could be deployed across different streets in Rotherham to encourage behaviour change, improve compliance with speed limits, and increase awareness of the consequences of dangerous driving.

An amendment to the Motion was then moved by Councillor Baum-Dixon and seconded by Councillor Z Collingham that:

The title of the Motion be "**We deserve our fair share of funding to help make our roads safer"** and that:

This Council notes that:

DELETE

~~1. That speeding fines across England generate around £100 million per year, all of which is pad directly to HM Treasury with no share returned to local authorities.~~

INSERT

1. That revenue from fixed penalties issued through speed enforcement is paid into the Consolidated Fund.

2. That councils are responsible for maintaining highways, improving road safety, delivering traffic calming schemes, and responding to persistent community concerns about speeding and dangerous driving.

DELETE

~~3. That local authorities frequently fund enforcement infrastructure such as average speed cameras, ANPR enforcement points, signage, and engineering works yet receive no income from the fines issues as a result of these measures.~~

INSERT

3. That local authorities invest in road safety measures, including traffic calming, crossings, signage, engineering works and, where appropriate, speed enforcement infrastructure, but face competing demands for the funding required to deliver these measures.

4. That Rotherham Council has started to apply more focus to this area, committing £160,000 to develop Ward Road Safety Plans across all 23 Wards. These identify local concerns and develop a pipeline of capital road safety schemes and this Council welcomes and supports this work.

5. That speeding enforcement activity can fluctuate significantly. South Yorkshire Police recorded 78,438 speeding Notices of Intended Prosecution in 2023, 61,703 in 2024 and 81,554 in 2025.

6. That communities across the Borough consistently call for greater investment in traffic calming, crossings, school street safety and active travel protection.

DELETE

~~4. That the South Yorkshire Camera Partnership brings together law enforcement agencies and local councils across the region. However, Council also notes that there are currently no robust mechanisms for Elected Members to direct the placement of safety cameras within their Wards. This leads to a mismatch between public and Elected Member perceptions of the need for enforcement activities and the observed locations of mobile cameras.~~

INSERT

7. That Elected Members and local communities have an important role in identifying locations of concern, while decisions on enforcement and the appropriate road safety intervention should be based upon evidence and risk.

This Council believes:

DELETE

~~1. That a fairer national funding model is required to ensure that money raised from speeding offences is reinvested into the communities where those offences occur.~~

~~2. That enabling councils to retain a proportion of speeding fine revenue would create a stable, locally controlled funding steam for road safety improvements.~~

~~3. That ring fencing such funding would directly support the Council's objectives to reduce casualties, protect vulnerable road users and improve public confidence in local road safety.~~

INSERT

1. That the consequences of speeding and unsafe roads are experienced locally, and communities should have the resources necessary to address those problems.

2. That the purpose of speeding fines should be to deter speeding and improve road safety, not to provide a source of revenue upon which either Central or local Government becomes financially dependent.

3. That Rotherham needs a clear, long-term and guaranteed road safety funding stream to enable the Council to actually deliver its Ward Road Safety Plans and other schemes.

4. That road safety funding should follow evidence of need and risk rather than the number of fines issued.

5. That successful enforcement should reduce speeding and therefore reduce fine income; it should not also reduce the resources available to make roads safer.

6. That delivery of Rotherham's Ward Road Safety Plans should not depend upon annual fluctuations in enforcement activity, the number or location of active cameras, the number of offences detected or how individual offences are disposed of.

7. That enforcement activity and the deployment of cameras should be determined by road safety evidence and risk, not by their potential to generate revenue.

8. That greater evolution provides an opportunity to give Rotherham the long-term funding certainty required to deliver locally identified road safety priorities.

9. That enforcement has an important role in road safety, alongside highway design and engineering measures which encourage safe and appropriate speeds.

Therefore, this Council resolves:-

DELETE

~~1. Write to HM Government, the Secretary of State for Transport, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting that:~~
   ~~a. Local authorities receive 50% of the annual revenue generated from speeding fines issues within their area; and~~
   ~~b. This funding be ring-fenced exclusively for road safety improvements, including average speed cameras, engineering measures, enforcement support, school safety schemes, and active travel protection.~~

INSERT

1. Write to HM Government, the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and through No. 10 North, calling for a clear long-term and guaranteed devolved road safety funding settlement, with a fair and transparent needs-based allocation to Rotherham, to enable the Council to deliver evidence-led schemes identified through its Ward Road Safety Plans.

2. Write to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for South Yorkshire to request that robust mechanisms are put in place to allow Elected Members to better direct enforcement action within their Wards.

DELETE

~~3. Request that the Local Government Association (LGA) and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority support this call for reform and lobby Government for a fairer distribution of speeding fine revenue.~~

INSERT

3. Request that the Local Government Association and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority support the call for a clear, long-term and guaranteed devolved road safety funding settlement based upon evidence of need and risk and ask the Mayor of South Yorkshire and the Leader of Rotherham Council to make representations to Government in support of this approach.

4. Investigate the feasibility of procuring mobile pairs of average speed cameras that could be deployed across different streets in Rotherham to encourage behaviour change, improve compliance with speed limits, and increase awareness of the consequences of dangerous driving.

On being put to the vote, the amendment fell.

The original motion was then debated and voted on.

The motion was carried.

67. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

Consideration was given to the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 6th July 2026.

Councillor Tinsley referenced Cabinet Minute No. 22 – Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy. He asked if the Leader was willing to engage with any Councillors that had concerns over the rotation of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators at the next elections.

The Leader confirmed that he and Councillor Cusworth were willing to listen if there were particular concerns but he stood by the point made in the Cabinet meeting, that it was dangerous, from an organisational standpoint, to allow Members to choose which Neighbourhood Co-ordinators worked in which Wards.

Resolved:

That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 6th July 2026 be received.

Mover: Councillor Read Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

68. AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

Mover: Councillor Baggaley Seconder: Councillor Ismail

69. LICENSING BOARD AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Resolved: 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 Seconder: Councillor Garnett

70. PLANNING BOARD

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

Mover: Councillor Mault Seconder: Councillor Jackson

71. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There was one question from Councillor Ball: Will the Pensions Authority spokesperson set out how many South Yorkshire LGPS members using salary sacrifice above £2,000 a year will now pay National Insurance on that extra saving, and what warning has gone to ordinary workplace savers that this cap hits them?

As Councillor Sutton was not present to respond to the question, a written response would be provided.

72. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

There were 16 questions:

1. Councillor C. Carter: The new children's play area and outdoor seating at The Waterfront at Rother Valley are great for families wanting to enjoy a refreshment while children play, but I find the lack of shade concerning. Are there any plans to install any shade or provide any parasols on these tables?

   Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces, stated that it was a wonderful play area but understood the concerns raised. She had asked the Service to review the options and feasibility for the provision of shaded areas through the winter months prior to the start of the summer season. Councillor Marshall committed to informing Councillor Carter on the outcome of the review.

2. Councillor Ball: Following Health and Wellbeing Board on 2nd September, will the Cabinet Member name the social housing complex with the ongoing Legionella outbreak, confirm the landlord, whether it is Council-operated, what tenants have been told, whether anyone has been ill, and the date the water will be declared safe?

   Councillor Baker Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, stated that the social housing complex was not owned or managed by the Council, but the Public Health Team was working closely with the landlord. It was noted that there was not an on-going risk to residents, who had been made aware of the circumstances.

   The social housing provider had undertaken extensive remedial work to eradicate the Legionella from the system. This has included chemical treatment of the water system, taking away redundant pipe work, installation of insulation to reduce heat transfer and also the removal of an external pond and water feature. While these interventions had significantly reduced Legionella levels, a small number of outlets continued to return positive tests results. The social housing provider was working closely with the Council and the UK Health Security Agency to bring this matter to a conclusion as soon as

possible. Further groundwork and investigative work were currently being carried out on site.

In his supplementary, Councillor Ball stated that this had been ongoing since June 2024 and was referred to at the Health and Wellbeing Board as an ongoing outbreak. He asked what happened if it was still ongoing on 1st October 2026?

Councillor Baker-Rogers confirmed that the Council would continue to work with the landlord to ensure residents were well and safe.

3. Councillor Ball: Will the Cabinet Member set out how Pride in Place and High Street investment, though Maltby East designated, will deliver measurable outcomes in Hellaby and Maltby West, and confirm what West consultation has already informed the Regeneration Plan due by end of 2026?

   As Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities, was not present to respond to the question, a written response would be provided.

4. Councillor Ball: Given FOI figures of over £175,000 spent clearing fly-tipping in 2024/25 and 2025/26 and Hellaby and Maltby West being named hotspots, will Ward level clearance costs, FPNs and enforcement outcomes be published, with extra patrols planned this year?

   As Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities, was not present to respond to the question, a written response would be provided.

5. Councillor Ball: After the loss of a direct Maltby hospital bus, what firm timetable exists for better hospital access from Maltby and Hellaby under X11 permanence plans?

   Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, explained that the responsibility for buses and timetabling sat with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. They had confirmed that the X11 timetable, which had run from May 2025, was the current timetable and would not change before bus franchising in 2028.

   In his supplementary, Councillor Ball asked if the Council asked residents how many people had missed appointments at the hospital due to this inadequate bus service?

   Councillor Williams advised Councillor Ball to attend the Transport Advisory Group meetings to raise these matters and hold SYMCA and the bus operators to account.

6. Councillor Ball: Taxpayers fund the South Yorkshire Mayor through the Combined Authority levy, yet FOI 2026/5325 shows this Council then borrows tens of millions back from SYMCA at around 4.2 percent. Does Cabinet accept that this is a poor moral deal for residents?

   Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety, did not accept this. The Combined Authority levy and the Council's borrowing arrangements served different purposes and operated under different statutory and financial frameworks. The levy contributed towards the functions and services delivered by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority on behalf of the region. The Council's borrowing arrangements were entered into to support the Council's day-to-day cashflow requirements and financing of historical and new Capital Programme requirements as part of the Council's Treasury Management operations, with each loan taken assessed on their own merits. It would be wrong both procedurally and ethically to confuse them.

   Where the Council borrowed, whether from the Public Works Loan Board, the market, or another public sector body such as SYMCA, the overriding consideration was securing funding that was prudent, affordable and provided value for money for local taxpayers. Borrowing from other Local Authorities or Combined Authorities predominantly provided the most cost effective source of short term borrowing for the Council.

   Treasury Management decisions were made in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and the CIPFA Prudential and Treasury Management Codes, which required councils to ensure that borrowing was proportionate, sustainable and undertaken at the most advantageous rates available at the time.

   Any borrowing from SYMCA was therefore evaluated against alternative sources of finance and was only undertaken where it supported the Council's Capital Programme objectives while representing an appropriate use of public funds. The fact that both organisations were publicly funded bodies did not, in itself, make such arrangements inappropriate or disadvantageous to residents.

   So, in summary, the payment of the levy and the use of SYMCA as part of the Council's borrowing arrangements were not directly linked; the Council operated within the law and financial governance arrangements to secure best value for money for the Council and residents at all times.

   In his supplementary, Councillor Ball stated that the Council was basically borrowing its own money but paying interest on that money. He asked if this was morally right.

Councillor Alam stated that Councillor Ball was incorrect. The Council paid a levy which was like a membership fee. When borrowing money from SYMCA or other bodies, the Council made sure they got value for money.

7. Councillor Yasseen: The 3,609 petition led by Councillor Thorp again shows widespread opposition to cycle lanes being imposed without meaningful community input. Given longstanding objections, safety concerns and poor public support, how many times must residents say no before the Council listens? Will it revise or stop schemes that communities reject, or continue forcing badly designed infrastructure upon us?

   Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, stated that the Council took the feedback received from consultations very seriously. Residents did not want this particular scheme to progress, and the Council has said it will not. On the Broom scheme in particular, residents told the Council that they did not support any element of it, so it was not being taken forward. In Eastwood there was some broad support, and Officers had been asked to revise that scheme to reflect that feedback. Councillor Williams stated that this was because the Council took consultation seriously.

   In her supplementary question, Councillor Yasseen stated that she hoped that would happen as it had not in Boston Castle. She asked for timescales and if the Ward Councillors would be involved.

   Councillor Williams confirmed that the Ward Councillors would be involved with the revised proposals.

8. Councillor Yasseen: Rotherham proudly became the first UK home of Mrs. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in 2007, giving Rotherham children (5 & under) a free book monthly, sadly the Library was cut during austerity. I admired Mrs. Parton's commitment to literacy & opportunity, will the Cabinet Member reinstate this proven, affordable programme and bring back to Rotherham the gift of reading?

   Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces, stated that Rotherham never lost the gift of reading. As Cabinet Member she had visited the libraries in the Borough and saw the excellent provision for under-fives that was on offer.

   There were currently no plans to reinstate the programme. When the decision was taken to cease the scheme in 2015, Council reports stated that the programme cost approximately £400,000 over a two-year period. Undoubtedly this would now be significantly higher. Reintroducing the programme would therefore require a significant and sustained funding commitment, and at this moment there was no identified funding sources available to support a scheme of that scale.

The Council did continue to support the BookStart scheme locally, which provided books and other resources to families, and it had invested heavily in the Borough's traditional libraries, the book fund, and the Home Library Service.

In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen stated that this was disappointing and asked if it could be looked at again, possibly with a more targeted approach for areas with low literacy scores.

Councillor Marshall stated that the Council already did support literacy through BookStart and through investment in Grimm & Co. Literacy and access to books remained a priority.

9. Councillor Yasseen: During Sheffield Road Cycleways phases 1, 2 and 3, I was repeatedly told that the SY Mayoral Authority, could only support cycle lanes. The same fund supported bus corridors, crossings, public realm and other infrastructure. Why was I misled about the available options?

   Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy stated that Councillor Yasseen was not misled. The funding for the Sheffield Road cycleways was Transforming Cities Fund. This was funding allocated through the Combined Authority.

   There was a clear Government ask for carbon reduction priorities and "modal shift" to lie at the heart of the spend of Transforming Cities Funding, in which the then Conservative Government clearly prioritised cycle and bus lane schemes. That was why these had been developed by councils across the country, and indeed across South Yorkshire.

   The Council had been robust in its engagement with SYMCA on behalf of residents, supported by the feedback from residents, and assisted by a generally more relaxed approach from the current Government. As the previous questions showed, the Council had very much listened to the views of residents.

   In her supplementary, Councillor Yasseen asked if the current criteria allowed for the funding to be used to fill potholes.

   Councillor Williams stated that he was sure that potholes were not included but confirmed that he would double-check.

10. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Do we know or have a best estimate for the number of two or more bedroom RMBC Council houses, how many are occupied by just a couple or single person and what is the percentage of those so occupied please?

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing, confirmed that the number of Council houses where there was at least one bedroom more than the number of household members was 3,623 which was around 18% of Council stock. This was where there was one occupant living in a house with two or more bedrooms and where there were 2 occupants living in a house with 3 or more bedrooms.

There were 2 occupants in two-bedroomed houses in 865 instances. They might have different relationship statuses to 'couple', for example parent and adult child, and may require two separate bedrooms; the figures for this were unavailable.

In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if the Service could look at the number of Council homes being built, the areas and whether smaller properties, such as one bedroom bungalows, could be built. He asked if the Council could adjust its offering.

Councillor Beresford confirmed that this was already taking place and the Housing Allocations Policy would be reviewed towards the end of 2026. A key indicator of demand was the number of bids for a property and this data was being monitored.

11. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Do we know or have a best estimate for the number of two or more bedroom private sector houses how many are occupied by just a couple or single person and what is the percentage of those so occupied please?

    Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing, confirmed that the Council did not hold this information regarding the private sector. There was information about occupancy ratings for the private sector (rent and home ownership combined) from the 2021 Census, which calculated where homes had more or fewer bedrooms than required. The Cabinet Member offered to send this information to Councillor Bennett-Sylvester following this meeting if it would be helpful.

    In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester confirmed he would like the information. He asked what more could be done to encourage builders and developers to offer smaller properties, especially for retirees and disabled people.

    Councillor Beresford stated that this was a Regeneration and Development matter as the Council's Housing Service could not influence this in any way. She did confirm that the Council did work hard to ensure that Council homes lost under the Right to Buy Scheme were brought back into the ownership of the Council when they were put up for sale.

12. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Since 2022/23 what has been the change in real terms of the spending power of Members' Devolved Community Leadership Funds, Devolved Capital Budgets and Ward Housing funds please?

    Councillor Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, confirmed that there had been no cash increase in the Ward Members Devolved Budgets since 2022/23. Spending power had inevitably been reduced with the impact of inflation and other rising costs: since 2022/23, based on the Consumer Prices Index, the real terms reduction was about 17%. In light of this, Councillor Cusworth stated that the budgets needed reviewing.

    In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that Members were experiencing difficulties in stretching their budgets to cover what they had previously covered. He asked if the lost spending could be recovered in future budget settlements and if best practice could be shared to ensure the money was used well.

    Councillor Cusworth thanked Councillor Bennett-Sylvester for his suggestions and invited him to discuss this further outside of the meeting.

13. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Thank you for your written response to my question on bailiff usage at last full Council. Can you please clarify were the 476 cases of vulnerability mentioned identified by Enforcement Agents or Rotherham Council officers?

    Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety, confirmed that the 476 cases of vulnerability were identified by Enforcement Agents during visits to properties.

    Enforcement Agents had vulnerability and safeguarding policies and procedures, and welfare teams routinely signposted people to independent support organisations. They were only used as a last resort when a customer had failed to engage with the Council.

    In his supplementary, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated that he was angry at the Council for this approach. He asked why Enforcement Agents were identifying cases of vulnerability and why this had not been picked up earlier. He also asked the Council to review its approach and look at places like Manchester, Preston and Newcastle which operated different models for vulnerable residents.

    Councillor Alam stated that it was his understanding that this related to residents who had not previously contacted the Council but he confirmed that he would look into the other models as requested.

14. Councillor Thorp: How much did it cost to put free films on at Snail Park this summer?

Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces, stated that the cost was £35,000 and it was funded in its entirety by an external grant – the Local Growth Fund.

In his supplementary, Councillor Thorp asked why the Council was taking people away from the cinema it had just built.

Councillor Marshall stated that not all children felt comfortable in a cinema and an outdoor event could be more welcoming to neurodiverse residents. Further, it brought more people into the town centre which was very much welcomed by the local businesses.

15. Councillor Thorp: Since as confirmed at the last full Council that all roundabouts are maintained by RMBC can you give me the cost to maintain the roundabout at the junction of Warren Vale Road and Wentworth Road compared to Worrygoose Island on East Bawtry Road?

    As Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities, was not present to respond to the question, a written response would be provided.

16. Councillor Yasseen: Rotherham's online petition portal repeatedly fails residents. Residents and my historical (and documented) experience was appalling but it continues to fail in 2026. A broken system obstructs public participation and undermines residents democratic right to be heard. Why has the Council allowed this failure to persist and will you meet with me to review, repair and improve the portal?

    The Leader disagreed that the system was broken as nearly 500 people had signed a petition currently active on the portal. The Council also accepted petitions in paper form as evidenced by the petition discussed earlier in the meeting. The Leader did, however, agree that the online process was clunky but stated it was the reality of the system that Rotherham and most other local authorities used. He agreed to arrange a meeting for Councillor Yasseen with the appropriate people to see if any improvements could be made.

    In her supplementary question, Councillor Yasseen stated that she thought it could be easily fixed, explaining that it needed to be more accessible. The need for an account and password made the system inefficient and, in her and other people's experiences, often did not work.

    The Leader understood the point but explained there was a need for an account to ensure signatures could be verified and addresses checked to ensure that signatories lived, worked or were in education in the Rotherham Borough.

73. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

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

14 September 2026

Councillor Ball
Simon.Ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Ball

Council Meeting – Wednesday 9th September 2026

Thank you for your question at the Council Meeting on 9th September 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Will the Pensions Authority spokesperson set out how many South Yorkshire LGPS members using salary sacrifice above £2,000 a year will now pay National Insurance on that extra saving, and what warning has gone to ordinary workplace savers that this cap hits them?

In the 2025 budget last November, the government announced that from 6 April 2029, only the first £2,000 of employee pension contributions made through salary sacrifice each year will be exempt from National Insurance contributions.

It is important to note that contributions to the LGPS are not paid through salary sacrifice and therefore most members will not be affected by this change.

Some employers allow their employees who are LGPS members to pay additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) through a salary sacrifice arrangement. This change will only affect members who pay more than £2,000 per year into an AVC through salary sacrifice after 6 April 2029.

Only 11 employers in the South Yorkshire Fund currently offer this arrangement. As these are arrangements handled by scheme employers, South Yorkshire Pensions Authority does not hold data on the numbers of members that are currently paying above the £2,000 cap into an AVC via salary sacrifice. However, the Authority understand from the provider used by employers – My Money Matters – that **there are currently a total of 319 individuals paying above this amount via salary sacrifice.** Although, it is important to note that employees can change the amount they pay into AVCs from month to month so the numbers will change frequently.

The Authority communicates regularly to employers on any changes that affect the pension scheme and that they may need to communicate to their employees who are LGPS members. This includes providing links to information provided on the LGPS members website – where this change was publicised from 8 December 2025.

The provider of the shared cost salary sacrifice AVC arrangement, My Money Matters, issues regular updates and newsletters with information to members who are paying into an AVC through salary sacrifice and they have been communicating about this change to these members regularly ever since the change was announced.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

PP

Councillor Donna Sutton
Designated Spokesperson
South Yorkshire Pensions Authority

Councillor Sarah Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Email sarah.allen@rotherham.gov.uk
*Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!*

Our Ref:	**Direct Line:**	**Please Contact:**
SA/CM	(01709) 255821	Councillor Sarah Allen

21st September 2026

Cllr Simon Ball
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council – Wednesday 9th September 2026

Thank you for your question at Council on Wednesday 9th September 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Will the Cabinet Member set out how Pride in Place and High Street investment, though Maltby East designated, will deliver measurable outcomes in Hellaby and Maltby West, and confirm what West consultation has already informed the Regeneration Plan due by end of 2026?

I have been advised that local arrangements started in June 2026. The Governance and Boundary submission for Maltby Pride in Place was reviewed and approved on 14th August 2026. The board for Pride in Place in Maltby is run separately to the Council and I cannot speak on their behalf in relation to their plans: any queries should be directed to them.

I understand that the board are in the process of organising a consultation programme to develop a programme of proposed investments before this is submitted to Government in November. The Council does not have a role in designing the programme; the role of the Council is limited to an accountable body function to ensure appropriate use of public funds.

However, with regards to the "High Street Investment", I assume this refers to our Towns and Villages Programme which will deliver improvements in Maltby High Street. The vast majority of the works fall within Maltby East near the Queens Crossroads junction. This is an entirely council-funded piece of work. This was informed by a consultation in September 2024 which was open to all the public who have an interest in Maltby, regardless of which local ward they live in. The project is due to start on site this month for around 6 months.

This is quite separate from the Pride in Place programme, and every ward was granted funding under the Towns and Villages programme, although we chose to make an extra investment in Maltby to deliver an enhanced scheme for that part of the Borough.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Communities

Councillor Sarah Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Email sarah.allen@rotherham.gov.uk
*Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!*

Our Ref:	**Direct Line:**	**Please Contact:**
SA/CM	(01709) 255821	Councillor Sarah Allen

21st September 2026

Cllr Simon Ball
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council – Wednesday 9th September 2026

Thank you for your question at Council on Wednesday 9th September 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Given FOI figures of over £175,000 spent clearing fly-tipping in 2024/25 and 2025/26 and Hellaby and Maltby West being named hotspots, will ward level clearance costs, FPNs and enforcement outcomes be published, with extra patrols planned this year?

I have been advised that whilst data has identified areas including Hellaby and Maltby West as locations with higher levels of reported fly-tipping, the Council does not currently record clearance costs at ward level.

Our operational teams work across a number of wards within larger service zones and expenditure is managed at a service-wide level.

The Council regularly provides information through media releases in respect of successful prosecutions of offenders. Patrols of known fly-tipping hotspots are regularly undertaken as part of normal and out of hours duties and are informed by intelligence. Should requests to patrol other areas be received, these will be considered when planning future patrols. Similarly, should Fixed Penalty Notice and other enforcement data be required specifically for certain areas then this can be considered as well in addition to the information that is provided through the Ward Briefing process.

I am happy to ensure that a relevant manager joins a future Ward Briefing meeting to talk through specific local issues.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Communities

Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
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Main Street
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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
SA/CM	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

21st September 2026

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Council Meeting – 9th September 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 9th September. I have set out your question and my response below.

Thank you for your written response to my question on bailiff usage at last full council. Can you please clarify were the 476 cases of vulnerability mentioned identified by enforcement agents or Rotherham Council officers?

In your supplementary, you asked why Enforcement Agents were identifying cases of vulnerability and why this had not been picked up earlier. He also asked the Council to review its approach and look at places like Manchester, Preston and Newcastle who operated different models for vulnerable residents.

The original question raised related specifically to cases referred to enforcement agents and how many of these referrals had resulted in visits. Cases are escalated to enforcement agents where the customer fails to engage with the Council following the obtaining of a liability order against them.

Vulnerable customers are identified by council officers at all stages of the recovery process. These are dealt with in accordance with the Council's Corporate Debt Policy which makes clear that the Council will support vulnerable people and businesses.

Where vulnerability is identified, officers in the team will take this into account when dealing with the customer, this could include, for example: -

- ensuring all appropriate discounts and reductions, including local council tax support, are in place,
- highlighting, potential, unclaimed state benefits that may be appropriate
- highlighting the financial support available through the crisis and resilience fund,
- signposting to independent debt advice,

- withdrawing court action and/or cancelling costs
- suspending case escalation for a limited period
- agreeing affordable payment arrangements
- escalating any safeguarding issues to the adult safeguarding team

These cases are dealt with on an individual basis and the appropriate actions taken to record any agreed outcomes. However, there is no single record we can interrogate that allows us to identify the specific cases.

The ability to identify vulnerable customers is a Cabinet Office requirement under a pilot data sharing project with His Majesty's Revenues and Customs which Rotherham, alongside Manchester City Council, are leading on nationally. This goes live in October 2026, therefore, a mechanism for how we can record, and report, any identified cases of vulnerability is currently being explored.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



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

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Riverside House
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Our Ref:	**Direct Line:**	**Please Contact:**
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21st September 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Thorp

Question at Council – Wednesday 9th September 2026

Thank you for your question at Council on Wednesday 9th September 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Since as confirmed at the last full council that all roundabouts are maintained by RMBC can you give me the cost to maintain the roundabout at the junction of Warren Vale Rd and Wentworth Rd compared to Worrygoose Island on East Bawtry Rd?

I have been advised that the roundabout at the junction of Warren Vale Road and Wentworth Road, together with Worrygoose Island on East Bawtry Road, are both maintained by the Council as part of our routine ground's maintenance programme.

Maintenance activities are delivered through zonal grass cutting and grounds maintenance operations, and the Council does not routinely record or monitor such costs for individual roundabouts. As a result, a direct comparison of maintenance costs between these two locations is not available.

However, the nature of the sites does differ operationally. The Warren Vale Road/Wentworth Road roundabout can be maintained by Council teams without the need for traffic management arrangements. In contrast, maintenance of Worrygoose Island requires traffic management and lane closures to enable works to be undertaken safely. These visits are therefore planned separately and are undertaken in line with operational requirements and health and safety considerations. It is therefore likely that in practice Worrygoose Island is the more expensive of the two sites to maintain.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Communities

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 04 November 2026

Report Title
Petitions

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
John Edwards, Chief Executive

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

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides Members with a list of all petitions received by Rotherham MBC since the last Council meeting held on 9 September 2026 and details which petitions will be presented by members of the public at this Council meeting.

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

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.

2. That the Council receive the petition listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report and the lead petitioner or their representative be entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

3. That the relevant Executive Director be required to respond to the lead petitioners, as set out in the Petition Scheme, by Wednesday 18 November 2026.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 – Stop the Unnecessary Felling of Mature Trees on Herringthorpe Valley Road

Background Papers
None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

PetitionsPetitions

1. Background

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

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

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

1.3 This report is submitted for information to detail the number of petitions received since the previous ordinary Council meeting held on 9 September 2026 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision-making processes.

2. Key Issues

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

Subject	Number of Valid Signatures	Lead Petitioner	Directorate
Stop the Unnecessary Felling of Mature Trees on Herringthorpe Valley Road	467	Andrew Hayter	Regeneration and Environment

2.2 The details of the petition can be found in Appendix 1.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

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

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 This report is submitted for information in order to detail the petitions received by the Council since the previous Council meeting held on 9 September 2026. There are no consultation issues directly associated with this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Under the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme, the petition will not be debated. It will be sent to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment to provide a written response.

5.2 The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment is required to provide a written response to the lead petitioner within 10 working days of the meeting. Responses are therefore due by Wednesday 18 November 2026.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

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

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

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

11. Implications for Ward Priorities

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

12. Implications for Partners

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

13. **Risks and Mitigation**

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

14. Accountable Officers

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

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

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1 - Stop the Unnecessary Felling of Mature Trees on Herringthorpe Valley Road

We the undersigned petition the Council to:

- Maintain the current suspension of all proposed felling;
- Publish a tree-by-tree assessment setting out the condition, identified risks and urgency of any proposed work;
- Obtain or permit an independent arboricultural review before any mature tree is removed, except where there is an immediate and evidenced danger to public safety;
- Fully consider less destructive options, including pruning, pollarding, crown reduction, removal of individual limbs and monitored retention;
- Provide residents and Ward Members with advance notice of any proposed non-emergency felling;
- Explain why the mature tree already removed was considered beyond retention and why residents and local councillors were not informed beforehand;
- Agree a long-term management plan for the remaining mature trees; and
- Ensure that any tree which must ultimately be removed is replaced locally with suitable trees, together with a clear planting and maintenance plan.

We call upon Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to protect the mature trees on Herringthorpe Valley Road and prevent any further felling unless clear, independently reviewable evidence demonstrates that removal is unavoidable.

Residents of Herringthorpe Valley Road were shocked and extremely upset when a large, mature tree—believed to be around 100 years old—was felled without any prior notification or consultation with nearby residents.

We subsequently learned that several other mature trees along the road had also been identified for possible removal. This caused significant concern that felling was being treated as the preferred response to trees showing signs of age, disease or deterioration, rather than as the final option after all reasonable measures to retain them had been properly explored.

Approximately ten years ago, some of these trees were heavily pruned or pollarded in response to similar concerns. They recovered and produced substantial new growth, continuing to make an important contribution to the character, environment and appearance of the area.

Residents accept that external appearance alone cannot prove that a tree is safe, and we fully recognise the Council’s responsibility to manage genuine risks to the public. However, we have not yet been shown the individual assessments, photographs, risk ratings or professional evidence demonstrating that each tree presents an unacceptable risk or that removal is the only reasonable option.

There was also no advance warning to residents before the recent felling. Local Ward Members were apparently not informed either. This denied residents and

elected representatives the opportunity to understand the evidence, ask questions or discuss whether less destructive alternatives were available.

Following complaints from residents, RMBC has temporarily suspended the remaining works while further engagement takes place. The Council has offered to meet residents and Ward Members to explain the proposed works and discuss future replanting. We welcome this pause and the opportunity for discussion, but residents believe stronger and more transparent safeguards are required before any further mature trees are removed.

Mature trees provide shade, absorb carbon, support wildlife, reduce pollution, help manage surface water and give Herringthorpe Valley Road much of its established character. Once removed, their environmental and visual value cannot be replaced for many decades by a young sapling.

This petition is therefore not asking the Council to ignore genuine and immediate safety risks. It is asking RMBC to demonstrate that each proposed removal is necessary, proportionate and supported by clear professional evidence; to consider every reasonable retention option; to involve residents and Ward Members before non-emergency felling; and to ensure that removal is genuinely used only as a last resort.

Residents recognise the Council’s responsibility to manage genuine safety risks. However, mature trees should not be felled simply because they are old, show signs of disease or require ongoing management. Felling should be the last resort, supported by transparent evidence and used only where no safe and proportionate alternative exists.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 04 November 2026

Report Title
Care Leavers' Charter

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)
Stuart Williams, Service Director
stuart.williams@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The Rotherham Care Leavers' Charter has been developed in partnership with Care Leavers and sets out the Council's commitment, alongside partner organisations, to support care experienced young people as they transition into adulthood. The Charter complements the existing Leaving Care Local Offer and Leaving Care Strategy and reflects the Council's responsibilities as a Corporate Parent.

The Charter brings together a range of commitments across housing, education, employment, health and wellbeing, with the aim of improving outcomes, reducing barriers and ensuring that Care Leavers receive the same opportunities and support that any reasonable parent would seek for their own child.

The Charter has been informed by the views and experiences of Care Leavers through the Look Ahead participation group and has been supported by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board. Cabinet has considered and endorsed the Charter and now seeks Full Council's commitment to adopting the Charter in recognition of the collective corporate parenting responsibilities held by all elected members.

When the Charter was considered at Cabinet, and approved, on 14th September, a further addition of extending the eligibility of Rothercard up to age 25 was included as an additional benefit for Care Leavers.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Adopt the Rotherham Care Leavers' Charter as a statement of the Council's commitment to Care Leavers and care experienced young adults in Rotherham.

2. Recognise the role of all elected members as Corporate Parents and support the principles contained within the Charter in their decision-making and leadership responsibilities.

3. Support the promotion of the Charter across the Council and partner organisations to strengthen opportunities, services and outcomes for Care Leavers.

List of Appendices Included
Cabinet Report – Care Leavers' Charter
Appendix 1 – Rotherham Care Leavers Charter
Appendix 2 – Part A - Initial Equality screening Assessment form
Appendix 3 – Part B – Equality Analysis Form
Appendix 4 – Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Corporate Parenting Panel – 08 September 2026
Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title
Care Leavers' Charter

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)
Jane Wood, Head of Service, Children in Care and Care Leavers

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In November 2024, Cabinet approved a new Leaving Care Strategy for 2024 to 2027 and a revised Care Leaver Local Offer. This report provides an update on the Local Offer and the development of a Care Leavers' Charter, which will clearly set out the commitments and support available to care-experienced young adults.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the development of the Care Leavers' Charter.

2. Approve the proposals set out within the Care Leavers' Charter, recognising the Council's commitment to improving outcomes and opportunities for Care Leavers.

3. Agree that the Care Leavers' Charter progresses to Full Council for endorsement.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Rotherham Care Leavers Charter
Appendix 2 – Part A - Initial Equality screening Assessment form

Appendix 3 – Part B – Equality Analysis Form
Appendix 4 – Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Rotherham Leaving Care Strategy, Cabinet Report, 18th November 2025.
Housing Allocations Policy, Cabinet report, 15th September 2025.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Corporate Parenting Partnership Board

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Care Leavers' Charter

1. Background

1.1 The Children and Social Work Act (2017) and statutory guidance set out the responsibilities of Local Authorities as Corporate Parents to ensure that Care Leavers are offered the same standard of care that their peers would receive from a reasonable parent. This is with the aim that all Care Leavers are provided with opportunities and support to successfully transition to adulthood (Department for Education (DFE), 2022; The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations, volume three). Rotherham Council is a committed and supportive Corporate Parent and as such, has created a bespoke Leaving Care Strategy to ensure that Care Leavers are a focus for all partners.

1.2 There are currently 443 Care Leavers aged 16 to 21 and 173 aged 22 to 25 in Rotherham. A Care Leaver is a young person aged between 16 and 25 who has previously been in the care of the Local Authority. A young person is considered to be a Care Leaver when they reach 16 years old, even though they may not yet have left the care of the Local Authority. Every Local Authority has a duty to provide leaving care services to Care Leavers, including allocation of a Personal Advisor (PA) until a Care Leaver reaches 21 years old and support beyond, where required, up to the age of 25.

1.3 The Leaving Care Strategy 2024-2027 outlined the three-year plan for Rotherham Care Leavers. The Strategy set out priorities for Care Leavers and outlined improvements to services and practice for children who are Care Leavers or Care Experienced. Delivery of the Leaving Care Strategy 2024-2027 is overseen by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, with progress reports provided every six months.

1.4 Rotherham Children's Social Care services were subject to an inspection by Ofsted in 2025. Ofsted introduced a stand-alone judgement on "the experiences and progress of Care Leavers" into the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework in January 2023. This replaced the previous approach where Care Leavers were assessed together with Children in Care. The move was intended to ensure an increased visibility of Care Leavers within inspections and helped ensure Care Leavers' needs are not overshadowed by Children in Care.

1.5 The outcome of this inspection was that the experience and progress of Care Leavers was judged to be 'Good,' across a backdrop of an overall judgement of services as 'Outstanding.' The inspection noted clear strengths relating to how the Council supports Care Leavers. The inspection noted "practitioners advocate strongly for young people and provide support that promotes safety and belonging" as well as noting a "strong corporate and political backing so that Care Leavers benefit from a stable, highly skilled workforce and a service which is focused on their needs."

1.6 However, Ofsted also felt that there was more the Local Authority could do for Care Leavers in relation to consistency of education and skills

opportunities and housing sufficiency, and that this could form the next stage of its ambition for its young people.

1.7 The Council's Children and Young People's Services launched the Children in Care 'Pledge' in Summer 2025, showcasing the commitment to children in the care of the Local Authority as part of the wider corporate parenting approach.

1.8 Children and Young People's Services have progressed a Care Leavers' Charter following this success. A Care Leavers' Charter is a commitment from a Local Authority to principles and promises that support young people leaving care, the development of which is supported by the Care Leavers themselves.

1.9 The Look Ahead group is Rotherham's participation forum for Care Leavers and young people with care experience. The forum provides a regular opportunity for Care Leavers to share their views, experiences and ideas about the services and support they receive. It enables young people to influence service development, identify areas for improvement and work collaboratively with the Council and partner agencies to help shape policies, practice, and future priorities.

1.10 Look Ahead has been instrumental in the development of the Care Leavers' Charter, ensuring that the commitments contained within it reflect the needs, aspirations, and lived experiences of Care Leavers in Rotherham. Through ongoing engagement, the Forum helps ensure that the voices of Care Leavers remain central to the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities and continuous improvement activity. Care Leavers told the Council that the following focus was of great importance to them:

- Living in a home which is clean and tidy and ready for them to move into.
- Access to lower cost goods to furnish first homes.
- Extra support in the first few days of moving into a new property.
- Understanding where to get help from and having named people to help to solve problems, reduce loneliness or signpost for wellbeing support.

1.11 Rotherham Council and its partners recognise that care experienced young people and adults bring valuable skills, perspectives, and resilience to communities. As Corporate Parents, the Council is committed to ensuring that care experience is never a barrier to achieving positive outcomes. It will continue to challenge stigma and discrimination, promote understanding of care experience across the Council and partner organisations, and ensure that the voices of Care Leavers remain central to the development of services and decision-making. Through the Care Leavers' Charter, the Council is not only reaffirming its commitment to providing practical support and opportunities, but also celebrating the achievements, aspirations, and contributions of care experienced people across Rotherham.

1.12 Building on the strengths of the Leaving Care Service and the opportunities already developed with partners across Rotherham, this Charter reflects the shared ambition for Care Leavers. It demonstrates the Council's commitment to providing practical support, creating opportunities, challenging stigma and discrimination, and ensuring that the voices of care experienced young people and adults continue to shape services and influence decision-making.

1.13 The Rotherham Care Leavers Local Offer ensures Care Leavers are provided with a range of support to help them transition to adulthood. This includes bespoke support with aspects of their life that are unique to them, as for many Care Leavers the blueprint they have may have been impacted by their own experiences and trauma; support with becoming a parent is an example of this. It may also include support with finances, housing and accommodation, education and employment, health and well-being, culture and identity, family and relationships and support in or when exiting custody if applicable. The Care Leavers' Charter is designed to complement the Leaving Care Local Offer, offering tangible benefits and opportunities to support the success of young people leaving care.

1.14 In September 2025, Cabinet approved the Housing Allocation Policy giving Care Leavers higher priority for social housing. The Policy awards Band One to Rotherham Care Leavers and Band Three to out of Borough Care Leavers, including Care Leavers who have been placed in Rotherham by other Local Authorities. The Allocation Policy is a graduated approach to the allocation of housing, based on need. Band One is the highest banding and is for applicants who are assessed as being statutorily homeless under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 and are owed the full housing duty. Band Three is a lower banding priority.

1.15 The Corporate Parenting Partnership Board has played an important role in shaping and supporting the development of the Charter. Care Leavers regularly attend Board meetings, providing direct feedback on their experiences and helping to influence the Council's priorities and commitments. This ongoing engagement ensures that the Charter reflects the voices of young people and promotes continuous improvement in the support and opportunities available to Care Leavers.

2. Key Issues

2.1 On 10th July 2025, the Government published updated guidance in relation to housing for those with Care Experience. Following the updated guidance, the Council sought reciprocal agreements with other South Yorkshire Local Authorities in prioritising the housing need of Care Leavers and the delegation to enable this was approved by Cabinet in July 2025. Reciprocal agreements are now in place with regional neighbours.

2.2 Care Leavers are actively involved in the continual review of the Local Offer and are now fully aware of their rights and entitlements as Care Leavers. The Local Offer is hosted on the Local Offer website and is regularly updated as required.

2.3 Children and Young People's Services have completed benchmarking activity in relation to the Local Offer and are assured that this is a strong offer for Care Leavers.

2.4 The Care Leavers' Charter is intended to demonstrate the Council's key commitment to Care Leavers. Following the successful launch of the Children in Care Pledge in 2025, the Council have ensured that the content has been created by young people and young adults who have experienced the care system and have a real life understanding of some of the barriers they face within society.

2.5 The Care Leavers' Charter will be shared with practitioners, partners, and leaders with an encouragement to agree to commit to the content of the Charter.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

a. Note the development of the Care Leavers' Charter.
b. Approve the proposals set out within the Care Leavers' Charter, recognising the Council's commitment to improving outcomes and opportunities for Care Leavers.
c. Recommend to Full Council that the Care Leavers' Charter be endorsed and that the Council commits to promoting and embedding its principles across all services, policies, and decision-making processes.

3.2 If these recommendations are approved the Care Leavers' Charter provides a clear framework for the Council and its partners to strengthen support for care-experienced young people as they transition to adulthood. Adopting the Charter demonstrates the Council's commitment to fulfilling its corporate parenting responsibilities, ensuring Care Leavers receive the opportunities, support, and advocacy they need to achieve positive outcomes and thrive as independent adults.

3.3 An alternative option would be to not approve the recommendation or adopt the Care Leavers' Charter. This would mean that Rotherham would not benefit from a clear and visible commitment to improving outcomes for Care Leavers through the principles set out in the Charter. Failure to adopt the Charter could result in missed opportunities to strengthen the Council's corporate parenting offer, promote greater awareness of Care Leavers' needs across services, and encourage a consistent whole-Council approach to supporting care-experienced young people. It may also limit opportunities to demonstrate the Council's commitment to listening to Care Leavers and embedding their voices in service development and decision-making. Whilst statutory duties towards Care Leavers would remain unchanged, the Council would be less able to evidence its ambition to go beyond these minimum requirements and champion improved outcomes in areas such as education, employment, housing, health, wellbeing, and participation. This option is not recommended.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Engagement and consultation with the Look Ahead Forum has informed the development of the Care Leavers' Charter and the proposals contained within this report. The Charter has been co-produced with Care Leavers to ensure that it reflects their experiences, priorities, and aspirations, and that the commitments made are meaningful and relevant to their lived experience.

4.2 The development of the Charter has also been discussed with the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, which has provided oversight and support for strengthening the Council's approach to meeting its corporate parenting responsibilities.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Service Manager for Voice & Influence will ensure that the Care Leavers' Charter is launched across the service, partnership and to Care Leavers.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.

6.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals and recommendations outlined in this report. It should be noted that funding for the range of support to Care Leavers via the Local Offer (e.g. support with finances, housing and accommodation, education, etc.) is already provided for within the children's social care budget.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Under section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 there is a requirement to have regard to the corporate parent principles when discharging functions in relation to Children in Care and care experienced young people. This is to be applied alongside the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: care planning and placement and case review and The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: planning transition to adulthood for Care Leavers. Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each Local Authority to consult and publish the Local Offer for its Care Leavers, as set out in this paper.

7.2 The Local Offer guidance introduced in February 2018 was updated in February 2025 and provides guidance on the development of a Local Offer, which should set out what each Local Authority department will provide rather than just focus on what Children's Services can offer.

7.3 Once there has been consultation on the Local Offer and it is published, the statutory guidance sets out the Government's expectation that the Local Offer is reviewed at least two to three years following consultation to ensure services reflect what care experienced young people need the most. In view

of the legal framework and statutory guidance, there are no legal implications by following the recommendations at paragraph 3.1.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications associated with the proposals and recommendations detailed in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The aim of the Care Leavers' Charter is to provide Care Leavers with a framework for robust, multi-agency support to help them feel more empowered and in control of their lives. By valuing their strengths and listening to their point of view, a charter helps build a Care Leaver's self-esteem and confidence. Ultimately, a Charter is designed to address the systemic disadvantages Care Leavers often face and drive better results across multiple areas of their lives.

9.2 Delivery of the Charter aligns with the key local partnership priorities and plans, including Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Plan 2025/30, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Priorities and Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025/30.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Equality and human rights are considered within the Care Leaver Local Offer. Part A Equalities Screening is attached as Appendix 2 and Part B is attached as Appendix 3.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Implications included in the Carbon Impact Assessment (Appendix 4).

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Care Leaver Local Offer and the Care Leavers' Charter should not be considered as exclusively for the Local Authority to deliver. The broader Corporate Parenting principles should be delivered by the broader partnership. Partner agencies have been spoken to about the development of a Care Leaver Charter and are supportive of this.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The Council has a duty to support Care Leavers in law. The development of the Care Leavers' Charter is a way of demonstrating the fulfilment of this duty.

13.2 There are no financial risks associated with the decision set out in this report.

13.3 Supporting the decisions as set out in this report will have beneficial implications in relation to reputation, demonstrating the Council's commitment to Care Leavers.

14. Accountable Officers

Stuart Williams - Service Director, Children's Social Care

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	21/08/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/08/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/08/26

This report is published on the Council's website.

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ROTHERHAM CARE LEAVERS' CHARTER.

Foreword: Councillor Victoria Cusworth, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

As Corporate Parents, we believe that Care Leavers should have the same opportunities, support and aspirations as anyone else. We recognise the resilience and determination shown by many Care Leavers and are committed to removing barriers, challenging stigma and discrimination, and championing opportunities for success. We will continue to listen to the voices of Care Leavers, celebrate their achievements and contributions, and work with our partners to ensure they receive the support they need to thrive and achieve their ambitions. This Charter is our promise to continue listening, improving and working alongside Care Leavers to deliver the support, opportunities and encouragement they deserve.

Our Commitment to Care Leavers

This Charter sets out the commitments of **Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)** and a number of our partner agencies to support Care Leavers as they transition into independence and adulthood.

The Charter complements the **Leaving Care Local Offer** and the **Children in Care and Care Leaver Promise**, and aligns with our **Leaving Care Strategy**, demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that Care Leavers achieve their aspirations and experience the very best outcomes possible.

This Charter has been produced alongside those with care experience, focussing on what matters to them most.

Our aim is to help you become resilient, successful, safe, and confident in your future, while ensuring you can access the support and opportunities you need to thrive.

Housing & Independence

We are committed to ensuring that you have access to suitable, safe, and affordable accommodation. We understand that having a stable home is a key foundation for achieving independence and success.

We will provide:

- Priority housing status in Rotherham until the age of 25.
- Tenancy support and guarantor assistance when required.
- Council Tax 100% Reduction for Care Leavers who are the named tenant up to age 21, regardless of where they live and up to the age of 25 for Care Leavers in full-time education, who reside in the borough.
- Access to a named Housing Officer for advice and support with housing matters.
- Access to the **"A Place of Your Own"** independent living programme.
- Housing drop-in sessions at **The Journey**, delivered in partnership with housing colleagues.

- Support with accommodation costs during higher level study, where eligible.
- Access to a Crisis Resilience Fund, including assistance with essential household items.
- One-to-one budgeting, shopping and cooking support through the Financial Inclusion Team.
- Affordable, professionally refurbished household items, including furniture and white goods.
- Independent Living Skills Workshops, including cooking sessions provided by an RMBC partner.
- Provision of housekeeping kits and decorating packs through an RMBC partner.
- Reciprocal agreements across the local region to help maintain housing priority where applicable:

Reciprocal Housing Agreements

Local Authority	Priority Status
Sheffield	Band 2 (or equivalent)
Doncaster	Band 2 (or equivalent)
Barnsley	Band 1 (or equivalent)

Education, Employment & Skills

We have high aspirations for you and are committed to helping you gain the qualifications, skills, experiences, and opportunities needed to achieve your ambitions.

We will provide:

- Guaranteed interviews for RMBC vacancies where the essential criteria are met.
- CV writing, job application and interview support through RMBC and the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Education drop-in clinics providing advice on post-16 education, training and progression opportunities.
- Bespoke employability skills training.
- Work experience opportunities within RMBC.
- Digital Inclusion sessions in partnership with RNN College.
- Apprenticeship opportunities and work experience in Electrical, Plumbing, Gas, Joinery and waste management, with RMBC partners.
- Apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities with the NHS.

- Access to the NHS Widening Participation Programme, offering training pathways, work experience and guaranteed interview opportunities for eligible applicants, which include Care Leavers.
- Workplace visits, interview preparation and retail sector experience with an RMBC partner.
- Access to short courses and skills-based learning opportunities through an RMBC partner.
- Support to access affordable internet services or temporary internet provision where required.
- Discounted bus travel.

Health & Wellbeing

We want you to enjoy good physical health, positive emotional wellbeing, and access to support when it is needed.

We will provide:

- Access to free NHS prescriptions, dental treatment and optical care, up to the age of 25.
- Counselling and trauma-informed emotional wellbeing support.
- Healthy relationships sessions at The Journey.
- Sexual Health advice and support at The Journey.
- A Care Leaver Health Summary when you leave care.
- Support through an RMBC partner to reduce social isolation, build confidence and improve wellbeing.
- "Keeping on Track" group sessions covering resilience, stress management and emotional wellbeing.
- Extended access to the Rothercard Discount Scheme for Care Leavers up to age 25.
- An annual social and leisure payment to support participation in activities that promote wellbeing, social inclusion and independence, such as gym memberships or other recreational activities.
- Opportunities to participate in a variety of clubs and events, including fishing, football, cinema trips and themed events.

Further Information

Leaving Care Local Offer

https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/homepage/474/leaving-care-in-rotherham-your-guide-and-support

Children in Care and Care Leaver Promise



Together, we are committed to helping Rotherham's Care Leavers achieve their aspirations, fulfil their potential, and thrive in adulthood.

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: Care Leaver Charter	
Directorate: Children and Young People Services	**Service area:** Children's Social Care
Lead person: Stuart Williams	**Contact:** Stuart.williams@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: [ ] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [x] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This is an update to Cabinet requesting approval to develop the Care Leavers Charter, to ensure we continue to excel in our corporate parenting responsibilities.

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?	Yes	
Could the proposal affect service users?	Yes	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	Yes	
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?	Yes	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?	Yes	
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

Children in care and care leavers face significant disadvantages when it comes to employment due to a combination of systemic, social, and personal factors. There is often disruption to education and training for those in care and this can impact on academic achievement. Further to this it is often the case that children and young people

who have care experienced have a lack of support networks and social capital this can impact on opportunities for mentoring, professional contacts, references and general support in relation to employability. Some employers may hold negative stereotypes about those with care experience, and many feel reluctant to share their background and experiences fearing discrimination.

- **Key findings**

Care Leavers often face barriers to employment, and this can be a foundation for success in many other areas; earning an income, housing, career progression, self-belief and improved mental health. This proposal for Cabinet's consideration will support those with care experience into work, support the local businesses and improve social mobility and an inclusive economy.

- **Actions**

The individual needs of children in care and Care Leavers is continually considered and reviewed and Further Equality Impact Analysis will be completed as required as part of the delivery associated with the strategy. The actions as presented to Cabinet will endorse the local authority taking every opportunity to support those with care experience.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	July 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	July 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Jane Wood – Head of Service Children in Care

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Stuart Willaims	Service Director, Children's Social Care	17th July 2026
Nicola Curley	Executive Director, Children & Young Peoples Service	17th July 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	17th July 2026
Report title and date	Care Leavers Charter
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	14th September 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	17th July 2026

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Care Leaver Charter	
Date of Equality Analysis 27/7/26	
Directorate: CYPS	**Service area:** Care Leavers
Lead Manager: Jane Wood	**Contact number:** 01709 254791
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Nicola Curley	RMBC	Executive Director of Children's Services
Stuart Williams	RMBC	Service Director Children's Social Care
Jane Wood	RMBC	Head of Service Children in Care

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

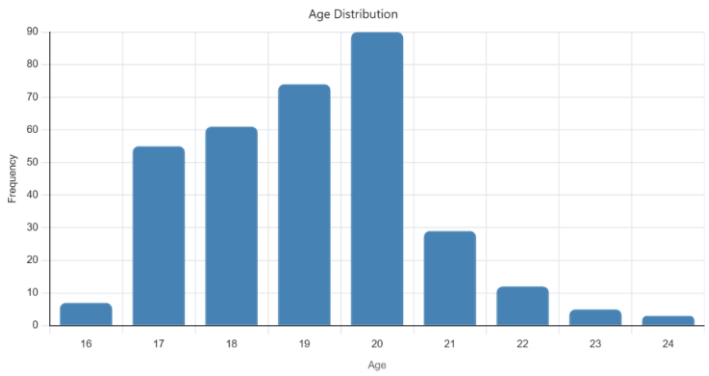
The Care Leaver Charter has been progressed to identify additional opportunities via RMBC and partners for Care Leavers. This is to bridge the gap between the challenges faced by Care Leavers and their peers. Implementing this charter is likely to improve experience and skills for care leavers and also ensure that they have access to additional support in areas needed.

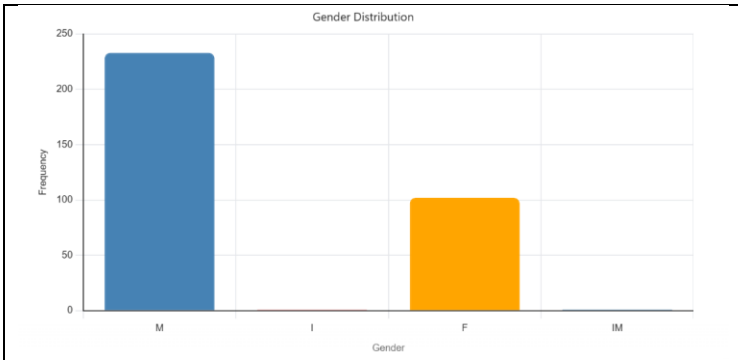
This report screens the activity undertaken to progress the care leaver charter. It is important to note that the charter specifically relates to care leavers and as such excludes children not in those categories. This charter incorporates all care leavers and does not exclude any child, young person or young adult within that range.

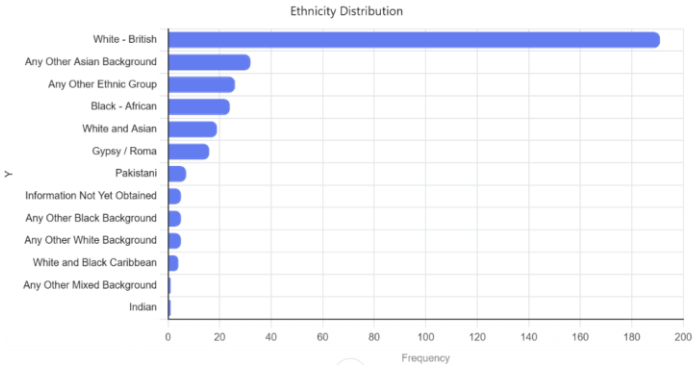
What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

Equality information is captured as part of our existing service delivery and identified priorities. This includes data for all care leavers, including, though not limited to age, gender, ethnicity and disability status.

Equality data









Equality information is available through existing delivery in the following ways:

Regular monitoring and oversight through the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board
Look Ahead Care Leavers group, who have been consulted on the documents and offered views about what would be beneficial for them.
Performance Practice and Learning
CYPS performance reporting – Scorecards and Dashboards
Audit and QA activity
DfE
Department for Health & Social Care
Ofsted
Staff and SW Health Check 2023

A service plan and pledge will sit alongside the charter, which will include diversity and equality information. This will also incorporate the views of children in care and care leavers, which will be used to review and monitor progress of the plan.

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

None identified.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics? The Care Leavers Charter will be reviewed in Corporate Parenting Partnership Board. This will consider oversight and implementation of the Charter. The internal service plans, which align with the charter will be reviewed monthly. Performance and quality monitoring will measure the progress and impact of the charter. Existing data and established methodology, such as performance KPI's relating to Education, Employment and Training, across the children's workforce will continue to be used to monitor impact on those groups with protected characteristics. As part of current practice, the voice of children and families is sought through audit activity, and a variety of voice groups. The Look Ahead group will contribute to the service planning and progress of this charter.	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	There has been ongoing engagement with partner agencies regarding the implementation of a Care Leaver charter via Corporate Parenting Partnership Board and other forums. This was discussed at the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board on 30.6.26. There have been many other discussions regarding the development of the charter. This has included health, education and other directorates within the council as well as local providers and businesses. As a result of this a number of opportunities have been identified for care leavers, including additional training, work experience opportunities and apprenticeship schemes. Consultation with care leavers has informed this charter, with further consultation planned. They have proposed some of the initiatives which are included in the Charter, such as named individuals as a point of contact and access to health and wellbeing support.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Managers and front-line staff have been involved in the preparation of the Care Leavers Charter. This determined that areas around education, employment and training and emotional wellbeing needed to be a focus. Where appropriate this has also included involvement from wider directorates, including HR, Finance and Legal. This has resulted in the offers identified in the Charter.

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)
How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance) Service delivery is regulated by a range of Legislation and Guidance, as well as oversight from the regulatory body, Ofsted. Service delivery is utilising a restorative, inclusive approach. While this charter is specific to children in care and care leavers, the proposals do not exclude any group within this category. There is also a focus on meeting the individual needs of children and young people. The charter intends to outline the corporate parenting responsibility for RMBC as well as all partner agencies to enable agencies to focus on the individual needs of children in care and care leavers.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? No, the Care Leavers Charter intends to provide opportunities for Care Leavers as a disadvantaged group.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? Yes, the charter proposes actions which will improve the lives of care leavers, enable them to participate better in society and achieve their potential. This charter sets out opportunities to have a positive impact for children and young people, as well as the wider community. This charter will support services and partners to remove barriers for care leavers and to support them to overcome adversity.
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) The Care Leaver Charter is deliberately focussed on children in care and care leavers and as such does not include children outside of this group. This is because we know children with experience of care are more disadvantaged that children who have not. This also sets out the corporate parenting responsibilities for the workforce as wider partner agencies. It is expected that this charter will have a positive impact upon community relations, including increasing the opportunities for care leavers.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Care Leavers Charter
Directorate and service area: CYPS. Children's Social Care
Lead Manager: Jane Wood
Summary of findings:
A Care Leavers Charter will benefit RMBC care leavers by giving them access to additional experiences and opportunities. This will provide meaningful service delivery to improve the lives of care leavers.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Care Leavers Charter implementation	A, D, S, GR, RE, ROB, SO, C, O	**November 2026**
Seek to remove barriers for care leavers in terms of accessing services set out in the charter.	A, D, S, GR, RE, ROB, SO, C, O	**November 2026**
Ensure that all children and young people are treated fairly and with respect throughout the implementation of this charter.	A, D, S, GR, RE, ROB, SO, C, O	**November 2026**
Complete a further equality analysis after 12 months to ensure the success of this plan and identify any issues.	A, D, S, GR, RE, ROB, SO, C, O	**November 2026**

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children's Services	27/07/26
Stuart Williams	Service Director	27/07/26
Cllr Cusworth	Lead Member Children's Services	27/07/26

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date Equality Analysis completed	27/7/26
Report title and date	Care Leavers Charter
Date report sent for publication	2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	27/7/2026

Climate Impact Assessment, Appendix 4 Care Leaver Offer and Care Leavers Charter

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Council officer travel may increase to provide support to care experienced young people.	Increasing work and training opportunities may make care experienced young people more mobile – this is expected to have a negligible impact on emissions.	The provision of discounted bus travel is likely to minimise any additional emissions created by increased travel.	Council officer travel is measured in the council's net zero by 2030 greenhouse gas emissions accounting.
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?

Care leavers are at increased risk of homelessness compared with the general population, mediated factors such as barriers to employment and stable housing. Previous climate impact assessments have noted how homelessness uniquely exposes people to the effects climate change, such as increased frequency and severity of extreme heat waves. By supporting better outcomes for care leavers, the Council's proposed Care Leaver Offer and Care Leavers Charter could mitigate risk and vulnerability to climate change in Rotherham.

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

There are minimal climate change implications arising from the Care Leavers' Charter. The charter may generate additional transport emissions through the provision of support by council officers; and as care experienced young people are better able to take up work and training opportunities. This should be minimal as care experienced young people will be offered discounted bus passes. Council officer travel emissions is monitored and reported on through the council's greenhouse gas emissions accounting. By supporting better outcomes for care leavers, the Council's proposed Care Leaver Offer and Care Leavers Charter could mitigate risk and vulnerability to climate change in Rotherham.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Jane Wood Head of Service Children in care Children's Social Care

	Children and Young People's Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	*None*
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	https://becomecharity.org.uk/content/uploads/2024/10/Homelessness-stats_Oct-24.pdf
Validation	Tracking Reference: C1A677 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 4 November 2026

Report Title
Cabinet Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Menopause

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)
Alex Hawley
Alex.hawley@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
Menopause and perimenopause were the focus of a Health Select Commission Workshop arising from its 2025/26 work programme. Subsequent consideration by the Health Select Commission Chair in conjunction with the Governance Manager and Head of Democratic Services resulted in conducting a Spotlight Review of the topic, with a view to delivering the progress and impact sought by that workshop.

Recommendations made by the Spotlight Review were set out in a report, endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 14 May 2026 meeting, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its 3 June 2026 meeting, and then presented to Cabinet for consideration on 6 July 2026. Cabinet set out its response on 14 September 2026.

This report provides Cabinet's response to the recommendations from the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review into the Menopause.

Recommendations

That Council note the response to the recommendations, as detailed in the Cabinet report of 14 September 2026.

List of Appendices Included

Cabinet Report – Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Menopause

Appendix 1 Action plan of responses to recommendations
Appendix 2 Part A – Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Health Select Commission Scrutiny Review – Menopause. Cabinet 6 July 2026
Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, 3 June 2026

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Health Select Commission – 14 May 2026
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 03 June 2026
Cabinet – 06 July 2026
Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title
Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Menopause

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)
Alex Hawley
Alex.hawley@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Menopause and perimenopause were the focus of a Health Select Commission Workshop arising from its 2025/26 work programme. Subsequent consideration by the Health Select Commission Chair in conjunction with the Governance Manager and Head of Democratic Services resulted in conducting a Spotlight Review of the topic, with a view to delivering the progress and impact sought by that workshop.

Recommendations made by the Spotlight Review were set out in a report, endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 14 May 2026 meeting, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its 3 June 2026 meeting, and then presented to Cabinet for consideration on 6 July 2026.

This report sets out the proposed Cabinet response to the findings and recommendations from the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review into the Menopause.

Recommendations

1. That the proposed Cabinet response to the Health Select Commission recommendations arising from their Spotlight Review into the Menopause (as set out in Appendix 1 of this report) be approved.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Action plan of responses to recommendations
Appendix 2 Part A – Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Menopause Cabinet Report.pdf

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Health Select Commission – 14 May 2026
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 03 June 2026

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Menopause

1. Background

1.1 This piece of work was originally progressed as a Health Select Commission Workshop arising from its 2025/26 work programme. However, immediately following completion of the workshop it became clear that the quality of the discussion and the level of engagement was such that there was a strong desire from all participants to see progress made in relation to the recommendations developed during the session. Following further consideration by the Health Select Commission Chair in conjunction with the Governance Manager and Head of Democratic Services, it was agreed that it was appropriate to re-frame the work undertaken as a Spotlight Review in order to deliver the progress and impact sought by those who participated in the workshop. The evidence heard during the Spotlight Review, reflecting the experiences of Rotherham residents and the current system infrastructure surrounding menopause advice, guidance and treatment options available within the borough and the recommendations made arising from that work were set out in a report.

1.2 The report was endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 14 May 2026 meeting, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its 3 June 2026 meeting for progression and consideration and was presented to Cabinet on 6 July in line with the scrutiny review process.

1.3 A large number of the recommendations in the report relate to actions that require collective partnership effort, or seek changes within settings or agencies outside the council's direct control. For this reason, many of the recommendations are only partially accepted, reflecting the limited scope of the council to effect change.

2. Key Issues

2.1 <u>Public Awareness and Information, Including Engaging Men and Young People</u>

2.1.1 The first part of this recommendation focuses on improving public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through the establishment of a single, well-promoted online menopause resource on the RotherHive or another appropriate online medium, supported by printed information that can be accessed via relevant community settings accessible to the digitally excluded.

2.1.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. Online menopause resources are already hosted on RotherHive. However, these should be kept under regular review to ensure they remain accurate, up to date, and accessible. The provision of printed resources has not been fully explored. Further work will be carried out to assess if printed resources

exist and to assess the feasibility of making accessible printed information available for residents that may be digitally excluded.

2.1.3 The second part of this recommendation focuses on improving public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through bespoke targeted content aimed at men, young people and employers included within that resource to ensure a holistic and borough wide approach to raising awareness.

2.1.4 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. While menopause information is already available, additional work will be undertaken to identify, develop and promote appropriate resources specifically aimed at men and young people.

2.1.5 The third part of this recommendation focuses on improving public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through the Council working with education providers including schools and colleges to ensure that young people receive age-appropriate advice and guidance regarding the effects of the menopause and how to seek support if they or their loved ones are affected.

2.1.6 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. While the Council is supportive, the content and delivery of age-appropriate education is up to education providers and is determined through the national curriculum and individual school policies. New guidance for Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum content for schools has been published, with schools given until September 2026 to prepare their delivery. This includes more learning about menstrual and gynaecological health, including menopause. Whilst this sits outside of the Council's direct remit, Council officers can offer and provide support where this is appropriate and achievable.

2.2 <u>Primary Care Improvement</u>

2.2.1 The first part of this recommendation suggests that the Council seeks to support Primary Care improvement in relation to perimenopause and menopause through encouraging the adoption of a 'Menopause Champion' in every GP Practice in Rotherham, and sharing information regarding GPs' Menopause Champions once achieved.

2.2.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. Primary care partners have been contacted to identify whether menopause champions already exist in GP practices. Where they do not, practices will be encouraged to explore opportunities for introducing the role or incorporating menopause into existing champion roles where appropriate. However, it is important to note that responsibility for establishing and maintaining menopause champion roles lies with individual GP practices which operate autonomously.

2.2.3 The second part of this recommendation is around encouraging via the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and in conjunction with the NHS

Healthcare in the Community Agenda, Development of the Town Centre Health Hub and through collaborative work with TRFT (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust), RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust) and South Yorkshire ICB (Integrated Care Board), the establishment of a clear and consistent menopause pathway, including consistent assessment tools and referral guidance.

2.2.4 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. The Council will work with primary care partners to support an exploration of opportunities to review existing menopause pathways, which could include the adoption of the Menopause Pathway Toolkit. The Council is supportive of seeking to identify opportunities to improve consistency in assessment, referral and ongoing care, whilst recognising that implementation rests with individual GP practices. The Women's Health Network is well positioned to explore whether a pathway audit is feasible, to inform proposals to adopt a more consistent system-wide approach.

2.2.5 The third part of this recommendation is around encouraging, through the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and collaborative work with TRFT, RDaSH and South Yorkshire ICB, the expansion of GP and practice staff training through Protected Learning Time and online modules to further support service delivery, consistency and capability to provide perimenopause and menopause care in Primary Care settings.

2.2.6 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. An expansion of professional knowledge, awareness and skills within the healthcare system in relation to perimenopause and menopause will be encouraged through partnership discussion, with an acknowledgement that this sits outside the Council's direct sphere of influence.

2.3 <u>Mental Health Support</u>

2.3.1 The first part of this recommendation is around encouraging health partners, including GPs to embed menopause screening questions within Talking Therapies and other mental health pathways.

2.3.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. Advice from the relevant clinical lead indicates that it is not possible to embed additional screening questions to an already tight mental health screening process; however, they can promote the considerations of menopause among clinicians and explore Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in this area. Patients are also offered a menopause workshop. Guidance is expected in due course for the NHS Health Check service, proposing the introduction of routine questions relating to perimenopause and menopause. As commissioners of the health checks service in Rotherham, Council officers will review the guidance and consider the feasibility of changes to the service specification.

2.3.3 The second part of this recommendation is to increase the visibility of mental health support options within all menopause information, advice and guidance materials.

2.3.4 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. Information on mental health support options is available on the menopause page on RotherHive. However, these should be kept under regular review to ensure they remain accurate, up to date, and accessible.

2.4 Community Support and Engagement

2.4.1 The first part of this recommendation focuses on working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to expand menopause cafes and community information sessions across more venues.

2.4.2 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. Menopause cafes and information sessions have been previously delivered. However, the current position needs to be reviewed to establish ongoing delivery.

2.4.3 The second part of this recommendation is around working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to further develop outreach support to minority ethnic communities, faith groups and groups with language barriers.

2.4.4 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. The Council and its partners should seek to understand the support that currently exists across Rotherham in this regard, and to learn from best practice elsewhere, and explore the capacity and options for expanding such support.

2.5 Workplace Health

2.5.1 The first part of this recommendation is about producing and promoting a bespoke ‘Rotherham Menopause Workplace Toolkit’ setting out best practice, reasonable adjustments and support options for adoption by the Council and which can be shared with employers across the borough to support ‘menopause positivity’, creating space for open conversations and contributing to reducing the number of women affected by perimenopause and menopause who leave the workforce.

2.5.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. The Council’s Human Resources service already has menopause guidance in place (published in October 2024). The guidance is reviewed every 3 years or whenever there is a change in best practice. The guidance is due to be reviewed in 2027, which will bring it into alignment with these proposed changes. The value and applicability of bespoke or existing resources in this space will be considered as part of that review, as possible examples of best practice for raising awareness and better supporting menopause in the workplace.

2.5.3 The second part of this recommendation is about promoting workplace ‘Menopause Champions’ in local organisations and businesses, starting

with RMBC (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) as an exemplar employer.

2.5.4 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. The RMBC in-house Women's Workforce network is well placed to progress menopause champions within the council with support from the Organisational Development Service, and the Rotherham Women's Health Network can encourage a similar approach among partners, where this is not already in place.

2.5.5 Women's health is a key priority of the RMBC Women's Workforce Staff Network, however all members of the network have varying capacity due to job-role and service-specific needs. Therefore, the network will be supported by the Organisational Development service where necessary to progress any work relating to the actions recommended within this document.

2.6 System Leadership

2.6.1 The first part of this recommendation seeks to improve system leadership in the context of perimenopause and menopause by utilising the connectivity of the Rotherham Women's Health Network to support the drive for better perimenopause and menopause awareness and care across the borough.

2.6.2 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation, given that this fits well within the purposes of the Rotherham Women's Health Network, where some work is already happening to support menopause related engagement and awareness. However, the acceptance of this recommendation must sit alongside an acknowledgement that this group has a wider remit that includes other priorities for women's health, and that there is no specific resource to support the network, which is a recently formed group of engaged partner representatives.

2.6.3 The second part of this recommendation focuses on inviting partners who work with the Council as part of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Rotherham partners, who comprise of some of the borough's largest employers, to adopt workplace 'Menopause Champions' and to support a broader agenda of working towards making Rotherham a 'Menopause Friendly Borough'.

2.6.4 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. It is proposed to pursue this through promoting this as a topic for discussion at the upcoming Women's Health Conference being planned for March 2027.

2.6.5 The third part of this recommendation focuses on developing a shared multi-agency action plan with measurable outcomes in support of that aim, including considering inclusion of improvements in menopause information, advice and support in the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2.6.6 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. These recommendations and associated actions form the skeleton of a partnership-wide plan for this topic, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report. It is proposed that the Rotherham Women's Health Network be asked to have oversight for this plan, and to refine it as necessary, and to address its actions and outcomes for menopause as a key workstream aligned to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2.6.7 The fourth part of this recommendation focuses on working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to explore opportunities to secure sustainable long-term funding for menopause initiatives across Rotherham Place.

2.6.8 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. With oversight from the Rotherham Women's Health Network, it makes sense that partners should explore any relevant funding opportunities that exist and pursue them where this is reasonable and achievable within resource constraints.

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 advice, guidance and support for perimenopause and menopause in Rotherham would not be implemented, and identified concerns would remain unaddressed.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Since Cabinet received the scrutiny review recommendations in respect of perimenopause and menopause in July 2026, there has been no further consultation.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Scrutiny review recommendations in respect of perimenopause and menopause were considered by the Health Select Commission on 14 May 2026 and OSMB at its meeting on 3 June 2026. They were received by Cabinet at its meeting on 6 July 2026. Under the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Cabinet is expected to consider its response to the scrutiny review recommendations within two months of receipt.

5.2 Proposed responses to each scrutiny review recommendation are summarised in Appendix 1 to this report, in the form of an action plan.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in the report. If there is a need to engage third party suppliers to support the delivery of any of the actions these must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation dependent on the route to market (Procurement Act 2023, Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023). This includes any modifications to existing contractual arrangements.

6.2 There are no financial implications at this stage. Any work undertaken will be within existing resources.

6.3 Once a strategy or delivery plan is developed, the expectation is that it would be presented with a request for new resourcing if required should it not be possible to reconfigure existing provision.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The report seeks Cabinet approval of the Council's response to recommendations arising from the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review into the Menopause. Cabinet's consideration of scrutiny review recommendations is consistent with the Council's constitutional arrangements and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which require Cabinet to consider and respond to recommendations received from scrutiny bodies.

7.2 The recommendations primarily relate to awareness raising, health improvement, information provision and partnership working. These activities are consistent with the Council's public health functions under section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, which places a duty on local authorities to take such steps as they consider appropriate to improve the health of people in their area. The proposals support that objective through the promotion of health information, prevention activity, community engagement and partnership working to improve understanding and support relating to perimenopause and menopause.

7.3 The report also aligns with the Council's wider public health leadership role within the local health and care system, including its responsibilities for improving population health and reducing health inequalities. The report appropriately recognises that responsibility for clinical services, treatment pathways and educational information provision rests with NHS organisations and education providers respectively.

7.4 As such, there are no direct legal implications arising from the decision to approve the proposed response to the scrutiny recommendations. However, should implementation of any recommendation require the procurement of goods, services or external support, the Council must

ensure compliance with all relevant procurement and contractual requirements, as referred to in paragraph 6 above.

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 Menopause is a topic which sits largely within the adult population. However, there are some recommendations in respect of awareness raising and education, which will impact on children and young people. Any agreed actions in this respect are expected to have positive impacts, but warrant due consideration in relation to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

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 CO_2 emissions. It is not yet possible to determine whether this impact will constitute an increase or a decrease, but the overall impact is expected to be marginal.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The recommendations from the menopause scrutiny review require some coordinated action among key stakeholders. If agreed, the Rotherham Women's Network will be expected to take an oversight role for the agreed action plan, noting that the Network is an informal group of partner representatives without dedicated resources.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks are that the agreed actions will not be completed. This will be mitigated by partnership agreement to have oversight for an appropriate action plan and identification of willing partners to lead on specific actions. Alignment of this with the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy would enable a more formal mechanism of reporting and escalation to be established.

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	21/08/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/08/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	18/08/26

Report Author: *Alex Hawley, Consultant in Public Health*
alex.hawley@rotherham.gov.uk

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This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1.

Response to the Health Select Commissions' Recommendations – Menopause 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.	Public Awareness and Information, Including Engaging Men and Young People **a)** The first part of this recommendation focuses on improving public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through the establishment of a single, well-promoted online menopause resource on the RotherHive or another appropriate online medium, supported by printed information that can be accessed via relevant community settings accessible to the digitally excluded. **b)** The second part of this recommendation focuses on improving public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through bespoke targeted content aimed at men, young people and employers included within that resource to ensure a holistic and borough wide approach to raising awareness. **c)** The third part of this recommendation focuses on improving public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through the Council working with education providers including schools and colleges to ensure that young people receive age-appropriate advice and guidance regarding the effects of the menopause and how to seek support if they or their loved ones are affected.	Partially accept Accept Partially accept	**a)** Online menopause resources are already hosted on RotherHive Menopause – RotherHive. Further work will be carried out to assess if printed resources exist and to assess the feasibility of making accessible printed information available for residents that may be digitally excluded. **b)** While menopause information is already available, additional work will be undertaken to identify, develop and promote appropriate resources specifically aimed at men and young people. **c)** While the Council is supportive, the content and delivery of age-appropriate education is up to education providers and is determined through the national curriculum and individual school policies. Council officers can offer and provide support where this is appropriate and achievable.	**Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health**	

Appendix 1.

Response to the Health Select Commissions' Recommendations – Menopause Scrutiny Review

2.	Primary Care Improvement **a)** The first part of this recommendation suggests that the Council seeks to support Primary Care improvement in relation to perimenopause and menopause through encouraging the adoption of a 'Menopause Champion' in every GP Practice in Rotherham, and sharing information regarding GPs' Menopause Champions once achieved. **b)** The second part of this recommendation is around encouraging via the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and in conjunction with the NHS Healthcare in the Community Agenda, Development of the Town Centre Health Hub and through collaborative work with TRFT (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust), RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust) and South Yorkshire ICB (Integrated Care Board), the establishment of a clear and consistent menopause pathway, including consistent assessment tools and referral guidance. **c)** The third part of this recommendation is around encouraging, through the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and collaborative work with TRFT, RDaSH and South Yorkshire ICB, the expansion of GP and practice staff training through Protected Learning Time and online modules to further support service delivery, consistency and capability to provide perimenopause and menopause care in Primary Care settings.	Partially accept Partially accept Partially accept	**a)** GP practices to be encouraged to explore opportunities for introducing the role or incorporating menopause into existing champion roles where appropriate. However, it is important to note that responsibility for establishing and maintaining menopause champion roles lies with individual GP. **b)** The Council will work partners to identify opportunities to improve consistency in assessment, referral and ongoing care, whilst recognising that implementation rests with individual GP practices. **c)** An expansion of professional knowledge, awareness and skills within the healthcare system in relation to perimenopause and menopause will be encouraged through partnership discussion, with an acknowledgement that this sits outside the Council's direct sphere of influence.	**Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health**	

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Response to the Health Select Commissions' Recommendations – Menopause Scrutiny Review

3.	Mental Health Support **a)** The first part of this recommendation is around encouraging health partners, including GPs to embed menopause screening questions within Talking Therapies and other mental health pathways. **b)** The second part of this recommendation is to increase the visibility of mental health support options within all menopause information, advice and guidance materials.	Partially accept Accept	**a)** As commissioners of the health checks service in Rotherham, Council officers will review the guidance and consider the feasibility of changes to the service specification. **b)** Information on mental health support options is available on the menopause page on RotherHive and should be kept under regular review to ensure they remain accurate, up to date, and accessible.	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	
4.	Community Support and Engagement **a)** The first part of this recommendation focuses on working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to expand menopause cafés and community information sessions across more venues. **b)** The second part of this recommendation is around working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to further develop outreach support to minority ethnic communities, faith groups and groups with language barriers.	Accept Partially accept	**a)** Menopause cafes and information to be reviewed to establish ongoing delivery. **b)** To understand the support that currently exists across Rotherham, learn from best practice elsewhere and explore the capacity and options for expanding such support.	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	
5.	Workplace Health **a)** The first part of this recommendation is about producing and promoting a bespoke 'Rotherham Menopause Workplace Toolkit' setting out best practice, reasonable adjustments and support options for adoption by the Council and which can be shared with employers across the borough to	Partially accept	**a)** Review the Council's Human Resources service menopause guidance (published in October 2024). to ensure it remains current, reflects best practice and continues to meet the needs of the workforce.	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	

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Response to the Health Select Commissions' Recommendations – Menopause Scrutiny Review

	support 'menopause positivity', creating space for open conversations and contributing to reducing the number of women affected by perimenopause and menopause who leave the workforce. **b)** The second part of this recommendation is about promoting workplace 'Menopause Champions' in local organisations and businesses, starting with RMBC (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) as an exemplar employer	Accept	**b)** The RMBC in-house Women's Health group to progress menopause champions within the council, and work with the Rotherham Women's Health Network to encourage a similar approach among partners, where this is not already in place.		
6.	System Leadership **a)** The first part of this recommendation seeks to improve system leadership in the context of perimenopause and menopause by utilising the connectivity of the Rotherham Women's Health Network to support the drive for better perimenopause and menopause awareness and care across the borough. **b)** The second part of this recommendation focuses on inviting partners who work with the Council as part of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Rotherham partners, who comprise of some of the borough's largest employers, to adopt workplace 'Menopause Champions' and to support a broader agenda of working towards making Rotherham a 'Menopause Friendly Borough'. **c)** The third part of this recommendation focuses on developing a shared multi-agency action plan with measurable outcomes in support of that aim, including considering inclusion of improvements	Accept Partially accept Accept	**a)** Rotherham Women's Health Network is most appropriate group to adopt this role. However, the network is a voluntary coalition that has recently formed, and is not specifically resourced for its purposes. **b)** Promotion to be a topic for discussion at the Women's Health Conference being planned for March 2027. **c)** Rotherham Women's Health Network be asked to have oversight for this plan (and to refine it as required) for addressing menopause as a key	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	March 2027

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Response to the Health Select Commissions' Recommendations – Menopause Scrutiny Review

	in menopause information, advice and support in the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. **d)** The fourth part of this recommendation focuses on working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to explore opportunities to secure sustainable long-term funding for menopause initiatives across Rotherham Place.	Accept	workstream aligned to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. **d)** With oversight from the Rotherham Women's Health Network, partners should explore any relevant funding opportunities that exist, and pursue them where appropriate and achievable within resource constraints.		

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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 – Spotlight Review into the Menopause	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area: Women's health**
Lead person: Alex Hawley	**Contact:** alex.hawley@Rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify** **The review relates to current system infrastructure surrounding Menopause advice, guidance and treatment options available**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Cabinet's response to scrutiny recommendations arising from a Health Select Commission spotlight review into the menopause, reflecting the experiences of Rotherham residents and the current system infrastructure surrounding Menopause advice, guidance and treatment options available within the borough. The spotlight review itself arose from a Health Select Commission workshop focused on the menopause.

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.

As a partnership response is essential for such a cross-cutting topic, a collective plan will also be necessary for overseeing and implementing agreed actions in response to the recommendations.

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 proposed cabinet response to the recommendations largely involve partnership efforts to create a more supportive system of information, services and settings (including workplaces, health services and community settings and organisations). In this respect none of the effects of these efforts are expected to be negative for the community, workforce or service users. The involvement of council officers and resources is mainly to be supportive as part of a joint endeavour, with much of the actions being overseen by the Rotherham Women's Health Network, which is a voluntary partnership group. Where there are recommendations that might have more specific implications for the council as an employer and the experience of its workforce, the council already has an established process for reviewing its guidance in respect of menopause to ensure it is up to date and reflective of best practice. The next review of this guidance is due in 2027, and will be subject to consultation and equalities screening as part of the review process.

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
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Ian Spicer	Executive Director	10/08/2026

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	05/08/2026
Report title and date	Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Menopause August 2026
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 September 2026.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	03/08/2026

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?	Increase	Increased provision of menopause cafes and information sessions at more venues (HSC recommendation 4, 'Community Support and Engagement') may have a marginal carbon impact, from increased occupancy and energy use in community buildings.			
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	Increased awareness of the menopause and more supportive workplaces and services might mean an increase in travel either to seek support or because of a more enabled population or workforce, but this might well be balanced out by other preventive effects.			
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:

Provision of online resources and printed materials (HSC recommendation 1, 'Public Awareness and Information') may have a hidden carbon impact, from energy use required to host web services and embodied in the production and transport of paper goods.

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

During menopause, women's ability to thermoregulate is negatively affected, often characterised by 'hot flushes'. As such, menopausal women are uniquely affected by heat stress, exacerbated by climate change. Raising awareness of menopause and otherwise improving services available to menopausal women may have some adaptive benefit, if women are supported to mitigate the effect of increasingly frequent and severe heatwaves on their health.

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

The Spotlight Review into the Menopause recommendations may influence CO_2 emissions; however, any carbon impact is likely to be marginal and might either increase or decrease emissions overall, depending on relative impacts on transport and energy use in buildings.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Alex Hawley Consultant in Public Health 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 682 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Agenda Item 11

RAWMARSH EAST

Covering East Rawmarsh and Parkgate



Councillor Rachel Hughes



Councillor Dave Sheppard

Report to Full Council

Rawmarsh East Ward Priorities

1. Improvements to the physical environment
2. Improvements to community facilities and expansion of activities for local residents
3. Explore opportunities to improve health and wellbeing of local residents
4. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
5. Celebrating local heritage

How these priorities were agreed - Priorities were agreed in June 2024 following the in-depth study of Rawmarsh East ward data profiles, community intelligence, and information from services and partners. The priorities were reviewed this summer and agreed jointly to remain the same. New data, intelligence and information was used to inform this decision including consultation results undertaken by the Rawmarsh High Street Centre verifying that the priorities were still appropriate to local residents' needs and aspirations.

How these ward priorities support the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy - The priorities centre on 'working with' communities and placing them at the heart of all we do. We aim to empower people, using a strengths-based approach to improve outcomes and support the most vulnerable.

Partnership Working – Rawmarsh prides itself on its effective partnership working. We especially have a strong voluntary and community sector in Rawmarsh so work continues to link them into agencies to enable them to shape or deliver the services Rawmarsh residents need locally.

Progress so far –

1. Improvements to the physical environment

Rawmarsh and Parkgate Friends of Green Spaces Celebrate their 10th Anniversary - This summer, the Group celebrated 10 years since its formation. As ward councillors, we are proud to continue supporting the Group, whose volunteers dedicate their Friday mornings every week to litter picking across Rawmarsh and Parkgate. The impact of their dedication and work is staggering. They are keen



Councillor Rachel Hughes



Councillor Dave Sheppard

reporters of fly-tipping which has resulted in areas being cleaned up quickly and even successful prosecutions have resulted from their reports.

CCTV Camera for fly-tipping – The ward budget funded the installation of a CCTV camera at a new Council apartment development in Rawmarsh to tackle fly-tipping and the misuse of communal waste bins. Residents were experiencing problems with individuals arriving by vehicle and disposing of household waste in the tenants' bins, causing them to overflow and creating an unsightly environment. Since the CCTV camera was installed, the issue has been successfully resolved, resulting in a cleaner and more pleasant environment for residents.

2. Improvements to community facilities and expansion of activities for local residents

Expansion of Barbers Avenue Play Area - The Barbers Avenue Play Area situated alongside the Rawmarsh Customer Service Centre is a much-loved play area for local young people. The ward budget has enabled the expansion of the play area, refurbishment of the adventure trail area and the installation of picnic benches.

Support for food initiatives - With high levels of deprivation across both wards, supporting food initiatives has remained a key priority. Ward budget funding enabled Rawmarsh Foodbank to purchase its own storage container, removing the ongoing cost of container rental and allowing more of its resources to be directed towards providing food and support for residents in need. We have also worked closely with the Community Pantry to launch and sustain a weekly visit from their service in Rawmarsh Library giving residents the opportunity to obtain a bag of food for £4 and help reduce food waste.

3. Explore opportunities to improve health and wellbeing of local residents

Craft Group Supplies - The ward budgets have enabled us to support two craft groups who meet weekly in our Neighbourhood Centres with craft supplies helping the continuation of their fantastic work.

RAWMARSH EAST

Covering East Rawmarsh and Parkgate



Councillor Rachel Hughes



Councillor Dave Sheppard

4. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Security items for victims of crime - The ward budget funded the purchase of a range of security items to create a stock that can be issued by Housing colleagues and the Local Policing Team to Council tenants who have been victims of crime or anti-social behaviour.

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RAWMARSH WEST

Covering Upper Haugh and West Rawmarsh and Parkgate



Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers



Councillor Brian Steele

Report to Council

Rawmarsh West Ward Priorities

1. Improvements to the physical environment
2. Improvements to community facilities and expansion of activities for local residents
3. Explore opportunities to improve health and wellbeing of local residents
4. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
5. Celebrating local heritage

How these priorities were agreed - Priorities were agreed in June 2024 following the in-depth study of Rawmarsh West ward data profiles, community intelligence, and information from services and partners. The priorities were reviewed this summer and agreed jointly to remain the same. New data, intelligence and information was used to inform this decision including consultation results undertaken by the Rawmarsh High Street Centre verifying that the priorities were still appropriate to local residents' needs and aspirations.

How these ward priorities support the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy - The priorities centre on 'working with' communities and placing them at the heart of all we do. We aim to empower people, using a strengths-based approach to improve outcomes and support the most vulnerable.

Partnership Working – Rawmarsh prides itself on its effective partnership working. We especially have a strong voluntary and community sector in Rawmarsh so work continues to link them into agencies to enable them to shape or deliver the services Rawmarsh residents need locally.

Progress so far –

1. Improvements to the physical environment

Free Compost Bins and Water Butts **-** As part of our ward work to tackle the impact of climate change, we have used the ward budgets to purchase compost bins and water butts for residents and allotment holders.

RAWMARSH WEST

Covering Upper Haugh and West Rawmarsh and Parkgate



Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers



Councillor Brian Steele

2. Improvements to community facilities and expansion of activities for local residents

Refurbishment of Rosehill Park Bandstand **-** Thanks to volunteer staff hours made available by Mears we were able to get the wonderful bandstand in Rosehill Park refurbished. The team repainted all the metal railings, rendered the internal pillars of the band stand, repaired the internal roof woodwork and installed new facias and guttering. The materials needed to undertake the work were funded by the ward budgets but without the generous donation of staff time from Mears this project would not have been achievable.

3. Explore opportunities to improve health and wellbeing of local residents

Gym equipment for Rosehill Park **-** Following the setting of ward priorities in 2024 residents were invited to put forward project suggestions. The installation of gym equipment in Rosehill Park was raised several times. With the park already being the home to Rawmarsh Runners and the Junior Park Run it was felt an appropriate addition to the park. The equipment has been very well received by park users.

Chair Exercises for Tenants - Memo Fitness (a local fitness provider) has been working with tenants living around The Steadlands Neighbourhood Centre to undertake weekly chair exercise classes, funded by the ward budget, to support their health, wellbeing and fall prevention.

4. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Community Action Partnership Walkabouts **-** The Joint Rawmarsh Wards Community Action Partnership has adopted a delivery model that combines quarterly formal meetings with multi-agency walkabouts during the intervening months. The walkabouts have increased our visibility throughout the wards and have allowed residents to speak to agencies about issues that concern them face to face.

5. Celebrating local heritage

History Tour Leaflets - As part of their 25th Anniversary celebrations, the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Local History Group have developed a local history tour leaflet that residents can follow and learn more about their local area. With help from our

RAWMARSH WEST

Covering Upper Haugh and West Rawmarsh and Parkgate



Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers



Councillor Brian Steele

Community Leadership fund the group were able to print the leaflets so they could be made available to residents in key community venues.

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

NOTICE OF MOTION	**Date of Council Meeting: 04/11/26**
	Mover: Councillor Adam Carter
	Seconder: Councillor Tarmey
	Title of Motion: Let's have pride in Rotherham

Summary/Background:

This council believes that Rotherham is a place of heritage, enterprise, community spirit and shared pride.

This council notes with concern the rhetoric used by right wing political parties and others, who seek to portray Britain and Britain's towns as broken, failing and divided. Such language does not reflect the hard work and co-operation of residents, volunteers, small businesses, public servants, community groups, faith organisations, charities, schools, sports clubs and many other local campaigners who improve our area every day.

True pride in Britain is not found in division. It is found in building up our communities, backing local people, celebrating our shared heritage, investing in the places we call home, and ensuring that everyone who contributes to local life is seen, valued and thanked.

Council further believes that civic pride is a practical commitment to improving the area now and for future generations. It means cleaner streets, thriving high streets, well-used parks and green spaces, active community venues, inclusive events, visible heritage, vibrant local culture, and opportunities for residents to shape the future of their neighbourhoods.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Affirm at every opportunity its pride in our local area and publicly reject attempts to talk down Britain, our towns, or the people who live and work in them.

2. Ask Cabinet to consider:

    a. launching of an annual "Pride in Rotherham" programme, bringing together residents, businesses, schools, voluntary organisations and community groups to celebrate what is best about our area.

    b. establishing a Civic Pride Week, including events in town centres, villages and neighbourhoods such as local history walks, community

clean-ups, cultural showcases, school projects, heritage displays, sports taster sessions and celebrations of local food, music and creativity.

c. expanding the Community Champions scheme to recognise residents and organisations who go above and beyond for others, including volunteers, carers, youth leaders, veterans, emergency service workers, educators, health and social care staff, neighbourhood organisers, environmental volunteers, charity workers and small businesses that support community life.

d. holding an annual Community Champions reception or awards event with nominations open to the public and a particular focus on unsung heroes.

3. Ask scrutiny to review how the council:

   a. supports schools and youth organisations to take part in civic pride activities, including projects on local history, democracy, volunteering and the contribution young people make to the area.

   b. works with local businesses, markets, cultural venues, sports clubs, faith groups and voluntary organisations to promote positive stories about the area and encourage residents to shop local, volunteer local and celebrate local.

   c. explores funding opportunities, partnerships and sponsorship to support civic pride events and community-led improvements, ensuring that activity is inclusive, accessible and spread across different neighbourhoods.

4. Invite ward councillors to work with residents and local organisations to identify local pride projects, including improvements to public spaces, street planting, litter reduction, heritage interpretation, community art, shopfront improvements and better promotion of local events.

5. Request that officers bring forward a report to the Cabinet setting out a proposed timetable, budget options, partnership opportunities and measurable outcomes for the Civic Pride Week, Community Champions scheme and wider “Pride in Rotherham” programme.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

NOTICE OF MOTION	**Date of Council Meeting: 04/11/26**
	Mover: Councillor Cusworth
	Seconder: Councillor Clarke
	Title of Motion: Supporting Care Leavers

Summary/Background:

This Council recognises that all councillors are corporate parents and reaffirms its collective commitment to supporting our care leavers.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Support the illumination of the Town Hall in blue on a suitable date during Care Leavers Month in November, as a visible demonstration of that commitment, excluding 2–11 November inclusive and 29 November in recognition of previously scheduled awareness events.

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

NOTICE OF MOTION	**Date of Council Meeting: 04/11/26**
	Mover: Councillor Yasseen
	Seconder: Councillor Bower
	Title of Motion: Education Emergency (A generation of warnings, too little action: we need practical support for disadvantaged children, families & communities)

That this Council notes:

- Educational inequality can emerge in the early years and widen through school and into further education, training and work. This is a longstanding emergency, not a new or sudden issue: evidence and warnings have accumulated over a generation, while too many barriers remain.
- Rotherham's overall attainment is often close to or above the national average but this masks significantly poorer outcomes for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and areas. National evidence shows particularly low attainment and progression among White British boys eligible for free school meals; local data should establish whether the same pattern exists in Rotherham.
- In 2024/25, 44.2% of Rotherham children eligible for free school meals achieved a Good Level of Development at age five, compared with 64.9% of all children. The report also records a 14.4 percentage point early years gender gap, with boys less likely than girls to achieve this measure.
- In 2024/25, the KS2 reading, writing and maths gap between disadvantaged pupils and others was 25.7 percentage points in Rotherham, compared with 21.7 nationally.
- In 2025/26, 45.2% of pupils eligible for free school meals met the standard in this measure, well below the Borough average of 61.8% and 48.4% of eligible pupils nationally.
- Rotherham's 2025 Attainment 8 score was 41.8, compared with 46.2 nationally; and 30.7% for children eligible for free school meals, well below the Borough average.
- Index of Multiple Deprivation (2025) identifies 17.2% of Rotherham children aged 0–15 as living in neighbourhoods among the 5% most deprived nationally for education, skills and training, including 7.6% in the most deprived 1%.
- Nearly half of Rotherham's children aged 0-15 live in income deprived families: 46% (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2026) , compared with 38% nationally. Ofsted reports that 13,132 pupils (31.5%) are eligible for free school meals, compared with 27.4% nationally. Council figures show that 12,650 children were FSM-eligible in 2023/24, an 84% increase since 2015/16.
- Rotherham's 2022/23 higher education progression rate was 38% by age 19, compared with 48% nationally. The latest national figures show that 28.6% of

FSM-eligible pupils had entered higher education by age 19 by 2024/25, falling to 13% for FSM-eligible White British boys (least likely to progress to higher education). These gaps underline the need for practical, needs based support across all communities.

- The Council's 'No Family Left Behind' Strategy, developed following a motion passed in September 2024 (Led by Cllr Yasseen and Cllr Currie) provides an existing framework for joining work on child poverty and family educational success.
- Sheffield Hallam University launched the South Yorkshire Boys' Impact Hub in February 2026, it brings together educators, researchers and policymakers to address educational barriers facing boys and young men from lower income backgrounds.
- SYMCA already brings education and employment partners together through its Aspiring Pathways programme.

That this Council believes:

- Every child and young person has talents and potential which deserve to be realised. Poverty, low ambition and other disadvantages often restrict the opportunity to develop them but should not determine a young person's future.
- That Rotherham should be a Child Centred Borough where the resources of the Council and its partners are harnessed to support every child to be the best they can.
- The educational disadvantage facing too many children has been visible for a generation. Repeated warnings have not been matched by sustained action at the scale required. This is an educational emergency and a systemic failure that demands practical action from national and local governments.
- Rotherham Children's progress depends on families, schools and communities being supported to work together. Families should be treated as partners with aspirations, and offered hands on help to navigate learning, choices and routes after 16.
- The Council cannot direct all schools, many of which are academies but it can use its convening role to bring schools, universities, colleges, families, employers and community organisations together and align support across education, early years, Family Hubs, health, skills and anti-poverty work.
- Success means more than monitoring gaps or examination results. It means providing practical help that improves learning, belonging, wellbeing, and seeing more young people confidently progress into further education, apprenticeships, higher education and secure work.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education, setting out that educational disadvantage has been documented over a generation but gaps persist and calling for sustained national action, long term investment and transparent reporting on progress, including action to address the effects of child poverty on learning and progression.

2. Ask Cabinet to make improving educational opportunity a delivery priority within the 'No Family Left Behind' Strategy, linking family poverty work with

education, skills and post-16 progression and building on existing services rather than creating a separate strategy.

3. Request that OSMB review how the Council and its partners can improve educational opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people, with particular attention to barriers affecting boys and young men from lower income backgrounds. The review should examine available local attainment and higher education progression data by disadvantage, FSM eligibility, sex and ethnicity; consider whether national patterns among FSM-eligible White British boys are reflected in Rotherham; and assess the merits and feasibility of one or more local pilots to address underperformance.

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THE CABINET
14th September, 2026

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Read and Allen.

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
Judith Badger	Executive Director of Corporate Services
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Rob Mahon	Service Director of Financial Services
Stuart Williams	Service Director of Children's Social Care
Mike Thomas	Electoral Services Manager
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Kerry Grinsill-Clinton	Governance Advisor and Clerk

Also in attendance:

Steph Watt	Urgent and Community Care, NHS SYICB

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

37. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6th July, 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

39. 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.

40. ROTHERHAM COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval, in principle, for the Council to participate in a joint procurement exercise for a Community Equipment Service alongside Doncaster City Council, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, subject to approval by the respective organisations.

The current service, delivered by Medequip under a contract led by South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, was due to expire on 31st March 2027 and a procurement exercise was, therefore, required to ensure continuity of provision.

A review of delivery options was undertaken, including a standalone procurement by the Council, an in-house model and a collaborative procurement and commissioning arrangement with Sheffield City Council, Doncaster City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. The joint procurement model was identified as the preferred option.

The preferred approach was expected to deliver improved value for money through economies of scale, greater operational resilience, reduced duplication and a more consistent service across South Yorkshire, whilst supporting residents to remain independent and live safely at home. The model would also support timely hospital discharge and help reduce avoidable admissions to hospital and residential care.

Sheffield City Council would act as lead commissioner for the procurement exercise, with Rotherham participating as an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. The Council would retain oversight of services provided to Rotherham residents, including local performance and financial management.

Preparatory work had included the development of a common equipment catalogue and service specification across the participating organisations to improve consistency, equity of access, stock management and recycling arrangements, whilst continuing to meet individual assessed needs.

The report set out that the preferred option would increase the Council's annual contribution to approximately £0.8 million, reflecting a revised assessment of Social Care responsibilities within the Service. This additional investment was expected to be supported through Better Care Fund arrangements. Provision had been made for the existing contract to

be extended for up to six months, if required, to support mobilisation of the new arrangements and ensure uninterrupted Service delivery.

The proposed approach was intended to secure a sustainable and effective Community Equipment Service, supporting independence, improving health and wellbeing outcomes and providing continued support for residents, carers and families across the Borough.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve, in principle, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) participating in a joint procurement exercise for a Community Equipment Service alongside other partners, Doncaster City Council, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, subject to approval by the respective organisations.

2. Note that Sheffield City Council will be the lead commissioner and their Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules will be followed with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council being an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and SY ICB.

3. Approve, the Council being a party to an extension of the current Community Equipment Service contract for up to 6 months, if required, to support effective mobilisation and continuity of service with SY ICB as the lead commissioner of the current contract.

41. ADULT SOCIAL CARE LOCAL ACCOUNT 2025-2026

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Adult Social Care Local Account for 2025-26. The ‘How Did We Do?’ Local Account for Adult Social Care 2025/2026 summarised the achievements for the last 12 months and set out the priorities for the coming year. The Account highlighted key achievements across Adult Social Care, demonstrated the impact of Services on residents and carers through case studies and feedback, celebrated the contribution of staff and partners, and outlined priorities for continued improvement during 2026/27.

The report highlighted a year of significant progress, including the achievement of a Care Quality Commission (CQC) Good rating, recognising the quality of services, partnership working, prevention activity and commitment to continuous improvement.

Key developments during the year included:

- The introduction of a new transitions assessment process to improve support for young people moving into adulthood
- Expansion of supported employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism
- Establishment of a hospital discharge Transfer of Care Hub
- Development of a new Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy and an All-Age Carers Strategy
- Progression of the Castle View Day Centre development
- The introduction of an involvement framework to strengthen co-production and resident voice across services

The Local Account sought to demonstrate the impact of Adult Social Care through Service user case studies, resident feedback and performance information. During 2025/26, Adult Social Care supported 5,985 people, received 470 compliments and 56 formal complaints, with feedback being used to drive Service improvements and inform future priorities.

The report set out priorities for 2026/27, including:

- Reducing waiting times for Care Act assessments
- Improving access to Enablement Services
- Reducing inequalities for seldom-heard groups
- Strengthening support for carers
- Improving provision for working-age adults with support needs
- Enhancing co-production and further improving quality assurance arrangements

The Local Account reinforced the Council's commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement, whilst recognising the contribution of staff, residents, carers and partner organisations in supporting people to live safe, healthy and independent lives.

Resolved:

That the 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care for 2025–2026 be approved for publication.

42. RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION SCRUTINY REVIEW - MENOPAUSE

Consideration was given to the report which outlined Cabinet's response to the Health Select Commission's Scrutiny Review into menopause and perimenopause. Recommendations made by the Spotlight Review were set out in a report, endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 14th May 2026 meeting, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its 3rd June 2026 meeting, and then presented to Cabinet for consideration on 6th July 2026. Appendix 1 to the report set out Cabinet's response to those recommendations.

The review had originated from a Health Select Commission workshop before being developed into a formal scrutiny review due to the strength of engagement, evidence and discussion surrounding the issue. The review examined the experiences of women in the Borough and identified opportunities to improve awareness, information, support and partnership working relating to menopause and perimenopause.

The review's recommendations covered public awareness and information, Primary Care improvement, mental health support, community engagement, workplace health and system leadership. Cabinet endorsed the intent and ambition of all recommendations and agreed a response which sought to build upon existing work whilst recognising that many of the proposed actions required the co-operation of partner organisations outside the Council's direct control, including NHS organisations, GP practices and education providers. A number of recommendations were therefore partially accepted, reflecting those limitations rather than any disagreement with their objectives.

The agreed response included:

- Further development and promotion of menopause information through existing resources on RotherHive, alongside exploration of accessible printed information for digitally excluded residents.
- Development of targeted information for men and young people.
- Partnership work to encourage improvements in primary care awareness, training, referral pathways and the use of menopause champions within GP practices.
- Continued review and promotion of mental health support options linked to menopause.
- Review and potential expansion of menopause cafés, community information sessions and outreach support to underrepresented communities.
- Progression of workplace menopause champions within the Council and encouragement of similar approaches amongst partner organisations.
- Use of the Rotherham Women's Health Network to provide system leadership, oversee delivery of actions and explore future funding opportunities.

Councillor Steele welcomed Cabinet’s response in his capacity as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and acknowledged the considerable work undertaken by the Health Select Commission and supporting officers. He expressed the hope that, although the Council could not directly implement all recommendations, it would continue to work with and influence partner organisations to maximise delivery of the review's recommendations wherever possible.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Cusworth, referred to the continuing importance of encouraging partner organisations to improve awareness and support relating to menopause and perimenopause. She highlighted

that the issue had become more widely recognised but that further progress remained necessary. She also recorded her appreciation for the work undertaken by the Commission and officers, describing the review as an example of scrutiny at its best.

Resolved:

That the proposed Cabinet response to the Health Select Commission recommendations arising from their Spotlight Review into the Menopause (as set out in Appendix 1 of this report) be approved.

43. CARE LEAVERS' CHARTER

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Care Leavers' Local Offer and the development of a Care Leavers' Charter. The Charter set out the commitments and support available to care-experienced young adults.

The Care Leavers' Charter had been co-produced with care-experienced young people through the Look Ahead participation group and built upon the Council's Leaving Care Strategy 2024-27 and Care Leaver Local Offer. The Charter was developed to provide a clear statement of the Council's commitments as a corporate parent and to support care leavers in their transition to adulthood. It reflected the experiences, priorities and aspirations of young people with care experience and focused on practical support relating to accommodation, education, employment, wellbeing, independence and inclusion.

The report highlighted that there were currently more than 600 care leavers aged 16 to 25 supported by the Council and that Ofsted had judged the experiences and progress of care leavers in Rotherham to be good, whilst identifying opportunities for further development around education, skills and housing sufficiency. The Charter sought to strengthen the Council's corporate parenting offer and complement existing support available through the Local Offer.

The Charter brought together a range of commitments including:

- Priority access to accommodation
- Support with independent living
- Council Tax support
- Education and employment opportunities including guaranteed interviews for suitable Council vacancies
- Health and wellbeing support
- Practical assistance to help young people establish and sustain independent lives

The Charter also reflected feedback from care leavers on the importance of being able to access suitable accommodation, affordable household goods, additional support when moving into a new home, and clear sources of advice and support.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Cusworth, explained that the Charter had been shaped directly by care-experienced young people and represented tangible, realistic and practical commitments that would make a difference to their lives. She emphasised that care leavers often faced the transition to adulthood at a younger age than their peers and noted that wider housing pressures had increased the challenges associated with living independently. She also confirmed that the proposed Charter had been expanded to include eligibility for the Council's Rothercard scheme up to the age of 25 at the Leader's suggestion.

Stuart Williams, Service Director for Children's Social Care, stated that care leavers frequently faced challenges as they navigated adulthood and that the Charter provided clear and practical examples of how the Council, as a corporate parent, would support and 'scaffold' young people through that transition. He highlighted that the Charter had been designed by care-experienced young people themselves and reflected the principle of empowering them to shape the support they received.

Councillor Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health welcomed the Charter, describing it as an excellent initiative that would help support care leavers through the transition from childhood to adulthood. She particularly welcomed the co-production of the document with care leavers and the inclusion of a dedicated section relating to health and wellbeing.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the development of the Care Leavers' Charter.

2. Approve the proposals set out within the Care Leavers' Charter, recognising the Council's commitment to improving outcomes and opportunities for Care Leavers.

3. Agree that the Care Leavers' Charter progresses to Full Council for endorsement.

44. JULY 2026-27 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of July 2026 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first four months of 2026/27.

As of July 2026, the Council's forecast outturn for 2026/27 was an overspend of £5.9m, made up of a Directorates overspend of £10.9m, offset by a projected Central Services underspend of £5.0m. The main pressures driving this forecast were within Social Care, largely due to market prices and the increasing number of people receiving support and care who had complex needs, and an overspend in Regeneration and Environment Directorate increased by £2.9m, mostly due to additional overspends in Waste and Home to School transport. Detailed explanations of the reasons for variances within each Directorate were provided in the main body of the report.

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position had remained unsettled. Economic market sentiment had been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy and fuel costs impacting the wider economy and creating uncertainty around inflation, which has risen to 2.9% in July. These financial challenges were being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

The report also provided an updated position on the Council's Capital Programme including a number of programme variations as detailed in section 2.17.

Due to a clerical error, paragraph 2.14.4 of the report was incorrect. It should have read:

"The Central Services budgets are made up of a number of corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Transport Levy, Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27, approved at Council on 4th March 2026. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the Directorates and thus held centrally."

Rob Mahon, Service Director for Financial Services, confirmed that work was being undertaken with Directors throughout the remainder of the financial year to reduce pressures, mitigate the impact on reserves and improve the year-end position.

Councillor Steele reported the conclusions of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and summarised the discussion around significant overspends within Children and Young People's Services, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, and Regeneration and Environment Directorates. He explained that questions were raised regarding:

- The sustainability of using Central Services underspends to offset budget pressures
- The Dedicated Schools Grant deficit

- Demand pressures in Adult Social Care and SEND services, SEND assessment processes and backlogs
- Home-to-school transport costs
- Waste service expenditure and vehicle replacement delays
- Market income shortfalls

It was noted that several of these financial pressures, particularly transport-related costs and vehicle issues, had appeared repeatedly in previous monitoring reports.

Councillor Steele advised Cabinet that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations outlined in the report but had also recommended that future financial monitoring reports include updates on overspend recovery actions, progress against service plans, management of key financial risks and the ongoing deliverability of the Capital Programme.

Councillor Alam OBE confirmed acceptance of the additional recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £5.9m.

2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

3. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in Section 2.17 of the report.

4. Agreed that future financial monitoring reports include updates on the delivery of overspend recovery actions, progress against savings plans, management of key financial risks, and the ongoing deliverability of the Capital Programme.

45. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW INTERIM UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided Cabinet with an interim update on the progress of the Community Governance Review following the completion of the first stage of public consultation. A report setting out the draft recommendations arising from the review would be presented to Cabinet in October 2026 for consideration and approval. Subject to Cabinet's approval, a second stage of public consultation would be undertaken to seek views on the draft recommendations. Following the conclusion of the consultation period, a final recommendations report would then be brought to Cabinet. It was a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

Following approval by Cabinet on 13th April 2026, the Council commenced a Community Governance Review on 1st May 2026. An initial consultation took place between 1st May and 26th June 2026, providing residents, local councils, community groups, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to submit their views on existing governance arrangements and any potential changes they would wish the review to consider.

The consultation received just under 200 responses, representing views on existing Parish, Town, and Community Councils, together with interest in the establishment of new Parish Councils. A summary of the number of responses received by area was shown in Appendix 1.

The Officer Working Group was in the process of reviewing the consultation responses, together with the statutory criteria for community governance reviews, to inform the development of draft recommendations. An information session for Members would be held during September to provide an overview of the consultation responses and the draft recommendations arising from the review.

The Draft Recommendations report would be presented to Cabinet on 12th October 2026, to seek approval to undertake a second phase of consultation on the draft recommendations. Subject to Cabinet approval, the second phase of consultation would commence on 26th October 2026. To maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations, the consultation period would be extended from 8 weeks to 12 weeks. Although the consultation would span the Christmas period, the timetable had been designed to provide additional opportunity for participation during January 2027 before the consultation closed.

Following the second consultation stage, final recommendations would be prepared and reported to Cabinet in Spring 2027, before being referred to Council for approval. Any approved changes would then be implemented through a Community Governance Order at the next scheduled elections in May 2028.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress of the Community Governance Review following completion of the first stage of consultation.

2. Note the proposed next steps in the review process, including the development of draft recommendations, further consultation, and the timetable for reporting final recommendations.

3. Note the extension of the second stage consultation period to 12 weeks to maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations.

46. SOCIAL VALUE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which provided the annual update on the progress against the Social Value Policy, including the amount of value committed and delivered through Council contracts. Since the last annual report in June 2025, good progress had been made to further strengthen delivery of the Social Value Policy. Social Value commitments now stood at £41.6m. Importantly, validated delivery of Social Value stood at £23.7m, having increased by 92% compared to the previous annual report.

Resulting in tangible benefits for residents, 454 jobs had been secured for local people, and 1,169 apprenticeships weeks had been delivered since the Council introduced this Policy.

Progress was reported across the Council's Community Wealth Building Programme, including the launch of England's first local authority-funded employee ownership feasibility service, support for more than 35 businesses considering succession planning options, and the introduction of the UK's first 21st Century Social Clubs programme to strengthen member-owned community institutions. Partnership working through the Rotherham Together Partnership had also expanded Social Value activity across anchor organisations, whilst business support programmes had continued to improve procurement readiness and local supply chain development.

Priorities were also set for the next 12 months with a particular focus on ensuring progress was made across all 5 themes of community wealth building that were embedded within the Council's Social Value Policy. These included:

- Strengthening contract management to ensure Social Value commitments were delivered
- Championing employee ownership and social clubs
- Supporting residents into good-quality employment
- Promoting the socially productive use of land and property
- Maximising local benefits arising from future investment opportunities and procurement reforms.

Delegated authority was also proposed to extend the current Social Value Policy to March 2029.

Councillor Steele presented the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and summarised discussion around the potential impact of legislative and taxation changes on employee ownership initiatives, levels of demand for support, measurement of Social Value outcomes, support available to businesses seeking Council contracts, representation of ethnic minority-led businesses within procurement activity, and the long-term impact of Social Value interventions. He

reported that, in addition to supporting the recommendations outlined in the report, scrutiny had concluded the Programme was now sufficiently established for reporting to be considered on a biennial rather than annual basis and recommended that future reports be presented every 2 years.

Councillor Baker-Rogers described the Policy as a highly successful initiative and highlighted the scale of sustained progress achieved since its introduction. She welcomed the scrutiny undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and praised the work of officers in delivering measurable outcomes for local communities.

Councillor Alam OBE welcomed the positive report and emphasised the contribution Social Value activity was making to supporting excluded and marginalised groups, together with the wider delivery of the Council's Social Value commitments.

Councillor Williams highlighted the innovative nature of the Employee Ownership Programme and the 21st Century Social Clubs initiative, describing both as important interventions to support the local economy and preserve valued community institutions. He referred to strong engagement from businesses at the launch of the Employee Ownership Advisory Service and welcomed continued investment in these areas.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Cusworth, commented that whilst Social Value could sometimes appear an abstract concept, the report clearly demonstrated the significant practical and financial benefits being delivered to residents and communities across the Borough. She observed that the scale of impact achieved was substantial and recognised the leadership, officer commitment and ongoing scrutiny that had contributed to the Programme's success. She accepted the recommendation that future reports be referred to scrutiny on a biennial basis.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Receive the annual report, noting the Social Value commitments along with outcomes delivered.

2. Approve that the key priorities for 2026/27 are:
   a. Continuing to ensure Social Value commitments made within the procurement process are delivered through contracts.
   b. Championing democratic business models through employee ownership and 21st century social clubs.
   c. Continuing to build on opportunities to support residents into employment and strengthen access to good-quality jobs across the Borough.
   d. Enabling more socially productive use of land and property.

e. Following the changes proposed nationally, exploring how to maximise local benefits from investment.

3. Agree to delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to extend the Social Value Policy approved by Cabinet in March 2024 to March 2029.

4. To note that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) has agreed to scrutinise the Social Value Annual Report every 2 years.

47. LICENSING ACT 2003 - CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to commence consultation on the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy, which formed part of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. The Policy was first adopted in 2020 and reviewed in 2023. Where a Cumulative Impact Assessment was in place, the Council was required to review it at least every 3 years and ensure that any continued or revised approach was supported by an appropriate evidence base.

The current Policy included a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) covering part of the Wickersley area, including parts of Wickersley North, Thurcroft and Wickersley South Wards. The existence of the CIZ did not prevent new licence applications from being made, but it required applicants to demonstrate that their proposal would not add to the cumulative impact already identified in that area. The recommended approach was to undertake a wide-ranging consultation with residents, businesses, licence holders, Ward Members, responsible authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The consultation would seek views on the effectiveness of the existing CIZ and invite evidence on whether any other areas of the Borough may benefit from a CIZ. A further report would then be brought back to Cabinet setting out the consultation findings and any proposed changes to the Policy.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the commencement of a 2 month period of consultation, reviewing the current Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) in place in Wickersley, as well as gathering feedback on any additional areas that may benefit from a CIZ.

2. Note, following consultation, a further report will be submitted, detailing recommendations for any changes that are proposed to the Policy as a result of the consultation responses.

48. 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.

49. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 12th October 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

THE CABINET
12th October, 2026

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allen, 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
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Rob Mahon	Service Director of Financial Se4rvices
Sarah Clyde	Service Director of Housing
Helen Sweaton	Service Director of Commissioning and Performance
Mike Thomas	Electoral Services Manager
Alan Pogorzelec	Service Manager, Business Regulation
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor and Clerk

Also in attendance:

Angel Lackova	Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership
Ashleigh Lackova	Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership
Isaac Troop	Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership
Charlotte Oram	Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

51. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two questions:

1. Councillor Thorp asked a question regarding the money that the Council had received from the sale of a ransom strip of land on Worrygoose Lane and whether it could be used for road safety and school road safety schemes in the Sitwell Ward. He had attended a meeting with the Chief Executive, Service Director of Legal Services and Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, followed by a second meeting with the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and

Transport, and Head of Transport. It had been made clear by the Executive Director that it was not within his gift to allocate any of the £4.5 million fund. Councillor Thorp asked whether further meaningful discussions could take place regarding how much of the money could be used for the road safety projects in Sitwell, especially in light of the removal of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Scheme and associated road safety proposals.

The Leader stated that he had been and still was sympathetic to the idea that the community that had faced some challenges due to the building of houses on the ransom strip should receive some benefit from the Capital Receipt. However, the Council's Financial Procedure Rules meant that a separate decision through the budget process would be required to release some of that funding. The Leader encouraged officers to undertake work to identify what the headline numbers for the schemes could be. It would then be part of the budget-setting process to allocate funding. The Leader stated that he would expect some of the funding to be brought forward for the schemes.

Councillor Thorp stated that he did not expect to receive the full amount; he simply wanted the schemes to progress. He also referenced Cabinet's decision to remove the £3 million funding for Worrygoose Island. Councillor Thorp explained that he wanted to ensure that the matter remained under consideration.

The Leader offered assurances that it had not been forgotten. He clarified that the £3 million for Worrygoose Island had been withdrawn because it had not been possible to identify a viable scheme. In relation to future road safety schemes, the Leader hoped to share positive news in the coming months.

2. Andrew Bates asked a question in relation to Wickersley Underpass, which had been closed for 17 weeks since Christmas 2025. He explained that he had sent emails to the Transport Service and Street Pride but had received no responses. He just wanted to find out what was happening and when it would reopen but was getting no information.

   The Leader stated that this was not acceptable and he was sorry that Mr. Bates had had that experience with the Council.

   The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment explained that it was a complex issue as the manner in which the underpass had been constructed meant that it was very susceptible to flooding. However, progress was being made, and a specialist pump was due to be installed in the coming week. The Service was also looking at longer-term solutions, which could involve a new set of pumps or potentially filling in the underpass and creating a new surface-level crossing.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Bates asked whether a spare pump could be sourced for when the current pump fails.

The Executive Director stated that the pump due to be fitted in the coming week had been sourced from mainland Europe, but the Service would look into the request.

52. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14th September, 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

53. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Minute No. 63 (Strategic Acquisitions – Appendix 1) was exempt under Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

54. EXTRA CARE HOUSING MODEL

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the feedback received from the 90 day consultation and proposed a model for the provision of Extra Care Housing in Rotherham. Extra Care Housing (ECH) was recognised nationally for providing people aged 55 years and over with independent, self-contained homes within a community setting, combined with on-site care and support services available 24 hours a day. It aimed to support older adults to sustain their independence and tenancy by offering varying levels of person-centred care and support. Rotherham had two ECH schemes, Bakers Field Court, and Potteries Court, offering 88 tenancies in total.

In April 2026, Cabinet approved a period of consultation on a proposed model for the delivery of care and support to tenants living in Extra Care Housing (ECH) schemes in Rotherham. The focus of the proposal was to ensure Adult Social Care could deliver a quality and sustainable model that met the support needs of tenants living in the Potteries Court and Bakers Field Court ECH schemes.

The preferred option outlined in the last report and subject to consultation, was for the schemes to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) so that Council-employed staff could meet tenants' personal care and support needs, focussed on ways to strengthen the existing care and support provision for tenants living in ECH. The preferred option's intention was to ensure a flexible, person-focussed approach which would improve outcomes for people whilst ensuring value for money and sustainable investment in the Council's workforce.

A Council-employed team of enablement-focused staff would meet tenants' Care Act eligible care needs with the provision modelled on the existing enablement approach embedded within Adult Social Care Provider Services. This approach focussed on maximising people's independence and wellbeing. Existing tenants would retain the right to choose who they received care and support from. Whilst the Council would honour the arrangements existing tenants had in place with independent providers, should tenants choose to retain this, future new tenants would be provided with core hours from the on-site care team, whilst still maintaining choice and control over their care and support for assessed hours that exceeded this.

The findings from the consultation were consistently positive with 94% of people either supporting or strongly supporting this model. Section 4 of the report provided a detailed overview of the consultation approach and the findings.

Cabinet Members expressed their support for the proposals, stating that it would result in a better service with better value for money.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the feedback from the consultation.

2. Approve implementation of the proposed final model, as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report submitted.

55. MOVING ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP - DELIVERY OF PLACE EXPANSION GRANT

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of proposed further Sport England investment for Rotherham as part of the Place Expansion Programme. It outlined key activities to be undertaken to expand opportunities for physical activity and deliver on the Moving Rotherham Partnership priorities.

In 2023, Sport England invited places across the country to apply to become Place Expansion Partners as part of its Uniting the Movement Strategy. Rotherham was successful in securing a Place Expansion Grant Development Award of £455,870. Cabinet approved acceptance and expenditure of this funding in March 2025, with delivery managed by the Council's Public Health Service on behalf of the Moving Rotherham Partnership. Following the success of the development phase, Rotherham had secured a further Sport England Place Expansion Grant Main Award totalling £1.1 million to improve physical activity and continue to increase the scale and pace of the Moving Rotherham Partnership's delivery.

Following the development phase evaluation, the Moving Rotherham Partnership developed a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Rotherham. This was developed by the Partnership to provide a clear narrative of the aims of Moving Rotherham, to set priority themes for delivery and provide a framework for a delivery plan.

The Moving Rotherham Strategy described three priority audiences that aligned with Sport England's Uniting the Movement Strategy:

- Children and young people,
- People with long-term health conditions and/or disabilities, and
- Communities where activity levels are lowest.

A delivery plan set out the funding requirements from the bid aligned to these priorities. The new proposed additional funding allocated as a Place Expansion Main Award grant was £1,145,438 until March 2028. There was also an additional £15,000 Capital grant as described in paragraph 2.17.

Cabinet Members applauded officers for their work in securing this Borough-wide investment.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the acceptance and spending of the Rotherham Sport England Grants (comprising the Main Award and Capital Grant) in line with Sport England grant conditions and as set out in section 2 of the report submitted.

56. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD SCRUTINY REVIEW - STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS

Consideration was given to the report which presented the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB)/Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Scrutiny Review into attachments to street lighting columns.

The review was commissioned following a Notice of Motion approved by Full Council in April 2026 concerning the impact of structural testing requirements on community initiatives such as hanging baskets, festive decorations, remembrance displays and CCTV installations. The review examined the balance between public safety requirements and the financial and operational impact on Parish and Town Councils. Evidence was gathered from officers, Parish Councils, survey responses and examples of practice from other authorities.

The recommendations sought to establish a clear, proportionate and transparent framework that supported community-led initiatives whilst ensuring the safety and effective management of highway assets.

In moving the report, Councillor Allen thanked OSMB and IPSC for their work and for completing a very thorough review. She welcomed the recommendations, particularly the introduction of a framework that would apply to all and the efforts to improve communication with Parish Councils. Councillor Allen explained that the response would be led by herself as Cabinet Member for Communities and Councillor Williams as Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

Councillor Steele was invited to speak to the report. He thanked officers for their work and for ensuring that the review progressed at pace. Clear information had been provided to the review group which enabled a very positive, cross-party process.

Councillor Williams thanked Scrutiny for their work on this matter. He also reiterated that there were no restrictions relating to the installation of poppies on street lighting columns. The Leader confirmed that incorrect information had been given out by the Council on this matter and he wanted to be clear on this as Remembrance Sunday approached – there were no restrictions on poppies.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet receives the recommendations listed below, as approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

    1. Approve amendments to the Highway Asset Management Plan to incorporate a comprehensive framework for attachments to lighting columns and associated highway assets, setting out requirements relating to permitted and prohibited attachments, risk-based approval arrangements, structural testing and retesting requirements, applicant responsibilities, and enforcement provisions. The framework should apply consistently to all users of street lighting columns, including the Council, Parish and Town Councils, contractors and third parties.

    2. Approve the development and publication of a standalone, publicly accessible Street Lighting Column Attachments Guidance Document, in consultation with Parish and Town Councils, to provide clear and practical guidance on the application of the Highway Asset Management Plan framework, including attachment classifications, approval processes, testing requirements, responsibilities, communication arrangements, and practical examples of acceptable and unacceptable attachments.

    3. Establish formal consultation, communication and engagement arrangements with Parish and Town Councils, including consultation on future policy changes, testing programmes and charging arrangements, together with sufficient advance notice of any financial implications to enable effective budget planning, procurement and decision-making.

4. Establish clear categories for street lighting column attachments, identifying which attachments are permitted without testing, permitted subject to approval and structural testing, or prohibited, and publish consistent standards for structural testing, assessment criteria, retesting intervals, validity periods and maximum permissible loading thresholds where appropriate.

5. Continues to co-ordinate structural testing arrangements on a Borough wide basis where appropriate and considers longer-term funding, procurement and cost-sharing arrangements to minimise administrative burdens and secure value for money for Parish and Town Councils whilst maintaining compliance with relevant safety standards.

6. Ensures arrangements are developed to support the continuation of community display schemes where street lighting columns are unable to safely accommodate attachments, including consideration of alternative display solutions, targeted asset replacement where appropriate, the use of structural testing outcomes to identify trends, inform the Council's future investment priorities, replacement programmes and wider asset management decisions.

7. That the Service engages in meaningful discussions with interested parties including Parish Councils, seeking to install displays on street lighting columns, with the aim of reaching a shared understanding regarding the timescales and process for replacing damaged or missing columns, and to explore opportunities to facilitate timely installation where feasible.

8. Strengthen the enforcement framework for unauthorised attachments by establishing clear compliance procedures and, where legally permissible, implementing arrangements for the recovery of costs incurred in the removal of unauthorised installations, and reviews the effectiveness of the new arrangements within 12 months of implementation, including consideration of feedback from Parish and Town Councils, testing outcomes and enforcement activity, with the findings reported to the relevant Scrutiny Board.

2. That Cabinet formally considers its response to the above recommendations within two months of its receipt, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

3. That in responding to these recommendations, it is requested that Cabinet's response should identify the proposed actions, responsible officer(s), success measures and target completion dates for each recommendation.

57. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of current activity undertaken by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board to ensure children and young people's voices were influencing priorities, informing challenge to leaders and co-producing solutions across the partnership. In July 2025 the Children and Young People's Partnership Board agreed to develop a strategy that showed how important children and young people were in Rotherham, what was great about Rotherham from a children and young people's perspective and what the Board were going to do to make it even better.

The report outlined the key activity undertaken in developing the new Children's Strategy, including a needs analysis focused on things that were important to children and young people, consultation and engagement and co-production. The report sought endorsement of the Rotherham Children's Strategy and outlined the timeline for implementation to achieve the aims identified.

Angel Lackova, Ashleigh Lackova, Isaac Troop and Charlotte Oram from the Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership spoke about their Strategy. They explained that young people felt left behind and wanted to ensure that their voice was heard. The Strategy was about levelling the playing field and creating real change. It was noted that Town Centre safety, vaping and the lack of jobs for young people were huge concerns. The young people also stressed the need for Council communications to be more relevant and age appropriate.

The Young People highlighted the priorities from the Strategy which were:

1. To continue to scrutinise the Rotherham Plan - to keep Rotherham a family friendly Borough, the Children and Young People's Partnership Board would make sure children and young people continued to influence decision making and service delivery in Rotherham, challenging and supporting adults.

2. To develop a Youth Club Curriculum - to improve the support available to children and young people attending community groups and youth clubs, CYPPB would develop a toolkit for workers to use to talk about things that were important to children and young people.

3. To create opportunities for children and young people to develop content to improve communications with children and young people - to help more children and young people know about the fun things to do in Rotherham and the work the Council and other organisations did to make it cleaner and safer, CYPPB will improve communications.

The Rotherham Children's Strategy detailed how each action would be delivered (when and what) and the impact under each aim. The Rotherham Children's Strategy was included as Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

Cabinet Members thanked Angel, Ashleigh, Isaac and Charlotte for attending the meeting and they applauded the way in which they used their voices to champion young people. Members fully supported the Strategy and looked forward to the meaningful outcomes.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the activity to date of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, a co-chaired, youth-led forum embedded in Borough governance, where young people set priorities, challenge leaders, and co-produce solutions alongside senior leaders across the partnership.

2. Endorse the Rotherham Children's Strategy for implementation from October 2026.

58. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of the first stage consultation responses and set out draft recommendations for consideration and approval. Subject to Cabinet's approval, a second stage of public consultation would be undertaken to seek views on the draft recommendations. Following the conclusion of the consultation period, a final recommendations report would then be submitted to Cabinet. It was a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

Following approval by Cabinet on 13th April 2026, Rotherham Council commenced a Community Governance Review on 1st May 2026 as set out in the agreed Terms of Reference (Appendix 1). An initial consultation took place between 1st May and 26th June 2026, providing residents, local councils, community groups, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to submit their views on existing governance arrangements and any potential changes they would wish the review to consider.

The consultation received just under two hundred responses, representing views on existing Parish, Town and Community Councils, together with interest in the establishment of new Parish Councils. The anonymised First Stage Consultation Responses were shown in Appendix 2.

Paragraph 2.1 of the report provided details of the responses received that were outside of the scope of the review.

Paragraphs 2.3 to 2.33 of the report provided a summary of the consultation responses by Parish/Town/Community Council/Meeting. Paragraphs 3.1 to 3.31 outlined the recommendations in relation to each Parish/Town/Community Council/Meeting:

Parish Council/ Meeting	Consultation Summary – Paragraph Number	Recommendation Summary – Paragraph Number
Anston	2.3	3.1
Aston-cum-Aughton	2.4	3.2
Brampton	2.5	3.4
Bramley	2.6	3.3
Brinsworth	2.7	3.5
Catcliffe	2.8	3.6
Dalton	2.9	3.7
Dinnington St John's	2.10	3.8
Firbeck	2.11	3.9
Gildingwells	2.12	3.10
Harthill-with-Woodall	2.13	3.11
Hellaby	2.14	3.12
Hooton Levitt	2.15	3.13
Hooton Roberts	2.16	3.14
Laughton-en-le-Morthen	2.17	3.15
Letwell	2.18	3.16
Maltby	2.19	3.17
Orgreave	2.20	3.18
Ravenfield	2.21	3.19
Thorpe Salvin	2.22	3.20
Thrybergh	2.23	3.21
Thurcroft	2.24	3.22
Todwick	2.25	3.23
Treeton	2.26	3.24
Ulley	2.27	3.25
Wales	2.28	3.26
Waverley	2.29	3.27
Wentworth	2.30	3.28
Whiston	2.31	3.29
Wickersley	2.32	3.30
Woodsetts	2.33	3.31

In addition to the above, three responses proposed the creation of a Parish Council within the Rawmarsh area, with one respondent suggesting that two Parish Councils could be established. However, no consistent proposal was put forward regarding the geographical extent or boundaries of any new parish area. Based on the proposals submitted,

the area under consideration would encompass an electorate of approximately 13,700.

Four responses proposed the creation of a Parish Council within the Wath upon Dearne area. However, the proposals varied considerably in terms of the geographical area that any new parish would cover, resulting in estimated electorates ranging from approximately 6,700 to 11,500.

Given the scale of the proposals, the differing views regarding the geographical extent of any new Parish areas, and the relatively limited level of support demonstrated through the consultation, the responses received did not provide sufficient evidence of community support to justify undertaking further consultation on the creation of a new Parish Council in either Rawmarsh or Wath upon Dearne as part of this review. Therefore, it was recommended that no further consideration be given to those proposals at this stage.

Subject to Cabinet approval, consultation on the draft recommendations would commence on 26th October 2026. To maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations, the duration of the consultation period would be twelve weeks. Although the consultation would span the Christmas period, the timetable had been designed to provide additional opportunity for participation during January 2027 before the consultation closed.

Following the second consultation stage, final recommendations would be prepared by the Officer Working Group and reported to Cabinet in Spring 2027, before being referred to Council for approval. Any approved changes would then be implemented through a Community Governance Order at the next scheduled elections in May 2028.

During the meeting it was confirmed that other representations, outside of the ones already covered in the report, would still be considered when formulating final recommendations. It was also agreed that the Electoral Services Manager would attend a Parish Councils Joint Working Group meeting to discuss the next steps of the Community Governance Review process.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the retention of the existing community governance arrangements for the following Parish, Town and Community Councils and Parish Meeting, and agrees that no further consultation is required. These arrangements will therefore be carried forward to the Final Recommendations Report:

a) Anston Parish Council
b) Brampton Bierlow Parish Council
c) Catcliffe Parish Council
d) Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council
e) Hellaby Parish Council
f) Maltby Town Council
g) Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
h) Todwick Parish Council
i) Treeton Parish Council
j) Ulley Parish Council

2. Approves consultation with the affected Parish Councils and their electors to seek views on the revision of the number of council seats as outlined below:

   a) Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council: An increase of three Council seats from 15 to 18
   b) Bramley Parish Council: An increase of one seat from 13 to 14
   c) Brinsworth Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 11 to 14
   d) Ravenfield Parish Council: An increase of two seats from 7 to 9
   e) Thrybergh Parish Council: A decrease of four seats from 15 to 11
   f) Thurcroft Parish Council: A decrease of five seats from 18 to 13
   g) Wales Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 15 to 13
   h) Waverley Community Council: An increase of five seats from 7 to 12
   i) Whiston Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 9 to 12
   j) Wickersley Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 16 to 14
   k) Woodsetts Parish Council: A decrease of one seat from 9 to 8.

3. Approves consultation with electors at Nos. 605, 607, 609 and 611 Retford Road, together with Aston-cum-Aughton and Orgreave Parish Councils to seek views on the transfer of the properties from Aston-cum-Aughton West Ward of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council to Orgreave Parish Council.

4. Approves consultation with residents of the Poppy Fields development, together with Bramley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the current Parish boundary remains appropriate or whether changes should be considered.

5. Approves consultation with electors in the BWA polling district, together with Brinsworth Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the Brinsworth Parish Council boundary should be extended to include the BWA polling district.

6. Approves consultation with Dalton Parish Council and its electors to inform consideration of whether Dalton Parish Council should be renamed Dalton and Sunnyside Parish Council and the Parish Wards renamed to Sunnyside Ward, Dalton Ward, and Brecks Ward.

7. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Penny Hill area, together with Dinnington St John's Town Council and Firbeck Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the properties within the Penny Hill area should remain within the Dinnington Town Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council or be transferred to Firbeck Parish Council.

8. Approves consultation with electors within the Gildingwells Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the Parish. The consultation should seek views on the following options:

   - Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
   - Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Letwell Parish Council;
   - Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Woodsetts Parish Council; and
   - Abolishing Gildingwells Parish Meeting

   In addition, consultation should be undertaken with Letwell Parish Council and Woodsetts Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

9. Approves consultation with electors within the Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the Parish. The consultation should seek views on the following options:

   a) Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
   b) Merging Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council;
   c) Abolishing Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting

   In addition, it is proposed that consultation is undertaken with Laughton-en-le Morthen Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

10. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Firsby area and within the Hooton Roberts Parish area, together with Ravenfield Parish Council, to seek their views on a proposal to transfer the Firsby area from Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting to Ravenfield Parish Council, or to retain the existing parish boundary arrangements.

11. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Thurcroft South Ward (Laughton Common), together with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council and Thurcroft Parish Council, to seek their views on the potential transfer of the Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish

Council to Laughton-en-le Morthen Parish Council, or the retention of the existing Parish boundary arrangements.

12. Approves consultation with the electors of Nos. 11, 38 and 40 Reresby Park Close, together with Dalton and Thrybergh Parish Councils, on the potential transfer of these properties from Thrybergh South Ward of Thrybergh Parish Council to Dalton North Ward of Dalton Parish Council.

13. Approves consultation with Wentworth Parish Council and Parish electors, particularly those in Harley Ward, to seek their views on changing the name of Harley Ward to Harley and Hood Hill Ward.

14. Approves the commencement of a twelve-week public consultation on the draft recommendations set out in Recommendations 2-13 of this report.

15. Notes that a final recommendations report will be brought forward following the consultation on the draft recommendations. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend their adoption by Council in Spring 2027.

59. THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF TENANT ENGAGEMENT

Consideration was given to the report which presented the proposals to introduce a hybrid model for tenant engagement. The Council had outsourced a large proportion of its tenant engagement activity for Housing Services for many years. The initial term of the current contract was due to expire in March 2027. The report proposed an approach to build on the strong foundation of tenant engagement in the Borough through a more agile model which better met the diverse needs of tenants, the requirements of the new housing regulations, and the need to respond swiftly to the changing regulatory environment, as required.

Rotherham Council had a strong history of effective engagement with its tenants and residents and had worked with a local provider, RotherFed, to successfully deliver engagement activity across the Borough for approximately 17 years. The current contract's initial term was due to expire in March 2027. However, since the contract was last procured in 2023, there had been significant changes across the sector which focused on housing providers demonstrating how tenant feedback was heard, acted upon, and influenced decision making within Policy, service design and delivery and that the landlord must have a direct relationship with its tenant panels and groups. New expectations around this were set out in the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards.

Whilst the current contract had performed well, there were some limitations which had prevented the Council and RotherFed from having the flexibility needed to respond to the sector's changing requirements. These included data protection issues which reduced the current contract

provider's ability to carry out targeted engagement, and difficulties for the Council in evidencing clear outcomes due to an indirect relationship with tenants. It had also been challenging to provide clear evidence of how tenant views and feedback were used to shape and improve services.

Four options had been considered as part of the options appraisal, as detailed in Section 3 of the report:

a) Re-procure and outsource the tenant engagement (including tenant scrutiny) service externally via a full tender process from April 2027.
b) Introduce a hybrid model, with tenant engagement insourced and tenant scrutiny outsourced from April 2027.
c) Fully insource the tenant engagement (including tenant scrutiny) service from April 2027.
d) Extend the current contract for 12 months.

Option B (Hybrid Model) was the preferred option. This approach would bring most tenant engagement activity directly into Housing Services, strengthening accountability, oversight, visibility and alignment with the Tenant Engagement Framework, while retaining an externally delivered tenant scrutiny function to provide independence, specialist expertise and confidence in the rigour of scrutiny activity. This model provided the strongest overall response to the issues identified through the appraisal and offered the best balance between tenant confidence, regulatory assurance, service integration and deliverability.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the proposal to introduce a hybrid model, with tenant engagement insourced and tenant scrutiny outsourced from April 2027.

2. Approve the proposal to procure an external provider to manage and deliver a tenant scrutiny function.

60. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT - COMMISSIONED SERVICES

Consideration was given to the report which set out proposals for the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant, to provide accommodation with support, for people who were at risk of rough sleeping. The Government's National Plan to End Homelessness was published in December 2025 and aimed to make homelessness 'rare, brief and non-recurring'. As such it had provided a Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant (HRSDAG) to local authorities to help prevent homelessness, reduce rough sleeping, and support people at risk of losing their homes through local housing and support services.

The Council's Housing Strategy, agreed in 2025, and the Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleep Strategy, agreed in 2026, shared these aims.

Rough sleeping continued to be prevalent in Rotherham. In 2025/26, 688 reports of rough sleeping were received, with 256 verified instances recorded. These verified instances did not equate to 256 unique individuals, as some people were reported multiple times while being supported over several months. During the same period, the Council's Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Team supported 104 single people and 8 couples, including individuals who engaged with the Service on more than one occasion (again accounting for duplicate instances).

The Strategic Commissioning team had worked alongside Housing officers to undertake an analysis of need and demand, to formulate recommendations for the commissioned provision, including all commissioned provision funded under the grant. Those recommendations were:

- That the Rough Sleeper Initiative Accommodation Hub (RSI Hub) be recommissioned. Details on the RSI Hub were provided in paragraph 2.4 of the report. Feedback from stakeholders suggested that the size of the current provision was both manageable in terms of risks and complexity of residents and was meeting demand. The current contract value was £171,000 per annum; however, this had not been uplifted throughout the contract term (as dependent on a specific ring fenced grant) and there had been increased costs associated with the delivery of the Service. It was recommended,, therefore that this Service was procured with an increased budget of £200,000 per annum, funded from the HRSDAG. Whilst a maximum number of units would be set to enable the provider to manage risks associated, the exact number of units and contract value would be determined through the procurement process. The contract terms would enable the provider to seek an uplift to the contract at the point of extension in line with CPI.

- To re-commission the Single Dispersed Supported Accommodation and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme as a combined service. The accommodation would be dispersed across the Borough with visiting support from the provider that could be flexible according to need, but with at least one visit per week. This Service would be made more flexible to enable access for people within the rough sleeping cohort as well as single homeless people. This would relieve pressure on the current RSI accommodation hub, acting as a step down provision from the intensive onsite support. This provision was currently £230,854 per annum, £205,854 allocated through the HRSDAG. It was recommended that this Service be procured with a budget of £231,000 per annum, with an anticipation of approximately fifty units dispersed across the Borough in locations agreed by the Council during the tender process. The exact number of units and

contract value would be determined through the procurement process. The contract terms would enable the provider to seek an uplift to the contract at the point of extension in line with CPI. Further details on these two schemes were set out in paragraph 2.5 and 2.6 of the report.

- To procure a Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for Women. Operating in a similar way to the RSI Accommodation Hub for males, it was recommended that a 'women only' hub be established and procured with an annual budget of £208,000. Feedback from the market and key stakeholders suggested that this provision should be for approximately 5 units with a focus on trauma stabilisation. The Council would work with the successful provider to identify the right type and location, incorporating the views of women who had experienced homelessness, with the final decision being made by the Council as part of the procurement process.

A full breakdown of the budget allocations for each project was set out in paragraph 3.1.14.

Cabinet Members were pleased to support all of the recommendations, particularly the proposal to aimed at helping vulnerable women. The Leader welcomed the Government funding and thanked the Housing Service for the incredible work they did helping to prevent homelessness.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the proposals to:

1. Re-procure the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

2. Re-procure dispersed accommodation with support for single people who are homeless, rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

3. Procure an Accommodation Hub specifically for women for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend up to a further 2 years.

61. DRAFT STREET TRADING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which introduced the Draft Street Trading Policy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report. It proposed a regulatory approach to street trading that would see the control, and promotion, of street trading achieved through the use of consents issued by the Council in accordance with a Street Trading Policy. Street traders were currently able to operate with minimal regulation and without appropriate consideration of the consequences of their activities on other local businesses (particularly those that trade from retail premises). In addition, the absence of a clear framework meant that the way that street

traders operated currently was not transparent, equitable or fair. In addition, the introduction of a street trading framework would allow well managed traders to develop and flourish, further supporting business growth and employment opportunities.

In order to introduce the framework, the Council had to first adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The adoption of this legislation, together with the introduction of a clear Street Trading Policy, would provide the Council with the framework to ensure that street trading was controlled, fair, appropriate and contributed to business growth throughout the Borough.

Cabinet was asked to authorise officers to commence a period of consultation in relation to the adoption of Schedule 4 and approve a draft Street Trading Policy which would be consulted on at the same time. The Street Trading Policy would allow the Council to ensure that trading took place in an appropriate manner and without adverse impact on the local community (for example by minimising nuisance and regulating the number and location of traders within an area). The Policy would also allow the Council to set out conditions and expectations that would apply to street traders, such as:

- the safety and suitability of trading units
- the standard of hygiene for traders selling food items
- waste disposal
- trading times and limitations on trading in certain areas
- background checks on traders.

The consultation would commence by the end of November 2026 and continue for an eight week period. A further report would be presented to Cabinet early in 2027 outlining the outcome of the consultation and making a final recommendation regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

During the meeting, the Cabinet Member confirmed that a number of amendments had been made to the Policy following recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting held in July 2026. Clearer definitions had been provided and the rationale for why this Policy was required had been explained better. The report had since been re-considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve consultation to determine whether the Council should adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2. Approve consultation on the draft Street Trading Policy, as outlined in the report.

3. Note that, following consultation, a further report will be presented to Cabinet outlining the final recommendations regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

62. LOCAL PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the commencement of preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. Government planning reforms introduced through the Regulations came into force on 25th March 2026. The Regulations required local planning authorities to prepare a new style Local Plan through a prescribed process including gateway assessments, statutory consultation stages and adoption within a 30 month plan making period, following an initial four month commencement phase.

Government guidance and the Regulations stated that the Local Planning Authority was required to submit and publish a 'Notice of Intention to Commence' (Regulation 19), submit and publish a Local Plan Timetable (Regulation 4 and 5) that would replace the Council's current Local Development Scheme, and undertake a scoping consultation (Regulation 20). These tasks had to be completed prior to the submission of a Gateway 1 self-assessment to the Planning Inspectorate. Subject to the successful outcome of the Gateway 1, the Council could proceed to the prescribed 30 month plan making process.

The Council had to commence preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan and establish suitable governance arrangements to ensure delivery within the required timescales. The report sought approval of the Local Plan Timetable, attached at Appendix 1, establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group, the Terms of Reference for which were attached at Appendix 2, as well as delegated authority arrangements for procedural matters required throughout the Local Plan process to ensure that the Council could respond as necessary to the new streamlined plan making system.

Following a request from Councillor Allen during the meeting, it was confirmed that a Parish Council representative would be included on the membership for the Local Plan Steering Group and the Terms of Reference updated to reflect this.

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the contents of this report and approve the commencement of preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

2. Approve the publication of the Local Plan Timetable attached at Appendix 1 and note that it supersedes the current Local Development Scheme timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan.

3. Approve the publication of the formal 'Notice of Intention to Commence' by 30th October 2026, at the latest, in line with Regulation 19.

4. Approve the establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 2, including the addition of a Parish Council representative to the Membership.

5. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy:

    - to approve updates to the Local Plan Timetable during plan preparation;
    - to approve, publish and submit all documents required for the statutory Scoping Stage (Regulation 20);
    - to approve publication and submission of documents required for Gateway 1 (Regulation 21); and
    - to approve the content and commencement of consultation on proposed plan content, draft vision and supporting evidence (Regulation 23).

6. Agree that Planning Board and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be updated and consulted at appropriate stages throughout plan preparation.

7. Agree to receive a further report as the Local Plan progresses towards plan content and evidence consultation (Regulation 23(1)(a)) and seeking approvals for subsequent stages - Gateways 2 (Regulation 26) and Gateway 3 (Regulation 31).

63. STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS

Consideration was given to the report which sought authorisation to acquire a property in Rotherham Town Centre for the purposes of future regeneration. An opportunity had arisen to acquire a key property within

the Don Valley Corridor. The property proposed for acquisition had been the subject of previous masterplan and feasibility work, demonstrating the strategic value of the property for regeneration purposes. The property details, the estimated value and associated costs were set out in Appendix 1 (exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act).

Acquisition would enable the Council to secure control of the property while future development options were assessed. Those options could include refurbishment, redevelopment, reuse in conjunction with adjoining Council interests, or incorporation within a wider regeneration proposal.

The property was vacant and understood to require significant investment. Acquisition would therefore expose the Council to immediate holding, security, insurance, compliance and maintenance costs pending agreement and funding of any future use. The financial assessment at Appendix 1 included provision for the identified acquisition costs and an initial assessment of the potential property liabilities. Exempt Appendix 1 set out the proposed acquisition limit and made provision for associated purchase costs and essential initial property-management measures.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the acquisition of the property identified in Appendix 1 of the report submitted for future regeneration purposes.

2. Approve the use of the Capital Contingency Fund for the acquisition and associated costs, up to the maximum total financial limit set out in exempt Appendix 1.

3. Delegate authority to the Service Director for Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to agree the acquisition terms and complete the acquisition within the due-diligence requirements and financial limits contained in Appendix 1.

(Appendix 1 was exempt under Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

64. 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.

65. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 16th November 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
24th September, 2026

Present:- Councillor Baggaley (in the Chair); Councillors Ismail and Monk together with Alison Hutchinson (Independent Person).

Also present:-
Joshua Amahwe, Head of Service
Judith Badger, Executive Director, Corporate Services
Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit
Rob Mahon, Service Director, Financial Services
Karen Middlebrook, Head of Procurement
Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager
Sam Ulyatt, Service Manager Information Management
Greg Chandley, Grant Thornton (External Auditor)
Liz Luddington, Grant Thornton (External Auditor)
Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor/Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Elliott and Michael Olugbenga-Bababola (Independent Person).

33. MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Committee stood in silence as a mark of respect following the recent sad passing of Councillor John Blackham.

The Chair wished to place on record the Committee's condolences to his family and friends and how his contribution and engagement in the activities of the Audit Committee would be sorely missed.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

35. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting and no questions had been received in advance.

36. 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. 44 (Internal Audit Progress Report – Appendix G) and 45 (Policy, Strategy and Engagement Risk Register) as defined in the paragraphs indicated below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

37. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28TH JULY, 2026

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

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

38. EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AND SECTOR UPDATE

Liz Luddington and Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton (External Auditor) presented a progress report as at 15th September, 2026, highlighting:-

- Audit fieldwork had commenced in early July and remained on track to issue audit opinion by the end of November
- Intention for work to be well progressed with all significant risk areas of the audit by the end of September
- Assessment underway of the Council's adoption of the new indexation requirement applicable to land and buildings for the first time in 2025/26. This was the sole change in accounting standard applicable to this year's accounts audit
- The Council's draft financial statements were subject to a technical review this year termed as a 'hot review'. This was a biennial review and the process had already started
- Detailed Value for Money work had begun in August with meetings held to obtain further understanding of the progress the Council had made in responding to the significant weakness identified in previous years

The report also provided information on external audit sector updates highlighting:-

- Adult Social Care
- Children's Social Care
- Annual Government Statement
- Best Value

It was clarified that the progress position had improved since production of the papers with Grant Thornton confident that all audit areas would be "green" by November.

Resolved:- That the progress and sector updates be noted.

39. PROCUREMENT ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT 2026

Karen Middlebrook, Head of Procurement, presented a report providing an update on procurement activity since March, 2025.

In February 2025 the new legislation (Procurement Act 2023 ("PA23")) governing public sector procurement activity was implemented for all new procurement activity commencing from the date of implementation. Whilst the new legislation was in force, the old legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("PCR15")) had not ceased to exist and would remain in force for as long as the last contract procured under the old regime was in existence. For health related contracts linked to Public Health activity, the provisions of The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime Regulations 2023 ("PSR") were applicable.

The uptake of activity under PA23 and PSR had been slow as the Council had commenced a significant volume of large scale procurements before the changes came in to allow the legislation sufficient time to settle in. However, since the last update to the Audit Committee (Minute No. 84 11th March, 2025), the Council had now undertaken a range of procurement exercises under all the different applicable legislation. It remained challenging due to the multiple pieces of legislation to ensure the correct processes were undertaken, notices published and terminology/language used but would become easier the more exposure the Council had in undertaking this activity.

The PA23 had also brought a duty to report twice yearly on the Council's performance of paying its suppliers within 30 calendar days through the publication of a Payments Compliance Notice. The first notice required publication before the 29th April 2026 deadline covering the period 1st October 2025 to 31st March 2026. This reported that the Council took an average of 12.30 days to pay with 94.08% of invoices paid within 30 calendar days during that period.

An analysis against the Yorkshire and Humber region local authorities had been undertaken where information was published which revealed that Rotherham was ranked 6th. Work was underway with Finance with regard to wider support to services to improve this position.

Procurement training continued to be delivered to officers across the Council with approximately 180 trained and a dedicated session to the Regeneration and Environment Directorate of over 60.

In recognition of the work referred to above and in response to a recommendation from the External Auditor's Value for Money report, a Procurement Strategy had been developed for the period 2026-2031. It set out 6 key themes:-

- Delivering Social Value
- Upholding Ethnical Procurement Principles
- Ensuring Compliance and Good Governance
- Strengthening Contract and Supplier Management
- Supporting Financial Sustainability
- Building a Strong and Diverse Supply Base

The Strategy needed to be considered as part of the wider commissioning lifecycle and all Services would have a role in delivering the activity. It helped to frame the key priorities for the Service to better enable it to be understood by Services and the external supply market.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- There was no breakdown by organisation of payment performance; the target was based on the Government criteria that set out that all businesses were paid and payment reached their bank account within 30 days of the Authority receiving the invoice. Efforts were made to prioritise the smaller businesses, however, the decision had been made 6 years ago that once an invoice was ready it was settled

- The aim of the Strategy was to support local communities and deliver value for money, however, the local person may not be able to supply at the same rate as a large business or know how to find public sector opportunities/understand the legislation/documentation. Work was taking place with Regeneration and Environment colleagues to provide business support opportunities through Gro for Growth so local businesses understood the opportunities of value for money and competition. If they did unsuccessfully participate in procurement activity they were provided with detailed feedback as to the reasons why

- The procurement process was an active challenge; there was emphasis in the Strategy and documentation, as well as changing the message in the commissioning processes, of contract management. Training was taking place on contract management to emphasise the importance of service planners forward planning for contracts with the commissioning cycle an active part of how procurement plans operated

- Training had taken place regarding the requirements of the new Procurement Act. There were not many contracts that fell out of the contract compliance period, however, those challenges needed to be escalated and Service Directors held responsible for the contracts in their areas and actively looking to plan for them. Internal Audit looked at those processes to ascertain the presence of forward plans and encouraged Service Directors to have that focus. There had to be training and an understanding of contract rules and responsibility and changing that message in the organisation from contract to commissioning

- Direct award of a contract was a compliant way to tender contracts and sometimes the most appropriate method

- A business, with a turnover of a certain threshold, was expected to publish its policy on modern slavery within their own supply chain and was why it was linked into procurement activity

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the continued work taking place to continually improve commissioning and procurement activity and ensure compliance with legislation and relevant codes of practice be supported.

(3) That future reports include a league table element to enable to ascertain the Authority's position when benchmarking.

40. INFORMATION GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the annual report presented by Sam Ulyatt, Service Manager Information Management, which set out the detail of Council's compliance with Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act 2000 legislation (for the purpose of the report included the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

The report, therefore, set out in detail performance for Freedom of Information, Right of Access Requests and any Data Incidents/Breaches.

In terms of responses to Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests (within the statutory time limits) overall performance was at 97% with the number of requests received during Year 2025/26 up to 1,423 compared to 1,347 in 2024/2025. Overall 97% of FOI requests were responded to within the statutory time limits (1,380 of the 1,423).

This was a slight decrease in performance compared to the previous year but a further numerical increase in the number of requests received. Whilst performance for 2025/26 was 1% lower than in the previous year (98%), analysis of the data did not raise any concerns on the year's performance. In 2025/26 there were no requests formally refused as invalid.

With regards to Right of Access Requests (RoARS) during 2025/26 there was a substantial step-change increase to the numerical volume received in 2024/25 (235). This continued the trend of the volume of RoARS increasing year-on-year.

However, despite the volume increase, performance had improved by 4% compared with the previous year with 264 (67%) requests processed within the statutory timeframe for 2025/26 compared to 149 (63%) in 2024/25.

Performance would continue to be closely monitored with regard to FOI and RoAR with the focus on improving time to completion and keeping customers informed.

In terms of Data Incidents and Breaches, the Council actively encouraged Services to report any suspected data incidents and all reported cases were investigated. Attached to the report was an Appendix which provided a breakdown of the number and classification of incidents.

In 2025/26 the Council had logged and investigated 223 reports of incidents of which 167 (75%) were recorded as breaches. Disclosed in error breaches accounted for 134 of the 167 (80%). In the previous year the equivalent figures were 129 out of 142 breaches (91%).

All the breaches investigated were non-reportable to the regulatory body (ICO).

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The information provided by Directorates with regard to information data incidents was accurate but reliant upon the reporting thereof

- If a FOI request was refused, the customer would receive a formal response to that effect and also include some advice/guidance on narrowing the parameters of their question so they could, if they wanted to, refine their request and resubmit

- There had been continued growth in the number of RoARs being received a large number of which were within Social Care and, by nature, frequently quite complicated. On average it would take an officer a day to review 250 pages with a Social Care file being anything from 5,000-10,000 pages. There was potential for a piece of redaction software which would assist the process but would still not remove the need for the human element and the requirements of the Data Protection Act

- Numerous discussions had taken place as to how the management could be reorganised to improve performance without being unfair to individuals as requests should be dealt with in the order of receipt

- The internal target for response to RoARs was 62%. This was monitored throughout the year with monthly statistics produced and submitted to the Service Directors Group. Statistics did vary dependent upon the number of Social Care requests received

- Discussions were taking place on the breakdown of disclosing data protection incidents/breaches in more detail. Recording took place as to whether it was an internal disclosure or external. This would be reported on in the future

Resolved:- (1) That the Data Protection/FOI Annual Report 2025/26 be received and the contents noted.

(2) That the Council continues its maintenance of its Information Governance practices and processes as a requirement and in compliance with legislation.

(3) That future reports include:-

- comparisons with previous year's information security incident statistics
- the number of FOI requests refused and the reasons for refusal
- Public Health figures for the past 2 years to ascertain if there was a trend
- the number of exceptions made

(4) That, in order to meet the Council's obligation to annually publish its FOI performance statistics, the report will be published online.

41. CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Consideration was given to the report presented by Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager, which detailed how in April 2016 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives published revised guidance on delivering good governance in Local Government. In May 2025 CIPFA issued an addendum to the guidance covering the annual review of governance and the annual governance statement.

The guidance set out the 7 key principles which underpinned the governance of each local government organisation. The Council's local Code followed these principles and demonstrated how they were applied and evidenced in practice.

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance was refreshed last year to comply with the addendum. It was good practice to review and revise the Council's Code on an annual basis and the review of the Code had been completed focussing on updating evidence in line with internal improvements. Attached to the report submitted was the tracked change appendix.

Resolved:- That the refreshed version of the Code of Corporate Governance be received and noted.

42. ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING POLICY REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, proposing an update to the Council's Anti-Money Laundering Policy to ensure that it was in line with current best practice and took into account any changes to the Council's organisational structure. It was last updated in 2024 (Minute No. 55 refers).

Public authorities (not being regulated businesses as defined within the Legislation) were not legally obliged to apply the provisions of all the Money Laundering Regulations unless they were undertaking a service 'by way of business'. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) had produced guidance which suggested that as responsible bodies, public authorities should put in place appropriate and proportionate anti-money laundering safeguards and reporting arrangements designed to enable them to detect and avoid involvement in the crimes described in the Legislation and Regulations.

The Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) Regulations 2026 (SI2026/621) had come into force on 30th June, 2026, and amended The Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017. The key changes focused on refining due diligence requirements and high risk country lists; converting EU monetary thresholds into pound sterling equivalents; refining and tightening the Enhanced Due Diligence test (EDD) and new Customer Due Diligence (CDD) obligations for pooled client accounts. There were expanded and clarified information sharing duties between Anti-Money Laundering supervisors, Companies House and other public regulatory bodies to target economic crime intelligence.

The Council's updated Anti-Money Laundering Policy was attached at Appendix A and the tracked changes version included at Appendix B. It had been reviewed with only minor amendments made and in accordance with the updated legislation. The amendments did not change any of the underlying responsibilities or requirements of staff.

Alongside the Policy review, Internal Audit were examining controls within higher risk areas within the Council and would assess whether there were appropriate and proportionate anti-money laundering arrangements in place. The scope included staff awareness of the risks, customer due diligence, record keeping, monitoring, reporting lines and general awareness and training. The outcome of the review would be included in the Internal Audit progress report once the final report was issued.

Resolved:- (1) That the revised Anti-Money Laundering Policy be received and noted.

(2) That the actions being undertaken to review the Council's anti-money laundering arrangements be noted.

43. COUNTER FRAUD FRAMEWORK INCLUDING ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY AND STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which detailed the proposed update to the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy.

The update followed an annual review process which was designed to ensure that the Policy and Strategy were up-to-date with current best practice and to take into account any changes to the Council's organisational structure.

The Committee was advised that there had been only minor updates to the Policy and Strategy since the last review. The Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally checklist had been used to review the Council's arrangements against current best practice. The self-assessment against the checklist and resulting actions were included as part of the report.

For the first time, the report also included additional information on the Council's Counter Fraud Framework including fraud risks and mitigations in place. Appendix E of the report submitted was a self-assessment against the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally checklist. This was a review against best practice which demonstrated Rotherham's robust compliance with the arrangements.

The Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS UK Public Sector) set out the requirement for the consideration of fraud risks within the Internal Audit Plan. When scoping audits, auditors should consider specific risks related to fraud. Auditors therefore needed to have sufficient knowledge to recognise the probability of fraud. This was addressed by a prompt around considering fraud risk in the audit scoping process by having 4 experienced auditors with a variety of fraud qualifications and investigatory experience which was shared with other auditors and the completion of fraud awareness training by all staff in the Internal Audit Service. In addition a Housing Tenancy Fraud Officer (within Housing Services) undertook investigations into possible housing and Right to Buy frauds.

The Council's system of internal control to prevent and detect fraud was considered to be robust and operating effectively. There had been no proven fraud cases during 2025/26.

Discussion ensued on what checks the Council carried out when renting out properties to companies to ensure they were legitimate and not being used as false sites for illegal purposes.

The Executive Director of Corporate Services now had responsibility for the majority of lettings within the Council other than Council housing. She would ascertain what checks were undertaken around legitimacy of a company of a company/individual tenant.

It was noted that it was the first time that all the information had been pulled together into one document for Audit Committee Members. Any potential fraud should be reported to the Head of Internal Audit or Executive Director of Corporate Services so they were aware of any potential issues that may arise during Council business.

Resolved:- (1) That the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy be approved.

(2) That the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy be received and noted.

(3) That the current fraud risks and the ongoing actions taken to strengthen the Council's fraud and corruption arrangements be noted.

44. 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 May to 31st July, 2026, and the key issues that had arisen.

The plan attached as part of the report showed the position up to the end of July 2026, the progress of the 2026/27 audit plan, the reports finalised between May and July 2026 and Performance Indicators for the Team.

Internal Audit provided an opinion on the control environment for all systems or services which were subject to audit review. The report detailed the audit opinions and a summary of all audit work concluded in the last quarter. 14 audits had been finalised since the last Audit Committee.

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 CIPFA's external review had advised Internal Audit to work with senior managers and the Audit Committee to update the performance measures. The audit standards stated that there should be a comprehensive set of targets which encompassed all significant Internal Audit activities including obtaining stakeholder feedback.

Balanced scorecards were becoming an increasingly well established means for reporting quantitative and qualitative Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to audit committees. A review of the current KPIs had been undertaken, together with a review of guidance issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors, on performance measurement and those being reported in other local authorities. The proposed approach moving forward was documented in the report for discussion.

Discussion ensued on Appendix G and the investigations that had taken place by Internal Audit with further work still to be undertaken.

It was also noted that moving forward consideration was to be given as to the logging of audits that were delayed due to untimely management responses.

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken since the last Audit Committee, 1st May to 31st July, 2026, and the key issues arising therefrom 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).

45. POLICY, STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT RISK MANAGEMENT REGISTER

Consideration was given to the report presented by Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence, which provided details of the current position of the Policy, Strategy and Engagement (PSE) Risk Register and risk management activity following the change to the arrangements and functions of the Directorate.

The PSE Directorate was established in January 2026 to play a central role in how the Council shaped its strategic direction by driving insight-led improvement and communication with residents, partners and Elected Members. In the formation, Human Resources and Organisational Development and Change was transferred to Corporate Services leaving 4 Services areas i.e. Policy, Performance and Intelligence, Democratic Services, Communications and Marketing and Neighbourhoods. The Complaints Team had also transferred from PSE to Corporate Services in June.

Following the appointment of a permanent Director and changes to the Directorate's structure and responsibilities, a full review and refresh of the PSE Directorate Risk Register had been undertaken with the revised register to be reported to the March 2027 meeting of the Audit Committee.

As part of its annual cycle, the Corporate Services Directorate Risk Register was due to be considered by the Committee in January 2027.

There were 11 risks on the PSE Directorate Risk Register, 4 of which were reflected in the Corporate Strategic Risk Register.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Policy, Strategy and Engagement Directorate, as detailed in the report submitted, be noted.

(2) That, following the appointment of a permanent Director and changes to the Directorate's structure and responsibilities, a full review and refresh of the Policy, Strategy and Engagement Directorate Risk Register be undertaken with the revised register submitted to the March 2027 meeting of the Audit Committee.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A))

46. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee for November 2026 to September 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, with the inclusion of the Policy, Scrutiny and Engagement Risk Register in March, 2027, be approved.

47. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral.

48. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to be considered.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
2nd September, 2026

Present:-

Councillor Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health (in the Chair)
Jude Archer	Rotherham Place NHS SYICB (substituting for Claire Smith)
Kevin Bradley	Chief Inspector, South Yorkshire Police
Gilly Brenner	Public Health Consultant (representing Director of Public Health)
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Councillor Cusworth	Cabinet Member, Children and Young People's Services
Kym Gleeson	Manager, Healthwatch Rotherham
Ray Hennessey	Deputy Director of Strategy, RDaSH
Shafiq Hussain	Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Rotherham
Jason Page	Medical Director NHS SYICB
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Presenters:-

Denise Cornwall	Health Protection Principal
Oscar Holden	Health and Wellbeing Board Support Officer
Katy Lewis	Carers Strategy Manager
Joanne Martin	Programme Lead for Transformation and Delivery SYICB
Amelia Thorp	Public Health Specialist

Also present:

Jamie Ashton	Director of Business Development, Citizens Advice Rotherham and District
Councillor Ismail	Rotherham MBC (Observer)
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor

Apologies for absence were received from John Edwards, Chief Executive (RMBC); Andrew Bramidge (RMBC); Emily Parry-Harries (RMBC); Nicola Ennis and Alicia Sansome (South Yorkshire CYP Alliance); Dan Wilson (Rotherham United Community Trust); Claire Smith (SYICB) and Jo McDonough (RDaSH).

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

16. 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.

17. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to report.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th June 2026.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th June, 2026, be approved as a true record.

19. HEALTH PROTECTION ASSURANCE REPORT

Denise Cornwall, Health Protection Principal, presented the Health Protection assurance report which provided a summary of the assurance functions of the Council's Health Protection Committee together with performance.

The Board considered the following PowerPoint presentation:-

Health Protection Committee Role

- Provided assurance that arrangements were in place to protect population health
- Multi-agency partnership involving the Council, NHS, UKHSA and other partners
- Oversaw prevention, surveillance, preparedness and response to health threats
- Reported directly to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Key Health Protection Activity 2025/26

- Infectious disease surveillance and outbreak management
- Legionella outbreak investigation
- Support for complex tuberculosis cases
- Infection prevention and control support to care homes and learning disability settings
- Ongoing management of incidents in schools, Early Years and residential care settings

Screening Programme Highlights

- Antenatal and newborn screening meet all key Performance Indicators
- Breast screening uptake improved to 75.5%
- Bowel screening uptake remained above national achievable standard (>60%)
- Continued focus on improving cervical screening uptake particularly ages 25-49

- Strong focus on reducing inequalities and improving access for people with learning disabilities and severe mental illness.

Immunisation and Vaccination Highlights
- Childhood vaccination coverage remained above efficiency standards.
- Continued improvement in MMR uptake.
- RSV vaccination programme successfully embedded.
- Increased flu vaccine uptake across most eligible groups.
- Adolescent vaccination programmes continued to recover post-pandemic.

Healthcare Associated Infections and TB
- Healthcare Associated Infections
  Significant reduction in C.difficile cases
  MRSA remained low (5 community cases)
  Ongoing antimicrobial stewardship programme
  Continued focus on reducing gram-negative bloodstream infections
- Tuberculosis
  Rotherham remained a low-incidence area
  Cases often involved complex social and health needs
  Enhanced case management and targeted screening continued

Emergency Planning and Environmental Health
- Emergency Preparedness
  Refreshed incident management arrangements implemented
  Participation in national pandemic Exercise PEGASUS
  Effective response to severe weather and flooding incidents
- Environmental Health
  10,763 service requests managed
  841 food hygiene inspections completed
  140 housing enforcement notices issued
  89 infectious disease investigations undertaken

Priorities for 2026/27
- Strengthen infectious disease surveillance
- Increase screening uptake and reduce inequalities
- Improve vaccination coverage
- Reduce healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance
- Strengthen TB prevention and control
- Enhance IPC support n care settings
- Maintain emergency preparedness and resilience
- Protect health through Environmental Health Services
- Continue Health Protection Committee development and assurance

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Comparing outbreak data to previous years was not possible as 2025/26 was the first time the data had been collated in this way. However there was no great difference in the figures.

- The Service was working closely with the housing provider to address the Legionella cases. Work continued to treat the system and a deadline of the end of September 2026 had been set, by which point, a long term action plan was expected to be in place. It was confirmed that residents in the building were being protected.
- The auditing of Learning Disability settings was a positive step. It was confirmed that each setting was looked at individually to reduce impact on the residents.

Resolved:- (1) That the content and key achievements of the 2025/26 annual report be noted.

(2) That the delivery of the 2026/27 priorities be supported.

20. NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH

Jo Martin, Programme Lead, Transformation and Delivery, presented an update on the Neighbourhood Working Programme

Significant progress had been made in moving from ambition and programme development towards implementation. A multi-agency Healthy Neighbourhoods Steering Group had been established, providing a mechanism for partners to collectively develop the Programme, with strategic oversight through the Rotherham Place Board.

Rotherham had also invested in a dedicated Place Team to provide the capacity required to support transformation and delivery across the partnership. The Team would work across organisational boundaries, supporting co-ordination, integration and delivery of Healthy Neighbourhoods alongside the wider Place priorities.

The following PowerPoint presentation was given:-

Healthy Neighbourhoods Rotherham – From Ambition to Delivery
Our approach to delivering more preventative, integrated and joined-up care around Rotherham's communities

Why Neighbourhood Health

- From – Service organised around organisations
  People navigating multiple services
  Fragmented support
  Responding when needs escalate
- To – services working together around people and communities
  Earlier, proactive support
  More joined-up care
  Better use of community strengths
  Care closer to home

Our Rotherham Approach – supporting people across the whole journey, from staying well to living with complex needs

- Prevention – helping people stay well
- Rising Risk – identifying need earlier
- Complex Need – Joined-up support when needs were the greatest

Four neighbourhoods agreed for Rotherham

- A common footprint for partners to work around
- Built around whole electoral Wards and population need
- Designed to support sustainable integrated neighbourhood teams
- Balanced population need and inequalities across the 4 neighbourhoods
- Recognised existing service relationships whilst enabling wider partnership working
- The geography enabled neighbourhood working – it did not determine how every service must be delivered

Putting the foundations into place

- Established system leadership
- Agreed our delivery footprint
- Developed our approach
- Agreed year 1 priority
- Invested in delivery capacity
- Moving into delivery

Year 1 Roadmap – Design, Test, Learn and Scale

- Design – develop the Strategy
- Test – test neighbourhood delivery
- Learn – learn and improve
- Scale – prepare for Year 2 implementation

What will success look like

- Stay well for longer – more focus on prevention for healthy communities
- Get help earlier – support before needs escalate to crisis
- Experienced joined-up care – less fragmentation between organisations
- Remain independent – supporting people to live well in their own homes and communities
- Receive care closer to home – where it is safe and appropriate to do so
- Reduce inequalities – using insight to focus support where need was the greatest

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The challenge in bringing this Programme together was noted. The boundaries had been based on calculations and analysis but now needed to be tested.

- Concerns raised that children and young people were not a focus of this Programme. Board members asked that children's mental health and families be included.
- It was important to start on a small, focussed area (such as frailty) as there were no extra resources and just 3 members of staff responsible for delivery.
- Suggestion that the specific focus on frailty could be expanded past considering individuals to consider support for carers and that this wider focus would help to break the current systemic problems.
- Board members encouraged to continue to hold the team to account but be patient with progress and note that the Programme was in its first 12 months and may develop its focusses in the future.
- Important not to rush or overcomplicate the Programme in Year 1 and a robust evaluation would take place to ensure lessons were learnt.

Resolved:- (1) That the programme and the developing Year 1 approach be noted.

(2) That the continued development of Healthy Neighbourhoods as Rotherham's approach to more integrated, preventative care be supported.

(3) That Neighbourhood Working, prevention and earlier intervention across the Rotherham Partnership be championed.

(4) That the focus be maintained as to whether the work was improving outcomes, reducing health inequalities and making a difference for residents.

21. TOBACCO CONTROL UPDATE

Ameilia Thorp, Public Health Specialist, presented an update on the progress of the Tobacco Control Programme with the aid of the following PowerPoint presentation:-

Why prioritise tobacco control

- Smoking was the leading cause of preventable death and ill health in Rotherham and England
- Smoking rates in Rotherham continued to be higher than national rates (13.5% compared to 10.4%)
- Biggest contributor to health inequalities
- Rotherham had worse outcomes than England on some indicators used to monitor the impact of smoking on population health

Smoking Prevalence

Year	Rotherham	England
2014	19.4%	17.8%
2024	13.5%	10.4%

Smoking at Time of Delivery		
2014/15	18.4%	11.7%
2024/25	8.8%	6.1%

Quit for Good – April, 2025-March, 2026
- 1,754 people set a quit date
- 1,212 people successfully quit
- 6th highest successful quit rate out of 153 authorities in England (69%)
- Highest number of people setting a quit date resulting in the highest number of successful quits since 2016-17

Work Plan:
Strategy and Coordination
- Actions within the 'Strategy and Coordination' priority area have remained on track, with quarterly Tobacco Control Steering Group meetings continuing to bring partners together to oversee delivery of the Work Plan. Local data is also regularly updated, analysed and reported through appropriate channels to inform priority setting and the planning of tobacco control activity.

Community Stop Smoking Service
- Personalised quit plans
- In-person and virtual options
- Medications to support quitting
- Nicotine replacement therapy
- Support groups in community venues across the Borough
- Vape starter kits

Smoking in Pregnancy Service
- Highest successful quit rate recorded, 91% of people setting a quit date successfully stopping smoking
- Smoking prevalence in pregnancy had reduced over time
- Supporting people to quit increasingly required intensive, personalised and sustained interventions due to increased likelihood of complex needs
- Improved quit outcomes highlighted effective support for pregnant smokers with complex needs

Reducing variation
- Local enhanced service
  Expanded support into Primary Care
  Supported 388 people (2025-26)
- Strengthened referral pathways
  Very Brief Advice (VBA) training delivered to Tenancy Support Team
  Plans to expand this over the coming year into other housing and health services
- Cardio Vascular Disease workplace health checks
  Opportunity to reach manual workers

1,875 health checks completed since 2025

Enforcement

- Key achievements in 2025-26
  Permanent Trading Standards Manager now in post
  New reporting pathway established for schools to report vaping and underage sales concerns
- Progress had been challenging due to limited Trading Standards capacity creating risks to delivery of this priority
- Proposal developed to outline investment required to fully resource Trading Standards within RMBC
- Tackling illicit products support
  Reduced smoking and vaping uptake among children and young people
  Protection from unsafe and unregulated products
  Community safety and safeguarding
  Disruption of organised criminal activity

Stop the Start: Campaigns

- Continued membership of Breathe (Yorkshire and Humber Collaborative) and the South Yorkshire Tobacco Control Alliance
- Supported the delivery of 2 regional stop smoking campaigns
- Yorkshire and Humber campaign generated significant media coverage across local, regional and national broadcast, print and online outlets
- Coverage significant improved locally because of a local resident who shared his story

Stop the Start: Children and Young People

- In recent years concerns have shifted from youth smoking to increased levels of youth vaping
- The latest Rotherham School Survey reflected this:
  95% of students report never smoking
  78% of students report never vaping
- As a result, many actions previous included in this priority area had been transferred to the new Reducing Vaping Harms Action Plan to better address emerging challenges

Reducing Vaping Harms

- Establishment of the Reducing Vaping Harms Group
- Development of the Reducing Vaping Harms Action Plan
- Publication of the Vape (and Associated Products) Guidance for Schools
- Roll out of training off for schools that supports them to embed a “Vape-free approach”
- Progressed towards embedding a dedicated Children and Young People’s Stop Smoking and Vaping Advisor into the Community Stop Smoking Service
- Updated the Rotherham Position Paper on Vapes

The Chair stated that she was very proud of the progress made to date and wanted to place on record her thanks to all involved and also noted the efforts made by local schools.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- It was confirmed that the data was self-reported via surveys conducted on both an annual and a 3 year basis. It was noted that both sets of figures matched to assure their validity.
- The negative impact of vapes on children was discussed. It was noted that the Children and Young People's Partnership Board were focussing on this issue.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress made to date by partners to deliver actions within the Tobacco Control Work Plan be noted.

(2) That the progress made to date by partners to deliver actions with the Reducing Vaping Harms Action Plan be noted.

(3) That the updated Rotherham Position Paper on Vapes, developed in partnership with key stakeholders across the Borough, be approved.

22. THE BOROUGH THAT CARES ALL-AGE STRATEGY 2026-2031 AND CARER CONNECT UPDATE

Katy Lewis, Carers Strategy Manager, presented an update on progress during the first quarter of the Strategy's implementation.

The following presentation provided an overview of the launch of the Strategy and the co-design process undertaken with partner organisations to identify key actions as well as an update on the progress of Carers Connect, the new digital tool for carers funded by the Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF):-

Launch Event 9th June, 2026

- 84 attendees with 16 market place stalls hosted by partner organisations
- Target audience of colleagues in voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, Adult Social Care and frontline health professionals to champion the Strategy and Carer Connect

Care Connect Rotherham – Carer Connect and AI Assistant - Robin

- No need to fill in a form, search the web or wait for call centre staff
- Everyone's situation is unique so just ask your question your way
- Does not matter if there were spelling mistakes
- If it was not clear Robin will ask you a clarification question
- If knowing where you are caring for someone, advisor will ask for an area or postcode

- Responses were immediate
- Carers could pick up the conversation again at any point
- The advisors would also keep in contact

Keeping in touch with Carers
Scheduled messaging spanning 18 weeks from first communication

- South Yorkshire carers said they would benefit from this messaging and wanted it – they also had the ability to opt out
- Enabling and driving an ongoing conversation with carers
- Being able to proactively promote services e.g. Respite, local events, information etc.
- Promoting carer wellbeing
- Better understanding of what carers wanted from South Yorkshire services
- Ability to broadcast messages to carers as a one-off message in development
- Keep in touch with carers that do not use social media

Communication Plan

- Multi-channel communications campaign
- To raise awareness and encourage engagement
- Social media and newsletter
- Storytelling featuring a carer and an Elected Member
- Complemented by targeted media engagement including press releases for local media

Social Media

- Activity focused on increasing awareness and understanding of Carer Connect
- Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- Views – 30.6k
- Reach – 134k
- Link clicks – 135
- Comments and likes – 74

Newsletter

- Rotherham Roundup e-newsletter
- Reached over 10,000 subscribers
- Generated 31 clicks to Carer Connect webpage

Media Coverage

- Targeted media engagement secured The Star and Rotherham Advertiser
- Additional coverage secured through BBC Radio Sheffield

First Quarter 2026/27 Update
Internal Activity

- Improving advice, information and guidance to increase the AI Assistant's navigation ability
- Linking the CQC Improvement Action Planning with the Carers Strategy objectives

Partner Activity

- RDaSH improved carer identification processes and employee support
- TRFT improved carer identification and access to advice, information and guidance
- Family Action improved young carer identification, producing a toolkit for professionals

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The innovation was welcomed.
- It was confirmed that, whilst Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise were helping with the roll-out of Carers Connect, the take-up needed to be better and the Service was working on selling the benefits more.
- It was part of the ongoing media plan to include information on Carers Connect in the Ward Newsletters.

Resolved:- (1) That the actions taken to comment implementation of the Strategy and the launch of the digital tool, a key element to the multi-channel approach to advice, information and guidance for carers, be noted.

(2) That a further update on Carer Connect be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2027.

23. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

Oscar Holden, Health and Wellbeing Board Support Officer, presented the Board's Terms of Reference for its annual report to support the effective delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-30. The Terms of Reference had been updated following a review of governance arrangements and incorporated:-

- Amendments to Board membership
- Leadership arrangements
- Quorum requirements
- Review dates
- Supporting documentation

Membership had been refreshed to reflect current Partnership priorities. Key changes included:-

- Addition of a South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance representative
- Addition of a Citizens Advice Rotherham and District representative
- Removal of the Healthwatch representative
- Amendment of the Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust representative from Chief Executive to Director of Strategic Development
- Amendment of attendance arrangements relating to senior Council representation

Governance and operational working had been updated to reflect current arrangements including references to the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy, partnership reporting arrangements and Board responsibilities. The separate Memorandum of Understanding relating to Board Sponsors contained within the previous version had also been removed from the revised Terms of Reference document.

Changes to the leadership arrangements included the removal of the named Vice-Chair position held by the Rotherham Place Medical Director. During the meeting it was confirmed that Shafiq Hussain, Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Rotherham, had been confirmed as the new Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The previous quorum requirement for both a RMBC and Integrated Care Board representative to be present at a Board meeting had been replaced with the requirements for at least one RMBC representative to be present for the meeting to be quorate.

The Terms of Reference detailed:-

- The role of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Responsibilities
- Expectations of the Health and Wellbeing Board Member
- Membership
- Governance
- Quorum
- Meeting arrangements
- Engaging with the public and providers

The next review would be scheduled for September 2027.

Resolved: (1) That the amendments made to the Terms of Reference since the previous review be approved.

(2) That the implementation of the revised governance and membership arrangements be supported.

(3) That the next formal review of the Terms of Reference take place in September 2027.

24. ITEMS ESCALATED FROM THE PLACE BOARD

There were no items to discuss.

25. BETTER CARE FUND

It was noted that the Council and the NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board had jointly developed the Better Care Fund Call-Off Partnership Agreement and Work Order for 2026/27.

The Agreement reflected the requirements of the national Better Care Fund Framework, supported local health and care priorities and set out the governance, financial and commissioning arrangements required to deliver integrated Health and Social Care Services in Rotherham.

Resolved:- That the Better Care Fund (BCF) Call-Off Partnership/Work Order for 2026/27 be approved.

26. ROTHERHAM PLACE BOARD PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS

The minutes of the Rotherham Place Board Partnership Business meetings held on 20th May, 17th June and 15th July, 2026, were noted.

Health Hub Consultation

Gilly Brenner, Public Health Consultant, informed the Board that the Town Centre Health Hub Phase 2 consultation was now open and would run until 28 September 2026. She encouraged all to take part and confirmed that the Health and Wellbeing Support Officer would circulate further information on this matter after the meeting.

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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
25th August, 2026

Present:- Councillor Garnett (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester and Brent.

Mr. J. White, Applicant
"Other Person" 1
"Other Person" 2
Ms. R. Chico, Wickersley Parish Council
Mr. A. Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager

Ms. D. Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer
Ms. K. Etheridge, Solicitor
Mrs. D. Mitchell, Governance Advisor/Clerk

CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) BY JAXX IRISH BAR LTD FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF JAXX IRISH BAR SITUATED AT 236 BAWTRY ROAD, WICKERSLEY, ROTHERHAM, S66 1AA

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003) by Jaxx Irish Bar Ltd. for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of Jaxx Irish Bar, 236 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 1AA.

The applicant was seeking authorisation to allow the:-

Sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises on:
- Monday to Wednesday between 4.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.
- Thursday between 4.00 p.m. and 10.30 p.m.
- Friday between 2.30 p.m. and 11.30 p.m.
- Saturday between 12.00 Noon and 11.30 p.m.
- Sunday between 12.00 Noon and 9.30 p.m.

Provision of Recorded Music inside the premises on:
- Monday to Wednesday between 4.00 p.m. and 10.15 p.m.
- Thursday between 4.00 p.m. and 10.45 p.m.
- Friday between 2.30 p.m. and 11.45 p.m.
- Saturday between 12.00 Noon and 11.45 p.m.
- Sunday between 12.00 Noon and 9.45 p.m.

Provision of Live Music inside the premises on:
- Friday between 8.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.
- Saturday between 6.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m.

Provision of Late Night Refreshment for consumption on the premises on:

- Friday and Saturday between 11.00 p.m. and 11.30 p.m.
- Sunday before a Bank Holiday Monday between 11.00 p.m. and11.30 p.m.
- Where Christmas Eve and Boxing Day fell on Sunday to Thursday between 11.00 p.m. and 11.30 p.m.
- New Year's Eve between 11.00 p.m. and 12.15 a.m. on the following day

The application indicated that the premises would be open to the public between the same hours sought for the provision of recorded music.

Consultation on the application had been carried out in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council procedure. At the end of the consultation period 16 representations opposed to the grant of the application had been received together with a single representation in support. The representations received opposing the application included the Licensing Authority (in their role as a Responsible Authority), a local Ward Councillor, Wickersley Parish Council and 13 "Other Persons".

As the premises were located within Wickersley, the application fell under the scope of the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy and should be considered in accordance with this Policy along with the Council's overarching Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy. The Council's Cumulative Impact Policy stated that, upon receipt of relevant representations, applications seeking authorisation for the sale of alcohol at a premises located within the Wickersley CIZ would be refused as it would be inconsistent with the promotion of the licensing objectives to grant any further licences unless an applicant could show that their licensed premises would not increase the impact of such premises.

When considering the presumption against granting a licence in the Wickersley Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ), the Sub-Committee must be satisfied that the application would not impact any further on the cumulative impact of existing licensed premises.

Ms. Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, introduced the application highlighting:-

- The person named in the application as the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) was Ms. Leona Edwards, one of the named Directors of the applicant company. Ms. Edwards had yet to make an application for a Personal Licence
- The premises would operate as a micro bar providing the sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises together with the provision of light refreshments and snacks. The premises would offer a relaxed and welcoming environment for customers wishing to enjoy craft beers, wines, spirts and other alcoholic beverages

- The internal layout comprised of a main customer seating and drinking area with a bar and service counter located within the main trading space. Seating would be provided throughout the premises with ancillary storage, cellar/storage facilities and staff welfare areas located to the rear of the premises. The layout had been designed to ensure clear supervision of all customer areas by staff at all times
- The premises was currently occupied by Greggs and operated as such for a period exceeding 10 years. Based on the available information, the existing use was considered to likely fall within Use Class E (Commercial, Business and Service). Any proposal to change the use of the premises to a micro bar involving the sale of alcohol, whether for consumption on or off the premises, would constitute a material change of use. Such a use would fall within a sui generis category i.e. a use that did not fall within any defined class such as the proposed use
- A change of use from Class E to a sui generis use required planning permission and any change between different sui generis uses would also require planning permission and must be obtained prior to the commencement of the proposed use of the premises as a bar

The objections of the Licensing Authority were based on 2 of the licensing objectives i.e.:-

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance

and raised the following concerns:-

- The premises was situated within the Wickersley CIZ; it was the view that the applicant had failed to:-
  - satisfactorily address noise generated from the premises as a result of the proposed activities;
  - the premises would operate primarily as a drinking establishment and include vertical drinking. Vertical drinking was associated with higher levels of alcohol consumption and drunkenness
  - the external area set aside for the consumption of alcohol would generate noise that would impact upon nearby residential properties
  - the location and nature of the premises was such that the measures outlined by the applicant within the Operating Schedule to mitigate the above, would not prevent the activities at the premises from increasing the impact of such premises in the area
- The noise generated as a result of proposed activities on the sight would undermine the prevention of public nuisance
- In order to prevent the consumption of alcohol on the outside area, it would necessitate the plan to be amended and not include the area. This would then prevent any type of licensable activity taking place

Councillor T. Collingham had submitted his apologies for the meeting. His objections stood and were based on 3 of the licensing objectives i.e.

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance
- Public safety

and raised the following concerns:-

- The premises were within the Wickersley CIZ where the Council had concluded that the concentration of licensed premises had reached a level where granting further licences would be inconsistent with the promotion of licensing objectives
- There were 19 licensed premises located within a 350m radius significantly exceeding both the Borough and wider area averages
- The Council's assessment concluded that the centre lacked the infrastructure necessary to support a large and sustained night time economy and that the current concentration of licensed premises was already having a negative impact on nearby residential properties
- The premises plan showed a stage area for live performances and outdoor seating directly onto Bawtry Road. These type of activities were identified within the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) as contributing to public nuisance and disturbance particularly noise from live music, outdoor drinking areas and customers dispersing late into the evening
- Wickersley village centre was surrounded by established residential properties many occupied by older residents who chose to live in what was historically a village centre rather than an entertainment destination
- The CIA identified that applications may be viewed more favourably where premises operated principally within the daytime economy and outside peak hours of disruption; this application was focused on alcohol sales and entertainment during the evening and late night periods

The objections of Wickersley Parish Council were based on 2 of the licensing objectives i.e.:-

- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance

and raised the following concerns:-

- Cumulative impact of a further bar in Wickersley
- Potential for noise nuisance and general disturbance for other users of the Tanyard
- Consideration be given to the removal of the outside area from the application and the addition of the need for door persons to ensure that no drinks left the premises

- If the application was to be granted there should be strict conditions including a maximum number of people, a limitation of hours to those stipulated in the application and a requirement that customers were not permitted to take alcoholic drinks outside of the premises at any time with the requirement of door persons to enforce

The objections of the "Other Persons" were based on all 4 of the licensing objectives i.e.

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Public safety
- Protection of children from harm

and raised the following concerns:-

- The site was within the Wickersley CIZ
- There were already a large number of drinking establishments in Wickersley and there was no unmet demand
- Residents of Wickersley already experienced anti-social behaviour from existing establishments such as loud music, sporadic minor vandalism, glasses discarded in the street and vomit on pavements
- There were residential flats above the application site which could only lead to disturbance and disruption to those residents
- The Tanyard area was heavily trafficked by pupils from Wickersley School
- Currently all the licensed premises in the centre of Wickersley which were not restaurant based were situated on the north side of Bawtry Road; the south side was retail or professional with the only exception of W situated on the other side of the roundabout
- Any encroachment of the retail area should be resisted if Wickersley was to remain as a retail hub
- The location of the proposed bar, immediately next to a healthcare practice and close to areas heavily used by school pupils and families, made the application unsuitable
- The bar would be next door to an audiology clinic which required a controlled and quiet acoustic environment to undertake audiology assessments
- Customers entering/leaving the bar, smoking outside, gathering near benches, using taxis and moving between nearby premises could increase noise, litter, obstruction and disturbance particularly in the afternoon, evening and weekends
- The introduction of a bar directly next door to a health centre risked changing the character of the immediate area and creating an environment that was less suitable for patients many of whom were elderly and children with learning disabilities
- Whilst the area was not formally designated as a School Superzone, children and young people should not be unnecessarily exposed to increased alcohol availability, alcohol advertising, intoxicated adults,

smoking, disorder or unsafe public spaces on their routes to and from school or in places where they regularly gathered
- The Tanyard was not a suitable location for a bar
- It was a very small unit and would be crowded and noisy with the number of occupants quoted
- There was no unmet need for a micro bar with several establishments close by
- The applicant claimed that it was a unique concept but had no brewery lined up
- Granting the application within a CIZ would set a precedent

There had been one letter of support for the application which stated:-

- Wickersley was lacking a live music venue
- Micro bars were traditionally friendly venues and very rarely caused problems for residents as they closed before midnight
- A small bar offered an alternative for those wanting a quiet drink
- It would be a great business to support local independent artists

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

- Ms. Edwards, named in the application as the Designated Premises Supervisor, had not applied for a Personal Licence as yet due to the impending birth of her baby. Ms. Edwards had a background in hospitality
- The applicant and his partner lived in Wickersley and understood the concerns, however, they were trying to bring a completely fresh idea to the village. Local residents were asking for live music and an opportunity to showcase local talent
- Consideration had been given to the other shops on the Tanyard and to opening times in terms of the other bars/restaurants on the other side of Bawtry Road which were open later than the proposed opening hours for Jaxx Bar
- The takeaway further up from the premises was open until 01.00 a.m. with customers coming from the other side of the road to get food and congregating outside the area
- The premises would be fully sound proofed to minimise noise as much as possible. The doors would be closed at all times and live music would only be in the evening when the other businesses had closed for the day. Recorded music would be at a minimal background level. The applicant was agreeable for a condition to be added to any licence granted with regard to the bar's doors being closed at all times music was being played
- No alcohol would be consumed in the outside area; it was for smoking/vaping. The applicant was agreeable to a condition being added to any licence granted that no food or drink, whether alcoholic or non-alcoholic, was allowed on the outside area

- There would be 2 qualified door supervisors working on Fridays and Saturdays from 6.00 p.m. The applicant agreed to that being added as a condition to any licence granted
- The bar would hold a maximum of 35 people with 3/4 members of staff plus the 2 door supervisors. Staff would be trained by a third party training company
- Acknowledgement that there would be certain days of the year e.g. St. Patrick's Day where a TENS application would be submitted, however, usually it was celebrated on the weekend closest to the actual date
- It was the plan to initially close the bar on Mondays and Tuesdays whilst the business was established. Deliveries/deep cleaning would take place on those days
- Consideration still had to be given as to the supplier of alcohol/drinks
- The applicant would be agreeable to a condition regarding children off site by 9.00 p.m. to any licence granted
- The venue would not be open during school hours i.e. when children went to Greggs at lunchtime
- The premise's ideal avatar was local Wickersley residents who used to be regulars on the pub scene but no longer went out because they did not want to be part of that anymore. They would be the target audience for the events planned

The Sub-Committee considered the application for the grant of the Premises Licence and the representations made specifically in the light of the following Licensing objectives (as defined in the 2003 Act):-

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

Resolved:- That the application for the grant of a Premises Licence (made in accordance with Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003), in respect of Jaxx Irish Bar, 236 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 1AA, as now submitted, be refused.

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LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
14th September, 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ball, Brent and Jones.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

11. 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).

12. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to three applications for the grant/renewal of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. V.K., S.N. and G.A.

Mr. S.N. was in attendance at the hearing.

Mr. G.A. was in attendance at the hearing together with his wife.

Mr. V.K. was unable to attend and had requested that his application be deferred.

Resolved:- (1) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. V.K. be deferred to a future meeting.

(2) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence for Mr. S.N. be refused.

(3) That the application for the renewal of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence for Mr. G.A. be refused.

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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
15th September, 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Brent and Jones.

Also present:-

Mr. Muhammad Fawad Mansoor, Senior Operations Manager
Mr. David Rittenburg, Nominated Designated Premises Supervisor

Councillor Yasseen, Ward Member
"Other Person" 19
"Other Person" 2
"Other Person" 4
3 Local Residents

Mrs. Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer
Mr. Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager
Ms. Katie Etheridge, Legal Advisor
Mrs. Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor
Mrs. Claire Liversidge (Observer)

LICENSING ACT 2003 - LICENCE - CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION, AS AMENDED, (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) BY HOTELS AND RESORTS LTD FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF PREMISES KNOWN AS THE CARLTON PARK HOTEL SITUATED AT 102-104 MOORGATE, ROTHERHAM. S60 2BG

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003) by Hotels and Resorts Ltd. for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of premises known as the Carlton Park Hotel, 102-104 Moorgate Road, Rotherham S60 2BG.

The application, as amended, was seeking authorisation to allow:-

- Sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises and the provision of live music and recorded music (indoors) on every day of the week between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 Midnight

- Provision of late night refreshment (indoors) on every day of the week between 11.00 p.m. and 12.00 Midnight

- Extend permitted hours by an additional one hour i.e. from 12.00 Midnight to 01.00 a.m. on the day following:-

- The Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the Easter, Spring, Whitsun and August Bank Holiday weekends
- Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day

- Extend permitted hours on New Year's Eve to the start of permitted hours on New Year's Day (24 hour opening)

Consultation on the application had been carried out in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council procedure and, at the end of the consultation period, representations opposed to the grant of the application had been received from one Responsible Authority and 37 "Other Persons", one of whom was the local Ward Councillor.

Mrs. Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, introduced the application highlighting:-

- The representations received had been forwarded to the applicant company. The application had been amended and a series of management control conditions offered which would be added to the licence if it was approved
- During the conciliation process the application had been amended and the requested hours reduced and the request to allow the performance of plays and dance and indoor sports removed. However, conciliation had failed to result in the withdrawal of any of the representations
- The premises plan, attached at Appendix 3, only included the building itself. The consumption of alcohol was not a licensable activity so an applicant may have an area where customers could buy a drink and go outside to consume it

The objections of the local Ward Councillor and "Other Persons" were based on all 4 of the Licensing objectives i.e.

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm
- Public safety

and raised the following concerns:-

- Repeated and well documented concerns/complaints regarding the anti-social behaviour/disorder/community safety in the Boston Castle Ward
- The hotel was close to a high school, further education college, a nursery and an Infant School
- Although not currently designated as a School Superzone, the area had many of the characteristics to justify consideration of such an approach which recognised that children's health, safety and wellbeing were affected by the wider environment around educational

settings including exposure to alcohol, tobacco and drugs, poor air quality, unhealthy commercial influences and community safety risks

- The application sought permission for a wide range of activities including amplified live and recorded music, private parties, cultural events, weddings and other functions
- The Council decision to use the former Carlton Park Hotel under its homelessness accommodation arrangements had significantly changed the character of the hotel and neighbouring streets
- Documented and continuing pattern of street drinking, drug activity, anti-social and theft behaviour in the area alongside a persistent sense among residents, particularly women, that the area was unsafe
- The venue was not large enough for big scale events
- The application sought extensive alcohol sale hours; the availability of alcohol over those extended periods, combined with outdoor drinking, amplified entertainment and large functions, created an identifiable risk of intoxicated customers leaving/congregating near existing street drinking locations and school/college routes
- The extensive proposed hours created additional concerns regarding crowd management, intoxication, vehicle movement and the safe dispersal of customers
- The application did not provide a meaningful maximum capacity stating only that attendance would be fewer than 5,000 people. Given the number of bars, wedding halls and function spaces shown on the premises plan, the absence of clear capacity limits for individual rooms and for the premises as a whole made it difficult to assess the likely impact on public safety, crowd management, security, parking and dispersal
- The application proposed alcohol service in outdoor patio and garden areas. Outdoor drinking was likely to increase noise, smoking, litter, congregation and disturbance, particularly during evenings, summer months and private functions. These areas did not appear to be clearly identified or labelled on the submitted premises plan
- Proposed alcohol sales from 08:00 a.m. every day which overlapped with the arrival period for nearby schools, college and other education provision
- Insufficient detail as to when SIA security staff would be employed
- Potential for the premises to become a 1,000+ capacity nightclub, festival patio and late night takeaway business in the middle of a school run and quiet residential neighbourhood
- The amended application did not mitigate the severe negative impacts the venue would have on the licensing objectives of public safety and the prevention of public nuisance
- The introduction of ANPR controlled parking did nothing to reduce the physical volume of traffic arriving at the site. Moorgate Road was a critical thoroughfare for emergency blue-light vehicles accessing Rotherham General Hospital
- An ANPR system did not prevent taxis, drop-offs and patrons from blocking the main road

- There were already several licensed premises in the Moorgate area
- The premises would need to be well managed for the community to feel happy about its re-opening
- There had been a number of Asian weddings held at the hotel recently. There had been a couple of issues with the number of speeding cars and the setting off of fireworks
- The local community wanted a good hotel which supported tourism and businesses coming to Rotherham as it used to be
- The majority of the problems had been in the grounds of the hotel
- The honouring of room bookings made by the Council had seriously undermined the reputation of the hotel and company

The objections of the Licensing Authority were based on all 4 of the licensing objectives i.e.:-

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm
- Public safety

And raised the following concerns:-

- The operating schedule lacked detail with regard to the steps that the application would take to promote the licensing objectives i.e.
  - Reference to trained staff and professional management but no further details as to the nature of this had been provided
  - No details of how the need of SIA security personnel would be assessed
  - No detail on how safe occupancy levels would be calculated
  - It was not clear how customers would be dispersed quietly
  - No details with regard to what forms of ID would meet the “accepted ID” requirement

- Residential properties in the immediate vicinity would be affected by noise generated by the premises. No detail had been provided with regard to the steps that would be taken to minimise the impact of licensable activity on those premises
- The hotel was currently used to temporarily accommodate homeless individuals. The applicant had not taken into consideration the vulnerable nature of these people nor the potential impact that the sale of alcohol within the hotel was likely to have. The Licensing Authority was concerned that this activity would increase the already significant levels of crime and disorder within the area and the applicant had not provided sufficient information of the steps that would be taken to prevent this
- Although the application had been amended in response to concerns raised, there was still no reference to the control of noise and the impact of that generated by the premises would have on local residents

- The Licensing Authority had spoken with the Environmental Health Team which had provided a number of conditions it felt would address some of the issues raised that could be added to any licence granted
- Despite the amendments, the concerns with regard to the unique nature of the hotel and the residents within it still gave the Licensing Authority concerns that had not been addressed
- The Police had stated that between 29th March, 2026-7th July, 2026, they had received 21 requests for Police assistance at the Carlton Park Hotel address, 7 of which were connected to Public Disorder or Domestic Violence and 6 regarding concerns for personal safety or a "confused person". A nearby hotel had made 5 calls over the same period of time

Mr. Muhammad Fawad Mansoor, Senior Operations Manager, and Mr. David Rittenberg, nominated Designated Premises Supervisor, were in attendance and provided the following information/response to the issues raised:-

- The property had been abandoned from 2020-2023 when his company had taken over the property. It had been operating as a hotel since 2023.
- Renovations had gradually taken place and they were now in a position to open the bar and restaurant and hopefully progress to opening the leisure facilities to customers and members of the public
- The proposed opening hours had been amended and now fell in line with a nearby establishment
- There would be one manager for the whole building
- It was the intention to employ local people and all would be trained to the standard expected of a licenced premise. Mr. Rittenberg, nominated Designated Premises Supervisor, had a long history in the licensing trade and would have full control of the premises
- Mr. Mansoor had not discussed the application with South Yorkshire Police, Environmental Health or the community
- Mr. Mansoor offered to hold monthly meetings at the hotel so members of the community could see what the plans were for the building as well as his personal contact details should there be any issues in the future
- Carlton Park was a hotel and was open online for bookings
- When anti-social behaviour complaints had been received, the company had informed the Council they would no longer accept single occupants. The Council now only placed families at the hotel, however, as of 15th September, the hotel did not have any placements from the Council
- What happened outside of the hotel was beyond the hotel's control
- Once the hotel was fully open the Council would look for alternative accommodation
- The company did not have nor had ever had a contract with the Council for placement of homeless people

- Event Hall 1 would hold between 100-150 people. It was not anticipated that on any given day that all 3 Event Halls and the bar would be full. If they were, there would be the necessary staff members and security personnel in place
- The outside drinking area would not be available after 9.00 p.m.

Mrs. Kraus clarified that South Yorkshire Police were consulted on every licence application submitted and invited to submit comments if they wished to do so.

The Sub-Committee considered the application for the grant of a Premises Licence and the representations made specifically in the light of the following licensing objectives (as defined in the 2003 Act):-

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm
- Public safety

Resolved:- (1) That the application for the grant of a Premises Licence (made in accordance with Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003), in respect of the premises known as the Carlton Park Hotel, 102-104 Moorgate Road, Rotherham S60 2BG, as now submitted, be approved subject to the following conditions:-

(a) That the plan of the premises be amended to include the outside drinking area (the patio next to the bar) within the licensable area.

(b) That no drinks to be served or consumed in the outdoor drinking area after 10.00 p.m.

(c) That the application be amended to remove the application for off-premises sales.

(d) A Challenge 25 Policy shall be operated. This Policy shall require any person who appears to be under the age of 25 to provide ID prior to being served alcohol. Acceptable forms of ID are:-

(i) a passport
(ii) a UK photo driving licence or
(iii) a military ID card

(e) All challenges made under the Challenge 25 Policy shall be logged in a bound book. This log must show:

(i) date the challenge was made
(ii) member of staff who made the challenge
(iii) if allowed, the type of ID accepted and
(iv) if refused, whether fake ID was seized

(f) Signs shall be displayed inside the premises that advertise that the premises operates “Challenge 25”.

(g) A bound incident book shall be maintained in which the following shall be recorded:-

(i) all incidents of crime and disorder occurring at the premises and
(ii) details of when the Police are called.

(h) The Challenge 25 log and the incident book shall be kept on the premises. Such records shall be retained for a minimum of 12 months and shall be available for inspection upon request by the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.

(i) The DPS, or their nominated deputy, shall check the Challenge 25 log and the incident book at least once a week and sign and date each check.

(j) The CCTV system installed at the premises shall:

(i) be maintained fully operational at all times
(ii) make and retain clear images and
(iii) show an accurate date and time that the images were made.

Note: CCTV images shall be retained for a period of not less than 30 days.

(k) CCTV images shall immediately be available for review upon request of the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority and, if requested, a copy of a CCTV image provided within 24 hours.

(l) A member of staff who is trained on the operation of CCTV system and able to review CCTV images if requested, shall be on duty at all times.

(m) The CCTV footage will be controlled and kept in a secure environment to prevent tampering or unauthorised viewing. A record will be kept of who has access to the system and, if accessed, the reason why.

(n) There shall be a zero drug tolerance policy in operation at the premises which shall include the requirement that regular checks are carried out by management to prevent the use of drugs by patrons and that such checks are recorded. A copy of the premises’ drugs policy, and associated records, shall be kept at the premises and made available to the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority upon request.

(o) The use of door supervisors at the premises shall be risk assessed on an event-by-event basis. A written record of all risk assessments be kept at the premises site for 6 months and made available to the Police or an Officer of the Licensing Authority upon request. SIA registered door supervisors shall be employed at large weddings, significant sporting events and other events expected to attract substantial attendance.

(p) A risk assessment on the use of plastic/polycarbonate drinking vessels shall be undertaken for large weddings, significant sporting events and other events expected to attract substantial attendance. Where identified in this assessment as necessary, plastic/polycarbonate drinking vessels shall be used at the wedding/event.

(q) The premises shall operate in accordance with the "ask Angela scheme" and notices to this effect shall be displayed.

(r) That prominent notices shall be displayed at all exits within external areas of the premises requesting customers to "respect local residents and leave the premises quietly".

(s) No adult entertainment or services shall be provided at the premises.

(t) Children shall be supervised by a responsible adult at all times within the licensed area of the hotel.

(u) The premises' car park shall be controlled through an ANPR camera parking management system.

(v) After a large wedding, significant sporting event or other events, that had a substantial number of attendees, staff will carry out a perimeter inspection of the hotel grounds, car parks and areas immediately surrounding the premises and any litter associated with the operation of the premises will be collected and properly disposed of.

(w) The DPS, or their deputy, shall routinely attend meetings of any Pubwatch that operates in the area.

(x) A record of each member of staff who is authorised to sell alcohol shall be kept on the premises. This record shall include the staff member's full name, address and date of birth.

(y) All staff shall receive training on induction and annually thereafter on:

(i) operation of the 'Challenge 25' Policy including types of acceptable ID and fake ID and the method of recording challenges
(ii) refusing sales of alcohol to persons who appear to be drunk
(iii) preventing proxy sales
(iv) incident recording and when to call the Police
(v) operation of the "ask Angela" Scheme
(vi) the premise's drugs policy

(vii) safeguarding children and vulnerable adults including how to report and action any concerns they may have

(z) Staff training shall be recorded, records shall be kept of the premises and shall, on request, be made available for inspection by the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.

(aa) That the Premises Licence Holder, or a responsible person nominated by them in writing, shall make themselves available for monthly meetings with the local community to discuss any concerns that may arise from the operation of the premises and shall supply contact details to facilitate this.

(ab) That the holder of the premises licence shall ensure that noise caused by persons using, arriving at or departing from the premises, does not cause nuisance or unreasonable disturbance to occupiers of nearby residential properties.

(ac) That a Noise Management Plan (NMP) for the hotel shall be submitted to the Licensing Authority for written agreement. Thereafter it is to be implemented for weddings, private functions and other significant events. The Plan shall include arrangements for demonstrating compliance with the licensing objectives and with the conditions attached to the licence. This includes, but is not limited to, key personnel involved in the management of events, procedures for the monitoring of noise arising from the events, and the handling of complaints from local residents. Once agreed, the NMP shall be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

(ad) The Premises Licence Holder, or a responsible person nominated by them in writing, shall actively monitor and manage the car park serving the hotel during weddings, private functions and other significant events to prevent nuisance arising from noise or anti-social behaviour. Such behaviour may include, but is not limited to, excessive engine revving, wheel-spinning, sounding of vehicle horns and the playing of amplified music from vehicles.

(ae) That the Premises Licence Holder, or a responsible person nominated by them in writing, shall receive and respond to complaints throughout the duration of licensable activities. A written record of complaints received, and action taken, shall be maintained and made available to the Licensing Authority upon request.

(af) That no music or amplified sound shall be relayed through external speakers without the prior written consent of the Licensing Authority.

2. The proposed operating hours for the sale of alcohol, for consumption on the premises and the provision of live and recorded music (indoors) contained in the application are amended to:-

Sunday to Thursday between 10.00 a.m. to 23.00 p.m.
Friday and Saturday between 10.00 a.m. to 23.30 p.m.

(3) That no fireworks, firecrackers or pyrotechnics of any kind shall be used on the premises after 10.00 p.m. No fireworks shall be used at the premises outside of this time without prior written consent of the Licensing Authority.

LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
Monday 12 October 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Bower, Clarke, T. Collingham and Garnett.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors .

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Clarke declared a personal interest in the case of Mr. V.K. She lived in the same area as the applicant but did not know him personally.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

15. 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 two applications for the grant/renewal of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. V.K. and K.W.

Mr. V.K. was in attendance.

Mr. K.W. was in attendance together with an interpreter.

Resolved:- (1) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. V.K. be approved.

(2) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. K.W. be deferred until the 7th December meeting.

16. DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION PERMITS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, concerning the following application for the grant of a promoter's permit to carry out house-to-house collections:-

Organisation	Area	Date
Bramley and	Bramley,	December, 2026

Wickersley Lions Club	Wickersley, Ravenfield, Flanderwell, Sunnyside and Woodlaithes	

Resolved:- That, in accordance with the provisions of the House to House Collections Act 1939, the application be approved.

FIELD_SUMMARY

(a) FIELD_ITEM_NUMBER

(b) FIELD_ITEM_NUMBER

PLANNING BOARD
27th August, 2026

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Brent, Clarke, Currie, Fisher, Hussain, Jackson, Reynolds, Tarmey, Taylor and Thorp.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Duncan, Elliott and Lelliott.

Officers also in attendance were:-

Mrs. L. Brooks, Development Manager
Mr. S. Evans, Planning Solicitor
Mr. S. Gammons, Senior Manager, Transportation and Highways
Mrs. A. Kemp, Governance Advisor
Mrs. E. Ottewell, Head of Planning and Building Control
Mrs. S. Whitby, Head of Service - Access to Education

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

30. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

31. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Thorp declared a personal interest in Application RB2026/0716 (Erection of a two-storey side and rear extension, single-storey rear extension, increase in roof height to create rooms in the roof space with dormer windows to the rear, porch to the front and erection of a garden room to the rear at 5 Spinneyfield, Moorgate), having held prior discussions with parties both in support of and in objection to the application. He left the room whilst the item was discussed and did not observe the vote.

Councillor Fisher declared a personal interest in Application RB2026/0716 (Erection of a two-storey side and rear extension, single-storey rear extension, increase in roof height to create rooms in the roof space with dormer windows to the rear, porch to the front and erection of a garden room to the rear at 5 Spinneyfield, Moorgate), having undertaken a site visit and spoken with the occupier/property owner.

33. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6TH AUGUST 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 6th August 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

34. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS (INFORMATION ATTACHED)

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

35. 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:-

- Application to vary/remove conditions 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20 (highway related) imposed by RB2022/1076 and amended by Section 96a permission RB2024/0784 - Continuation of outline application with all matters reserved except for the means of access for a new community comprising residential (up to 3890 units), commercial development (including office, live/work, retail, financial and professional services, restaurants, snack bars and cafes, drinking establishments, hot-food takeaways, entertainment and leisure uses and a hotel) and open space (including parkland and public realm, sport and recreation facilities) together with 2 primary schools, health, cultural and community facilities, public transport routes, footpaths, cycleways and bridleways, landscaping, waste facilities and all related infrastructure (including roads, car and cycle parking, gas or biofuel combined heat and power generation plant and equipment, gas facilities, water supply, electricity, district heating, telecommunications, foul and surface water drainage systems and lighting with variation of Condition 28 imposed by RB2017/0743 to update the approved Surface Water Strategy at Waverley New Community off Highfield Spring Waverley for Harworth Estates (Waverley Prince) Ltd (RB2026/0633)

  Ms. J. Beckett (on behalf of the applicant)
  Councillor. J. Baggaley (Objector)
  Ms. R. Graham (Objector)

- Erection of a two storey side & rear extension, single storey rear extension, increase in roof height to create rooms in roof space with dormer windows to rear, porch to front & erection of garden room to rear at 5 Spinneyfield Moorgate (RB2026/0716)

Ms. N. Shaukat (Applicant)
Mr. R. Webster (Objector)
Mr. J. Gamble (Objector)
Mr. P. Barrell (Objector)

(2) That applications RB2026/0633 and RB2026/0716 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted reports.

36. UPDATES

As an update, the Chair referred to the online governance meeting held earlier this week for all Council Members regarding the new Planning Board structure. The Chair thanked those Members who had attended and encouraged anyone who was unable to participate to watch the recording, given the significance of the proposed changes. Members were advised that the revised arrangements would be subject to a vote when the matter is presented to Full Council.

The Chair highlighted that a number of changes within the Planning Department would come into effect from 31st October 2026 and noted that the briefing had provided valuable context and understanding of the proposed new arrangements. It was agreed that the presentation slides from the meeting would be circulated to Members for information.

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PLANNING BOARD
17th September, 2026

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Brent, Duncan, Elliott, Lelliott, Reynolds, Tarmey and Thorp.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Currie, Fisher, Hussain, Jackson and Taylor.

Officers also in attendance were:-

Mrs. L. Brooks, Development Manager
Mr. S. Evans, Planning Solicitor
Mr. S. Gammons, Senior Manager, Transportation and Highways
Mr. R. Morrell, Development Manager
Mrs. E. Ottewell, Head of Planning and Building Control
Mrs. D. Pons, Governance Advisor
Mr. C. Wilkins, Development Manager (Enforcement)

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

37. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

38. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lelliott declared a prejudicial interest in application RB2026/0697 (Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extensions, two storey front extension, single storey side and rear extension, installation of solar panels to main pitched and flat roofs to rear, decking area to rear with steps, rendering of external walls and formation of additional highway access with new boundary wall, railing and gates at 17 Stafford Drive, Moorgate for Mrs. S. Hussain) on the grounds of previously been on the Panel for a Stage 3 Complaint relating to neighbouring properties.

Councillor Thorp declared a personal and prejudicial interest in application RB2026/0697 (Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extensions, two storey front extension, single storey side and rear extension, installation of solar panels to main pitched and flat roofs to rear, decking area to rear with steps, rendering of external walls and

formation of additional highway access with new boundary wall, railing and gates at 17 Stafford Drive, Moorgate for Mrs. S. Hussain) on the grounds of objecting formally to this planning application.

40. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27 AUGUST, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 27th August, 2026 be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

41. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

42. 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:-

- Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extensions, two storey front extension, single storey side & rear extension, installation of solar panels to main pitched and flat roofs to rear, decking area to rear with steps, rendering of external walls and formation of additional highway access with new boundary wall, railing & gates at 17 Stafford Drive Moorgate for Mrs. S. Hussain (RB2026/0697)

  Ms. S. Hussain (Applicant)
  Mr. N. Hussain (Supporter)
  Mr. M. J. Khan (Supporter)
  Mr. A. Ramzan (Supporter)
  Councillor Thorp (Objector)
  Mr. Z. Azam (Objector)
  Dr. N. Rao (Objector)
  Mr. B. Everett (Objector)
  Local resident (Objector)

  Statements were also read out on behalf of:-

  Mr. A. Rashid (Supporter)
  Mr. A. Rafiq (Supporter)
  Local resident (Objector)
  Local resident (Objector)

- Change of use of land from agricultural holding to small animal rescue facility (Sui Generis) at land at Kingswood Avenue Laughton-en-le Morthen for Mr. and Mrs. Pagowski (RB2026/0709)

  Ms. B. Alderton-Sambrook (on behalf of the Applicant)
  Mr. K. Downing (Objector)

  A statement was read out on behalf of Ms. S. Hiley (Objector)

(2) That applications RB2026/0064 and RB2026/0709 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That in relation to application RB2026/0697:-

(a) Permission be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(b) Authorisation be given, in conjunction with the Director of the Planning Service, to the serving of an Enforcement Notice under Section 172 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, on the owner/occupier of, and anyone else having a financial interest in, the land at 17 Stafford Drive, Moorgate, Rotherham, S60 8DQ, requiring the reduction of the projection of the two storey front extension to that approved under RB2026/0697, with a compliance period of six months from when any enforcement notice served comes into effect. Prosecution also be authorised should the appropriate steps not be carried out within the specified time period.

(Councillor Lelliott declared a prejudicial interest in application RB2026/0697 (Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extensions, two storey front extension, single storey side and rear extension, installation of solar panels to main pitched and flat roofs to rear, decking area to rear with steps, rendering of external walls and formation of additional highway access with new boundary wall, railing and gates at 17 Stafford Drive, Moorgate for Mrs. S. Hussain) on the grounds of previously been on the Panel for a Stage 3 Complaint relating to neighbouring properties). She left the room prior to the application being presented and did not observe the debate or the vote.

(Councillor Thorp declared a personal and prejudicial interest in application RB2026/0697 (Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extensions, two storey front extension, single storey side and rear extension, installation of solar panels to main pitched and flat roofs to rear, decking area to rear with steps, rendering of external walls and formation of additional highway access with new boundary wall, railing and gates at 17 Stafford Drive, Moorgate for Mrs. S. Hussain) on the grounds of objecting formally to this planning application). He left the

room for the presentation of this application only to return to speak at his designated point, before leaving again. He did not observe the debate or the vote.

43. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

PLANNING BOARD
8th October, 2026

Present:- Councillor Jackson (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Ahmed, Brent, Currie, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Hussain, Lelliott, Reynolds, Tarmey, Taylor and Thorp.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mault.

Officers also in attendance were:-

Mrs. L. Brooks, Development Manager
Mr. S. Evans, Planning Solicitor
Mr. S. Gammons, Senior Manager, Transportation and Highways
Mr. R. Morrell, Development Manager
Mrs. E. Ottewell, Head of Planning and Building Control
Mrs. D. Pons, Governance Advisor
Mr. C. Wilkins, Development Manager (Enforcement)

The webcast of the Planning Meeting can be viewed at:-
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44. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

45. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

47. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 17th September, 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

48. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

49. 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:-

- Partial change of use of leisure centre (Use Class F2 (c)) to mixed use for leisure and retail use (Use Classes F2 and E), single storey extension to existing building with associated external alterations and installation of roof mounted solar photovoltaic panels at Harthill Sports Centre, Woodall Lane, Harthill for Harthill with Woodall Parish Council (RB2026/0557)

  Ms. B. Barker (on behalf of the Applicant)

  A statement was read out on behalf of Ms. L. Ellam (Objector)

- Demolition of existing and erection of new Mosque at 158 Broom Lane, Broom for Mr. H. Patel (RB2026/0856)

  Mr. H. Patel (Applicant)
  Councillor Bower (Supporter)
  Mr. M. Hussain (Supporter)
  Dr. S. Arshad (Supporter)
  Mr. M. Kash (Supporter)
  Mrs. K. Chapman (Objector)
  Mr. R. Chapman (Objector)
  Mr. M. Khan (Objector)

  Statements were also read out on behalf of:-

  Mr. K. Lambert (Supporter)
  Mr. G. Khan (Supporter)
  Mr. F. Hussain (Supporter)
  Ms. L. Taylor (Objector)

(2) That application RB2026/0557 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 RB2026/0856 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:-

(a) An amendment to Condition No. 5 to confirm red brick materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the development.

(b) An additional condition relating to external lighting and for any proposals to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval.

(c) Further discussion to take place between the Head of Planning and Building Control and the Chair and Vice-Chair as to whether the requirements of Martyn's Law (the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025) were applicable to these premises and for an appropriate condition to be agreed for inclusion if required.

50. UPDATES

Further to Minute No. 21 of the meeting of the Planning Board held on 16th July, 2026 an update was provided on the latest position with the application by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd. for an order granting development consent for the Whitestone Solar Farm.

The Rule 6 letter had now been formally issued by the Planning Inspectorate and invitations now sent to registered Interested Parties, statutory parties and others to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss the examination process and timetable from week commencing 9th November, 2026. Interested parties must have already registered to attend in person and observe proceedings and the deadline to register was Tuesday, 27th October, 2026.

The Preliminary Hearing was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 10th November, 2026 commencing at 10.00 a.m. at New York Stadium with an open floor session. Further sessions for Issue Specific Hearings would follow the same week. A livestream of the sessions would be made available.

It was requested that all Members be informed of the detail via email due to the tight timescales involved.

Resolved:- (1) That the update be received and the contents noted.

(2) That the detail relating to the Rule 6 letter and proceedings be forwarded via email to all Elected Members.

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STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
10th September, 2026

Present:- Councillor Clarke (in the Chair); Councillors Brent, Currie, Brent, Currie, Harper and McKiernan, along with Parish Councillors Griffin and Senior and Mrs. A. Bingham and Mrs. K. Penney (Independent Members).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. Collingham and Hall.

Also in attendance were:-

Mr. S. Fletcher, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Mr. P. Beavers, Independent Person
Mr. D. Roper-Newman (Independent Person).

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13. 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. 17 and 18 (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.

14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH JUNE, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th June, 2026 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

With regards to Minute No. 5 (Civility and Respect Pledge) and the second resolution, this had not yet been undertaken, but the Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed he would be sending a further reminder to Town and Parish Councils on the benefits to encourage them to sign up to the Pledge shortly.

15. STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS REGIME

The Deputy Monitoring Officer provided a verbal update on the latest position on proposed reforms to the Standards regime. Members were advised that the most recent update, reported in the Municipal Journal last week, indicated that Whitehall officials were continuing to explore options to strengthen the Standards Framework despite the absence of a primary legislative vehicle.

While proposed Standards reforms were not included in any specific legislation announced in the King's Speech earlier this year, the Government remained committed to wider system reform. Proposed measures included the introduction of powers to suspend Councillors for misconduct and the ability to withhold allowances where standards of behaviour fell below the required level.

Members were informed that senior Whitehall officials were considering alternative routes to progress the reforms and were continuing to engage with the Local Government sector to develop policy proposals. The intention was for the reforms to be ready for introduction when Parliamentary time allowed.

Local authorities remained keen to see the introduction of a more robust and enforceable Standards regime.

Resolved:- That the update be received and the content noted.

16. REPORT OF THE DEBATE NOT HATE WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, which outlined the work undertaken by the Standards and Ethics Committee Working Group following completion of the Local Government Association's Debate Not Hate self-assessment toolkit.

The Working Group had been established in the previous year and had held a number of meetings between November 2025 and July 2026. During this period, evidence was gathered from a range of internal and external stakeholders to assess the Council's arrangements against the five principles of the Debate Not Hate framework.

The Working Group agreed to consider each of the self-assessment toolkit’s five principles in turn which were:-

- Creating supportive and informed spaces.
- Creating a risk-led approach.
- Creating an infrastructure.
- Creating connections.
- Creating a culture of safety and respect.

The Working Group used the toolkit questions to structure discussion and evidence gathering.

Members were advised that the Working Group had reviewed the Council's arrangements against the Debate Not Hate principles and found that comprehensive systems and support mechanisms were already in place. However, opportunities had been identified to improve awareness, visibility and accessibility of the support available to Members.

The Group considered the range of wellbeing and support services available, including health and safety arrangements, Member resources and support initiatives. It was concluded that these could be brought together more effectively through improved signposting, communications and the development of a dedicated Member Wellbeing Guide and Hub.

In relation to personal safety, the Group reviewed the Council's approach to supporting Members who experienced abuse, harassment or intimidation. Strong arrangements were in place, including referral pathways and support from the Police where appropriate. However, the Group identified opportunities for refresher training, greater awareness of social media risks and more consistent recording of incidents.

The Group also considered reporting and escalation arrangements and found that clear reporting routes and support mechanisms were available. It was felt that further promotion of these processes and a review of guidance could help ensure Members were fully aware of how to access support when required.

Partnership working with the Police and other relevant organisations was also reviewed. Effective liaison and information sharing arrangements were found to be in place. However, it was recognised that some incidents, while distressing for Members, did not meet the threshold for enforcement action or prosecution. The Group, therefore, considered that there was value in strengthening feedback mechanisms and continuing to work closely with partners, particularly the Police, while also supporting wider lobbying efforts to address abuse and intimidation in public life.

The Group concluded that the Council already had a strong culture of safety and respect, supported by previous cross-party commitments and clear democratic leadership. However, it was considered that further communication and awareness-raising activity would help reinforce expectations around respectful engagement and acceptable standards of behaviour.

Members were reminded that the work was not intended to prevent criticism or robust democratic debate, which remained essential parts of public life, but to ensure that abuse, harassment and intimidation were not accepted as part of public service and that appropriate support was available to those affected.

The Committee was asked to endorse the findings of the Working Group and the recommendations set out in the report. It was noted that additional detailed issues identified by the Group would be presented at a future meeting by way of an action plan. An implementation update report would be brought back to the Committee within twelve months to monitor progress against the action plan. Continued engagement with the Police, particularly in relation to potential criminal offences committed online, would also be taken forward as part of the programme of work.

Members welcomed the report and emphasised the importance of continuing to report incidents and gather robust evidence to support improvements in the protection of Councillors.

The Chair wished to place on record her thanks to the Working Group and their efforts were acknowledged, with a view that the review had identified a generally sound framework, although some refinements may be beneficial. It was also agreed that ongoing monitoring of incident numbers and emerging trends would be important for the Committee's oversight role.

Concerns were raised about the impact of abuse, intimidation and harassment directed at some Councillors. Members stressed the importance of ensuring Elected Members felt safe and supported and noted that legislative changes may be required to strengthen protections and drive further improvement.

The Committee discussed reports that, while some incidents did not meet the threshold for formal action, they nevertheless remained concerning and could have a negative impact on those affected. It was recognised that behaviour falling below the threshold for criminal or regulatory intervention could still damage relationships and discourage participation in public life.

Members were advised that a number of incidents had been referred to the Police and relevant social media platforms. However, it was noted that obtaining action from some social media platforms could be challenging. Although some content had been removed where it breached platform rules, concerns remained about the consistency of responses.

The need for greater clarity around the criteria used by both Police and social media platforms when assessing abusive or threatening content was discussed. Members felt that a better understanding of these thresholds could help Councillors recognise what should be reported and what action may realistically be expected.

Members also highlighted the importance of supporting those who were targeted by abuse and of reinforcing the message that such behaviour was unacceptable. Particular concerns were expressed regarding anonymous and fake online accounts, which could make it difficult to identify perpetrators and pursue further action. It was suggested that increased awareness, education and communication around reporting processes and available support would be beneficial.

Members discussed the importance of following established reporting procedures when experiencing abuse, harassment or concerning communications. It was noted that inappropriate social media content should be reported through the relevant platforms, while concerning emails or other direct communications should be referred through the appropriate Council channels so that advice and support could be

provided. The importance of not responding personally and allowing appropriate officers to manage such matters was stressed.

The Committee acknowledged that abuse directed at Councillors, particularly through social media, remained an ongoing concern and noted that women in public life could be disproportionately affected and expressed support for stronger legislation and protections for Elected Members and local authority staff.

The Committee shared the view that online abuse should not be taken personally.

The value of training was highlighted throughout the discussion and reference made to training on communication skills, respectful engagement and conflict management, suggesting that such learning opportunities could also be extended to Parish Councillors. It was agreed that promoting respectful communication and supporting one another were important aspects of maintaining a positive culture.

The Committee discussed standards and behaviour within Parish Councils, noting that many complaints arose from conduct issues at meetings. Members heard that a significant proportion of local Councils had signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge with Rotherham more than exceeding the national average. There remained ambition to increase participation further. It was recognised that strong leadership and effective chairing could play an important role in promoting respectful behaviour and reducing complaints.

The Committee also discussed arrangements for recording and monitoring incidents involving threats, violence or personal attacks. It was confirmed that systems were already in place to record and manage such concerns confidentially, although there may be opportunities to improve awareness and understanding of these arrangements.

Overall, the discussion emphasised the importance of reporting concerns appropriately, promoting respectful conduct, continuing training and awareness activities and strengthening protections for Councillors and staff.

Reference was made to whether a database existed that recorded incidents/addresses of concern and the Clerk advised the Committee that such a report on the same subject relating to the violence and aggression database was to be presented to the next meeting of the Member and Democratic Panel. Details of the discussion would be fed back into the next meeting of this Committee with a further update on the reporting routes and how information was captured and linked across systems.

Discussion also took place regarding the distinction between criminal, civil and anti-social behaviour matters and at what point concerns such as false information, persistent complaints or inappropriate behaviour

became matters for Council enforcement action, anti-social behaviour processes or Police involvement.

It was pointed out that the Working Group's focus had been on criminal activity and Police-related processes. It was recognised, however, that there may be value in considering the civil and enforcement aspects further, particularly where behaviour fell below the criminal threshold, but continued to cause concern.

The Committee noted that, in some cases, it could be difficult to identify individuals responsible for online activity, limiting the options available for further action. Current arrangements were, therefore, largely focused on securing the removal of inappropriate content through social media platforms and addressing any potential criminal offences through the appropriate authorities. It was agreed that the wider civil and enforcement perspective would be explored further.

The importance of maintaining accurate records, including dates, times and supporting evidence, was emphasised throughout the discussion.

The Committee referred back to the uptake of the Civility and Respect Pledge amongst Parish Councils. It was observed that some Councils experiencing few or no conduct issues had not signed up to the pledge, while others with a history of complaints had done so.

The Committee expressed an interest in understanding whether there was any relationship between complaint levels and participation in the Pledge and were advised that Parish Council data was already included within oversight arrangements, but no analysis had yet been undertaken to identify any correlation between complaints and Pledge sign-up rates. It was agreed that this would be explored further with the Parish Liaison Officer, with trend data and findings to be reported back to a future meeting.

The Committee concluded that the matters discussed required ongoing attention and monitoring and should not be left without further action, but welcomed the activity and ongoing support to date.

Resolved:- (1) That the work undertaken by the Working Group be received and noted and the findings be endorsed regarding the comprehensiveness of the Council’s existing arrangements.

(2) That the recommendation of the Working Group that a Member Wellbeing Guide and portal be developed be approved.

(3) That the recommendation of the Working Group that a Debate not Hate Communications and Engagement Plan be developed be approved.

(4) That the content of the Action Plan for further improvements at Appendix 1 be approved.

(5) That a report as to progress in respect of the Action Plan be brought back to the Standards and Ethics Committee within twelve months.

(6) That information be provided to a future meeting following consideration by the Member and Democratic Panel of the Violence and Aggression Register.

17. 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. From the cases there were no particular trends just one-off issues.

Unfortunately, due to staff absence updates were pending, but any particular concerns would be taken back.

Members discussed the distinction between grievance procedures and whistleblowing arrangements, questioning whether employees fully understood the difference between the two processes and when each should be used. It was noted that whistleblowing procedures should be reserved for reporting genuine concerns in the public interest rather than matters that could be addressed through management channels or personal reporting routes.

The importance of promoting awareness of the Whistleblowing Policy was highlighted, with a suggestion that additional training or communications could be delivered internally to improve understanding of the process, the protections available to individuals who raised concerns and the appropriate use of the procedure.

Concerns were also raised about the length of time taken to resolve some cases, particularly those that have remained open since 2024.

The Committee was advised that any safeguarding concerns were reviewed and addressed promptly through regular oversight arrangements. However, many cases related to employment matters, where investigations could be complex and take a considerable period to conclude.

Feedback regarding investigation timescales would be taken forward for consideration.

Clarification was also sought regarding the continued inclusion of older cases within committee reports and it was confirmed that the reporting process was cumulative, with cases remaining in the report until they were closed and subsequently removed once they fell outside the reporting period.

A suggestion was made that an analysis of whistleblowing cases be undertaken to identify how many represented genuine whistleblowing concerns. The findings could then be used to inform future training, awareness-raising activities and improvements to the reporting process. This proposal was welcomed and would be considered further.

Resolved:- That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters be noted.

18. 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.

Discussion ensued on the findings relating to standards of behaviour, noting that a significant proportion of complaints related to conduct issues and concerns about the culture of some meetings. It was recognised that repeated instances of poor behaviour and a lack of civility could contribute to wider tensions, including interactions outside formal meetings.

Members were advised that work was ongoing to promote the Civility and Respect Pledge and to encourage participation in relevant training opportunities.

Particular concerns were raised regarding standards issues within Parish Councils where it was observed that complaints often stemmed from interpersonal disputes and longstanding local disagreements. It was suggested that a greater emphasis on early intervention, mediation and direct engagement with those involved may help address underlying issues and reduce the number of formal complaints.

The Committee also considered whether stronger local accountability and support arrangements could encourage more effective resolution of concerns before they escalated.

It was noted that the Borough Council had a statutory responsibility to maintain standards arrangements and provide a mechanism for complaints to be submitted. Whilst local resolution was encouraged

wherever possible, this was not always achievable in practice, but there was consensus that promoting positive culture, cohesion and effective working relationships remained key to reducing complaints and improving governance outcomes.

Potential future actions included further engagement through existing Parish Council networks, consideration of peer-support initiatives and exploring opportunities to share best practice and learning across the sector.

The Committee was advised that a more detailed update would be provided at a future meeting and apologies were offered for delays in progressing some actions due to staff absence.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

19. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Committee's consideration.

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