Council

Wednesday 9 September 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:- **1 September 2026**

COUNCIL

Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 2.00 p.m.

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (John Edwards)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

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

ASTON AND TODWICK

ALLEN, Sarah A.
BACON, Joshua

AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST

ROBINSON, Lyndsay
TAYLOR, Robert P.

BOSTON CASTLE

ALAM, Saghir (OBE)
HUSSAIN, Ashiq
YASSEEN, Taiba K.

BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD

DUNCAN, Elizabeth J.
REYNOLDS, Gregory

BRINSWORTH

CARTER, Adam J.
CARTER, Charlotte R.

DALTON AND THRYBERGH

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

DINNINGTON

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

GREASBROUGH

BERESFORD, Linda J.
ELLIOTT, Robert W.

HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST

BALL, Simon A.
STABLES, Lynda J.

HOOBER

BRENT, Rajmund E.
LELLIOTT, Denise
WILLIAMS, John

KEPPEL

CURRIE, Simon
GARNETT, Gillian.S
HARRISON, Tony

KILNHURST AND SWINTON (EAST)

CUSWORTH, Victoria
HARPER, Nigel

MALTBY EAST

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

RAWMARSH EAST

HUGHES, Rachel E.M.
SHEPPARD, David

RAWMARSH WEST

BAKER-ROGERS, Joanna
STEELE, Brian

ROTHER VALE

ADAIR, Terry
BAGGALEY, Jamie

ROTHERHAM EAST

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

ROTHERHAM WEST

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

SITWELL

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

SWINTON ROCKINGHAM

MONK, Gina
READ, Chris

THURCROFT & WICKERSLEY

COLLINGHAM, Zachary A.
COLLINGHAM, Thomas R.

WALES

BECK, Dominic E.
HAVARD, Marnie A.

WATH

COWEN, Sheila A.
JACKSON, David R.

WICKERSLEY NORTH

KNIGHT, Stuart
MARSHALL, Lynda
MAULT, James J.

Council Meeting
Agenda

Time and Date:-
Wednesday 9 September 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 - 63)

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 15th July 2026 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Leader of the Council's Statement

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

8. Petitions (Pages 65 - 71)

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.

9. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26 (Pages 73 - 90)

To receive the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Annual Report 2025-26.

10. Audit Committee Annual Report 2025-26 (Pages 91 - 111)

To receive the Audit Committee Annual Report 2025-26.

11. Planning Reform and Required Procedural Amendments (Pages 113 - 125)

To approve the required changes associated with the introduction of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025.

12. Thriving Neighbourhoods - Updates from Ward Councillors for Kilnhurst and Swinton East (Pages 127 - 128)

To receive updates from ward councillors from Kilnhurst and Swinton East on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

13. Thriving Neighbourhoods - Updates from Ward Councillors for Maltby East (Pages 129 - 130)

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

14. Notice of Motion - We deserve our fair share of speeding fine revenue to help make our roads safer (Pages 131 - 132)

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

15. Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting (Pages 133 - 159)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 6 July 2026.

16. Audit Committee (Pages 161 - 170)

To note receipt of the Audit Committee minutes.

17. Licensing Board and Licensing Committee (Pages 171 - 200)

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

18. Planning Board (Pages 201 - 210)

To note receipt of the Planning Board minutes.

19. Members' Questions to Designated Spokespersons

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

20. Members' Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairpersons

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

21. Urgent Items

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.



John Edwards
Chief Executive.

The next meeting of the Council will be on
4 November 2026 at 2.00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING
15th July, 2026

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

Officers in attendance:

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

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

26. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor asked Members to join him in a minute's silence for former Mayor and Councillor Gerald Smith, who had served on the Council from 1979-2016, following his recent passing.

The Mayor highlighted the silver salver that was on the dais which had been presented to him and the Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Garnett, by the Royal Yorkshire Regiment in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment.

Members joined the Mayor in a round of applause for the three Rotherham recipients of honours as part of the King's Birthday Honours list. They were:

- MBE - Lucille WINDLE, Executive Headteacher, Abbey School. For services to Education.
- MBE – David DALTON, former Chief Executive Officer, British Glass. For services to the glass industry.
- BEM - Frederick LEWIS, Volunteer Appropriate Adult, South Yorkshire Police. For services to Vulnerable People in Custody.

The Mayor also extended an open invitation to all Councillors to join him in his Parlour at the Town Hall in order to ensure every Elected Member felt welcome and valued. He also highlighted some of the events he had attended since the last meeting. A full list of Mayoral Engagements was set out in Appendix A to the Mayor's Letter.

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adair, Ball, Beck, Cowen, Harper, Hussain, Jackson and Knight.

28. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 15th and 20th May, 2026.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th and 20th May, 2026 be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover: Councillor Read Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

29. PETITIONS

There were no petitions to consider.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were three Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Clarke declared a personal interest in Minute No. 38 (Notice of Motion – Protecting Children, Supporting Honest Businesses and Cracking Down on Illicit Vapes, Tobacco and Underage Sales) as she worked alongside Trading Standards Officers. She remained in the Chamber and voted on the item.

Councillor Bacon declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 40 (Notice of Motion – Stop Polluting our Rivers and Hiking Our Bills) as he was employed by Yorkshire Water. He left the Chamber for this item and did not participate in the debate or vote.

Councillor A. Carter declared a personal interest in Minute No. 42 (Notice of Motion – Protecting Rotherham Residents' NHS and Council Data – Rejecting Reliance on Palantir) as he was a member of the British Medical Association. He remained in the Chamber and voted on the item.

31. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were six public questions:

1. Allen Cowles: Leader, in answer to my supplementary question, you said you lobbied the Government to assist in holding to account those who knew about CSE. However, there were individuals here, identified by Jay, who attended a seminar who knew what had been taking

place. Why did this Council take no action to hold to account those individuals?

The Leader explained that, as Mr. Cowles was a Councillor at the time, he would have been aware that there was never an option within the remit of the Council to take action against individual Councillors. The Council was under Government intervention and acted within the directions that were put in place by the Government. The Labour Party had taken action and held its own investigation which resulted in potential candidates being barred from standing in elections.

In his supplementary, Mr. Cowles referenced the internal investigation carried out by the Council which had cost around £450k of taxpayers' money. He stated that the investigation was carried out by a company who produced a report that, in his opinion and that of others, was inconsequential and worthless. Issues had been raised that remained unanswered, had never been followed up and for which no one had been held accountable. Mr Cowles stated that some Members had been rewarded with new jobs and promotions. He asked if the Leader agreed that the investigation was a waste of taxpayers' money and that the Council should demand its money back.

The Leader did not agree. He stated that it was right for an investigation to take place and to ask serious questions off the back of those reports about the failings that had occurred. The reports were commissioned from various reputable sources, and the independent adjudication had to be accepted. The Leader shared the frustration that some of the questions were not answered but he did feel that the Council had done everything it could and put all of the information it had into the public domain. That information was still available on the Council's website. The Leader also confirmed that criminal investigations were still ongoing and he wanted people to suffer the consequences of their actions. He encouraged anyone with any new information to report it accordingly.

2. Pat Garnett: As a resident of Wellgate House for 11 years, I have repeatedly raised concerns about the Council car park and worsening anti-social behaviour, including late-night gatherings, noise, shouting and street parties. What action will the Council now take, including enforcement, CCTV, improved lighting, gating or restricted access, and what clear timescale will be given for finally resolving these longstanding problems?

   Councillor Alam firstly stated that he was sorry to hear about the ongoing difficulties. He confirmed that work to address the concerns raised had taken place with joint visits to properties in the area with South Yorkshire Police, targeted monitoring by the Council's Out of Hours Service, engagement with Wellgate House regarding CCTV coverage and how this could be used to support investigations and

regular communication with both residents and the building's management company.

Where the legal threshold was met, the Council would take appropriate enforcement action and residents could assist this process by continuing to report incidents. Councillor Alam was of the understanding that the situation had improved slightly but appreciated there were still ongoing issues.

In his supplementary, Mr. Garnett stated that this had been ongoing for years and not much had changed. Officers had only met with residents after the Ward Councillor repeatedly escalated concerns. The situation was so serious that the district nurse had twice refused to attend for night visits due to feeling unsafe. Mr. Garnett asked if the Council and Police would commit to a written action plan with agreed timescales and a meeting including the Ward Councillor.

Councillor Alam agreed to facilitate a further conversation between the Community Safety Team and Mr. Garnett to discuss these matters.

3. Steve Metcalfe: As a resident of Lilian Street, Wellgate House I am concerned about speeding vehicles and obstructive parking, which endanger residents, particularly disabled people, and can prevent emergency vehicle access. Will the Council undertake a traffic and highways assessment, introduce appropriate traffic-calming measures, and review parking restrictions to keep the street safe and accessible?

   Councillor Williams thanked Mr. Metcalfe for raising the concerns and confirmed that the Council took matters of road safety and traffic management very seriously and recognised the importance of ensuring that local roads remained safe and accessible for all users, including emergency services. The Council received a high volume of requests for highway improvements and road safety measures from communities across the Borough, and so it did need to assess requests like these alongside other priorities, as well as looking at what funding was available for the different types of requests.

   Councillor Williams confirmed that an officer from the Transportation Team would visit the site so that the concerns raised could be recorded and considered as part of future programmes.

   In his supplementary, Mr. Metcalfe stated that residents had repeatedly raised concerns connected to road safety. He stated that older residents were afraid to go outside, fearing they may get hit by vehicles. He asked if Councillor Williams would ensure Highways and relevant Council Officers would attend a joint meeting with residents and Ward Councillors to agree a written road safety plan, including action on the car park beside Wellgate House.

Councillor Williams confirmed that he would ensure an officer made an assessment of the issues raised. He also confirmed that the Head of Transportation Service was happy to discuss the issues directly. Councillor Williams also encouraged the Ward Councillors to include the matter in their Ward Road Safety Plans.

4. Mohammed Ashraf: Could you clarify what specific safeguards ensure "Debate Not Hate" campaign's reporting mechanism, and zero-tolerance approach to abuse and Police protocols are not misused by Councillors or officers to target political opponents, the powerless public and their families, and how it will distinguish between unfairly labelled “abuse and intimidation”, and genuine complaints?

   The Leader explained that the Motion related to “Debate Not Hate” to be discussed later in the meeting did not establish any new procedures but instead set out a set of expectation on behalf of the Council. He confirmed that all were in favour of healthy democratic debate, differences of opinion and discussions but this could be easily distinguished from a programme of abuse and intimidation. The Leader referenced the “powerless public” section of Mr. Ashraf’s question and stated that many Elected Members felt powerless as well due to their addresses and workplaces being publicly available in some instances and due to details of their families being available on social media. The aim of the Motion was to establish a more respectful dialogue and ensure democracy could continue without violence or intimidation.

   In his supplementary, Mr. Ashraf stated that both main parties had predicted significant victories for Reform UK against each other in recent weeks. He also stated that Officers were being moved from Ward to Ward in order to prevent Councillors having undue influence or blurred relationships with them and that serious questions relating to human rights or child sexual exploitation lead to equivocation with a smile. Mr. Ashraf asked how the public could question the accuracy of the Council’s policies or speak out against dishonesty or hypocrisy without it being labelled abuse or intimidation.

   The Leader stated that he did not recognise the descriptions put forward by Mr. Ashraf. He stated that Councillors were held accountable in a variety of different ways and healthy political debate between political groups was democracy in action. The Leader also stated that he believed standards of behaviour in Rotherham were good and most Members adhered to good standards of personal behaviour.

5. Dima Alshami: Rotherham NHS Trust Board records public and staff concerns about Palantir’s human rights record, including enabling genocide in Gaza and supporting ICE surveillance, while the BMA warns its use could destroy patient trust. As FOI requests ask whether unions were consulted, can the Council (Health and Wellbeing Board)

confirm whether local staff representatives were consulted and what safeguards protect patients?

Councillor Baker-Rogers explained that it was not within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board to be involved or comment on the procurement activities of any other partner or organisation. Questions on that subject should be directed to the Trust.

In her supplementary, Ms. Alshami asked, given the Council's health and wellbeing responsibilities, would it use its influence to demand the Trust published its union consultation and risk assessments before proceeding any further.

Councillor Baker-Rogers stated again that that was not the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the question should be directed to the Trust.

6. Hafsa Yusufi: With Yorkshire Water's CEO receiving a further £660,000 payment on top of salary, bills rising 41% by 2030 (5.6% this April), and pollution incidents up 72% to 200 last year, what steps is this Council taking to hold Yorkshire Water accountable to Rotherham residents?

   Councillor Marshall explained that the Council routinely met with Yorkshire Water at various levels, including senior and executive levels and challenged them on various issues. The Council had, for example, challenged the company in recent months about their response to burst water mains in Maltby. However, responsibility for regulating Yorkshire Water's Environmental Performance sat with the Environment Agency and Ofwat rather than local authorities. Executive Pay was generally determined by the Company's Board and shareholders.

   Councillor Marshall also stated that she was pleased that the Labour Government had toughened up the rules to prevent bonuses being paid to water company bosses when their companies failed to maintain basic standards. However, she was concerned to hear that the Yorkshire Water CEO seemed to have found a way around those rules by receiving a payment from the parent company.

   In her supplementary, Ms. Yusufi stated that the Council always seemed to answer with what they could not do, rather than what they could do. She asked if the Council would consider bringing a Motion to nationalise water companies.

   Councillor Marshall stated that it would be easy if they had the power to do that but unfortunately the Council did not have the power to nationalise water companies. There was a Motion on the agenda where the Council would be discussing what steps it could take on the matter of Yorkshire Water.

32. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

33. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader started his statement by sending the condolences of the Council to the friends and family of Ann Widdecombe following her recent alleged murder. The Leader reiterated the Council's commitment to political pluralism and condemnation of such a heinous crime that unfortunately now had links to Rotherham.

The Leader also reflected on the tragic events that unfolded at Rother Valley over the May Bank Holiday where teenager Muhammed Secka lost his life in devastating circumstances. The Leader expressed his heartfelt condolences to his family and also paid tribute to the staff on site for their professionalism during this difficult event. The Green Spaces Team were taking all practical steps to enhance safety and the Leader urged everyone, especially school children about to start the school holidays, to stay out of open water unless it was a designated supervised area.

Since the last meeting, Lord Hardy Court had been rated "Good" by the Care Quality Commission; the Castle View Day Centre had opened; residents had moved into the new Warden Street Council properties and work had commenced on two sites in Eastwood. Work had also started on the Templeborough Business Zone at Magna and on the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The Leader was pleased to report that Rotherham had been shortlisted to become the UK's first Town of Culture in 2028. 398 towns had applied so making it to the final 4 in the "large town" category was a big achievement.

The Leader congratulated Kimberworth Park Partnership for their successful bid to the Cruyff Foundation for a multi-use games area. It was hoped that future international footballers would make use of the excellent facilities. Following on from this, the Leader expressed his and the Chamber's support for the England Men's football team in their World Cup Semi-Final match which would take place later in the evening.

The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, Councillor Zach Collingham, was invited to respond to the statement. He also expressed his condolences regarding the passing of Ann Widdecombe whom he described as a respected lady and a characterful politician. Councillor Collingham stated that, although a suspect had been arrested in Rotherham, this was not a reflection on the town or the Borough. However, he did ask that it be established if anything could have or should have been done locally to prevent the killing.

Councillor Collingham referenced the number of residential fires in the Borough, some of which might have been linked to the high temperatures but some of which could be linked to the charging of electrical devices at home, such as e-bikes and mobility scooters. He asked if any discussions could take place regarding raising awareness and improving education on the matter.

In relation to the Whitestone Solar Farm, he asked the Leader to give clear reassurance that the Council will submit initial representations at this stage but also prepare a comprehensive local impact report for the examination stage. Councillor Collingham also asked that the Leader lead the response, ensuring he was mindful that the Council had voted twice to not have the Whitestone development imposed on Rotherham.

Councillor Collingham also asked about the Town of Culture bid and asked what the Leader's conception of the cultural future of Rotherham was. He also referenced the new Local Development Plan process and the Government's target of over 1,000 homes per year. Given this, he asked why Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy Funds (CIL) were being spent on the Trans-Pennine Trail and not real choke points like the Todwick A57 roundabout or on providing extra school places.

Finally, Councillor Collingham asked if there was still an issue with scoping and planning. As was recently reported in the latest Year Ahead Plan update, road safety schemes were delayed due to contract issues; community facility refurbishments were behind because of issues with the buildings and flood works were delayed because the Council needed to access someone else's land. He asked how much longer it would be before the timescales and deadlines provided could be relied upon.

In response, the Leader confirmed that a full suite of formal reviews would take place in relation to the alleged act of terrorism. Those would be fed back into the Council and shared through the appropriate channels.

In terms of fire safety, the Leader agreed to seek guidance from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and ask their advice on the best way of approaching that matter would be.

It was confirmed that the Council's Planning Service had already submitted the initial response regarding the quality of consultation undertaken by Whitestone. The Leader was staggered that the Planning Inspector saw fit to overrule all of the negative feedback relating to the consultation. He confirmed that he would be making further representations and was in discussion with South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard on what kind of community engagement could be organised.

Regarding the themes associated with the Town of Culture bid, the Leader confirmed that they would look at how to create a fair economy, how to reward work, what the future of former industrial areas might look like and how to tell the story of Rotherham.

The Leader stated that more school places were created only when necessary and it was not currently necessary to do so. Most children in Rotherham got offered a place in at least one of their three preferred schools. Further, pupil numbers were expected to fall over the course of the next ten years. In relation to the spending of CIL on the Trans-Pennine trail, the Leader fully supported this scheme as it would improve access to vital outdoor spaces for many communities in the north of the Borough.

Finally, the Leader explained the reasons behind the delays referenced and highlighted the many successes of the regeneration projects. This included the refurbishment of every library in the Borough, the start of the process to refurbish play areas, the building of over 800 new Council homes, the Forge Island development, the markets development and works in Dinnington, Wath, Swinton and Maltby.

Questions from Members were invited.

Councillor Currie thanked the Leader and Councillor Collingham for their words relating to the Ann Widdecombe suspect arrest which had been in his Ward. He stated that he was very proud of the people and communities within Keppel ward and encouraged everyone to remember that people have more in common than that which divides, echoing the comments made by Jo Cox MP.

The Leader agreed that the arrest was not a reflection on Kimberworth Park or the residents in the Keppel Ward.

Councillor Adam Carter expressed the condolences of the Liberal Democrat group to the family and friends of Ann Widdecombe and Muhammed Secka. He also asked the Leader what financial implications were associated with the Town of Culture bid. Councillor Carter wished the England Men's football team the best of luck for the Semi-Final match.

The Leader confirmed that the Council had a £60,000 grant to develop their bid for the Town of Culture. If successful, there would be a grant of £3million available to deliver the project. The Council had not committed any further funding.

Councillor Bacon acknowledged the benefit of improved community facilities but stated that in order to encourage use of those facilities, residents needed to have confidence that they would not suffer from anti-social behaviour. He asked if the Leader would finally commit to instructing officers to look at all available powers the Council had to tackle anti-social behaviour since the rates were significantly higher in Rotherham that the rest of the country.

The Leader agreed regarding the need to do everything to stop anti-social behaviour wherever it arose. The additional investment into the Street

Safe Team was having an impact and rates of anti-social behaviour were falling in the Town Centre. The Community Protection Unit had also been protected throughout the austerity years. In relation to instructing officers in operational matters, the Leader stated that this would not be in accordance with the Nolan principles. He would instead continue to work in partnership to set out the strongest possible approach.

Councillor Reynolds stated that Rotherham was being railroaded regarding the Whitestone development. He reiterated his objections to the development and criticised the developer's choice to use Green Belt land as opposed to brownfield sites. Councillor Reynolds also paid tribute to Ann Widdecombe.

The Leader agreed with the comments made by Councillor Reynolds but acknowledged that was not how the planning process worked in reality. He confirmed that he would circulate the representation he had made to the Secretary of State because he had raised a number of the points made by Councillor Reynolds.

Councillor Hughes urged all Members to let due process take its course in relation to the Ann Widdecombe investigation. The fact that someone had been arrested did not confirm guilt.

The Leader agreed with the comments.

34. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - PRIMATE LICENSING

Consideration was given to the report which presented the proposal endorsed by Cabinet in relation to an appropriate fee for Primate Licences. At its meeting on 6th July 2026, Minute No. 33 refers, Cabinet were informed that recent changes to Animal Health Legislation included the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 which provided for the licensing of primate keepers.

The Legislation prohibited the keeping of primates as pets unless individuals could meet the rigorous conditions of a new Licensing Scheme, which included the requirement for licence holders to seek veterinary input on the appropriate care of their animals. Primates had complex welfare and social needs, and the standards were designed to ensure that only those who could demonstrate the highest levels of animal welfare would be permitted to keep primates.

An individual who kept, or was proposing to keep, a primate could apply for a Primate Licence. The application must specify a range of details including the species of primate, and the number of primates of each species to be kept under the Licence. It must detail the sex, species, date of birth (or if not known, the approximate date), and the number of any microchips implanted, for each primate. The Council could set a fee for the application and a fee for any inspections. There was already a fee set for Dangerous Wild Animal Licences which covered the same direct and

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

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Alam Seconder: Councillor Williams

35. CABINET'S RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION SCRUTINY REVIEW - ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION

Consideration was given to the report which outlined Cabinet's response to the Health Select Commission's review into access to contraception.

At its meeting on 21st November, 2024, the Health Select Commission agreed to proceed with undertaking a scrutiny review into access to contraception in Rotherham, recognising the importance of supporting residents to make informed choices about their reproductive health. The findings of the Review were approved by the Health Select Commission on 2nd January, 2026, endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) at its meeting on 3 February, 2026 and presented to Cabinet on 16 March, 2026.

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

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

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

During the meeting, Members thanked the Health Select Commission Review Group for their work on this important matter.

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Baker-Rogers Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

36. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM HOOBER WARD COUNCILLORS

Further to Minute No. 55 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th November 2018, consideration was given to the Ward update for Hoober 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 Brent moved the report and spoke about the geography of the Hoober and its population. He stated that listening to residents and holding surgeries was a vital part of the role of Ward Councillors. The issues regularly raised at the surgeries included speeding, traffic, parking, weeds, overhanging trees, hedges, house repairs and anti-social behaviour.

Two particular projects that the Hoober Councillors had worked on were the traffic calming measures in Wentworth and the planned crossings on Manor Road in Brampton. Residents of Melton Green had also been supported in their fight for road safety schemes. Improvements had been made to green spaces and recreational areas, such as at West Melton Park, Brampton Bierlow Park and Cortonwood Recreation Ground.

Councillor Brent praised the partnership working, particularly with Parish Councils. He also praised the work being done across borders with Barnsley Council regarding bikes causing havoc in parks.

Councillor Lelliott seconded the report and highlighted the use of CIL money to provide free resources for communities who would not otherwise be able to join in with structured sports like football. Work also continued to create play areas and green spaces for the local community. Councillor Lelliott was very proud of the work done on community celebrations. A networking group had been established so that all the different community groups could share resources and ideas and signpost people on.

Councillor Lelliott thanked all the partners that worked in Hoober Ward such as the schools, Police and Parish Councils. She particularly thanked Neighbourhood Co-ordinator Tracey White.

Councillor Williams highlighted road safety improvements. This included the new 20 mile per hour scheme on Harley Road, and the installation of a vehicle activated speed sign in Melton Green. Work had been undertaken to install bollards in West Melton to protect the green space and prevent grass verge parking. A public meeting had been held, and the formation of a community speed watch group is underway. Ward Councillors were looking into how equipment for the group could be funded.

In relation to anti-social behaviour, Councillor Williams spoke regarding the aftermath of the riot at Manvers which occurred in 2024. He was very proud of the way residents and the Council had responded, particularly in relation to the drop-in session that had been held. Regarding the off-road bikes referenced by Councillor Brent, Councillor Williams confirmed that meetings had been held with the Deputy Mayor for Police in South Yorkshire and some small scale measures had been introduced. CCTV had been installed on the Wath Road entrance to the Park and work was underway to reduce entrance points to the Park. It was also confirmed that work continued in relation to the Cortonwood Retail Park issues.

Councillor Williams also thanked the Neighbourhood Officers for their invaluable work.

Councillor Currie highlighted the collaborative working done across Hoober and Keppel Wards.

Resolved:

That the update report be noted.

37. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM KEPPEL WARD COUNCILLORS

Further to Minute No. 55 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th November 2018, consideration was given to the Ward update for Keppel 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 Garnett moved the report and stated that the aim was to identify and implement what mattered most to communities. Partnerships were formed and residents were empowered through strengths-based working. This had led to parks and play equipment being updated. Parking buddies were now in use outside schools to help improve safety. Surgeries, coffee mornings and veterans events had been established. Ward Councillors had been involved in assisting student council events and were continuing to serve residents by being visible and present. CCTV was helping to address fly tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Harrison seconded the report and spoke about the improvements in crime and anti-social behaviour. He asked if more money could be provided for more police and PCSO's as it was much needed. The CCTV installed had been beneficial in stopping off-road bike activity and great work had been done to remove nitrous oxide canisters. Further work on this included going into schools and educating children against the use of the canisters. He encouraged all residents to report anti-social behaviour matters, particularly canister use, to the police. This issue had been raised with the MP.

Councillor Harrison placed on record his thanks to Councillor Garnett and Councillor Currie for making him feel so welcome in the Keppel Ward over the last 12 months following his election.

Councillor Currie stated that he was speaking to celebrate a community built on resilience, partnership and belief in one another. He thanked the Neighbourhood Officers (Shaun Mirfield, Nicola Hacking and Sarah Ellis) for their hard work. Councillor Currie stated that Keppel Ward Councillors did not just work for their residents, they worked with them. This could be seen in the work done at Lodge Lane Park and the tribute to Kimberly Fuller who had been murdered 20 years ago in Rotherham. He praised the work done at the Chislett Centre and at St Paul's Church.

In conclusion, Councillor Currie stated that Keppel was not defined by its challenges but by its people. It was shaped by the volunteers who gave up their time and by the tenants and residents who wanted to be heard and valued; by the young people who represented the future and by the businesses who stayed in Kimberworth Park and in Keppel Ward despite the challenges.

Resolved:

That the update report be noted.

38. NOTICE OF MOTION - PROTECTING CHILDREN, SUPPORTING HONEST BUSINESSES AND CRACKING DOWN ON ILLICIT VAPES, TOBACCO AND UNDERAGE SALES

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

The original motion was moved by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Zach Collingham. The amendment was moved by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Sutton. The substantive motion was:

This Council notes that:

1. Illegal tobacco, counterfeit cigarettes and illegal vaping products continue to be sold within communities across Rotherham, undermining honest local businesses, exposing consumers to unsafe products and fuelling organised criminal activity.

2. There has been a visible surge in dedicated high-street vape shops and unregulated mini-marts, often situated close to local schools. This has led to an alarming rise in both youth access to vapes, and the proliferation of illegal vapes, whether illegally large, illegally strong, or illegally spiked with dangerous psychoactive substances, including THC (cannabis) and synthetic cannabinoids.

3. Residents, parents, schools and responsible retailers continue to raise concerns about underage sales and the growing availability of illegal vaping products to children and young people, as do Elected Members.

4. Parliament has strengthened legislation through the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026, increasing the importance enforcing standards in the run up to a new licensing regime.

5. National enforcement agencies have identified organised criminal groups as being heavily involved in the illicit tobacco and illegal vape trade, which has been linked to both the drug trade and the slave trade.

6. Trading Standards is the lead enforcement authority and effective enforcement relies on partnership with South Yorkshire Police and other agencies. The Police are unable to act alone.

7. Whilst successful operations have taken place, the response to increasing intelligence and complaints indicates the Council's Trading Standards Team is understaffed and under resourced. This paralyses local enforcement and undermines public protection, with inaction and delayed investigations enabling rogue traders to operate with impunity.

This Council believes that:

1. No child in Rotherham should be able to walk into a shop and illegally purchase nicotine products.

2. No adult in Rotherham should be able to purchase illegal nicotine products.

3. The overwhelming majority of retailers operate responsibly and enforcement should be firmly targeted at rogue traders.

4. The illegal sale of tobacco and vaping products harms public health,

damages legitimate businesses and funds organised crime.

5. Those who knowingly sell illegal products or sell nicotine products to children should face the strongest sanctions available.

6. Fixed financial penalties can be an anticipated ‘cost of business’ for rogue traders and the Council must be equipped, where appropriate, to make full use of Closure Orders, prosecutions, seizure powers and the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Request an urgent review of Trading Standards staffing, capacity and resources.

2. Request Trading Standards, Council Legal Services and South Yorkshire Police adopt a robust, intelligence-led enforcement approach, using Closure Orders against non-compliant retailers where possible to demonstrate a highly visible, zero-tolerance approach as a deterrent to other rogue traders.

3. Increase intelligence-led underage test purchasing and proactive operations.

4. Request that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) considers this issue within six months and, where appropriate, refers elements to the relevant Select Commission(s). OSMB should receive a further progress report within 12 months.

5. Request the Leader of the Council writes to Government seeking increased funding for Trading Standards for the Council’s increased enforcement role.

6. Continue partnership working with South Yorkshire Police, schools, NHS and public health partners to protect children and disrupt organised criminal networks.

7. ***Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Government in support of the development and full funding of a national Trading Standards apprenticeship programme, recognising the urgent need to recruit, train and retain the next generation of qualified Trading Standards professionals to address workforce shortages and strengthen consumer protection. Council notes that the Trading Standards Manifesto calls for £14 million of investment to establish a dedicated apprenticeship scheme, funding three hundred apprenticeship places across the UK.***

8. ***Request that the Leader of the Council calls upon the Government to provide sustainable, long-term funding for Port Health Authorities to strengthen the UK's first line of defence***

against illegal imports. The Council further notes the written evidence submitted by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee in April 2025, which concluded that workforce shortages, inadequate funding, poor intelligence sharing and weaknesses within the Border Target Operating Model are undermining the UK's border biosecurity system. Sustained investment in Port Health Authorities and local authority enforcement services is essential to preventing illegal tobacco, counterfeit cigarettes, and illicit vaping products from reaching local communities.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

Councillor Clarke declared a personal interest in this item as she worked alongside Trading Standards Officers. She remained in the Chamber and voted on the item.

39. NOTICE OF MOTION - DEBATE NOT HATE

It was moved by Councillor Cusworth and seconded by Councillor Zach Collingham that:

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

That this Council notes:

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

This Council commits to:

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

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Write to the local Member of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign. (A template letter is available from the LGA)

2. Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians. (A template letter is available from the LGA)

3. Ensure the Council has a clear reporting mechanism which Councillors can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment and abuse of Councillors and officers.

4. Regularly review the support available to Councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and Councillor safety.

5. Work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of Councillors and their families and discuss the need to take a preventative approach that accounts for the specific risks that councillors face, as they do with other high-risk individuals, like MPs.

6. Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of Councillors and officers.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

40. NOTICE OF MOTION - STOP POLLUTING OUR RIVERS AND HIKING OUR BILLS

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

The original motion was moved by Councillor Adam Carter and seconded by Councillor Tarmey. The amendment was moved by Councillor Read and seconded by Councillor Steele. The substantive motion was:

This Council:

1. Notes with great concern the figures recently released by the Environment Agency that show there was 16,412 hours of sewage discharges in local rivers and waterways in Rotherham last year. This is despite drought being declared across many regions of the UK. Untreated sewage discharging is only legal in periods of extreme rainfall in which drain systems are at risk of being overwhelmed. Across England, a total of 2.65 million hours of sewage discharging took place into natural areas last year. This is a reduction on the previous year. However, during a year of drought and record dry weather across certain months, Council believes the level of sewage discharging at both local and national level is as disgraceful and unacceptable as ever.

2. Council further believes that local residents should not bear the cost of water companies upgrading decades worth of crumbling infrastructure, while these companies continue to make profits. However, in our Borough, average water bills are set to rise by 6% for Yorkshire Water customers and 10% for Severn Trent customers this year.

3. Council notes the introduction of a Clean Water Bill in the King's Speech to Parliament that promises to create a super-regulator with wider enforcement powers over the economic and environmental performance of water companies. Though this has been welcomed, many campaigners believe it does not go far enough, fast enough.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to make clear the position of this Council and to demand that all loopholes allowing water company bosses to continue to take home huge bonuses are removed.

2. Invite the Chief Executives of Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent to a special meeting of ~~**Full Council**~~ ***Scrutiny with all Members*** to answer questions from Councillors and members of the public and to establish urgent commitments and timescales to improve their infrastructure and reduce sewage discharges in Rotherham.

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

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

Councillor Bacon declared a pecuniary interest in this item as he was employed by Yorkshire Water. He left the Chamber for this item and did not participate in the debate or vote.

41. NOTICE OF MOTION - SUPPORTING FURTHER MEASURES FOR WATER SAFETY - SAVE LIVES FOR SAM

It was moved by Councillor Ryalls and seconded by Councillor Tinsley that:

Summary/Background:

The recent, devastating surge in water-related fatalities across the UK - hitting heartbreakingly close to home right here on our doorsteps in South Yorkshire - demands immediate action. The recent losses in our local community, including the tragic incidents at Rother Valley Country Park and the River Don in Mexborough, are a stark, agonizing reminder that

this is a persistent and entirely preventable public safety crisis. The overwhelming majority of these drownings continue to occur in everyday inland waters during routine activities. In direct response to this ongoing emergency, we highlight the launch of the Daily Mirror's 'Save Lives for Sam' campaign. This vital movement campaigns for a long overdue, cohesive national strategy regarding water safety. Alongside this, we recognize the tireless efforts of 'Sam's Army', whose dedicated campaigning is driving a critical nationwide push for change. Together, these campaigns demand urgent accountability from landowners, the rollout of widespread public safety education, and the formal legislative passing of 'Sam's Law' to mandate life-saving rescue equipment around high-risk open waters. Through collective action, we can strive to prevent further tragic losses, protect our local communities, and ensure no more families have to endure such devastating heartbreak.

That this Council Notes:

1. That every year, an average of 33 children lose their lives to drowning in England.

2. The launch of the Mirror's "Save Lives for Sam" campaign, which highlights the urgent need for a cohesive national strategy on water safety.

3. The tireless efforts of Sam's Army in campaigning and raising awareness to prevent further tragic losses.

4. The proposal of Sam's Law, which calls for a legal requirement for adequate, maintained safety equipment at all high-risk bodies of water.

5. The lack of a dedicated Minister for Water Safety, leading to a fragmented approach to water safety education and infrastructure.

6. This Council recognises that the prevention of drowning is a public health imperative requiring a co-ordinated national response, and that local authorities require stronger national support, guidance and legislation to protect residents effectively.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Formally endorse the "Save Lives for Sam" campaign and support the ongoing work of Sam's Army.

2. Write formally to: The Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Democracy, Samantha Dixon MBE MP; The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP; and The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP; urging them to take the following urgent action:

a. Urgently appoint a dedicated Minister for Water Safety and Drowning Prevention, to provide clear national leadership, accountability and co-ordination for both prevention work and operational response, working alongside a designated lead department.

b. Commit to greater long-term support for prevention and public education, including national support so that every child and young person receives consistent, high quality water safety education regardless of where they live.

c. Work closely with the National Fire Chiefs Council and the National Water Safety Forum to strengthen national coordination, raise standards and ensure consistent public messaging on water safety.

d. Implement Sam's Law to mandate and protect essential water safety equipment at all high-risk bodies of water.

3. Request that the Leader of the Council also writes directly to our local Members of Parliament, urging them to support these measures and to advocate for a national, long term public awareness campaign on water safety and support a Minister for Water Safety and Drowning.

4. Conduct an internal review of all Council-managed open water sites within the Borough - encompassing both physical safety infrastructure and staffing arrangements - to ensure the highest safety standards and report the findings of this review to the relevant Scrutiny Committee within four months.

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

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

42. NOTICE OF MOTION - PROTECTING ROTHERHAM RESIDENTS' NHS AND COUNCIL DATA - REJECTING RELIANCE ON PALANTIR

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

The original motion was moved by Councillor Yasseen and seconded by Councillor Bower. The amendment was moved by Councillor Read and seconded by Councillor Garnett. The substantive motion was:

That this Council:

Notes that:

1. In November 2023, NHS England awarded a seven year contract worth up to £330 million to Palantir Technologies to provide the NHS Federated Data Platform. The platform brings together information already held in different NHS systems to support patient care, hospital management, waiting-list planning and wider NHS decision making.

2. Palantir is a foreign (US based) private software and data analytics company with extensive involvement in military, intelligence, surveillance and immigration enforcement systems.

3. The Federated Data Platform infrastructure can access and process identifiable and highly sensitive patient information. Therefore raising legitimate questions about which companies should be trusted to operate essential NHS data infrastructure, what access their personnel may require and how that access is independently monitored.

4. The information people share with their GP, hospital and other health services may include diagnoses, medication, mental health, disability, sexual and reproductive health, family circumstances and other deeply personal information. Residents should not need to understand a complex technology contract to know who is handling this information and why.

5. Palantir has supplied technology to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement for immigration surveillance and enforcement operations. In January 2024, Palantir also announced a strategic partnership with the Israeli Ministry of Defence to provide technology in support of “war related missions”. These activities have resulted in serious ethical and human rights concerns about the company.

6. The British Medical Association (BMA) has passed a resolution declaring Palantir an unacceptable partner for the NHS Federated Data Platform. The resolution calls for an end to Palantir’s continued expansion within the NHS, the termination of existing NHS contracts with Palantir and to support doctors who refuse to use data products supplied by companies associated with warfare and human rights violations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Believes that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolves to:

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

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

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

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

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

- the present and proposed use of Palantir technology by local NHS organisations;
- which patient and non-patient datasets are being processed;
- the effect on patient confidence, data objections and the National Data Opt-out;
- the equality implications, particularly for minority communities and groups.

- alternative systems and the potential costs and risks of withdrawal;
- and how Rotherham residents will be consulted before any significant expansion of its use.

~~**24. Council to seek appropriate legal and procurement advice, to adopt a formal policy that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will not knowingly procure, commission, license, deploy or permit Palantir technology to process Council-held information, either:**~~
~~**- Directly;**~~
~~**- through a principal contractor or subcontractor;**~~
~~**- through partnerships in which the Council is responsible for, or jointly controls, the information.**~~
This policy should apply to Palantir Technologies, companies within the Palantir corporate group and products or services operating on Palantir platforms.

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

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

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

Councillor A. Carter declared a personal interest in this item as he was a member of the British Medical Association. He remained in the Chamber and voted on the item.

43. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

Consideration was given to the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 11th May and 8th June, 2026.

Resolved:

That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 11th May and 8th June, 2026 be received.

Mover: Councillor Read Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

44. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Baggaley Seconder: Councillor Blackham

45. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Baker-Rogers Seconder: Councillor Cusworth

46. 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 Garnett Seconder: Councillor Brent

47. PLANNING BOARD

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Mault Seconder: Councillor Taylor

48. STAFFING COMMITTEE

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

Resolved:

That Council:

1. Approve the proposal to establish the role of Service Director of Streetscene, Fleet and Highways.

2. Note receipt of the minutes of the Staffing Committee.

Mover: Councillor Alam Seconder: Councillor Marshall

49. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Resolved:

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

Mover: Councillor Clarke Seconder: Councillor T Collingham

50. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There was one question from Councillor Yasseen:

1. When residents request a community meeting about serious safety or safeguarding concerns, what policy determines whether South Yorkshire Police attend a community meeting with a Ward Councillor?

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Yasseen was not present to ask her question.

51. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

There were 13 questions:

1. Councillor Thorp: Will you look again at traffic calming measures in Whiston on High Street down towards Turner Lane from the Methodist Church? Repeated request have been met with a straight no. A recent collision highlighted again the issues of visibility due to parked cars and the approaching speed of traffic down High Street from a pinch point by the Methodist Church.

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Thorp was not present to ask his question.

2. Councillor Thorp: Can the Council please explain how, 14 months since I raised the state of Herringthorpe Valley Park tennis courts, including the state of the courts, the problem with overhanging trees blocking one third of the courts, spending £150,000 to resurface them and 8 months since work started, RMBC Tree Services still have not cut these trees back.

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Thorp was not present to ask his question.

3. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: When suggesting the Bulky Waste Service to residents we are often being met with the length of time to collect as an objection. What measures are being taken to reduce lead times for collections please?

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask his question.

4. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester: Press reports indicate we referred over 4,500 cases of Council Tax debt to enforcement agents in 2025/26. How many of these resulted in visits by bailiffs to residents' homes?

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Bennett-Sylvester was not present to ask his question.

5. Councillor Thorp: Why once again does RMBC let companies rip up our streets and replace it with the cheapest tarmac going. At the bottom of Moorgate Street, at the junction of High Street, around 30 paving slabs have been removed; are we really saying not one slab survived the removal prosses?

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Thorp was not present to ask his question.

6. Councillor Thorp: At the moment collectively the 3 infant schools in the Sitwell Ward, Sitwell, Whiston J&I, and Whiston Worrygoose, have a total PAN number of 120 and were oversubscribed for the coming year. If all 3 schools were to increase their PAN numbers to their maximum for their schools what would the combined PAN number be?

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Thorp was not present to ask his question.

7. Councillor Yasseen: If the consultation on the proposed Broom Road and Wickersley Road Sustainable Transport Corridor demonstrates clear and significant public opposition to the scheme, what criteria will the Council use when deciding whether to proceed or withdraw the proposals?

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Yasseen was not present to ask her question.

8. Councillor Yasseen: What arrangements are in place to ensure that Ward Councillors are kept appropriately informed and involved in officer-led meetings, community engagement and decisions affecting the residents they represent?

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Yasseen was not present to ask her question.

9. Councillor Thorp: Can Councillor Read, as Leader of the Council, confirm his commitment to me at Cabinet to have meaningful discussions over the ransom strip money obtained within the Sitwell Ward to be kept within the Sitwell Ward as per the precedent set in Swinton? RMBC has no assets within the Sitwell Ward and was the highest Council tax contributor.

   A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Thorp was not present to ask his question.

10. Councillor Thorp: Could you confirm are all roundabouts with a grass or flower centre are maintained by RMBC?

    In accordance with Procedure Rule 11(8), question 10 would be responded to in writing.

11. Councillor Thorp: Can you confirm the frequency of grass cutting on roundabouts are the same whatever the Ward?

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

12. Councillor Yasseen: Despite investment in the Street Safe Team, many residents continue to report feeling unsafe because of persistent anti-social behaviour, drug activity and street harassment. How will the Council measure whether its interventions are genuinely reducing incidents and when will residents see published ward-level outcomes?

    A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Yasseen was not present to ask her question.

13. Councillor Yasseen: Can the Council confirm whether it directly or indirectly uses Palantir or any connected systems, contractors or data platforms, and will it commit to preventing residents' Council, social-care or health-related information from being processed by companies whose ethical record or overseas relationships raise serious public concerns?

    A response would be provided in writing as Councillor Yasseen was not present to ask her question.

52. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

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Councillor Rukhsana Ismail – South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel Spokesperson
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

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Our Ref:	**Direct Line:**	**Please Contact:**
RI/SM	01709 807950	Councillor Rukhsana Ismail

21 July 2026

Councillor Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Yasseen

Question at Council – 15th July 2026

Thank you for the question you submitted for the Council meeting on 15 July 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

When residents request a community meeting about serious safety or safeguarding concerns, what policy determines whether South Yorkshire Police attend a community meeting with a ward Cllr?

There is no specific policy that governs whether a community meeting will be held. This would be something that would be considered on a case-by-case basis, most likely through the NPT Inspector in the first instance.

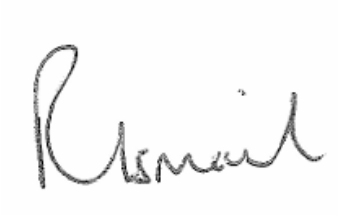
Factors considered, although the scope will probably be much larger, are:

- What is the actual problem
- True understanding of the risk involved and what impact its causing including disruption to the community
- Whether SYP are best placed to manage the problem/issue raised
- Benefits of a community meeting – is sensitive information likely to be discussed

There are existing structures in place for engagement with the local community (and ward Cllrs) including, community action partnership (CAP) meetings, advertised ‘drop in’s’, MP surgeries and walkabouts.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Rukhsana Ismail
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel Spokesperson

Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

22nd July 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member
Via email: paul.thorp@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Thorp,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

Will you look again at traffic calming measures in Whiston on High street down towards Turner Lane from the Methodist church, repeated request have been met with a straight no? A recent collision highlighted again the issues of visibility due to parked cars and the approaching speed of traffic down High Street from a pinch point by the Methodist church.

I am advised that officers are aware of previous requests for traffic calming measures on High Street, Whiston, particularly between the Methodist Church and Turner Lane. This location has been assessed previously. Different ideas were explored including road humps. They are not suitable here because of the shape of the road, the retaining walls and limited visibility for drivers. These issues mean road humps would not meet the required safety and design standards that we must use when we are planning works on the road network.

We recognise the concerns raised following the recent collision, particularly regarding vehicle speeds and visibility affected by parked vehicles. Whilst previous assessments concluded that traffic calming measures could not be justified, all new concerns are recorded and will be considered as part of future reviews alongside other road safety priorities across the borough.

This type of issue is why we have committed to developing Ward Road Safety Plans, and this will be an ideal issue to consider as part of that exercise alongside other similar issues in the Sitwell Ward. Should that scheme be prioritised, the previous work could be reviewed to look again at visibility, parking constraints and speed measures.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

J Williams

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

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor Lynda Marshall – Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces

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LM/LH	Cllr Lynda Marshall	01709 822465

21st July 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Thorp,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

Can the council please explain how, 14 months since I raised the state of Herringthorpe Valley Park tennis courts, including the state of the courts and the problem with overhanging trees blocking one third of the courts. Then after spending £150,000 to resurface them & 8 months since work started RMBC tree services still hasn't cut these trees back why.

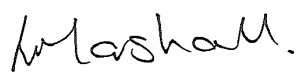
I am advised that the tennis provision at Herringthorpe Valley Park consists of three courts.

Officers were aware in December 2025 that works to the trees overhanging one of the courts would be required. However, the works were awaiting scheduling within the Tree Service programme with priority given to higher-risk works. At that point, the courts were still being refurbished and the trees were given a low-priority risk assessment.

It has been recommended by experts that work on London Plane trees takes place either after rain or when the leaves have fallen, therefore, our contractor will undertake initial work during the summer if possible, and ensure the work is completed this winter.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Lynda Marshall
Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor Lynda Marshall – Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces

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LM/LH	Cllr Lynda Marshall	01709 822465

21st July 2026

Cllr Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

When suggesting the bulky waste service to residents we are often being met with the length of time to collect as an objection. What measures are being taken to reduce lead times for collections please?

The popularity of the Bulky Waste Collection Service has grown, with service confirming an increase in bookings of approximately 50% being made following the introduction of the discounted rate. We have previously made additional investment in the service to increase capacity.

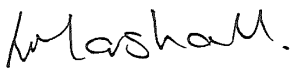
Higher level has been sustained this year, demonstrating that residents are making good use of the service; it is operating at full capacity. The service is often busier during the summer months and other peak periods such as after Christmas, so this can increase waiting times.

As a result of this increased demand, collection waiting times are currently longer than usual, with residents typically waiting around 2 to 3 weeks for an appointment.

I appreciate these waiting times can be frustrating, they reflect the continued success and demand for the Council's bulky waste service and the significant number of residents choosing to use it.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Lynda Marshall
Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces

Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
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S60 1AE
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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

28th July 2026

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Council Meeting – 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

Press reports indicate we referred over 4,500 cases of council tax debt to enforcement agents in 2025/26. How many of these resulted in visits by bailiffs to residents homes?

I can confirm that 4,565 cases were referred to enforcement agents in 2025/26.

The Council has an obligation to collect all Council Tax due, and the use of enforcement agents is one method available. Before the Council refers any debt to enforcement agents it has already pursued other means of collection. A referral is made where a customer does not engage with the Council after a liability order has been obtained.

Enforcement agents carried out 5,587 visits on our behalf during 2025/26. As we continue to refer cases after the end of a financial year this includes visits for debts that relate to years prior to 2025/26 and, in some cases, there were multiple visits to the same property.

From the visits undertaken last year, 476 cases of vulnerability were identified. Such cases are returned to the Council to identify whether further support is required to help those people and whether an alternative method of recovery is more appropriate.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



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

Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
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Ref	**Direct Line:**	**Please Ask For**
JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

22nd July 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Thorp,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

Why once again does RMBC let companies rip up our streets and replace it with the cheapest tarmac going. At the bottom of Moorgate Street at the junction of High Street around 30 paving slabs have been removed, are we really saying not one slab survived the removal prosses.

Northern Powergrid are currently delivering a programme of works in the Town Centre to repair and renew their infrastructure and I'm pleased to advise that the temporary asphalt reinstatement of the paved area on Church Street and Moorgate Street will be fully reinstated with the flagstones that have been retained. The temporary reinstatement was agreed to allow safe access to local businesses, but National Powergrid will return to this area to complete their works.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

J Williams

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

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Riverside House
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Our ref	Please Contact	Direct Line
VC/LH	Councillor Victoria Cusworth	07359 106527

22nd July 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Thorp

Questions raised at Council Meeting – 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

At the moment collectively the 3 infant schools in the Sitwell Ward, Sitwell, Whiston J&I, and Whiston Worrygoose have a total PAN number of 120 and they were oversubscribed for the this coming year. so if all 3 schools were to increase their PAN numbers to their maximum for their schools what would the combined PAN number be.

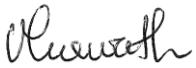
I can advise that the 3 schools listed, Sitwell Nursery and Infant School, Whiston Junior and Infant School and Whiston Worrygoose, were oversubscribed on National Offer Day. In all 3 schools there were no catchment children refused a place where an on-time application was made, and the last places were offered to children living outside the catchment area.

Service have assured me that there remains capacity in other local schools within a reasonable distance to make an offer for any child who requires a late placement.

There is no “maximum PAN”, however, since these schools are meeting the need of their local communities at the present time, increasing capacity would only come at the expense of other Rotherham schools and so wouldn’t be considered at this time.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Victoria Cusworth
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People’s Services
Labour and Co-op | Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward
Peer Mentor and Member Peer | Local Government Association Labour Group

Councillor John Williams – Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
JW/LH	01709 807949	Councillor Williams

22nd July 2026

Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Council Meeting – Wednesday 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

If the consultation on the proposed Broom Road and Wickersley Road Sustainable Transport Corridor demonstrates clear and significant public opposition to the scheme, what criteria will the Council use when deciding whether to proceed or withdraw the proposals?

Public consultation is an important part of the Council's decision-making process, and all responses received on the proposed Broom Road and Wickersley Road Sustainable Transport Corridor will be carefully reviewed and considered before any decision is made. The consultation feedback will be assessed alongside the objectives of the funding, but we have always been clear that if the community clearly does not wish to see the scheme proceed in the form that it has been put forward then we will not proceed with it.

However, we will not make a formal decision based on one factor alone. In considering whether to proceed, amend or withdraw the proposals, we will consider the scale and nature of public feedback, the evidence base supporting the scheme, road safety and accessibility implications, deliverability, value for money, impacts on residents and businesses, and whether the proposals are able to be delivered within the timescales attached to the available funding.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

J Williams

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

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Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
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Our ref	Please Contact	Direct Line
VC/LH	Councillor Victoria Cusworth	07359 106527

22nd July 2026

Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

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

Dear Councillor Yasseen,

Questions raised at Council Meeting – 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

What arrangements are in place to ensure that ward councillors are kept appropriately informed and involved in officer led meetings, community engagement and decisions affecting the residents they represent?

As part of our current neighbourhood working model, all Council services work to ensure that ward members are appropriately involved and informed. The new Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy sets out the overall approach. Guidance and support is in place to ensure relevant officers brief ward members and that ward members have the information they need in their roles: most often, this is best achieved through neighbourhood meetings undertaken locally.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Victoria Cusworth
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Labour and Co-op | Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward
Peer Mentor and Member Peer | Local Government Association Labour Group

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Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council
Riverside House
Main Street
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S60 1AE
Tel: (01709) 822700
E-mail: chris.read@rotherham.gov.uk
*Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!*

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

23rd July 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Via email: paul.thorp@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Thorp

Council Meeting – Wednesday 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question to Council on Wednesday 15th July 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Can Councillor Read as leader of the council confirm his commitment to me at Cabinet to have meaningful discussions over the ransom strip money obtained within the Sitwell Ward to be kept within the Sitwell Ward as per the president set in Swinton. RMBC has no assets within the Sitwell Ward has the highest Council tax contributor?

I was a little surprised by your question, as I'd asked senior officers to meet with you to scope out what sort of ideas you may have for relevant capital spending in the Sitwell ward, and I'd understood that this meeting had now taken place.

As I said at Cabinet, I do not accept that the situation in your ward in analogous with the housing in Swinton, in which the council used its own assets to secure capital investment in public facilities from a private developer. However, I am conscious that the capital receipt for the land at Worrygoose Lane had not been anticipated, and I can well understand that local residents would want to see some benefit accruing in the area from this.

Your ideas will need considering in light of the council's processes and developing into potential investment bids that we can consider in the round. You'll appreciate that I do not cost such ideas or develop the business cases myself, so I cannot commit to individual schemes in isolation – hence I'd asked the appropriate officers to meet with you. If there has been some misunderstanding about this, or you wish to discuss further, then of course I am happy to pick this up with you.

Yours sincerely

C. Read

Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

This page is intentionally left blank

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

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

22nd July 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Thorp

Question at Council – Wednesday 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question at Council on Wednesday 15th July 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Could you confirm are all roundabouts with a grass or flower centre are maintained by RMBC?

I have been advised that all adopted highway roundabouts with grassed or planted central areas are maintained by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as part of the Council's Grounds Maintenance Service.

Roundabouts that have not yet been formally adopted by the Council do not form part of our maintenance schedules and remain the responsibility of the relevant developer or landowner until adoption arrangements are completed.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Communities

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Councillor Sarah Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities
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S60 1AE

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

22nd July 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Thorp

Question at Council – Wednesday 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question at Council on Wednesday 15th July 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Can you confirm the frequency of grass cutting on roundabouts are the same whatever the ward?

I can advise that grass-cutting frequencies on roundabouts are determined by a range of factors, including:

- Highway safety requirements.
- Traffic management considerations.
- The size and nature of the roundabout.
- Seasonal conditions.
- Operational priorities and available resources.

As a result, some roundabouts may be maintained more frequently than others. Whilst many locations receive around five scheduled cuts per season, higher-profile or safety-critical locations may receive additional visits where appropriate.

The Council continually reviews its grounds maintenance programme to ensure that resources are targeted effectively, and that highway safety and environmental standards are maintained across the borough.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Communities

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Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
Riverside House
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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

28th July 2026

Councillor Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Council Meeting – 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

Despite investment in the Street Safe Team, many residents continue to report feeling unsafe because of persistent anti-social behaviour, drug activity and street harassment. How will the Council measure whether its interventions are genuinely reducing incidents and when will residents see published ward-level outcomes?

I can advise that the Council measure the impact of our interventions through reports of ASB and crime, hotspot analysis, enforcement activity, partner intelligence and feedback from residents. Importantly, reported ASB in Rotherham town centre has shown a consistent reduction over the last 12 months, something that I think we should all welcome.

The Street Safe Team is providing a visible presence in the town centre and local communities, engaging with residents and businesses, identifying issues, gathering intelligence and supporting enforcement activity alongside South Yorkshire Police and other partners. This forms an important part of the Council's wider approach to improving community safety and public confidence.

Ward-level community safety data is already shared quarterly through Community Action Partnership (CAP) meetings, enabling local trends and priorities to be monitored and scrutinised.

There is also a live consultation on perceptions of safety in Rotherham town centre, repeating the survey undertaken in November and December 2025. This will help us understand whether residents feel safer, identify emerging concerns and target activity in areas where it is most needed.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



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

Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
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SA/LH	01709 255959	Cllr Saghir Alam

28th July 2026

Councillor Taiba Yasseen
Elected Member

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

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Council Meeting – 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th July. I have set out your question and my response below.

Can the Council confirm whether it directly or indirectly uses Palantir or any connected systems, contractors or data platforms, and will it commit to preventing residents' Council, social-care or health-related information from being processed by companies whose ethical record or overseas relationships raise serious public concerns?

I can confirm that the Council does not knowingly directly use any Palantir systems, contractors or data platforms and does not hold any contracts with this company and have not incurred any expenditure with them.

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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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 09 September 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
Jane Maxwell, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

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 15 July 2026 and details which petitions will be presented at this Council meeting.

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

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Receive the report;

2. Receive the petition listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report and note that the lead petitioner or their representative is entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme; and

3. Note that Council may debate the petition listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report for a total of 15 minutes in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 – Review and Rebalance Rotherham's CRSTS Active Travel Schemes – Prioritise Pedestrian Safety Over Dedicated Cycle & Bus Lanes

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 15 July 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 a five-minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner followed by a 15-minute debate of the petition by the Council. The Council will then decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.

Subject	Number of Valid Signatures	Lead Petitioner	Directorate
Review and Rebalance Rotherham's CRSTS Active Travel Schemes - Prioritise Pedestrian Safety Over Dedicated Cycle & Bus Lanes	3609 valid signatures	Councillor Thorp	Regeneration and Environment

2.2 The scheme makes provision for the Council to:

- action what the petition has requested

- not to take the action requested for the reasons put forward in the debate, or
- to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee.

2.3 In this case, the petition relates to a matter that has already been decided by the Cabinet. The Petition Scheme makes provision for the Council to make recommendations to Cabinet with regards to the decision. However, the Cabinet cannot be bound by such recommendations and nor can the Council make the final decision on the issue. The petition organiser will be sent written confirmation of this decision within 10 working days. This confirmation will also be published on the Council's website.

2.4 The details of the petition can be found in Appendix 1 and to the report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Having regard to the Petition Scheme, the Council is recommended to debate the proposal within the petition. As outlined above, the Council has the discretion to make a recommendation to the Cabinet on the issues raised in the petition.

3.2 Following the outcome of the debate, the petition scheme requires the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, the responsible Executive Director in respect of the services under discussion, to write to the petition organiser to respond formally on behalf of the Council. The response will also be published on the Council's website.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 No consultation has taken place in the preparation of this report which is submitted to provide procedural guidance on the handling of the petition.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Whilst the petition will be debated at the Council meeting on 9 September 2026, the issues raised in the petition relate to a decision already taken at the Cabinet Meetings in April 2023 and March 2025. Subject to the outcome of the Council debate, the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment will be responsible for incorporating any recommendations within the report to be considered by the Cabinet later in the year.

5.2 In procedural terms, as set out above, the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment will provide a formal response to the petition following the Council debate. The petition organiser will be provided with the response within ten working days of the meeting.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The reports approved by Cabinet in 2023 and 2025 set out the Financial and Procurement advice and implications.

7. **Legal Advice and Implications**

7.1 Any decision required in respect of the subject matter of the petition would be an executive decision and therefore a matter for Cabinet. Any legal implications associated with any future decision will be reported to Cabinet.

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 The reports approved by Cabinet in 2023 and 2025 set out implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

10. **Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 Equalities impact assessments were undertaken as part of the reports approved by Cabinet in April 2023 and March 2025.

11. **Implications for Ward Priorities**

11.1 The petition supports a number of ward priorities identified across the borough in terms of seeking to support the implementation of improved road safety measures.

12. **Implications for Partners**

12.1 The reports approved by Cabinet in 2023 and 2025 set out implications for partners.

13. **Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 There are no risks directly associated with this report.

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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Review and Rebalance Rotherham's CRSTS Active Travel Schemes – Prioritise Pedestrian Safety Over Dedicated Cycle & Bus Lanes

We, the undersigned residents of Rotherham, welcome the written confirmation from the Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor John Williams, dated 28 May 2026, in response to a question from Cllr Paul Thorp at Full Council.

In that letter, Cllr Williams explicitly states that City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) schemes can include "new and improved crossings and traffic calming measures which would be expected to improve pedestrian safety, regardless of whether cycle or bus lanes are progressed."

In the light of this admission, we call upon Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to:

- **Immediately review** all current and proposed CRSTS Active Travel schemes, such as the Broom Road / Wickersley Road Extension Corridor, with a presumption in favour of practical, high-impact pedestrian safety measures (improved crossings, traffic calming, wider pavements, safe routes to school) rather than prioritising dedicated cycle and bus lanes.
- **Reallocate funding** within the CRSTS programme to deliver the greatest safety benefit for the greatest number of residents, particularly the elderly, disabled people, families with children, and those who must rely on cars for essential journeys.
- **Publish a revised borough-wide Active Travel Strategy** within six months that properly reflects local evidence, based on residents' feedback and the flexibility confirmed by Cllr Williams.
- **Engage meaningfully** with ward councillors and residents before progressing any further with controversial schemes.
- **Report the outcome** of the review to a future meeting of Full Council.

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Agenda Item 9

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 09 September 2026

Report Title
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-2026

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

Director Approving Submission of the Report
Jane Maxwell, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)
Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Governance Advisor

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
As described in Section 8.6 of the Constitution of the Council, this report is the annual update to be presented to Council on activities and outcomes achieved in respect of Overview and Scrutiny during the 2025-2026 municipal year.

Recommendations

1. That Council notes the Report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-2026

Background Papers
Agendas and minutes of Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), Health Select Commission (HSC), Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) and Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) during the 2025-2026 municipal year.

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

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-2026

1. Background

1.1 This report has been written in accordance with Section 8.6 of the Constitution, which states, “The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will report annually to the full Council on the operation of Overview and Scrutiny Select Commissions and make recommendations where appropriate for future work programmes and amended working methods.”

1.2 The terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Select Commissions are set out in Appendix 9 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions. Details of the specific areas for scrutiny by each select commission are also set out in Appendix 9.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The Appendix to the report displays the range of scrutiny activity and highlights key findings and impact. Selected outcomes resulting from work in response to recommendations are also reflected in the report where these have been delivered. Where future outcomes are expected, these are noted.

2.2 The Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the 2026-2027 municipal year are set out at the end of each of the overview and scrutiny select commissions sections within the Annual Report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The 2025-2026 Annual Report provides an overview of activity undertaken by Scrutiny over the last year through key lines of inquiry, evidence gathering, and findings leading to recommendations. The report provides a selection of the year’s achievement of Scrutiny as a supplement to full agendas and minutes of Cabinet, OSMB and Select Commission meetings throughout the year. The recommendation is that Council acknowledges and considers the content of the report.

3.2 It was agreed in 2021/22 that future Annual Reports would be organised by Council Plan theme. This approach reflects a fully joined up approach by Scrutiny to work programming, reducing overlap through efficient allocation of Scrutiny attention and ensuring that Scrutiny is able to effectively contribute to the work of the Council. Each Commissions section of the Scrutiny Annual Report identifies the Council Plan themes that the highlighted Commission’s work has addressed.

3.3 It should be noted that each area of activity undertaken by Scrutiny over the last year may span multiple Council Plan themes, especially where improvements pertaining to wider determinants of health such as environmental and economic circumstances lead to cascading benefits. Therefore, the report should be considered as an indicative rather than definitive account of outcomes.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 As this is the report of the OSMB and Scrutiny commissions, consultation with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of these committees was undertaken during the course of the municipal year and feedback incorporated in the final report.

4.2 The report describes activities and outcomes that are already in the public domain.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 This report was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in July 2026 where it was approved for submission to Council.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

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

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no Human Resources implications directing arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no equalities and human rights implications directly arising from this report.

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

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

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partner organisations directly arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks arising directly from this report.

Accountable Officer(s)
Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
The Executive Director with responsibility for this report	Jane Maxwell, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement	25/08/26

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This report is published on the Council's website.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD, CLLR BRIAN STEELE

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

It is my pleasure to introduce Rotherham Council's Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2025–2026, which demonstrates the growing maturity, effectiveness and impact of scrutiny across the Council and its partners.

Over the past year, scrutiny has become more focused on delivering tangible outcomes, strengthening governance, improving decision making and ensuring accountability to Rotherham residents. This is evidenced not just by increased activity, but by the clear influence scrutiny has had on policies, strategies and service delivery.

Pre-decision scrutiny has increased significantly, with 42 reports considered, a 44% rise on the previous year, alongside more workshops, reviews and site visits. This reflects a shift from building solid foundations in 2024–2025 to delivering deeper, more confident and more influential scrutiny in 2025–2026.

Scrutiny's Impact has been demonstrated through shaping major strategies such as the Best Start Plan, Homelessness Prevention Strategy and Housing Strategy, by strengthening governance in complex areas including Selective Licensing and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, supporting improved decisions on regeneration schemes such as Markets and Libraries and delivering impactful reviews, including Access to Contraception and Menopause, with recommendations accepted and progressed by Cabinet. Scrutiny has also shown its long-term value, with sustained challenge, such as on NHS Quality Accounts, driving measurable improvements in transparency and reporting over time.

Importantly, the scrutiny model itself has been strengthened through the introduction of the Scrutiny Steering Group, the development of the Scrutiny Tool and the Effective Scrutiny Action Plan, embedding a more consistent, evidence-led and outcomes-focused approach to this important work. Taken together, this demonstrates that scrutiny in Rotherham is not only more active, but more effective, strategic and impactful in its scrutiny activity, delivering real benefits for Rotherham People and supporting Council Plan priorities.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to scrutiny during 2025-2026, Members, Co-optees, Officers, Partners and members of the public who have engaged with and supported its work, for their continued commitment and positive response to robust and constructive challenge. Looking ahead, we will build on this year's achievements, ensuring scrutiny remains innovative, evidence-led and firmly rooted in the needs of Rotherham residents.

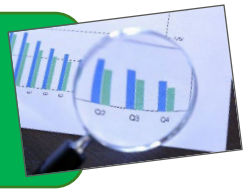
Councillor Brian Steele
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board





2025-26 SCRUTINY AT A GLANCE

4 scrutiny commissions





97 substantive items considered

15% increase from 2024-25

44% increase from 2024-25

42 pre-decision scrutiny reports





1 decision subject to call in

50% reduction from 2024-25

71% increase from 2024-25

12 workshops





3 reviews completed

300% increase from 2024-25

2 reviews progressed

500% increase from 2024-25

6 site visits





15 off-agenda briefings

42% reduction from 2024-25

FAQ:

WHAT IS SCRUTINY?

Scrutiny aims to ensure that public services and policies best meet the needs of Rotherham Residents. It acts as the check and balance to the Council's Executive decision makers (the Cabinet) by contributing to policy review and development; holding the Cabinet and partners to account for decisions and performance; investigating issues that matter to residents; working with Council officers and partners to improve services.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Any Councillor who is not a member of the Cabinet can participate. Committees also have co-opted members and dedicated officer support. Cabinet Members, Strategic Directors, and representatives of partner organisations are invited to attend meetings and discuss issues.

WHAT KIND OF THINGS CAN SCRUTINY LOOK AT?

Councillors and co-opted members prioritise issues. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board manages the overall Work Programme, considering whether scrutiny can make a real difference by looking at an issue.

IS THERE ANYTHING SCRUTINY CAN'T EXAMINE?

Individual complaints or regulatory decisions are not appropriate topics for scrutiny.

CAN I SUGGEST A TOPIC?

Yes, contact your ward Councillor to suggest a topic, or use the online form to submit your suggestion.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact the Governance Team for more details on anything in this report.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) acts as the principal overview and scrutiny committee of the Council. It considers matters relating to the conduct, structure and procedures of overview and scrutiny, ensures overview and scrutiny of the Council's values, plans and strategies and makes recommendations for improvements either directly or via the Health, Improving Lives or Improving Places Select Commissions through oversight of their respective work programmes.

2025-26 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Brian Steele
Chair



Cllr Joshua Bacon
Vice Chair



Phillip Horsfield
Link Officer



Barbel Gale
Governance Manager



Selective Licensing

OSMB considered Selective Licensing in October and November of 2025, in conjunction with IPSC, and in May 2026. During these sessions, the Board scrutinised the outcomes of the 2020–2025 scheme and the justification for continuation and redesign, with members challenging the strength of the evidence base, particularly around demonstrable improvements to property conditions, compliance, and tenant outcomes.

This robust scrutiny had a clear impact on shaping the Council's approach, with OSMB's challenge reinforcing the need for a more outcomes-focused and targeted refreshed scheme, better aligned with wider housing and neighbourhood priorities, supported by clearer performance metrics and reporting. Through focus on transparency, clearer rationale for area selection, and more robust evaluation of value for money, the Board influenced how proposals were refined before Cabinet consideration, strengthening governance and ensuring that subsequent decisions on Selective Licensing were grounded in more rigorous evidence and accountability.

Best Start Plan

At its 11 March 2026 meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board undertook pre-decision scrutiny of the Best Start Plan 2026–2029, examining its evidence base, delivery framework and alignment with wider strategies, particularly in the context of rapid development following a December 2025 multi-agency summit, and recognising the need for stronger local insight to support implementation. The Board's impact was to support approval while strengthening the plan's delivery approach, most notably by recommending the inclusion of more granular, neighbourhood-level data to better target interventions and address inequalities, thereby ensuring that Cabinet decision-making was informed by a clearer emphasis on place-based delivery, measurable outcomes and improved accountability for achieving early years improvements across Rotherham.



South Yorkshire Mayor's Q&A Session



At its 10 December 2025 meeting, OSMB held the South Yorkshire Mayor's Q&A session, using it to directly challenge regional priorities, funding decisions and delivery across the Mayoral Combined Authority, with a particular focus on transport, economic growth, skills and the distribution of devolved funding as they affect Rotherham.

Through targeted questioning and follow-up actions, the Board strengthened accountability by pressing for clearer links between regional strategies and tangible local outcomes, improving transparency around funding allocations and their impact, and sharpening the Council's future engagement with SYMCA by identifying priority issues to pursue—thereby ensuring a more robust, Rotherham-focused influence within ongoing regional collaboration.





Markets and Libraries Pre-Decision Scrutiny and Site Visit

OSMB undertook pre-decision scrutiny of the Markets and Libraries redevelopment ahead of Cabinet consideration at its 6 May 2026 meeting, in conjunction with IPSC, building on earlier member engagement through a site visit in February 2026 which enabled Members to directly observe the scheme and inform their questioning of officers and Cabinet Members. Through this combined approach of site-based insight and formal scrutiny, the Board focused on ensuring the robustness of the business case, delivery assumptions, and governance arrangements for a major town centre regeneration project.

The impact of this scrutiny was to provide assurance and strengthen the final proposals taken to Cabinet, with the Board formally supporting the recommendations while adding constructive challenge to improve clarity on delivery, risks and outcomes. This scrutiny ensured that decision-making was informed by a clearer understanding of the scheme's practical implications and local context, increasing confidence in the project's viability and reinforcing accountability for its delivery, whilst the earlier site visit enhanced the quality and focus of member challenge.

Homelessness Prevention

At its 13 January 2026 meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026–2031, scrutinising priorities around early intervention, partnership working and the use of temporary accommodation in response to rising demand. The Board's impact was to support the strategy while strengthening its focus on prevention and delivery, particularly by emphasising the need for clearer outcome measures, improved data to understand demand drivers, and stronger integration with wider housing and health services; this ensured that Cabinet decision-making was underpinned by a more robust, evidence-led and preventative approach, reinforcing accountability for reducing homelessness and improving support for vulnerable residents.



Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Whitestone Solar Farm



At its 15 October 2025 meeting as part of pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet proposals, OSMB considered the Whitestone Solar Farm, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Members heard that, as an NSIP, the scheme would not be determined by the Council but by the Secretary of State, with the Council acting only as a statutory consultee responsible for submitting technical evidence and a Local Impact Report within strict national timescales. The Board's discussion therefore focused on clarifying governance arrangements, including the proposed delegation to Senior Officers to ensure timely and compliant submissions, and reinforcing understanding of the Council's limited but important role in representing local impacts through the Planning Inspectorate process.

The impact of OSMB's scrutiny was to strengthen the robustness and clarity of the Council's approach to engaging with NSIPs rather than influencing the merits of the Whitestone proposal itself. By scrutinising and supporting the delegation and reporting arrangements, the Board helped ensure that the Council could respond effectively within statutory deadlines, maintain oversight through regular reporting, and present co-ordinated, evidence-based representations on behalf of Rotherham communities and residents affected by the project. This clarified governance framework improved preparedness for Whitestone and future NSIPs, ensuring that local concerns could be systematically captured and conveyed despite the Council's non-decision-making role.

Scrutiny Steering Group

During 2025-2026, the Chair of OSMB has brought together Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Elected Members, Link Officers and Governance Advisors involved in delivering apolitical scrutiny at Rotherham Council to discuss work programme planning, share ideas around operating models, consider challenges and barriers to success and to consider opportunities to innovate and deliver added value impact through scrutiny activity.

This has culminated in the formation on the Scrutiny Steering Group which now meets at least twice yearly to consider these themes, and ensure that scrutiny delivers effective challenge and drives tangible front-line service improvements for Rotherham residents. This has also led to the formal adoption of a 'Scrutiny Tool' and the development of a 'Effective Scrutiny Action Plan' which taken together assists all Scrutiny Commissions to plan, deliver and evaluate activities and impact in a consistent considered manner, following successful trial via the Health Select Commission.



Council Plan themes supported by the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in 2025-26:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE

PLACES ARE THRIVING, SAFE, AND CLEAN

RESIDENTS LIVE WELL

AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

ONE COUNCIL THAT LISTENS AND LEARNS

2026-27 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Brian Steele
Chair



Cllr Joshua Bacon
Vice Chair



Phil Horsfield
Link Officer



Barbel Gale
Governance Manager

HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION

The remit of the Health Select Commission (HSC) is to undertake scrutiny in respect of all matters relating to Rotherham in the context of health and the public health agenda, as described in the relevant legislation. In broad terms, this relates to health service commissioning, partnerships and integrated health and social care services, emergency planning, public health arrangements, measures delivering health improvements and promoting wellbeing, measures intended to address health inequalities, food standards and environmental health. The Chair also represents Rotherham at the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), which considers matters affecting regional or specialist health services and 'matters of substantial variation'.

2025-26 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Eve Keenan
Chair



Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Vice Chair



Emily Parry-Harries
Link Officer



Kerry Grinsill-Clinton
Governance Advisor

Same Day Emergency Care and Joint Lung Clinic Site Visits

The Health Select Commission's scrutiny of the Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) Centre and Joint Lung Clinic was shaped by direct member engagement, including a site visit to the SDEC facility in February 2026 and a site visit to the Joint Lung Clinic serving Rotherham and Barnsley patients in March 2026, which then informed formal consideration of both items at the 26 March 2026 meeting. The Joint Lung Clinic broke new ground as Rotherham's HSC arranged for the site visit to be undertaken in conjunction with Elected Members from Barnsley Council whose residents were also served by the facility. This approach delivered harnessed the collective efforts of both Local Authorities, and minimised the amount of time NHS facilitators were detracted from their core functions. Members reflected that both the SDEC and Lung Clinic discussions were explicitly augmented by the site visit, with Members using first-hand observation of patient pathways, facilities and partnership working to test evidence presented by NHS partners and to focus questioning on access, operational delivery and system resilience.





In both cases, the impact of this combining site visits with formal consideration during a public HSC meeting was to strengthen the depth, credibility and outcomes of scrutiny. Insights gained through site visits directly informed the issues raised in the public meeting, particularly around patient experience, infrastructure and integration, ensuring these were reflected in the Commission's conclusions and follow-up expectations. As a result, scrutiny added value by translating real-world observation into evidence-based challenge and actionable oversight, reinforcing accountability for service performance and shaping how both the SDEC and Joint Lung Clinic will be reviewed and improved going forward, with the recommendations made securing commitment to defining and extending the scope of planned post-implementation evaluation and to The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust considering the transferability and application of operating practices, innovations and initiatives delivering to other clinical disciplines, alongside working together with the Cancer Alliance and Council to revisit long standing issues relating to parking at the hospital site.

Menopause Spotlight Review



During the 2025–26 municipal year, the Health Select Commission progressed its Menopause Spotlight Review from workshop activity into a formal scrutiny review. This culminates in its consideration and endorsement of the final report and recommendations at the 14 May 2026 meeting.

Drawing on evidence from partners, clinicians and residents, the Commission identified significant gaps in awareness, access to support and consistency of provision, and agreed a suite of recommendations focused on improving public information, strengthening primary care responses, including 'Menopause Champions' in GP surgeries, enhancing mental health support, and developing co-ordinated, multi-agency approaches. The Commission's work translated lived experience and system insight into a clear, actionable set of borough-wide improvement recommendations, ensuring that partners across health, education and employment settings were collectively tasked with delivering measurable change for the benefit of all Rotherham residents.

The Commission's scrutiny added tangible value by elevating a previously less recognised issue, engendering cross-system commitment to improvement, and embedding a practical, evidence-led framework for ongoing delivery and monitoring. Even before the presentation of its final report, following the initial workshop, additional pro-active activities such as online clinical information sessions, International Women's Day menopause sessions and the publication of Healthwatch's Menopause report were noted amongst the Council and delivery partners.

The review was subsequently presented to OMSB on 3 June 2026, where its referral to Cabinet for consideration was supported, reinforcing its strategic importance and ensuring corporate visibility and accountability. The work also generated local press coverage, highlighting key findings, which amplified the reach and influence of the Commission's recommendations beyond the Council's governance structures.

Social Prescribing Member Session

During the previous municipal year, the Health Select Commission identified social prescribing as a priority area and commissioned a dedicated Member Session to ensure all Elected Members were enabled to support Rotherham residents who might benefit from Social Prescribing., Drawing on its role to examine cross-cutting health issues and engage system partners, the Commission intended the session to build Member understanding of how Social Prescribing operates locally, particularly its integration with Primary Care and the Voluntary and Community Sector, and to test promote its effectiveness in improving wellbeing and reducing demand on acute services.



In addition to increasing Members' awareness about the role and benefits of Social Prescribing, this session also embedded understanding around the wider determinants of health and the referral pathways available to Rotherham residents who could benefit from the enabling services Social Prescribing offers. Utilising their increased knowledge base, Members are now better placed to ensure social prescribing is effectively scrutinised with stronger focus on prevention, accountability and service impact across the Commission's work programme.

Health Hub Pre-Decision Scrutiny

HSC undertook pre-decision scrutiny of the proposed Town Centre Health Hub at its 26 June 2025 meeting, examining plans to repurpose the former Boots building in Rotherham Town Centre into an NHS integrated facility combining pharmacy, GP and walk-in services. The Commission's scrutiny tested the scheme's strategic alignment with improving primary care access, reducing system pressures and supporting town centre regeneration, thereby strengthening the clarity and robustness of the proposal taken forward to Cabinet, including delivery assumptions, funding arrangements and partnership governance.

Whilst the Commission supported the recommendations to Cabinet, they also requested that the relevant services return to HSC to discuss Phase 2 proposals, to ensure that residents views and the reservations expressed by members during Phase 1 pre-decision scrutiny had been considered when developing plans. This reinforced scheme's role as both a health and regeneration intervention, ensuring a stronger focus on accessibility, system demand reduction and local accountability in the final decision-making. Members added value by improving the evidence base and strategic narrative underpinning Cabinet's decision and ensuring clearer expectations around delivery and impact.

Local press coverage which followed consideration of this item, highlighted both the scale of the proposed facility and the Commission's scrutiny role, extending awareness of the scheme and its potential benefits.



Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report and Strategic Plan 2025-2028

At its 22 January 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) Annual Report 2024–2025 and Strategic Plan 2025–2028, scrutinising safeguarding performance, partnership effectiveness and future priorities such as prevention, engagement and strengthening the voice of vulnerable adults.

HSC's scrutiny helped to strengthen accountability and focus future scrutiny, by challenging the robustness of data, emphasising the importance of clear public communication and the use of lived experience, and reinforcing expectations for timely, ongoing reporting to support continuous oversight. This also ensured that safeguarding remained a high-visibility priority within its 2025–26 work programme, with strong focus on measurable outcomes, transparency and partnership delivery and this shaping how the strategic plan will be monitored going forward, cementing a more rigorous, evidence-led approach to scrutiny and enhancing accountability across agencies charged with improving adult safeguarding practice in the Borough.



Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy Pre-Decision Scrutiny

At its 26 June 2025 meeting, HSC undertook pre-decision scrutiny of the Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy, examining its focus on prevention, integration with health services and support for people with complex needs, while testing the robustness of delivery plans, partnership arrangements and performance measures.

The Commission's supported progression of the strategy to Cabinet whilst adding value by strengthening its delivery and accountability framework, reinforcing expectations around clear, measurable outcomes, improved performance monitoring and stronger system integration across health, social care and community services. This ensured Cabinet decision-making was underpinned by a more robust, outcomes-focused approach with clearer accountability for delivery.





JHOSC Involvement: IVF and Gluten Free Prescribing Consultation

During 2025–26, HSC contributed to the work of the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire JHOSC via the Chair through scrutiny of South Yorkshire ICB's IVF and Gluten-Free Prescribing policies, with consideration at JHOSC's July 2025 and October meetings 2025. JHOSC ensured robust challenge on consultation quality and length, equality impacts and the risk of widening health inequalities, including advocating for extended consultation and stronger evidence of patient impact prior to decisions being made. Through this activity, HSC's Chair ensured Rotherham's voice was reflected in the process by securing extended and broadened consultation, demonstrating how local scrutiny can shape accountability and influence policy across and decision making the wider integrated care system.

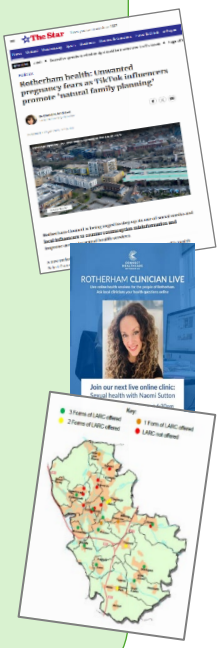
NHS Plan and Neighbourhood Health Services – The Rotherham Approach

At its 14 May 2026 meeting, the Commission considered local implications relating to the NHS 10 Year Plan and Neighbourhood Health Services, examining how national priorities, particularly the shift from hospital based care to prevention and community based provision, would be implemented in Rotherham through place partnerships and integrated neighbourhood models. Members scrutinised system readiness, workforce capacity, and alignment with existing structures and mechanisms such as primary care networks, social prescribing and the proposed Health Hub, using this to challenge partners on the clarity of delivery plans and measurable outcomes. HSC's scrutiny aimed to strengthen local accountability and implementation clarity, reinforcing expectations for robust performance frameworks, clear articulation of neighbourhood delivery models and stronger integration across health, social care and voluntary sector partners, thereby ensuring national policy was translated into a more locally grounded, evidence-led approach subject to ongoing scrutiny.



Access To Contraception Review

During 2025–26, the Commission conducted its Access to Contraception Scrutiny Review, which culminated with the recommendations and broad ambitions arrived at being presented to OSMB and Cabinet. Those recommendations and broad ambitions were intended to address inconsistent access, particularly to LARC, alongside barriers such as stigma, misinformation and uneven GP provision. This initial consideration attracted local press coverage which highlighted 'patchy access' and concerns about misinformation, amplifying the issue and reinforcing the relevance of the Commission's work. The Commission's converted evidence gathered and public concern into a clear, action-oriented improvement framework, which encouraged the expansion of outreach clinics, the use of developments such as the Town Centre Health Hub to provide augmented accessible services, advice and guidance and the delivery of strengthened, targeted public health communications with the potential to deliver significant local impact.



Cabinet formally responded on 8 June 2026, where the Commission's recommendations were fully or partially accepted, and work will progress in relation to delivering the improvements associated them in conjunction with delivery partners. This outcome demonstrates the Commission's direct influence on policy and service planning, securing commitments to expand outreach, explore delivery options and enhance education and promotion, ensuring that identified inequalities are addressed through a coordinated, evidence-based programme of improvement.

Quality Accounts 2025-26

Every year, HSC reviews the Quality Accounts for The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust and Yorkshire Ambulance Service. When considering their 2025-26 accounts in May the Commission reflected on their clear cumulative impact, with all three organisations evidencing responsiveness to prior-year scrutiny through improved clarity, greater use of plain English and stronger articulation of how feedback informs service improvement and broader transparency improvements. The Commission's intention was to ensure Quality Accounts reflected outcome-focused, place informed, accountable reporting, consistently challenging providers on health inequalities, data transparency and demonstrable impact on Rotherham residents and is reflected in expectations regarding use of population health data, clear presentation of performance and trends and more explicit links between feedback, learning and service change. The Commission have determined targeted follow-up wok, such as neurodiversity waits at RDaSH, urgent care performance and inequalities at YAS, and embedding learning into frontline practice at TRFT, demonstrating a mature scrutiny approach that influences reporting quality year-on-year while encouraging ongoing commitment to improved transparency, accountability and patient outcomes for Rotherham residents.

NHS Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

NHS The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

NHS Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust

Council Plan themes supported by the Health Select Commission's work in 2025-26:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE

PLACES ARE THRIVING, SAFE, AND CLEAN

RESIDENTS LIVE WELL

AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

ONE COUNCIL THAT LISTENS AND LEARNS

2026-27 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Eve Keenan
Chair



Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Vice Chair



Emily Parry-Harries
Link Officer



Kerry Grinsill-Clinton
Governance Advisor

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

The Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission (ILSC) is tasked with carrying out in-depth overview and scrutiny of issues affecting Rotherham's residents including the Borough's education functions, including educational outcomes and expanding opportunities for skills and learning for young people, SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) and reviewing the performance of Children's and Young Peoples Services. Safeguarding children, which comprises of neglect, abuse, CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) and CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation) and prevention and early intervention strategies including family intervention, fostering, adoption and looked after children. It also considers transition from childhood to adulthood for young people with complex needs and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), in conjunction with the Health Select Commission as required and Domestic Abuse, including the Domestic Abuse Strategy and response.

2025-26 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Gina Monk
Chair



Cllr Rajmund Brent
Vice Chair



Kelly White
Link Officer



Debbie Pons
Governance Advisor



Children's Strategy Pre-Decision Scrutiny Workshop

The Improving Lives Select Commission added clear value to the development of the Children's Strategy by scrutinising the draft alongside young people from the Young People's Partnership Board, ensuring their priorities, intended outcomes and measures were robustly tested. This collaborative approach strengthened the strategy's focus on delivering tangible improvements for young people in Rotherham, with Members' recommendations enhancing the clarity of performance data, improving access to information on support and resources, and sharpening the narrative to better demonstrate real-world impact, ultimately supporting a more outcome-driven and effective submission to Cabinet.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026-2029

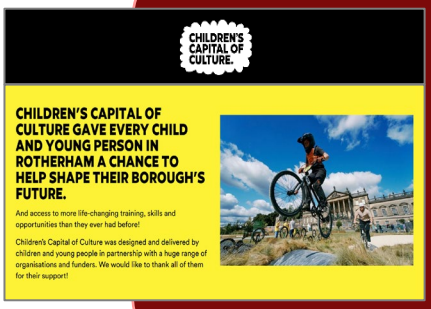
The Improving Lives Select Commission strengthened the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026–2029 through early, in-depth scrutiny, ensuring a more focused, coordinated and effective response to key areas of need. By challenging and refining the proposed approach, Members helped embed a consistent, survivor- and family-centred model that better addresses violence against women and girls while promoting inclusivity for all individuals at risk. Their recommendations enhanced the use of data to inform targeted interventions and sharpened the identification of vulnerable groups, ultimately ensuring the refreshed Strategy is more responsive, equitable and capable of delivering meaningful protection and improved outcomes for victims and communities.



Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report

The Commission scrutinised the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report 2024/25 in April 2026, which strengthened oversight and accountability by driving a clearer, evidence-led understanding of outcomes for children in care and care leavers. Through robust challenge and detailed discussion with officers, Members secured targeted recommendations to improve the use of placement data to inform decision-making and to proactively reshape the narrative around care experience, aiming to reduce stigma and promote a more accurate, strengths-based view of young people's potential, ultimately supporting more informed policy development and improved outcomes for this vulnerable group.





Children's Capital of Culture – Impact and Legacy

The Select Commission strengthened the evaluation of the Children's Capital of Culture programme by actively shaping its evidence base through detailed scrutiny and cross-commission engagement, ensuring both quantitative outcomes and lived experiences were fully captured. Members' contributions enriched the evaluation process, improving how impact and legacy were evidenced and articulated, and helping to ensure the final report clearly demonstrated the programme's tangible benefits for children, young people and communities across Rotherham.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Sufficiency Strategy 2026-2029

In November 2025 the Commission considered the draft Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Sufficiency Strategy 2026-2029, in advance of its submission to Cabinet and welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise this important work at an early stage and influence the draft strategies vision, aspirations and plan for how success of the strategy would be measured.

The Select Commission put forward a series of targeted recommendations designed to strengthen the report's clarity, effectiveness and overall impact. These recommendations were intended to enhance the quality of the final document and ensure it more clearly demonstrated how its findings and proposals would drive improved outcomes before it was considered by Cabinet.





Council Plan themes supported by the Improving Lives Select Commission's work in 2025-26:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE

RESIDENTS LIVE WELL

PLACES ARE THRIVING, SAFE, AND CLEAN

2026-27 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Gina Monk
Chair



Cllr Donna Sutton
Vice Chair



Kelly White
Link Officer



Natasha Aucott
Governance Advisor

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION

The remit of the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) is to undertake scrutiny activity in respect of all matters pertaining to the Borough of Rotherham as a place. In broad terms, this remit relates to business and economic development, employment, emergency planning, environment, housing, climate change, leisure, culture and tourism, transport and highways, trading standards and environmental health. The breadth of functions and services that fall within the Commission's remit is significant and varied, with some cross-over with the work of the other scrutiny commissions.

2025-26 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Cameron McKiernan
Chair



Cllr Adam Tinsley
Vice Chair



Andrew Bramidge
Link Officer



Kristianne Thorogood
Governance Advisor

Housing Strategy 2025-2030 Pre-Decision Scrutiny

Members were given the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Housing Strategy 2025-2030 in September 2025. Members were supportive of the Strategy but made some additional recommendations to Cabinet around the wording of the key priorities under the Strategy and the inclusion of more detail and case studies on how anti-social behaviour would be dealt with by Housing Officers, as they wanted to focus on the Council Plan Strategic Priority of 'Places are Thriving, Safe and Clean'. This is turn led to the development and delivery of the Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop.



Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop



In December 2205, IPSC Members participated in a workshop focusing on ASB, as experienced and dealt with by the Housing Team and colleagues in the Community Protection Unit. As part of this workshop, Members took part in a breakout Case Study group session where Members and Officers worked through a number of real-life scenarios together and were able to discuss the particular complexities of each case and valuable lessons learnt. Feedback from the session was that both Members and Officers found it extremely useful to consider issues relating to ASB from different viewpoints. Going forward, their enhanced understanding will enable them to more effectively signpost and support Rotherham residents experience ASB issues in their communities.

The Waterfront at Rother Valley Country Park Site Visit

In March 2026, IPSC Members had the opportunity to visit to the new Waterfront complex and café at Rother Valley Country Park, just prior to its opening to the public. Members that attended were impressed by the quality of the leisure facilities that this investment had produced and as a result of discussions with officers on site, were able to bring to the attention of OSMB, issues regarding recruitment and procurement that warranted further scrutiny.



School Road Safety Review

Throughout the 25-26 municipal year, IPSC Members have been engaged in a detailed Scrutiny Review of School Road Safety across the borough This has involved a range of meetings with officers working across directorates at RMBC in Highways & Transportation, Crossing Patrol, Parking Enforcement, Active Travel and School Engagement. Members have recently rounded off the Review with an informative meeting with officers involved in the Safer Roads Partnership and Active Lives initiatives at SYMCA. Work is underway to prepare a report setting out the Commission's recommendations, ahead of presentation to OSMB and Cabinet. Recommendations are expected to support the creation of safer environments around schools for parents, pupils and crossing patrols through effective traffic management, enforcement and safety focused street furniture.





Rotherham Events

In March 2026, Members received an overview from the Council's Events Team, and partner agency Flux, on the programme of borough-wide events that had taken place over the year, including the events that ran throughout the Children's Capital of Culture year. Members celebrated the diversity, variety and reach of the successful events programme. They also considered ambitions for the future, providing feedback and suggestions for improvement intended to increase community engagement and participation, to support the economic prosperity of the borough, promote community cohesion and raise the aspirations of Rotherham residents.



Playing Pitch Strategy Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In April 2026, Members scrutinised the draft Playing Pitch Strategy. They welcomed the thorough review of playing pitch facilities the Strategy provided and were impressed by the innovative portfolio work being conducted with the Football Foundation in relation to 3G football pitches. Members intend to ensure that access to pitches is inclusive across the borough and that appropriate community use agreements are in place, and will receive an update on the work undertaken with sporting governing bodies, partners and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations once the strategy is underway, in the 2026-27 municipal year.

Council Plan themes supported by the Improving Places Commission's work in 2025-26:

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2026-27 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Cameron McKiernan
Chair



Cllr Adam Tinsley
Vice Chair



Andrew Bramidge
Link Officer



Kristianne Thorogood
Governance Advisor

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 09 September 2026

Report Title
Audit Committee Annual Report 2025/26

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)
Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit
Tel: 01709 823282 Email: louise.ivens@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The purpose of the Annual Report 2025/26 is to bring together in one document a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit Committee. The production of the report complies with current best practice for Audit Committees. It allows the Audit Committee to demonstrate it has fulfilled its terms of reference and share its achievements with the Council and is useful as a reminder to the organisation of the role of the committee in providing assurance about its governance, risk management and financial and business controls.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued guidance to local authorities in 2022 to help ensure that Audit Committees operate effectively. The guidance recommends that Audit Committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities. A copy of the Annual Report of this Audit Committee is attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

That the Audit Committee Annual Report be approved.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Audit Committee Annual Report for 2025/26.

Background Papers
Relevant reports presented to the Audit Committee and minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee.

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

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Audit Committee Annual Report 2025/26

1. Background

1.1 The Audit Committee is a key component of corporate governance and provides an important source of assurance about the organisation's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial and other performance. The committee is also responsible for approving the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement.

1.2 The committee's specific powers and duties are set out in Section 9 of the Constitution under the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee. A copy of the Terms of Reference is included within the appendix for information. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued guidance in 2022 to local authorities to help ensure that Audit Committees are operating effectively. The guidance recommends that Audit Committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The Audit Committee met on six occasions in the year to 31 March 2026, in accordance with its programme of work. The frequency of meetings ensures the Audit Committee can fulfil its responsibilities in an efficient and effective way.

2.2 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 has been taken, or is otherwise planned, by management to address any risk related issues that have 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 is set out in the report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This report presents the final draft of the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2025/26 for Members' approval, having been endorsed by the Audit Committee on 28th July 2026.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 None.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 As Council is recommended to approve the Annual Report, there are no further stages in the decision-making process.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Appendix 9, Paragraph 5 of the Council's Constitution, the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference, requires the Audit Committee to submit an annual report to the Council and this report is submitted to meet that requirement.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from the report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no direct implications for Children and Young People or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no direct Equalities and Human Rights implications arising from this report.

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 None.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Partners can be reassured that the Audit Committee is fulfilling its role within RMBC.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 None.

Accountable Officer(s)
Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit

Report Author: Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit.
Tel 01709 823282 E mail louise.ivens@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 1

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Audit Committee, which highlights the role the committee played during 2025/26 to support good governance, efficient internal control, and robust public financial reporting.

The Audit Committee is independent and oversees the audit, assurance and reporting processes that support good governance. It also has oversight of Internal and External Audit, making sure that the assurance arrangements work well.

The committee works well with officers to improve and monitor governance arrangements across the council, and to raise concerns as needed. The committee follows a diverse programme of work, obtaining annual assurance reports for oversight of arrangements, whilst also being flexible and responsive to new issues and concerns when required.

The committee members have participated with an impartial, unbiased, and neutral perspective to the committee's work, and I am grateful for their contributions.

For the 2025/26 municipal year there was only one change in the Audit Committee membership alongside the Vice Chair taking up the Chair position. A training and development plan has been produced to support both elected and independent members in their roles.

I look forward to working with members and officers of the Audit Committee during the forthcoming year, to enhance the Council’s arrangements for effective governance, risk management and internal control.

Councillor Jamie Baggaley Audit Committee Chair July 2026

INTRODUCTION

While there is no statutory obligation to have such an arrangement, Audit Committees are widely recognised as a core component of effective governance and therefore reflect good practice. RMBC’s Audit Committee is properly constituted and as such is given sufficient authority and resources by the Council. In effect, the Committee has the right to obtain all the information it considers necessary and to consult directly with senior managers. In line with best practice the Audit Committee can report its observations and concerns directly to the Council.

A local authority has a duty to ensure that it is fulfilling its responsibilities for adequate and effective internal control, risk management and governance, as well as the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of its activities. The Audit Committee has a key role in overseeing and assessing the internal control, risk management and corporate governance arrangements and advising the council on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements.

This role is reflected in the Committee's Terms of Reference which are attached at Appendix C for information.

The Audit Committee had the following membership and attendance during 2025/26, (X denotes meeting attended):

Member	Jun 25	July 25	Sep 25	Nov 25	Jan 26	Mar 26
Cllr Baggaley (Chair)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cllr Allen (Vice-Chair)		X	X		X	
Cllr McKiernan	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cllr Blackham		X	X	X	X	X
Cllr Elliott	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ms Hutchinson (Independent Member)			X		X	
Mr Olugbenga-Babalola (Independent Member)	X	X		X	X	X

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

There have been many benefits from the work of the committee. The main outcomes and improvements include:

- An unqualified External Audit opinion on the Council's Statement of Accounts, confirming their accuracy and completeness
- Value for money opinion – overall a positive report. Two key recommendations were retained relating to housing compliance and corporate building compliance and asset data, recognising that progress had been made over the 2024/25 year.
- An Annual Governance Statement that reflected the developments within the council
- A broadly positive opinion from the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report
- Received information from services regarding the positive steps taken following receipt of audit reports with partial/no assurance opinions
- A risk management process that is embedded within the council

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 2025/26

A summary of the reports presented to the Audit Committee is attached at Appendix A and are summarised below.

External Audit – Grant Thornton

- Received and considered the audit plan to review the financial statements.

- Received and considered the detailed results of the external auditor's work in relation to the audit of the 2024/25 financial statements of the Council. The Committee was pleased to note that the auditors had given an unqualified audit opinion.

- Received and considered the annual report detailing the Value For Money opinion for 2024/25. A small number of improvement recommendations were raised, and two key recommendations were retained relating to housing compliance and operational building assets.

Internal Audit

- Continued to oversee the Internal Audit arrangements for the Council.

- Received and approved the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2024/25. This included the Annual Audit Opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of control, risk management and governance within the Council. This was a broadly positive opinion which recognised that a higher number of partial/no assurance opinions had been issued during the year.

- Received and approved the Internal Audit Plan for 2026/27. The plan ensures that internal audit resources are prioritised towards those systems and areas which are identified as most at risk or which contribute most to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives. It is designed to enable the Head of Internal Audit to give the opinion at the end of the year but is flexible to ensure it remains relevant throughout the year.

- Monitored the delivery of the Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26 through regular update reports presented by the Head of Internal Audit. Reviewed variations to the audit plan which were considered necessary to reflect new or changed Council priorities and/or risks.

- Monitored the progress made by management during the period to address identified control weaknesses by attendance of lead officers responsible for implementing action in respect of partial or no assurance internal audit reports.

- Monitored the performance of the Internal Audit team through the regular update reports which included data on achievement of KPI's and feedback from stakeholders.

- Received and considered the implementation of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Action Plan and the results of the self-assessment against Global Internal Audit Standards (UK Public Sector). Reviewed the outcomes of the external assessment by CIPFA of the Internal Audit Service against the Global Internal Audit Standards (UK Public Sector). The Audit Committee was pleased to note the achievement of 'General Conformance' which is the highest classification that CIPFA award.

Anti-Fraud and Corruption

- Received and approved updates to the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and considered the updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.

- Received a self-assessment against Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Checklist.

- Received information on Internal Audit investigations that had concluded during the year.

Risk Management

- Continued to oversee the Council's risk management arrangements and received a summary of risk management activity during 2024/25.

- Reviewed the progress made by the Council to identify and address corporate risks. This included consideration of the Strategic Risk Register twice during the year.

- Assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of each Directorate's risk management arrangements through consideration of the risks and mitigating actions identified in their Risk Registers. Presentations were received from Executive Directors or their representatives on their approach to risk management.

Corporate Governance

- Considered changes to the refreshed Code of Corporate Governance. The Code reflects the core principles and requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework' and the requirements of the Addendum (published May 2025).

- Considered the draft and approved the final Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 on behalf of the Council, showing how the Council complied with the Code of Corporate Governance and highlighting areas of continued progress.

- Received and considered at each meeting the Audit Committee forward plan for the year ahead, ensuring that all relevant areas are covered during the year.

- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee and members of staff who regularly attend the Audit Committee completed a self-assessment against CIPFA Guidance for Local Authority Audit Committees. This will be used to inform an ongoing training programme for members. Please see further information below.

Finance

- Considered the unaudited draft Statement of Accounts for 2024/25.

- Considered and approved the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 on behalf of the Council.

- Received and considered a report on the final accounts closedown and accounting policies updates for 2025/26.

- Continued to review the Council's Treasury Management arrangements. This included reviewing the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2024/25 which covered the actual Prudential Indicators, and the Mid-Year Monitoring Report and quarterly update reports.

- Received a report on the Dedicated School Grant/Safety Value funding, noting the additional funding received through the Department for Education's Safety Valve Programme.

Other

- Received and considered two update reports on progress implementing recommendations arising from external audits, inspections and reviews.

- Received and considered a report on the Council's use of surveillance and acquisition of communication data powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). There had been one use of these powers by the Council during 2024/25.

- Received an annual report on Information Governance, including compliance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

- Received updates on the actions taken by services following the issue of partial/no assurance opinion Internal Audits.

SELF ASSESSMENT EVALUATION AND TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

A self-assessment was carried out against checklists from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance "Audit Committees / Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2022 Edition." The self-assessment provides a high-level review of best practice that incorporates the key principles set out in CIPFA's Position Statement and Guidance.

Where an audit committee has a high degree of performance against good practice principles, it is an indicator that the committee is soundly based and has in place a knowledgeable membership. These are the essential factors in developing an effective audit committee. The self-assessment, which is undertaken on an annual basis, is used to support the planning of the Audit Committee Work Programme and Training and Development Plan.

The assessment identified the committee was operating in accordance with best practice in the majority of areas and no specific areas of improvement have been identified.

There was no specific action identified following the self-assessment undertaken last year. Members have confirmed that they value the training sessions that are delivered, and the training plan for 2026/27 has once again been timed to coincide with the relevant agenda item/committee meeting. The two independent members seek additional support when required.

The proposed training and development plan is attached at Appendix B for discussion and comment.

Appendix A

AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTIVITY – 2025/26	June 2025	July 2025	Sept 2025	Nov 2025	Jan 2026	Mar 2026
Statutory accounts and AGS						
Statement of accounts	Draft			Approval		
Annual Governance Statement	Draft			Approval		
Annual operational and specialist assurance reports						
Risk Management Annual Report						
Strategic Risk Register						
Treasury Management Quarterly updates, Outturn and Strategy	Outturn	Q1 Indicators		Mid year (Q1 & Q2) Indicators		Q3 Indicators & Strategy
Information Governance Annual Assurance Report						
Dedicated School Grant – Safety Value funding						
Review of surveillance and use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act						
Internal Audit & Counter Fraud						
Internal Audit Progress Report						
Internal Audit Plan						
Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion						
Internal Audit Charter, Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme and External assessment against the standards						
Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy Review and Update						

Appendix A

AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTIVITY – 2025/26	June 2025	July 2025	Sept 2025	Nov 2025	Jan 2026	Mar 2026
External Audit						
External Audit ISA 260 Report						
External Audit Annual Report (Value For Money)						
External Audit Plan						
External audit progress update		Verbal	Verbal		Verbal	
Additional reports received						
Closure of accounts and timetable						
Chief Executive Presentation						
Code of Corporate Governance						
Risk Management Guide refresh 2025						
External inspections, reviews and audits update						
Audit Committee Annual Report						
Audit update – Childrens Capital of Culture						
Audit update – Asset management (property acquisitions and disposals), Building Security Follow Up, Water safety (Legionella) Corporate Landlord and Housing, Music Service income and Home to School Transport.						
Audit update – Section 17 and Reduction in cash payments project						
Audit update - Riverside House Building Security and ID Badge Controls						

Appendix A

AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTIVITY – 2025/26	June 2025	July 2025	Sept 2025	Nov 2025	Jan 2026	Mar 2026
Directorate Risk Registers	ACHPH		ACE	RE	FCS ACE update	CYPS
Forward Plan						

Key

ACHPH – Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

ACE – Assistant Chief Executive

RE – Regeneration and Environment

FCS – Finance and Customer Services

CYPS – Children and Young People's Services

Proposed Audit Committee Member Training and Development Plan 2026/27

Subject Area	Key areas of coverage	Month	Lead officer
Statement of Accounts	• Understanding of the financial statements and process leading up to Audit Committee approval following external audit	June (Complete)	Natalia Govorukhina, Alison Charlesworth
Governance	• Knowledge of the seven principles of the CIPFA/Solace Framework 2016 • Knowledge of the requirements of the Annual Governance Statement • How the principles of governance are implemented locally as set out in the local code of governance • 3 lines of defence	June (Complete)	Katie Stead
Audits, Inspections and Reviews	• Brief overview of the process for tracking external inspections • The reasons why the AC tracks such inspections.	July	Katie Stead
Risk Management	• Principles of Risk Management • Risk Management Policy and Strategy • Role of members of the Audit Committee with regards to risk	July	Katie Stead
Internal Audit & Counter Fraud and Corruption	• Internal audit standards • Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan • Charter/Terms of Reference • Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy and IA role	September	Louise Ivens

Treasury Management	• Regulatory requirements • Treasury risks • Treasury management strategy • Council's policies and procedures regarding treasury management • MRP	November	Natalia Govorukhina, Tom Soulby Link external consultants
External Audit	• Audit plan • Opinion reports (Accounts, VFM) • Arrangements for the appointment of auditors and quality monitoring undertaken	TBC	This will organised separately by Grant Thornton and will be run in conjunction with other local authorities

Appendix C

TERMS OF REFERENCE 2025/26

Committee Size

To be comprised of:-

- Five Councillors, none of which are members of the Cabinet.
- Two people who are not councillors or officers of the Council (independent members).

Statement of purpose

1 The Committee's purpose is to provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements. Its role in ensuring there is sufficient assurance over governance, risk and control gives greater confidence to the Council that those arrangements are effective.

2 The Committee has oversight of both internal and external audit, together with the financial and governance reports, helping to ensure there are adequate arrangements in place for both internal challenge and public accountability.

Governance, risk and control

3 To review the Council's corporate governance arrangements against the Good Governance Framework, including the ethical framework and consider RMBC's Code of Governance.

4 To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the Council

5 To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the Committee.

6 To review risk registers and consider their adequacy and effectiveness in capturing and assessing risks and completing mitigating actions.

7 To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.

8 To consider reports on the effectiveness of financial management arrangements, including compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code.

9 To consider the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.

10 To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the Council from fraud and corruption.

11 To monitor the Counter-Fraud Strategy, actions and resources.

12 To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.

13 To deal with any matters referred to the Committee by the Statutory Officers.

Appendix C

Governance Reporting

14 To review the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) prior to approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, taking into account Internal Audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's Framework of Governance, risk management and control.

15 To consider whether the annual evaluation for the AGS fairly concludes that governance arrangements are fit for purpose, supporting the achievement of the Authority's objectives.

16 To approve the final AGS for publication.

Financial Reporting

17 To monitor the arrangements and preparations for financial reporting to ensure that statutory requirements and professional standards can be met.

18 To review the draft annual Statement of Accounts following approval by the s151 Officer. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed.

19 To approve the final audited annual Statement of Accounts for publication. Specifically, to consider whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council.

20 To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

Arrangements for Audit and Assurance

21 To consider the Council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the Council.

22 To consider reports on progress against actions from external inspections and audits.

External audit

23 To support the independence of external audit through consideration of the external auditor's annual assessment of its independence and review of any issues raised by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA).

24 To approve the external auditor's annual plan.

25 To approve any revisions to the external auditor's plan.

26 To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports and the report to those charged with governance.

27 To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.

28 To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.

29 To consider additional commissions of work from external audit.

30 To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies

31 To provide free and unfettered access to the Audit Committee Chair for the auditors, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the Committee.

Internal Audit

32 To approve the Internal Audit Charter.

33 To approve the risk-based Internal Audit plan, including Internal Audit's resource requirements, the approach to using other sources of assurance and any work required to place reliance upon those other sources.

34 To approve significant interim changes to the risk-based Internal Audit plan and resource requirements.

35 To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the Head of Internal Audit to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.

36 To consider any impairments to independence or objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing and to approve and periodically review safeguards to limit such impairments.

37 To approve the internal or external assessments of Internal Audit against Global Internal Audit Standards (UK Public Sector).

38 To consider reports from the Head of Internal Audit on Internal Audit's performance during the year. These will include:-

- updates on the work of Internal Audit including progress against the plan; key findings and issues of concern; action in hand as a result of Internal Audit work; and performance indicators.
- regular reports on the results of Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.
- reports on instances where the Internal Audit function does not conform to the Global Internal Audit Standards (UK Public Sector), considering whether the non-conformance is significant enough that it must be included in the AGS

39 To approve the Head of Internal Audit's annual report including:-

- The statement of the level of conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards (UK Public Sector) and the results of the QAIP that support the statement.
- The opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion.

40 To consider summaries of specific Internal Audit reports.

41 To receive reports outlining the action taken where the Head of Internal Audit has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.

42 To contribute to the QAIP and in particular, to the External Quality Assessment of Internal Audit that takes place at least once every five years.

Appendix C

43 To provide free and unfettered access to the Audit Committee Chair for the Head of Internal Audit, including the opportunity for him/her to meet privately with the committee.

Treasury Management

44 To review Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and procedures and to be satisfied that controls are satisfactory

45 To receive annual reports on Treasury Management, specifically the outturn report and the mid-year report

46 To review the treasury risk profile and adequacy of treasury risk management processes

47 To review assurances on Treasury Management, for example an Internal Audit report, external audit report or other review.

Accountability arrangements

48 To report to those charged with governance on the Committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions.

49 To report to full council on a regular basis on the Committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the Committee in meeting its purpose.

50 To submit a report on the work of the Committee to the Council on an annual basis, including a conclusion on compliance with the CIPFA Position Statement on Audit Committees.

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 09 September 2026

Report Title
Planning Reform and Required Procedural Amendments

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)
Phil Horsfield, Service Director, Legal, Elections, Registrars and Bereavement Services
01709 823833 or phillip.horsfield@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report recommends that the Council's Constitution is 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 will come into force on 31 October 2026, at which time councils will be required to operate in accordance with the amended framework and statutory guidance which was published on 1 June 2026. To do so, the Council's Constitution will need to be amended.

The Regulations also provide 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 has 15 members and as such this will need to be reduced. This has required a review of the entitlement of the political groups to seats on the committees of the Council.

Recommendations

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.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Schedule 1 and 2 Applications

Background Papers

The Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026

Planning Committees and the National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions: Guidance for local planning authorities in England - GOV.UK

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
N/A

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Planning Reform and Required Procedural Amendments

1. Background

1.1 On 26 March 2026 the Government published a consultation on the draft regulations required to implement a national scheme of delegation and set a limit on the size of planning committees. On 8 June 2026 those draft regulations were laid before the House of Lords and will come into force on 31 October 2026.

1.2 On 1 June 2026 the Government also published statutory guidance which Councils are required to have regard to when implementing the regulations.

1.3 The draft regulations propose to set a maximum size of 13 Members for a Planning Committee.

1.4 The draft regulations also 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 sets out that applications for planning permission for householder, minor residential and minor commercial development, as well as a number of supplementary and technical consents must be determined under officer delegation.

(b) Schedule 2 sets out the types of application which may be referred to a planning committee subject to the Gateway Tests which are set out in Regulation 5 and this requires 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 include any types of application for planning permission which are not in Schedule 1, variations of permissions, and special controls such as listed building and tree preservation order consents.

1.5 The Council presently has 15 members on the Planning Board and this will be required to be reduced by 2.

1.6 As such, it will not be possible for the Council's current arrangements to continue after 30 October 2026. The Council is consequently required to amend the Scheme of Delegation and to recalculate the Political Balance calculations based on these new requirements.

2. Key Issues

2.1 As described above the new legislative provisions that will come into force on 31 October 2026 are introduced in the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025. Schedule 1 of the Regulations lists those applications which must be determined by an officer, unless they are connected to an application in Schedule 2 in which case they must go through a gateway process.

2.2 Schedule 1 applications are listed below:

- Householder.
- Minor residential and minor commercial development (1-9 dwellings on a site of less than 0.5 hectares) and other minor development to flats.
- Discharge of conditions.
- Reserved matters approvals (for non-phased development).
- Lawful development certificates.
- Certificates of appropriate alternative development.
- Non-material amendments.
- Biodiversity gain plans.
- Prior approval applications.
- Permission in principle.
- Changes to S106 obligations connected to the above type applications being amended under S106A.
- Reserved matters approvals for schemes under 500 residential units or below 50,000 sqm floorspace.
- Variation/removal of conditions on applications that fall within Schedule 1.

2.3 Schedule 2 lists those types of applications which may be determined by an officer or planning committee.

2.4 Schedule 2 applications include:

- Any applications for planning permission not in Schedule 1.
- Reserved matters approvals for phased development.
- Variations to permissions (known as S73 applications).
- Listed building consent.
- Variation or discharge of conditions to an LBC.
- Tree preservation order consents.
- Advertisement consent.
- Changes to S106 obligations connected to the above type applications being amended under S106A.
- Retrospective planning applications.

2.5 Applications made by a ‘linked person’, such as a Council officer or member, or made by or on behalf of the Council, will automatically be referred to the Planning Committee.

2.6 **Schedule 2 applications and the Gateway Test**

2.7 On 1 June 2026 the Secretary of State published statutory guidance setting out how Schedule 2 applications may be considered.

2.8 The regulations make provisions for the Council’s nominated officer (Chief Planning Officer) and nominated member (Chair of Planning Committee) to agree using the gateway test that the application raises issues which need consideration by Planning Board. If there is no agreement, then the case must be delegated to officers. The gateway test involves the nominated

officer and member considering and concluding that the proposed development for Schedule 2 applications raises at least one of the following criteria:

- One or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area; or
- One or more significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and any other material consideration.

2.9 In considering whether to refer an application the officer and member must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This guidance published on 1 June states that it is not a requirement of the national scheme of delegation that nominated officers and nominated members consider all Schedule 2 applications or all own-interest applications for potential referral to committee. Local planning authorities may, through their Constitutions, decide which Schedule 2 or own-interest applications need to be considered for referral. The regulations provide for the option for Schedule 2 applications to be considered for Planning Board against the gateway test but do not require all Schedule 2 applications to be considered. As such the proposed decision provides delegated authority for the Monitoring Officer to amend this Scheme of Delegation in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Board and the Head of Planning Services. This is to enable flexibility in the introduction of new measures which have not been fully tested, to ensure that the Council is able to respond to any issues that arise from the operation of the new arrangements and to align this element (in so far as is possible) with the existing arrangements.

2.10 **Planning Board and Political Balance**

2.11 In determining the size and composition of this Board, the Council must have regard to the statutory requirements relating to political balance under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. These require, so far as reasonably practicable, that seats on committees are allocated in proportion to the overall political composition of the Council, subject to certain overarching principles (including that the majority group should have a majority of seats on ordinary committees).

2.12 Changes to the number of seats on a committee can have a material effect on how closely that proportionality can be achieved.

2.13 The current Planning Board has 15 seats whereas the new provisions allow for a maximum of 13 seats. There is no minimum set within this legislation.

2.14 Paragraphs 2.16 and 2.17 sets out the political balance implications arising from the reduction required in the number of seats:

(a) The allocation still complies with the statutory requirement that the controlling group holds a majority of seats.

(b) Owing to the amendments there is a change required to political balance of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to

ensure that proportionality meets the other requirements set out in the legislation.

2.15 The proposed alterations, are intended to be the minimum changes required that remain in line with the statutory guidance.

2.16 **The Size of Planning Committees**

2.16.1 Section 7 of the Regulations state that:

A committee determining an application pursuant to arrangements under regulation 5 (applications that may be determined by a committee or an officer) or regulation 6 (Linked-person applications) may not comprise more than 13 members.

2.16.2 The current Planning Board for Rotherham Council comprises 15 members who were appointed in accordance with political balance requirements at the Annual Council Meeting, held on 20 May 2026. The allocation of seats for the Planning Board was as follows:

Seats Available – 15
Labour – 8
Conservative – 3
Liberal Democrat – 1
Non-Aligned – 3

2.16.3 The allocation of seats for the Planning Board as of 31 October 2026, based on the current political make-up of the Council, will be:

Seats Available – 13
Labour – 7
Conservative – 3
Liberal Democrat – 1
Non-Aligned – 2

2.17 **Changes to entitlement of the political groups to seats on the committees of the Council**

2.17.1 There are currently 144 seats available on committees, boards and panels and the entitlements are:

Labour – 80 seats
Conservative – 32 seats
Liberal Democrat – 7 seats

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

2.17.2 Following the reduction in Planning Board members, as of 31 October there will be 142 seats available on committees, boards and panels. When

calculating the entitlements to seats, the following principles have to be followed:

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

The allocations will therefore be:

Labour – 79 seats
Conservative – 31 seats
Liberal Democrat – 7 seats

The seats allocated to the non-aligned councillors is 25.

2.17.3 The reduction of 2 seats in the size of the Planning Board impacts the overall political balance calculations by reducing the total number of seats to be allocated. The only change to individual committee (in addition to Planning Board) that is required by the reduction in the number of seats overall is a change to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The number of seats available on OSMB remains the same but the allocation of those seats' changes. This means that the allocation to the Conservative Group from 31st October reduces from 3 to 2 seats and allocation to Non-Aligned members from 31st October increases from 1 to 2 seats. The reduction of the number of Councillors on OSMB aligns the allocation of seats most closely with the principles detailed in paragraph 2.11 above. The allocation of seats on Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will therefore be:

Seats Available – 12
Labour – 7
Conservative – 2
Liberal Democrat – 1
Non-Aligned – 2

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Continuing with the current arrangements is not an option. The Council must amend the structure of its Planning Board by the time the draft regulations come into force, which is expected to be 31 October 2026.

3.2 Given the legal requirements other alterations to the Council's existing arrangements would be unlikely to be implemented in the timescales required to ensure that the Council is able to implement a lawful set of arrangements. Council could however ask that consideration be given to any alternative arrangements through the existing processes for considering proposals for amending the Council's Constitution.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The contents of the Report provide for the implementation of legal requirements within the operation of the Council and therefore consultation outside of the Council has not taken place as that consultation would be unable to materially change the approach and would therefore run the risk of giving the false impression to those involved that the Council could amend the decision.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The amendments will be implemented from 31st October as required by the legislation.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Council to comply with legislation governing appointments to committees, boards and panels, ensuring that arrangements for political balance are maintained and that the Council meets its legal obligations. This regulatory change does not give rise to any direct financial or procurement implications.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 inserted sections 319ZZC to 319ZZE into the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, providing the Secretary of State with powers to prescribe, through regulations, how specified local planning authority functions are to be discharged.

7.2 The draft Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 ("the Regulations") establish a National Scheme of Delegation which applies to all local planning authorities in England from 31 October 2026. The Regulations prescribe categories of applications which must be determined by officers and establish the circumstances in which certain applications may be referred to a planning committee for determination.

7.3 The Council is required to ensure that its constitutional arrangements are consistent with the statutory requirements imposed by the Regulations. The amendments proposed in this report are intended to give effect to those requirements and to provide clarity as to the allocation of planning decision making responsibilities within the Council.

7.4 Once the Regulations come into force, any planning decision taken otherwise than in accordance with the statutory scheme would expose the Council to a material risk of legal challenge and undermine the lawfulness and robustness of planning decisions taken after 31 October 2026. As stated in the statutory guidance:

"For the avoidance of doubt, where local planning authorities do not comply with the Regulations from the date they come into force (31 October 2026)

and their planning committees make decisions on applications which must be delegated to officers [sic], those decisions may be subject to judicial review by anyone aggrieved by the decision. This may lead to the quashing of the decision."

7.5 The statutory guidance which accompanies the Regulations makes clear that it is for the Council to determine which, if any, Schedule 2 or own interest applications should be considered for referral, so it may determine whether certain categories of Schedule 2 or own-interest applications need to go through the referral triage process or which may be determined either by officers or by the committee. Where a planning matter is not referred to in Schedule 1 or 2 then the existing arrangements for the Council will remain in place in so far as possible.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no Human Resources implications directing arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no equalities and human rights implications directly arising from this report.

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

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

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partner organisations directly arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks arising directly from this report.

Accountable Officer
Phillip Horsfield, Service Director, Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	31/08/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	28/08/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	01/09/26
The Executive Director with responsibility for this report	Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services	01/09/26
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council - Councillor Read	28/08/26

Report Author: Phillip Horsfield, Service Director, Legal and Monitoring Officer
01709 823833 or phillip.horsfield@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

Schedule 1

1. Schedule 1 of the Regulations sets out all the functions which must be delegated to officers for a decision (unless it is an own-interest application). These include a number of categories of applications for planning permission for:

   a) householder development (as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015).

   b) minor commercial development (as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015).

   c) minor residential development which is defined in the Regulations as:

      - development that includes only dwellings and development for the purposes incidental to the enjoyment of dwellings, comprises at least one but not more than nine dwellings, and is to be carried out on a site having an area smaller than 0.5 hectares.

      - development of a building containing flats, or development within the curtilage of such a building, for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the flats or any of them but excludes development in respect of a building containing flats, or development within the curtilage of such a building, that involves either or both of a change of use or change to the number of flats.

   d) an application for any consent, agreement or approval required by or under a planning permission, development order or local development order for development within paragraph (a) or (b).

2. It also contains a range of other planning consents:

   a) to develop land without compliance with conditions previously attached) in respect of which the previous planning permission was a Schedule 1 planning permission (applications under section 73(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

   b) reserved matters approval in respect of an outline planning permission other than a large outline phase permission (i.e. one which grants permission for development involving the provision of at least 500 dwellings or a building or buildings where the floorspace to be created by the development is 50,000 square metres or more) (applications under Article 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015).

   c) discharge of conditions (applications under Article 27(1) of Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015).

d) prior approval for permitted development rights (applications under Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015).

e) permission in principle (as referred to in section 58A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

f) where a local planning authority considers a planning obligation is connected to a Schedule 1 application, requests to agree to modify or discharge a planning obligation (under section 106A(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

g) where local planning authority considers a planning obligation is connected to a Schedule 1 application, modification or discharge of a planning obligation (applications under section 106A(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

h) non-material changes to planning permission or permission in principle (applications under section 96A(4) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

i) certificates of lawfulness of existing use or development (under section 191(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

j) certificates of lawfulness of proposed used or development (under section 192(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

k) certificates of lawfulness for proposed works to listed buildings (under section 26H of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990).

l) biodiversity gain plan (duty to approve under paragraph 14 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

m) certificates of appropriate alternative development (applications under section 17 of the Land Compensation Act 1961).

3. However, applications that would other wise fall under Schedule 1 will fall within Schedule 2 where:

a) a local authority considers that the application for Planning Permission is connected to a Schedule 2 application for listed building consent or for the variation or discharge of a condition on a listed building consent

b) the application is made under section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

4. Schedule 2:

The functions which fall within Schedule 2 of the Regulations are:

a) applications for planning permission which are not householder, minor commercial or minor residential applications.

b) applications for planning permission which would otherwise fall into Schedule 1 but are connected to a Schedule 2 application for listed building consent or for the variation or discharge of a condition on a listed building consent.

c) applications to develop land without compliance with conditions previously attached in respect of which the previous planning permission was a Schedule 2planning permission (under section 73(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

d) applications for development which has already been carried out (under section 73A(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

e) where it is related to a large outline planning permission, applications for reserved matters approvals (under Article 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015).

f) where a local planning authority considers a planning obligation is connected to a Schedule 2 application, requests to agree to modify or discharge a planning obligation (under section 106A(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

g) where a local planning authority considers a planning obligation is connected to a Schedule 2 application, application for modification or discharge of a planning obligation (under section 106A(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

h) applications for listed building consent (under section 10 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990).

i) applications for the variation or discharge of conditions of listed building consent (under section 19 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990).

j) applications for advertisement consent (under regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007).

k) applications for consent under tree preservation orders (under regulation 16 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012).

l) Applications to which paragraph 3 above apply

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KILNHURST AND SWINTON EAST WARD



Councillor Victoria Cusworth



Councillor Nigel Harper

Report to Council – July 2026

Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward Priorities

1. Clean and green and having pride in our place
2. Places to go and having things to do for all ages including activities for children and access to play
3. Supporting our vulnerable residents

(Priority areas: Fitzwilliam Estate and Kilnhurst Village)

How these ward priorities were agreed

Ward priorities were agreed in June 2024 following consultation with residents across Kilnhurst and Swinton East. Feedback from the community, together with information from council services, partner organisations and local data, was used to identify the issues that matter most to residents and inform the ward's priorities.

How these priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

These priorities directly support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy by helping to create communities where people feel safe, connected, supported and proud of where they live. At the heart of the strategy is a commitment to ensuring that every neighbourhood is a place where residents can thrive, particularly those who may be vulnerable, isolated or facing additional challenges. Our approach focuses on strengthening community resilience and preventing issues from escalating by working closely with residents, local organisations and partner agencies. We aim to support vulnerable individuals and families to access the help they need, while also empowering residents to play an active role in shaping the places where they live.

Partnership working

Partnership working is at the heart of everything we do. By working closely with community and voluntary organisations, council services, neighbouring wards and strategic partners, we have strengthened relationships, developed new opportunities and delivered projects that make a real difference. These partnerships have helped bring people together, tackle local issues, support community action and celebrate success across our neighbourhoods.

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KILNHURST AND SWINTON EAST WARD



Councillor Victoria Cusworth



Councillor Nigel Harper

Progress so far

1. Clean and green and having pride in our place

- Continued multi-agency walkabouts with partners and residents, providing opportunities to listen to local concerns, take action, and deliver improvements in our communities
- Hedgehog awareness signage has been funded from our ward budget to help protect local wildlife. The signs have been installed in locations where they are most needed.
- Working in partnership with Housing, we funded multiple community skips that enabled residents to clear waste, improve their surroundings, and take pride in where they live.
- Sponsorship for the Christmas tree is secured each year, ensuring it remains a valued feature at Kilnhurst Church, bringing the community together and fostering local pride
- Community Leadership Funding supported environmental improvements at The Brecks, with the Don Catchment Rivers Trust and community volunteers working together to clear debris from the stream, improve water flow, and create new wildlife habitats.

2. Places to go and things to do for all ages including activities for children and access to play

- Funding has been provided each year to support annual Christmas grottos for children in Kilnhurst and the Fitzwilliam Estate, helping local families enjoy festive activities within their community.
- Organised and funded Summer and easter activities for all to enjoy in the community
- Joint funded community events with Swinton Rockingham ward Cllrs such as VE Day, St Georges Day and school holiday activities.
- Funded library books for all junior and infant schools in the ward
- The ward provided funding to Swinton Academy to support the replacement and upgrade of library equipment, helping to improve resources available to students.

3. Supporting our vulnerable residents

- Promoted local services and opportunities via e-bulletins, social media, surgeries, leaflets and targeted communications
- Monthly coffee mornings take place at Charles Street, alongside the recent redecoration of the neighbourhood centre to improve the community space.
- Provided funding support for St Johns coffee mornings and uniform drive
- Led road safety initiatives at Brookfield School, including pencil bollards, road safety poster campaigns, and a successful Park and Stride Christmas event

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Agenda Item 13

MALTBY EAST WARD

Covering Maltby Town Centre and East Maltby



Councillor Donna Sutton



Councillor Adam Tinsley

Report to Council

September 2026

Ward priorities

1: Improving opportunities and inclusivity for children and young people
2: Support existing and new community groups to thrive and develop
3: Develop and support initiatives to improve community safety and the environment
4: Support Maltby local economy and improve the High Street environment.

How these ward priorities were agreed

- **Listening to residents** – Through attendance at community groups, local events and regular ward surgeries, we have identified priorities and responded to local concerns and issues raised by residents.
- **Working with partners** – A strong emphasis has been placed on collaborative working through multi-agency engagement events, partnership meetings and community forums.
- **Using data** – We have used ward-level data, local intelligence and feedback from residents to target support and resources effectively.

How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Our work supports the aim of creating a healthier, safer and more connected community. We have achieved this by working with residents, responding to local needs and supporting inclusive activities across the ward. Through partnership working and local investment, we have helped strengthen community resilience, improve wellbeing and encourage greater community participation.

Partnership Working

We have continued to work closely with Council services, Maltby Town Council, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, local schools, community organisations, businesses and voluntary groups to coordinate activities and maximise resources. Special thanks go to partners including Flux Rotherham, Yorkshire Sport Foundation and Rotherham United Community Trust, who have contributed their time, enthusiasm and funding to help us deliver a wider range of projects, events and activities for residents across Maltby.

Progress so far

Priority 1: Improving Opportunities and Inclusivity for Children and Young People

We have organised, supported and funded a range of activities designed to bring together children and young people from different social, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through targeted funding and partnership working, opportunities have been created that promote inclusion, participation, wellbeing and community cohesion. Support has also been provided to local schools, sports clubs and voluntary organisations delivering activities that improve health, confidence and social inclusion.

Examples include:



- Funding inclusive play equipment and interpretation boards in Coronation Park for children and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Providing free youth nights, community festival and holiday activities in local parks.
- Funding for organisations providing out-of-school activities, such as Maltby Scouts for recreational and educational opportunities that encourage positive engagement among young people.

Priority 2: Support Existing and New Community Groups to Thrive and Develop

We remain committed to supporting voluntary and community organisations that provide important services, activities and social opportunities for residents. Through engagement with local groups and targeted Ward funding, organisations have been able to expand activities, improve facilities and increase community participation.

Examples include:

- Winter Wellbeing craft packs and activities
- Refreshments and resources for community groups
- Activities aimed at older people, carers and those at risk of social isolation.

Priority 3: Develop and Support Initiatives to Improve Community Safety and the Environment

Community safety and environmental improvement continue to be key priorities. Supporting crime prevention initiatives through funding for home safety and security equipment, while also promoting safety information through newsletters, community events and social media.

Examples include:

- Partnership working with South Yorkshire Police and Fire and Rescue Service, including the Rural Crime Team
- Community safety and environmental walkabouts and community engagement events to address local concerns

Protecting and enhancing the environment has also remained a focus. Investment has been made in parks and open spaces, alongside activities that encourage environmental responsibility and community pride.



Examples include:

- Tree planting projects
- Community litter picks
- Environmental improvement schemes
- Events promoting greater use of local parks and green spaces.

Priority 4: Support Maltby Local Economy and Improve the High Street Environment

We have continued to support the local economy by working closely with businesses, residents and partner organisations.

Examples include:

- Addressing concerns relating to antisocial behaviour and crime
- Promoting initiatives that encourage increased footfall
- Supporting investment in the town centre.

We have also sought to ensure that the views of businesses and residents are reflected in plans to improve the High Street environment, enhance the attractiveness of the town centre and support future economic growth within Maltby.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

NOTICE OF MOTION	**Date of Council Meeting: 09/09/26**
	Mover: Cllr Tarmey
	Seconder: Cllr C Carter
	Title of Motion: We deserve our fair share of speeding fine revenue to help make our roads safer

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.

To be completed by Governance

Date received by Governance/Head of DS:	15/7/26
Date sent to Monitoring Officer:	15/7/26
Date approval from Monitoring Officer received:	16/7/26

THE CABINET
Monday 6 July 2026

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Williams.

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
Jane Maxwell	Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Rob Mahon	Service Director of Financial Services
Niall Devlin	Service Director of Education and Inclusion
Mark Cummins	SEND Transformation Project Lead
Paul Elliott	Head of Housing Income and Support Services
Michael Hallewell	Head of Strategic Housing & Development
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Kerry Grinsill-Clinton	Governance Advisor
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor and Clerk

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was one question from Mr. Ashraf. He asked why the Council's Scrutiny Commissions had not considered the involvement of Palantir in the NHS. He stated that Palantir had a well-documented contempt for the NHS and had a documented track record of corporate involvement in the war crimes and continuing genocide in Palestine committed by Israel. Mr. Ashraf asked why the Council had allowed the rollout of Palantir software at Rotherham NHS Trust.

The Leader stated that procuring software for the NHS was not a decision that Rotherham Council had any authority over and the Council was not in the business of providing a running commentary on what other organisations in the Borough did or did not do within their own rules.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Ashraf stated that Sheffield City

Council had recently passed a motion making it clear that it would not adopt Palantir technologies and a committee of that Council was seeking clarification on the matter. He therefore asked the Leader to find a way of ending the involvement of Palantir in the NHS. He also asked for evidence relating to the efficacy and costs associated with the adoption of Palantir software currently in use in Rotherham. Finally, Mr. Ashraf asked if there had been any scrutiny of the Palantir software technologies by Rotherham Council and if any individual Councillors had attempted to stop the rollout. He asked that he be provided with evidence of this if it had taken place.

The Leader stated that he did not know if individual Councillors had made representations on the matter and advised Mr. Ashraf to contact individual Councillors if he wanted that information. He also confirmed that it was for each Scrutiny Commission to set its own work programme and it would be up to the Health Select Commission to decide whether it wanted to look into this matter. Finally, the Leader reiterated that there was nothing the Council could do to change the decision. It was a decision for the NHS, not the Council.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8th June, 2026, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Agenda Item Nos. 14 and 17 had exempt appendices, but the meeting remained open to the press and public throughout.

20. ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY 2027-2032

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy (2024 to 2027). It also sought formal approval to undertake a 90-day public consultation to inform the development of the new Adult Social Care Strategy, setting out how the consultation would be undertaken and providing an overview of the early engagement activity already completed. This timeline reflected that the existing Strategy ran until 2027 and that development of the new Strategy needed to begin now to ensure there was no gap without a strategy in place.

The 2024 priorities were:

- Provide information and advice to support making informed choices. (Complete)
- Prevent, reduce or delay a person’s care needs. (Complete)
- Strengthen the voice of the person. (Complete)

- Adopt new ways of meeting people's needs. (In progress)

The 2025 priorities were:

- Support young people with care and support needs to prepare for adulthood. (Complete)
- Create more opportunities to work with partners to deliver positive outcomes for people. (Complete)

The 2026 priorities were:

- Provide more opportunities for care and support closer to home. (In progress)
- Work with the local care market to provide flexible services that meet people's needs. (In progress)

Between January and March 2026, a working group was established with staff representation from all Service areas who had input throughout this process and would continue to do so up to publication. Alongside this, the Council had been consistently engaging with the Adult Social Care Co-production Board, RASCAL. Those two groups helped to identify and connect with lived-experience groups across each Service area. From April to June 2026, early engagement activity was undertaken, and was still being undertaken, to capture initial views and insights to inform and shape the public consultation. This had been done so that from the earliest stages, the contents and direction of the Strategy were influenced by the voices and priorities of the community and lived experience as well as being grounded in the experience of staff in both leadership and practitioner positions. This would provide the best opportunity to create a Strategy that best met expectations and was achievable. Findings from engagement sessions to date had been grouped into five key themes as set out in section 4 of the report:

- Clearer communication about Adult Social Care (what it is and what it offers).
- Joined-up services (especially for complex needs).
- Person-centred care and listening to lived experience.
- Faster access and earlier support.
- Community presence, relationships and prevention.

A 90-day public consultation would be conducted between August and October 2026. From November 2026 to March 2027, the Strategy would be developed and progressed through the relevant governance and approval processes, with a final Cabinet decision on the Strategy scheduled for 15th March, 2027.

Councillor Allen sought assurance that work would continue on the priorities despite them being completed. Councillor Baker-Rogers confirmed that actions undertaken to complete the priorities were now considered normal working practice.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress update in relation to the current Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-2027.

2. Approve a formal consultation period to inform development of a Refreshed Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032.

3. Note that the outcomes of the consultation and the final Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in March 2027.

21. HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION SCRUTINY REVIEW - MENOPAUSE

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the findings and recommendations of the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review into the Menopause. The report was 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.

The Health Select Commission convened a multi-agency menopause Workshop to explore the lived experience of Rotherham residents, to understand challenges within current Service pathways, and identify opportunities to strengthen support across Health, community and workplace settings. The session brought together GPs and Clinicians, the Council's Public Health, Adult Commissioning and Libraries Services, Healthwatch Rotherham and Voluntary and Community Sector providers such as Rotherham United Community Trust (RUCT) with Elected Members representing the Health Select Commission. Discussions revealed some consistent themes, identified some areas of strength and others where more could be done to support Rotherham's residents through their experience of the Menopause.

The recommendations produced during the session had direct links to the Council Plan 2025-2030 in the context of the 'Residents Live Well', 'Children and Young People Achieve' and 'An Economy That Works For Everyone' Strategic Outcomes, which in conjunction with participants' expressed wishes and expectations, led to the ultimate determination to re-frame the Workshop as a Spotlight Review and formalise the recommendations.

Discussions had centred around the following themes:

- Public Awareness and Information, including engaging Men and Young People (paragraph 2.4 of the report.)
- Primary Care Improvement (paragraph 2.5.)
- Mental Health Support (paragraph 2.6.)
- Community Support, Engagement and Outreach (paragraph 2.7.)

- Workplace Health (paragraph 2.8.)
- System Leadership (paragraph 2.9.)

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health thanked the Health Select Commission for its work on this extremely important matter. She stated that it was a tremendous piece of work, and she would work with the relevant Service to respond to the recommendations accordingly.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Receives the recommendations listed as approved by Health Select Commission:

   Public Awareness and Information, including engaging Men and Young People:

   a) That the Council seeks to improve public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through:

   i) 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.

   ii) That bespoke targeted content aimed at men, young people and employers is included in that resource to ensure a holistic and Borough-wide approach to raising awareness.

   iii) That the Council works 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.

   Primary Care Improvement:

   b) That the Council seeks to support Primary Care Improvement in relation to perimenopause and menopause through:

   i) Encouraging the adoption of a ‘Menopause Champion’ in every GP Practice in Rotherham and sharing information regarding GPs’ Menopause Champions once achieved.

   ii) 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.

iii) 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.

Mental Health Support:

c) That the Council seeks to improve Mental Health Support during perimenopause and menopause by:

i) Encouraging Health partners, including GPs, to embed menopause screening questions within Talking Therapies and other Mental Health pathways.

ii) Increase the visibility of Mental Health support options within all menopause information, advice and guidance materials.

Community Support and Engagement:

d) That the Council seeks to improve Community Support and Engagement during perimenopause and menopause by:

i) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to expand menopause cafés and community information sessions across more venues.

ii) 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.

Workplace Health:

e) That the Council seeks to improve Workplace Health in the context of perimenopause and menopause by:

i) 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.

ii) Promoting workplace 'Menopause Champions' in local organisations

and businesses, starting with RMBC (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) as an exemplar employer.

System Leadership:

f) That the Council seeks to improve System Leadership in the context of perimenopause and menopause by:

i) 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.

ii) Inviting partners who work with the Council as part of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Rotherham partners, who comprise 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.'

iii) 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.

iv) 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. Following submission to Cabinet, that those recommendations within the control and influence of external bodies, are shared with relevant Health partners and commissioners for consideration and response.

3. That Cabinet provide a response to these recommendations within 2 months in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Appendix 2, The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Part 3, Section 1.

22. NEIGHBOURHOOD LEADERSHIP STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the new Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, replacing the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy which expired in 2025.

The Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, attached in draft at Appendix 1, covered a six-year period to include the 2032 local elections and was intended to be flexible, supporting an agile approach to Neighbourhood Leadership for Councillors and officers. It dealt specifically with the role of Ward Councillors as neighbourhood leaders, building on the strong foundations which had been delivered over the last eight years. The Strategy set out new aspirations for Ward Councillors to play an enhanced role in bringing residents closer to Council services, enabling

more responsive and locally impactful delivery.

This aligned with local, regional, and national policy ambitions to create stronger neighbourhood working. A complementary strategy (the new Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy) would be presented to Cabinet in December 2026. This would deal with broader issues of neighbourhood working, including how the Council worked with external partners within localities.

The Strategy, through a co-design process with Councillors and officers, provided new guidance on what it meant to be a '21st Century Rotherham Councillor'. Alongside the seven Nolan Principles, this had identified ten core attributes of Ward Councillors as neighbourhood leaders. These were: Visible and Accessible; Trusted Listener; Advocate; Empower; Bridge Builder; Champion; Communicator; Responsible Representative; Connector and Problem Solver.

Six linked workstreams were identified to underpin the aspiration of the Strategy and these were:

1. Ward Priorities and Plans - Providing evidence and insight to enable Ward Councillors to have information, to complement their local knowledge, to support leadership ambitions and plans.

2. Devolved Neighbourhood Budgeting – Optimising the local budgets which can be made available to Ward Councillors and residents to respond to local need.

3. Leadership in Support of Council and Partner Services – Developing new protocols and working arrangements to enable all Ward Councillors to be able to shape services specific to their area.

4. Ongoing Support and Leadership Development – Supporting Ward Councillors to evolve as leaders.

5. The Role of Residents in Neighbourhood Leadership – Supporting Ward Councillors to encourage residents to get proactively involved and have greater influence and agency in their area.

6. Measuring Impact and Feeding Back - Better measuring the impact of the Neighbourhood Leadership and Neighbourhood Co-ordination functions. Enabling more frequent and centrally collated resident feedback to provide further influence over the core functions of the Council.

The report was considered by the Improving Places Select Commission who advised that the recommendations be supported. An additional recommendation was that:

Cabinet considers the removal of the following text under "Action Area 4:

Ongoing Support and Leadership Development" of the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy:- "Within the Strategy period, the 2028 local election will be used to reallocate Neighbourhood Co-ordinators to new Wards to ensure Councillors have access to new skills and perspectives. This will be repeated in future electoral cycles."

Select Commission Members felt strongly that the proposed introduction of a cyclical rotation of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators at local elections could be detrimental to neighbourhood working and the aims of the Strategy, as significant local knowledge, connections and stability could be lost at a time of potential political change.

The Leader invited Councillor Allen, current Cabinet Member for Communities and former Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working to explain the history behind the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator role. The Leader then stated that Cabinet would not be accepting the additional recommendation. It was felt that the rotation of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators was important to ensure that the role and responsibilities of Ward Councillors was not blurred with that of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators. Further, it was for management to decide how best to allocate staffing resources, not Ward Councillors.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the approach of producing two strategies: A Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, focusing specifically on the role of Ward Councillors; and a Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy setting out the overarching ambition for how the Council supports local working.

2. Approve the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy and the aspirations for Ward Councillors to play an enhanced role in bringing residents closer to Council services, enabling more responsive and locally impactful delivery and note the accountability arrangements for services and enhanced focus on wellbeing and health inequalities.

23. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on key achievements across the Children, Young People's and Families Service (CYPS) School Capital Programme for 2025/2026. The report also requested approval of the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027 following the confirmation of the Department for Education (DfE) capital funding allocation.

The update on key achievements for 2025/26 was split across the three aims of the Programme:

Condition works maintained schools - the 2025/2026 programme was supported by a grant of £719,080 by the DfE. This supported condition works across the 16 Local Authority Maintained Primary schools, 3 Nursery Schools and the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). Schemes were identified following the completion of condition reports by Property and Facilities Services, with regular support provided by each school's Building Officer. Schemes were completed on a rolling cycle based on priority and the resources available. Paragraph 1.4.3 provided a breakdown of the works completed.

Sufficiency of places in mainstream schools - As approved by Cabinet in December 2023 and in line with the continued increase of dwellings on the Waverley estate, there was a requirement to increase the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at Waverley Junior Academy to provide 210 additional places. As the requirements were related to an increase in new build homes within the school catchment, the scheme was funded by private sector contributions from the developer through a Section 106 agreement. The additional classroom space was completed and opened in September 2025 in line with the 2025/2026 academic year.

Send Sufficiency - 2025/2026 was the last year of the Safety Valve Agreement. This included a further round of accessibility small grants which were available through an application, short-listing, and award process. 36 schools had been successful in receiving a grant across the Safety Valve period. The Accessibility Small Grants Programme enabled schools to make capital adaptations and improve access to the curriculum for SEND learners, ensuring more pupils were able to be educated in local mainstream schools. Further, the capital completion of a number of new resource provisions on mainstream sites was finalised in year with Thurcroft Junior Academy, Winterhill and Maltby Manor Academy provisions opening successfully.

Investment in Special Schools to increase capacity continued in 2025/2026, including a capital grant to install modular classrooms at Kelford School and the development of a second site of Elements Academy. In total this resulted in an increase of 54 special school places. As previously agreed at Cabinet, a programme of improving works had commenced across the three sites occupied by the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit. This had included works to improve accessibility, and the curriculum offer at Catcliffe and Hutton Park. Further works were planned in 2026/2027 at the main Rawmarsh site.

The proposed School Capital Programme for 2026/27 was detailed in section 2 of the report. Paragraph 2.2.3 outlined the priority schemes for Condition Works in Local Authority Maintained Schools. There were no current plans for mainstream schools' expansion in 2026/27 due to their being no immediate concerns in discharging the Statutory Duty to offer a mainstream school place to every child that required one.

In relation to SEND Sufficiency, it was noted that the new SEND

Sufficiency Strategy was approved by Cabinet in February 2026. The Strategy showed the anticipated demand for SEND provision across both mainstream and special schools until 2030. Further, from 2026/2027, capital planning would be aligned to the SEND Reforms as detailed in the DfE's White Paper 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'. The Local Authority was required to submit a SEND Reform Plan which showed how capital funding would be used to support mainstream inclusion including the development of Inclusion Bases. A future Cabinet report would detail the local arrangements for the implementation of the SEND Reforms. The SEND Sufficiency priorities for 2026/27 were set out in paragraph 2.4.3.

As outlined to Cabinet in March 2026 following a request from the DfE, the Council had become the grant recipient of Strategic School Improvement Capital Budget (SSICB) funding. This was following the decision of the DfE to re-broker the existing Multi Academy Trust arrangements at Newman and bring in another Trust to run the School. The capital works would provide a new build block on the main Whiston site and a refurbishment of the School's listed corridor. A contractor had been secured for the works which were scheduled across 2026/2027 and early 2027/2028.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the achievements in the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2025/2026.

2. Approve the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027.

24. EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE - NEW MODEL OF DELIVERY

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of the revised Educational Psychology Service (EPS) delivery model, setting out how the Service would operate in practice following approval of the associated recurrent investment through the 2026/27 budget.

The Educational Psychology Service would focus on three main areas of work:

1. Statutory work (legal duties): This was the biggest part of the Service and included assessments and advice for Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

2. Targeted early help: Extra support for schools and areas where needs were highest, to prevent problems getting worse.

3. Universal and traded support; Ongoing advice, training and support that schools could access.

In the past, when demand increased, nearly all capacity was pulled into statutory work. This meant Early Help and support for schools reduced which often led to more children needing formal assessments later. The new model was different because it would plan further ahead for statutory demand, protect more time for Early Help and set clear limits on what could be delivered, so the Service was more consistent in its delivery.

Around 1,800 days per year of Educational Psychologist time would be set aside for statutory work (EHC assessments). This was to make sure that legal deadlines were met, advice was provided on time, and the Council avoided legal and reputational risks. To support this, the Council would recruit two additional permanent Educational Psychologists that would reduce reliance on agency staff, give families and schools more consistent support and improve oversight and quality.

Around 120 days per year would be set aside specifically for early intervention. This would focus on schools with the highest levels of need, children at risk of needing more intensive support and key transition points (for example, starting or moving school). Support would include working directly with schools to understand and manage needs, short-term, practical help to stabilise situations and helping schools put the right support in place early.

The Service would continue to provide support to all schools, including advice and consultation, training for staff, help with planning support for children, critical incident support and wider work to improve inclusion. This would be delivered through a mix of Council-funded work, grant funding and traded services schools could buy into. Overall, around 1,200 days per year would be available for this work.

The new model would be implemented from September 2026. This would introduce a clearer balance between statutory work, Early Help, and support for schools, with protected time for early intervention and reduced reliance on agency staff.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the revised Educational Psychology Service delivery model.

2. Note the approach to implementation, governance and assurance arrangements.

25. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2025-26

Consideration was given to the report which provided a detailed outline of the final revenue and capital outturn position for 2025/26.

The Council set a balanced budget position for 2025/26 as part of the

Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 approved at Council on 5th March, 2025. A Revenue Budget of £359.0m was set for General Fund services, this excluded schools' budgets and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) position was based on sound financial assumptions at the time, factoring in budget contingencies for Service demand pressures, in particular within Social Care, Home to School Transport and the impact of the Local Government Pay Award.

However, demand and market pressures in relation to Children's residential placements and placement types, and the cost and complexity of care packages in Adult Social Care had continued to increase. Market prices had increased at above inflation levels, which in turn had placed further pressures on the Council's Budget. The Local Government Pay Award was agreed at 3.2% at all pay bands up to senior officer. The impact was £2.3m above the budget allocated when setting the Council's Budget. The Council had no control over the level of pay award agreed.

The December Financial Monitoring Report 2025/26 submitted to Cabinet on 9th February, 2026 outlined that the Council anticipated an overspend of £3.4m. This forecast position was also outlined in the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report which was submitted to the same Cabinet meeting and also to Council on 4th March, 2026. The overspend was proposed to be funded from Council Reserves. However, the report noted the Council's intention to further improve the outturn position, if possible, which would see a lower value call on reserves. The actual financial outturn position reflected an overspend of £0.3m, an improvement of £3.1m from the December Financial Monitoring reported to February Cabinet. This improvement was a result of Service areas delivering further savings ahead of year end, maximising grant allocations, improvements in income and the Council generating further savings in Treasury Management. The Council's final overspend position of £0.3m had been funded by £0.3m of the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve as approved within the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27.

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position had remained volatile. Economic market sentiment had been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy costs, and commentators anticipate a growing risk of inflation. These financial challenges were being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

The Housing Revenue Account had an underspend of £4.3m. As a result of this the HRA use of reserves was able to be reduced from £7.2m to £2.9m. This would help the HRA to mitigate the financial challenges presented by increased maintenance requirements over the medium term.

The Capital Programme outturn position showed slippage and an underspend of £15m against the Budget for 2025/26. Capital expenditure (programme delivery) in the year increased from the previous years to

£150.6m (2024/25 outturn was £140.6m).

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the revenue outturn position for 2025/26.

2. Note the required transfer from HRA reserves decreased by £4.3m following the revenue and capital outturn position.

3. Note the carry forward of the combined surplus schools balance of £2.395m in accordance with the Department for Education regulations.

4. Note the reserves position set out in paragraphs 2.15 to 2.16.

5. Note the capital outturn, funding position and programme variations as set out in paragraphs 2.17 to 2.25.

26. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2025-26

Consideration was given to the report which reviewed the treasury activity for 2025/26 against the Strategy agreed at the start of the year. The report also covered the actual Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code. The actual Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 for Rotherham MBC, with comparators, were shown in the attached Appendix 1. Background to these was provided in the section 2 of the report.

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

The report met the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council was required to comply with both Codes through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

The Bank of England Base Rate decreased from 4.5% to 3.75% during 2025/26 as inflation continued to fall from the previous highs.

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

Note the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators outturn position as set out in Section 2 and Appendix 1.

27. MAY 2026-27 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

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

As of May 2026, the Council's forecast outturn for 2026/27 was an overspend of £4.6m, made up of a Directorates overspend of £7.6m, offset by a projected Central Services underspend of £3.0m. 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. Detailed explanations of the reasons for variances within each Directorate were provided in the report.

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position had remained volatile. Economic market sentiment had been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy costs impacting the wider economy and economic commentators anticipating a growing risk of inflation. These financial challenges were being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

Paragraph 2.17 of the report detailed the Capital Programme Variations and provided updates on the Local Regeneration Fund and Dinnington project.

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

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £4.6m.

2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

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

28. COUNCIL HOMES HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME REPORT - JULY 2026 UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided the usual six-monthly Housing Delivery Programme update to Cabinet. The report covered the period between 1st December, 2025 and 31st May, 2026, during which time 66 homes were delivered. The report also sought approval for changes to the overall Programme position, including specific additions to the Programme. These changes were designed to maintain delivery of the 1,000 new Council homes target, while providing the flexibility to mitigate risks to this delivery.

By the end of May 2026, 808 new Council homes had been delivered, including 114 homes in the 2025/26 financial year. The 808 new homes comprised 670 Council Rent homes (83%) and 138 Shared Ownership homes (17%). A further 125 Market Sale homes were delivered between August 2020 and April 2023 (as per Appendix 3). As these were not Council homes, these did not contribute towards the 1,000 new Council homes target. A map showing the location of the new Council homes delivered to the end of May 2026 was attached at Appendix 4.

Between 1st December, 2025 and 31st May, 2026 (the 'reporting period' covered by this report), the Programme delivered a total of 66 new homes. This comprised 21 Council build homes, 26 Section 106 acquisitions and 19 market acquisitions. Appendix 5 provided a photographic overview of this delivery, together with a selection of tenant feedback. Over the same period, work progressed to bring forward upcoming projects from the Council's new-build pipeline. A planning application was submitted for the conversion of Hurley Croft Neighbourhood Centre to residential accommodation, and planning consent was granted for 38 homes across sites in Wath, and at Tenter Street in Thornhill. Construction commenced on 28 homes across three sites in Wath, with construction ready to start in June on 31 homes across 2 sites at Eastwood. The construction of 43 homes across 2 sites at Maltby continued with good progress made in line with the project programme.

A further SME project with the potential to deliver 8 homes at Maltby had been added to the Programme, with more information detailed in exempt Appendix 2. The developer would provide a full proposal for evaluation against Programme requirements and a strategic needs assessment.

On 19th January, 2026, Cabinet approved Programme changes to facilitate the delivery of 1,000 new homes by Summer 2027, and within the financial resources allocated to the Programme from the HRA. The approved Programme position was summarised in Table 1 of the report. The inclusion of 10 additional homes beyond the 1,000 new Council Homes target provided a degree of mitigation against slippage in delivery, or homes not coming forward as expected. However, this did not provide sufficient programme level mitigation against risks to the delivery of 1,000

new Council homes. Accordingly, further mitigations were outlined in the previous report. These mitigations had been utilised to bring forward further changes to the overall Programme position, providing additional flexibility to support the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes by summer 2027. The proposed Programme position was summarised in Table 2 with further detail provided in exempt Appendix 1.

The proposed Programme position now included 61 homes above the 1,000 new Council homes target. This surplus provided the flexibility to support delivery of the 1,000 homes on time, while simultaneously providing an initial pipeline to begin delivery of the estimated 500 additional new homes to be added to the Council stock through to 2037/38. There would be some movement between the current and future elements of the Programme which would be determined by progress at an individual project level.

The Council owned a residential property, 2a The Parade, Rawmarsh (Appendix 6), which previously formed part of a commercial lease alongside the retail unit below. The lease had now expired, and the residential property was surplus to commercial requirements. This provided the opportunity to add a 2-bedroom flat to the Council housing stock as part of the Housing Delivery Programme. There were a further 7 flats above commercial units at this location, all of which were already Council Homes managed via the HRA. Significant demand existed for 2-bedroom flats in Rawmarsh, with an average of 111 bids for this property type in 2025. The property had been surveyed and was suitable for refurbishment, within the financial parameters of the Market Acquisition workstream, and letting, as part of the Council stock. It was therefore recommended that the property should be appropriated to the Housing Service and brought into use as General Needs accommodation.

The Housing Acquisitions Policy, attached at Appendix 7, was approved by Cabinet on 16th October, 2023. In line with the Policy a review had taken place. As a result some changes were proposed and included in recommendation 5.

The Programme changes outlined in the January 2026 report included moving the Grayson Road Council Build project from the current Programme to post-Summer 2027 delivery. Subsequent work on this project had determined that it was not financially viable for the Council to deliver homes on this site, and it was, therefore, recommended that it be removed from the future Programme and the site be reviewed as part of the proposed Housing Growth Framework.

Councillor Allen asked if there was an opportunity to look at removing the service charge for some of those other neighbourhood centres that had equally high levels of un-use as Hurley Croft. She asked if the Service could look at the principle of removing the service charge where the facilities were not being used. The Cabinet Member agreed to look into the matter and provide a written response.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the continued progress made in delivering the Council's Housing Delivery Programme, including the delivery of 66 new homes in the period covered by this report, and the ongoing work to deliver 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027.

2. Approves the Programme changes outlined in this report to facilitate the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027, within the financial resources allocated to the programme from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

3. Approves the appropriation of 2a The Parade (see Appendix 6) into the HRA, and work to refurbish the property to the standards required for letting as general needs accommodation.

4. Agrees to delegate authority to the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to remove the service charge at Hurley Croft once work to convert to residential accommodation is ready to start.

5. Approves the proposed changes to the Housing Acquisitions Policy referenced at Paragraph 2.12. The draft Policy is attached at Appendix 7.

6. Approves the removal of the Grayson Road Council Build site from the delivery pipeline.

7. Agrees to continue to receive an update on the Housing Development Programme every six months.

29. TENANT SATISFACTION MEASURES AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE - SIX MONTHLY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which set out the 2025/26 Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) survey for Housing Services. It showed how the Service had performed against previous years and national data benchmarking. 11 out of 12 tenant satisfaction measures were currently above the national median, based on 2024/25 data published by the Regulator of Social Housing. When comparing Local Authorities (LAs) only, the Council ranked in the upper quartile for 11 of these 12 measures. The report also set out areas that required improvement and actions in response.

During the 2025/26 financial year, 3,334 tenants were surveyed by an independent research partner (Kwest Research Ltd), representing over 16.5% of the total tenant population. This substantially exceeded the

Regulator of Social Housing's minimum requirement to survey 5% of tenants and demonstrated the Council's strong commitment to meaningful tenant engagement. As with previous years, contact methods remained aligned with industry best practice, with 85% of surveys conducted by telephone and 15% via email. Importantly, the tenants surveyed closely reflected the Council's tenant Equality and Diversity profile, providing confidence that the results were representative and inclusive.

The year-end position for 2025/26 showed a slight decline in satisfaction that the home was well maintained, reducing by 0.3 percentage points to 77.4% compared to the end of year 2024/25 figures. However, satisfaction with home safety improved to 81.8%, and both repairs-related measures continued to rise. Satisfaction with the overall repairs service reached 78.7%, and satisfaction with the time taken to complete repairs increased to 78.1%. Compared to the 2023/24 baseline, these represented gains of 4.6 and 6.0 percentage points, respectively, highlighting sustained improvement in service delivery.

At the year-end position for 2025/26, the percentage of tenants who felt well informed had decreased slightly by 0.4 percentage points to 76.4%, while perceptions of fairness and respect had remained stable at 83.1%. However, the proportion of tenants who felt listened to has reduced by 1.8 percentage points to 69.7%, and satisfaction with complaints handling had remained static at 34.5%.

The Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) for 2024/25 showed that satisfaction with how well communal areas were kept clean and well maintained experienced the largest decline, falling by 3.5 percentage points compared to 2023/24. This decline was reinforced by tenant comments captured through the tenant perception survey. In response, the Council invested an additional £135,000 in caretaking services for 2025/26 and introduced refreshed Service Level Agreements to strengthen standards and accountability. As a result of this targeted investment and Service improvement, satisfaction with communal areas became the most improved measure year on year between 2024/25 and 2025/26, increasing by 4.8 percentage points. The key initiatives to improve anti-social behaviour were outlined in paragraph 2.8 of the report.

The ten Council-reported TSMs also remained strong. Repairs performance was a particular strength, mirroring the positive perception survey results with 97.5% of non-emergency repairs completed within target timescales (15.0 percentage points above the national median) and 98.6% of emergency repairs completed within target (3.7 percentage points above the national median). In addition, the Council had achieved full compliance across all health and safety-related measures, except for Gas Safety, which stood at 99.9%. 13 properties were non-compliant as at end of March 2026 and actions were underway to gain access to those properties. The proportion of non-decent homes had risen slightly from 6.38% at the end of 2024/25 to 7.58% at the end of 2025/26. By comparison, the median non-decency rate across Local Authorities in

2024/25 was 3.2%. This increase was anticipated and reflected the accelerated progress of the Stock Condition Survey Programme. As the Programme continued, the recorded level of non-decent stock was expected to fluctuate as a more accurate and up-to-date picture of stock condition emerged.

In 2025/26, the Council recorded 69.8 ASB cases per 1,000 properties, which was 33.8 above the national median. Reported hate incidents stood at 0.3 per 1,000 properties, 0.4 below the national median. While this could initially appear positive, it raised a potential concern regarding under-reporting. As part of the improvement journey, a detailed audit of ASB cases was underway to ensure hate incidents were being accurately identified and recorded. Where gaps were identified, targeted actions would be implemented to strengthen staff awareness, reporting pathways, and case classification.

Complaint volumes also highlighted an area for improvement. In 2025/26, there were 23.1 stage one complaints per 1,000 properties (30.4 below the national median) and 1.8 stage two complaints per 1,000 properties (6.5 below the national median). While low complaint rates could suggest satisfaction, it was recognised that in this context they were more likely to indicate barriers to reporting or a lack of tenant confidence in the complaints process. In response, a programme of improvements was being taken forward, focused on increasing accessibility, transparency and trust. This included making it easier for tenants to raise complaints through clearer communication and simplified channels, alongside strengthening internal processes to ensure timely, thorough and learning-focused responses. These changes were being aligned with Housing Ombudsman expectations, with a strong emphasis on using complaints as a driver for service improvement.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the content of the report.

2. Agrees to receive a further update in six months' time.

30. COUNCIL PLAN AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the progress of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. The Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2025-26 (and the associated Council Plan performance measures) was approved by Cabinet on 19th May, 2025. In line with the previous Council Plan, it was agreed that there would be two monitoring reports published over the year. Cabinet received the first progress update on 19th January, 2026. The second progress report for 2025-26 was attached at Appendix 1. It included progress on Year Ahead Delivery Plan

actions up to 15th June, 2026, performance measures at Quarter 4 (January to March 2026), and the year-end overview of the long-term measures of success.

As of 15th June, 2026, the activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan were rated as follows:

- 82% (73) complete
- 2% (2) are delayed by less than 3 months
- 16% (14) will not be met within 3 months of original target date.

For the report covering Quarter 4, the status of the performance measures was:

Progress against targets

- Performance has met target – 22 measures (81%)
- Performance has not met target – 5 measures (19%)

For the report covering Quarter 4, the status of the 12 Social Care measures was:

Progress against targets

- Performance is on or above target – 7 measures (58%)
- Target cannot be assessed this quarter (i.e. Annual measure or awaiting publication of data) – 2 measures (17%)
- Information measure targets not applicable (i.e. Volume/Demand measures where ‘good’ is neither high or low) – 3 measures (25%)

For the report covering Quarter 4, the status of the long-term measures of success was:

Progress against baseline 2024/25

- 22 measures have improved since the baseline (58%)
- 10 measures have not improved since the baseline (26%)
- 6 measures are N/A - do not have data for current reporting period (16%)

During the meeting, the Leader explained that there were four updates to report:

- Kimberworth Park Partnership were successful in their bid to The Cruyff Foundation for a multi-use games area and have secured £75k to progress the project, alongside additional £80k of Council investment.
- Groundworks began on the new homes at Eastwood – one of the two actions marked as amber in the report.

- The Rotherham Market Hall main floor area, where the stalls would be, was handed over on Friday, 19th June. The new market would be open to the public from Friday, 10th July 2026.
- Whiston Flood Alleviation Scheme was progressing, with the contractor commencing works onsite on 6th July to install a new culvert on Worrygoose Lane.

Councillor Marshall spoke in support of the commencement of works for the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme and reported that progress had been made with the Catcliffe Flood Alleviation Scheme with a delivery partner being appointed to develop the design.

Councillor Cusworth highlighted several aspects for the Children and Young People's Portfolio. This included baby packs, development reviews and EHCP timelines.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Three additional recommendations had been put forward. These were, that:

1. OSMB recommends that Cabinet ensures the Council clearly demonstrates in future updates how delays affect residents, the seriousness of the associated risks, and the measures in place to mitigate them.

2. OSMB recommends that Cabinet ensures the Council clearly identifies the main reasons for missed targets, demonstrates what actions are being taken to improve performance, and evidence whether those actions are delivering results, supported by named ownership, detailed action plans, progress tracking, impact data, and clear examples of learning and escalation.

3. OSMB recommends that Cabinet, in collaboration with senior officers, undertakes a review of the Shop Unit Grant Programme to assess whether the full range of available mechanisms and powers, such as planning controls, design standards, and regulatory tools, were being effectively utilised to maximise long-term improvements to Rotherham's high streets.

Cabinet accepted all of the additional recommendations. However, the Leader stated that the Shop Unit Grant Programme would be underway shortly and so the review would have to wait until time could be allocated.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.

2. Note the Quarter 4 data for the Council Plan performance measures.

3. Note the updates on the Council Plan long term measures of success.

4. Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2027.

5. Ensures the Council clearly demonstrates in future updates how delays affect residents, the seriousness of the associated risks, and the measures in place to mitigate them.

6. Ensures the Council clearly identifies the main reasons for missed targets, demonstrates what actions are being taken to improve performance, and evidence whether those actions are delivering results, supported by named ownership, detailed action plans, progress tracking, impact data, and clear examples of learning and escalation.

7. In collaboration with senior officers, undertakes a review of the Shop Unit Grant Programme to assess whether the full range of available mechanisms and powers, such as planning controls, design standards, and regulatory tools, were being effectively utilised to maximise long-term improvements to Rotherham's high streets.

31. TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIC SITES

Consideration was given to the report which presented the regeneration proposals for five Strategic Sites in Rotherham town centre. The five sites were:

- Westgate Car Park
- Sites on Sheffield Road (SIG and Bedell land)
- The Statutes Car Park
- Snail Yard, High Street
- 3-7 Corporation Street

The report outlined the Council's ambitions for the sites, the phased approach to redevelopment, and the outcomes of the work to date, including feasibility work to produce initial outline concepts and Strategic Regeneration Plans (SRPs) which were contained within exempt Appendix 1. Exempt Appendix 2 contained the financial breakdown associated with the proposals.

The report also set out the next steps required to progress through Stage 2 of the process to produce detailed, deliverable, costed development plans, with financial models, over the next year that would clearly illustrate how the sites could be delivered in the final stage and recommended an allocation of £2.42m from the Council's Local Regeneration Fund to facilitate this. No decision was required at this stage on the ultimate development plans for the sites, their funding, financial models or land

ownership arrangements, however emerging thinking was referenced. A Cabinet report would be presented in Summer 2027 which detailed the final proposals.

Paragraph 1.9 of the report detailed the aims of the Town Centre Regeneration Proposals. Paragraph 2.1 of the report set out Stage 1 of the process which included a summary of the outcomes of the Strategic Regeneration Plans for the five sites. This included design concepts, programme details and the funding strategy, viability & development options & structure.

Paragraph 2.2 of the report outlined Stage 2 of the process. Stage 2 culminated in the production of Full Business Cases (FBC) for each of the Strategic Sites. Specifically, this must include as a minimum:

- Intrusive site investigations in preparation for remediation of vacant sites
- Detailed viability appraisals and funding strategies
- RIBA Stage 3 design concepts
- Securing Planning Permissions
- Raising of the required development finances
- Detailed cost plans
- Presented as a HM Treasury Compliant 5 Case Full Business Case

Progression to Stage 2 would require the Council to meet the pre-development costs of £2.42m. It was proposed that this was funded through unallocated Local Regeneration Grant. The Local Regeneration Grant was the name applied to the Central Government funding previously known as Pathfinder, the name for the collated pots of Town Deal, Future High Streets and Levelling Up funds. Use of this underspend to progress these schemes accorded with the longstanding strategic intent to diversify the Town Centre through the development of these sites. It was also consistent with the Government's intention to enable local authorities to have flexibility over the use of these funds.

Up to the conclusion of Stage 2, the financial risk to the Council was £3.02m, of grant funding and would represent the full costs incurred to achieve detailed development plans and planning approval for the five strategic sites. There remained a risk that ultimately the Council may decide not to proceed past Stage 2 and into delivery. This was considered a necessary risk in order to unlock these strategically important sites to achieve transformational change in the Town Centre and for the Council to retain control of the development activity and regeneration message. It was acknowledged that this stage only represented the comprehensive feasibility work and, therefore, there was a risk that the outcome would be that the sites were not feasible to be developed in this way, due to the funding gap identified as part of the scope of works.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the completion of Stage 1 of the Council's phased approach to the redevelopment of the 5 Strategic Sites.

2. Approves the allocation of £2.42m from the Council's unallocated Local Regeneration Fund to facilitate the completion of Stage 2 of the redevelopment of the sites, the detail of which is described in section 2.1.

3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs & Local Economy and S151 Officer to negotiate contract terms with Capital and Centric and enter into contract to complete all elements of Stage 2 development work for the 5 strategic sites.

4. Notes the presentation of a further report to Cabinet in Summer 2027 summarising the outcome of the stage 2 work and setting out final recommendations for a detailed delivery strategy that will form stage 3.

5. Approve necessary consultation and engagement activity with all stakeholders to inform and support the progression to the next stages of development.

32. DRAFT STREET TRADING POLICY

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who recommended that Cabinet deferred consideration of the Draft Street Trading Policy and did not proceed to public consultation until further development work had been completed and sufficient supporting evidence was provided to ensure the Policy was evidence-led and fit for consultation. This work should include clearer data on current trading activity and issues, improved impact assessments, clearer scope and definitions, and more detailed operational and fee proposals. During the meeting, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board confirmed that he would like the matter to return to Scrutiny in due course.

Cabinet accepted this recommendation and deferred the Draft Street Trading Policy without further discussion.

Resolved:

That Cabinet agree to defer consideration of the Draft Street Trading Policy until further development work has been completed.

33. PRIMATE LICENSING

Consideration was given to the report which sought to set an appropriate fee for the Primate Licence application. Recent changes to Animal Health Legislation included the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 which provided for the licensing of primate keepers.

The Legislation prohibited the keeping of primates as pets unless individuals could meet the rigorous conditions of a new licensing scheme, which included the requirement for licence holders to seek veterinary input on the appropriate care of their animals. Primates had complex welfare and social needs, and the standards were designed to ensure that only those who could demonstrate the highest levels of animal welfare would be permitted to keep primates.

An individual who kept, or was proposing to keep, a primate could apply for a Primate Licence. The application must specify a range of details including the species of primate, and the number of primates of each species to be kept under the licence. It must detail the sex, species, date of birth (or if not known, the approximate date), and the number of any microchips implanted, for each primate.

Before issuing a licence, a suitable officer must inspect the premises specified in the application to determine whether the licence conditions were likely to be met if the application were to be granted. If licence conditions were likely to be met, then a licence could be issued. Conversely, if licence conditions were not likely to be met, then the application must be refused. Where the Council was satisfied that a licence could be issued, the licence could be issued for three years unless the applicant specified a shorter period. The Regulations made further provisions for renewal, variation, revocation and surrender of licences, together with provisions in the event of the death of a licence holder.

The Council could set a fee for the application and a fee for any inspections. There was already a fee set for Dangerous Wild Animal Licences which covered the same direct and indirect costs of licensing as proposed for Primate Licensing. Consequently, the same fee of £199 was proposed for the Licence fee along with any variation or renewal applications.

Resolved:

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

34. 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.

35. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 14th September, 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

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AUDIT COMMITTEE
28th July, 2026

Present:- Councillor Baggaley (in the Chair); Councillors Blackham, Elliott, Ismail and Monk and Michael Olugbenga-Bababola (Independent Person).

An apology for absence was received from Alison Hutchinson (Independent Person).

Also present:-
Joshua Amahwe, Head of Finance CYPS
Judith Badger, Executive Director, Corporate Services
Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton (External Auditor)
Niall Devlin, Service Director, Education and Inclusion
Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance
Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit
Rob Mahon, Service Director, Financial Services
Michelle Scales, Service Manager, Litigation and Practice
Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager
Dawn Mitchel, Governance Officer

18. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE 2026/27 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Following the resignation of Councillor Lelliott, there was now a vacancy on the Committee and the position of Vice-Chair.

The vacancy presented an opportunity for the Council to maintain the effectiveness of the Audit Committee by appointing a replacement Member and Vice-Chair. This would ensure that the Committee continued to operate with its full complement of Members, maintain appropriate leadership resilience and was able to effectively discharge its responsibilities in relation to governance, risk management, internal control, financial reporting and audit matters.

Resolved:- That Councillor Ismail be appointed Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2026-27 Municipal Year.

19. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

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

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute No. 28 (Risk Management Annual Summary 2025-26 and Corporate Strategic Risk Register) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime).

22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE, 2026

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 16th June, 2026.

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

23. EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

Greg Charnley, Grant Thornton (External Auditor), reported that the External Audit field work had commenced at the beginning of July and was currently on track to submit a detail report to the September Audit Committee meeting and the November meeting for sign off

There had been a slight change in the audit materiality which had reduced from £16.7M to £16M which reflected some of the adjustments in the previous financial year e.g. Forge Island.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

24. UPDATE REPORT ON THE USE OF SURVEILLANCE

Michelle Scales, Service Manager, Litigation and Practice, presented an update on the Council's use of surveillance and acquisition of communication data powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA).

Since the last report, the Council had not used its powers under RIPA to use directed (covert) surveillance, covert human intelligence sources and informants or to acquire communications data. The annual statistical return was completed and sent to the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office on 5th January, 2026.

External training was provided to all officers who were likely to be involved in the use of the powers provided under the RIPA legislation on 21st October, 2025, 13th January and 11th February, 2026. To ensure that training was up-to-date and new staff joining were aware of their roles, further training sessions would be arranged for 2026. The purpose of this

was to further reduce any potential risk arising from any unauthorised activity.

The revised Home Office Codes of Practice advised that the elected members of a local authority should review the authority's use of RIPA and set the Policy at least once a year and consider internal reports on the use of RIPA on a regular basis to ensure that it was being used consistently with the local authority's policy and that the policy remained fit for purpose.

On 8th December 2025, the Council received notification from the IPCO regarding its mandatory inspection. The Council provided the information requested on 14th January, 2026, with a meeting then taking place with the Inspector from the IPCO.

On 27th January, 2026, the Council received notification that the IPCO was satisfied with regard to the Council's ongoing compliance with RIPA 2000 and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016.

The RIPA Policy was reviewed by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 29th July, 2025 (Minute No. 21 refers) and was re-adopted with some minor amendments to provide clarity and the use of accurate terminology when referencing guidance documents. The RIPA Policy had been reviewed and, as there had been no changes to guidance or Codes of Practice, did not require significant amendment.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Requests for the use of RIPA were submitted to Legal Services and reviewed in accordance with the Policy, Legislation and Code of Practice and the powers utilised if deemed appropriate. However, it was seen as a last resort and other means of gathering evidence should be used. There was a lot to consider in terms of the impact on Human Rights etc.

- There was a distinct difference between covert and overt surveillance. RIPA covered covert surveillance only, looking at targeted surveillance which met the particular criteria under the Legislation. Overt surveillance e.g. cameras which would catch people flytipping did not fall under RIPA and was governed by other Legislation and Codes of Practice

- Any decisions on the provision of overt cameras in areas that were experiencing particular problems/increase in the number of cameras was an issue for the respective Service

Resolved:- (1) That the Audit Committee note that the Council had not made use of surveillance or acquisition of communication data powers under the relevant legislation.

(2) That the findings of the inspection by the IPCO and that the next inspection would take place in 2029 be noted.

(3) That the RIPA Policy with the minor amendments made to provide clarity and use of accurate terminology when referencing the relevant guidance documents be approved.

25. HIGH NEEDS/SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME - 2025-26

Joshua Amahwe, Head of Finance CYPS, together with Niall Devlin, Service Director, Education and Inclusion, reported that the 5 year Safety Valve Agreement had ended on 31st March, 2026. The submitted report outlined the performance against the approved Safety Valve Agreement (with the Department of Education) over the 5 years of the Programme as well as the recovery plans in place to enable Rotherham to achieve financial sustainability.

The report also highlighted the financial position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Budget in 2025-26 and the cumulative deficit position in the last year of the Safety Valve Programme.

The Safety Valve Agreement had provided a clear and ambitious framework for developing enhanced inclusive provision to meet children's SEND across the Borough. Rotherham had delivered all the conditions of its Safety Valve Agreement and had made significant progress in meeting the agreed financial recovery plan. Key achievements against the agreed conditions over the 5 year period were set out in the report but included focus on strengthening mainstream inclusion, increased specialist provision as well as improving the financial sustainability of the whole High Needs SEND budget.

Over the 5 year period, the whole Programme had been closely monitored by the Council and the submission of quarterly reports/various challenge sessions with the DfE. There had been growth in local capacity in terms of the number of SEND places in Rotherham with in excess of 500 special school places created in Rotherham as well as the creation of 10 SEND resource basis within mainstream schools and the extension of some special schools and the PRU.

Massive inroads had been made in mainstream schools by improving the level of inclusion. A high number of pupils were now supported within mainstream provision opposed to placement in specialist provision although there continued to be an increase in specialist school provision.

At the outset of the SVA, there had been a cumulative deficit of approximately £21.2M; part of that reduction stemmed from the financial support received as well as the recovery actions. A financial deficit of £3.6M was reported for the High Needs Budget for 2025-26 and had been transferred to the DSG reserves account. This reflected increased demand within the SEND system including rising numbers of pupils with

EHCPs in mainstream and specialist settings alongside inflationary cost pressures. Under the current regulations, the deficit was carried forward into the next financial year as part of the statutory protection the Government had put in place to ensure local authorities were not burdened with the deficit in DSG.

The Government had announced a High Needs Stability Grant which would fund up to 90% of historic DSG deficits accumulated by 31st March 2026 with local authorities expected to fund the remaining 10%. Based on the proposed funding methodology, the Council was expected to receive approximately £0.6M reducing its residual DSG deficit of £2.9M as at 31st March 2026.

The Grant formed part of the transition to a reformed SEND system and complemented the continuation of the statutory DSG deficit override which remained in place until 31st March 2028. Access to the Stability Grant would be conditional on each authority submitting a Local SEND Reform Plan and securing approval from the Department for Education.

Local authorities were required to submit their Local SEND Reform Plan by 19th June 2026 setting out how they would transition to the reformed SEND system and increase early intervention, inclusion and mainstream capacity. Plans must demonstrate a clear pathway towards the Government's vision for a more inclusive SEND system.

It was expected that the Stability Grant funding would continue during the transition although funding would be proportionate rather than unlimited. Local authorities would be required to maintain robust financial management whilst continuing to deliver appropriate, high quality support for children and young people with SEND. Delivery of approved Local SEND Reform Plans would be a key component of the approach. Given the funding uncertainty, it was difficult at present to assess how much the DfE would support the ongoing in-year High Needs deficits. The position would continue to need to be closely managed and factored into the Council's budget setting processes.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised:-

- Approval of the Local SEND Reform Plan was important as it released future funding in terms of addressing the cumulative deficit

- Modelling work had been carried out to assess what the next 2-3 years would look like based on projected numbers of pupils expected to be in the system and accessing support. It was expected to be in the region of £19M and took account of the recovery actions of the plans in place

- The £19M was made up of the £2.9M carried forward from 2025/26, anticipated £7M for 2026/27 and approximately £9M for 2027/28

- The Government had indicated that it was looking to provide financial support up to 2027/28 in terms of the High Needs Stability Grant

- Based on Government guidance, there was a complicated formula for SVA authorities which did not give 90% funding for 2025/26 but would be applicable once out of the SVA

- The expectation that the 90% would be ongoing came from the Fair Funding Review, discussions with the DfE and the need to address the ongoing pressure on the system

Resolved:- (1) That the performance against the Safety Valve Agreement and the recovery actions to manage the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) deficit in Rotherham be noted.

(2) That the 2025/26 financial position of the DSG High Needs Budget and cumulative DSG deficit at the end of the Safety Valve Programme be noted.

26. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT Q1 2026-27

Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance, presented the 2026-27 quarter 1 review as recommended by CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice for Treasury Management 2021. The submitted report detailed performance against Treasury Management activities as well as incorporating the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of the capital expenditure plans and the Council's Prudential Indicators.

It was also explained that it was a requirement that any proposed changes to the 2026/27 Prudential Indicators were approved by Council.

The monitoring, as set out in Appendix A, highlighted the key changes to the Council's capital activity (the PIs) and the actual and proposed Treasury Management activity (borrowing and investment). The review indicated performance had not changed from that set out in the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

Reference was made to the key messages for investments, borrowing and governance.

With regard to investments, the primary governing principle remained security over return and the criteria for selecting counterparties continued to reflect this.

The Council would maintain its strategy of being under-borrowed against the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The Council had refinanced £50M of temporary borrowing in the year to date.

It was anticipated that further short term borrowing would be required before the end of 2026/27. As reported previously, the Council would predominantly adopt a short term borrowing strategy to cover this borrowing need in anticipation of lower interest rates in the medium term. There was a discounted rate with the PWLB for borrowing long term funds specifically for Housing Revenue Account purpose. This was available until March 2027. Depending upon the prevailing interest rate position, the Council may utilise this rate for some long term borrowing, however, the borrowing position would remain under review.

Whilst the Council's approach to Treasury Management in recent years, utilising short-term borrowing, had generated significant savings for the Council, it was essential to achieve balanced budgets, the future outlook was more challenging. There was increased uncertainty around the future direction of interest rates as markets responded to the recent conflict in Iran.

The Council had undertaken £50M of temporary borrowing in the year to date of which £20M was refinanced with the existing lender.

The continuing approach to Treasury Management had been discussed with the Council's external Treasury Management Advisers, MUFG, who had confirmed this was a prudent approach given current market conditions. MUFG would continue to monitor borrowing rates and inform the Council if there were opportunities to borrow at advantageous rates.

It was noted that this was Natalia's last meeting as she was leaving the Authority. Joshua Amahwe would be taking over Natalia's role.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.

(2) That the Committee's thanks be placed on record and Natalia wished all the best in her future employment.

27. EXTERNAL INSPECTIONS, REVIEWS, AND AUDITS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report presented by Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager, which provided details of recent external inspections, reviews and audits as well as a summary of progress against the recommendations from all external inspections, reviews and audits setting out details of arrangements for ensuring the accountability and governance around their implementation.

Since the last report to Committee in January 2026 (Minute No. 64 refers), 6 new external inspections, reviews and audits had been completed. In total 37 recommendations or areas of improvement were listed on the

tracker of which 21 had been completed since the last report; 16 remained ongoing of which 7 were delayed including 2 that were delayed by more than 12 months. The reasons for the delays were summarised within Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

There had been 2 inspections to Rotherham residential children's homes since January both of which identified significant improvements achieved.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The reasons behind the ongoing delay in implementing the 2 improvements identified at the 2024 Ofsted SEND visit were complex and regularly discussed by management

- A revised target date for completion of the 2023/24 Value for Money arrangements had been agreed (September 2026)

Resolved:- (1) That the recent external inspections, reviews and audits which have taken place and the progress made in implementing the recommendations since the last report in January 2026 be noted.

(2) That the governance arrangements that were currently in place for monitoring and managing the recommendations be noted.

(3) That the Audit Committee continue to receive regular reports in respect of external inspections, reviews and audits and the progress made.

28. RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL SUMMARY 2025-2026 AND CORPORATE STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER UPDATE

Katie Stead, Policy Improvement and Risk Manager, submitted the Risk Management Annual Summary 2025-26 and Corporate Strategic Risk Register (CSRR) update.

The report summarised the principal risk management activity that had been carried out in the Council throughout the past financial year. It also covered a wider range of topics than the regular report on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register and aimed to reflect both the movements in strategic risks that had occurred over the period together with the key elements of the Council's risk management activity throughout the year.

Risk Management
As set out in the Risk Management Policy and Guide, individual Service Management Teams and Directorate Leadership Teams had reviewed their risk registers in line with the Policy and Strategy.

Corporate Strategic Risk Register
The Register was formally reviewed by the Strategic Leadership Team at quarterly meetings.

The programme of Audit Committee risk register reviews for the 2025-26 financial year was completed as planned. A new annual cycle had been established under which the Committee reviewed all Directorate risk registers at least once during the next 12 months and the CSRR twice within the same period.

Movements in the heat map were compared to the risks on the CSSR reported to Committee in January, 2026. At the start of 2025/26 the CSRR had comprised of 14 risks with none assessed as red. The total number of strategic risks had increased to 16 with 5 risks added and 3 removed following successful management. Of those risks, one was raised and removed within 2 reporting points.

By the end of 2025/26, 4 risks on the CSRR were rated as red 3 of which related to new risks that had been escalated up to the CSRR during 2025/26 whilst the remaining risk was escalated from amber to red throughout the year.

In 2024/25 there had been a slight increase in the risk profile throughout the year for the first time in 3 years; this had continued into 2025/26 and active management throughout the year had supported the successful management of this profile.

Appendix 1 contained the complete CSRR including information on current mitigations in place and what were still to be delivered. It also set out the current target level of risk for each risk.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Further discussion would take place as to whether hanging baskets off lighting columns was to be included within SLT45 (highways structures inspection regime)

- SEND education/financing was included within SLT16 (financial plans and budget gap) and incorporated the financial position and sustainability of the Council

- Work was on track to meet the timetable set by the Chief Executive with regard to the review of failure to manage and deliver regeneration programmes (SLT37)

- The equal pay litigation was a lengthy and legal process with the risk being assessed along the way

It was hoped that a member and development training session would take place in September on risk management

Resolved:- That the annual summary of risk management activity and updates to the Corporate Strategic Risk Register be noted.

(Appendix 1 was 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))

29. DRAFT AUDIT COMMITTEE 2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit, which summarised the work undertaken by the Audit Committee. Production of this report complied with current best practice for audit committees. It allowed the Audit Committee to demonstrate it had fulfilled its terms of reference and share its achievements with the Council.

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2025/26 included details of the main outcomes and improvements, Committee membership during that period, a summary of the work undertaken, information on self-assessment evaluation and training and development along with listing the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Resolved: That the draft Audit Committee Annual Report 2025/26 be approved for submission to Council.

30. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee for September 2026 to July 2027. The plan showed how the agenda items related to the objectives of the Committee. It was presented for review and amendment as necessary.

Resolved:- That the Audit Committee forward work plan, as now submitted, be approved.

31. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral.

32. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to be considered.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
24th June, 2026

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

Also Present:-

Mr. Heward Shinwari, Applicant
Mr. Taimor Hairat, Landlord/Supporter
Mr. Ibrarulhaq Amin, Interpreter

"Other Person" Objector Nos. 5 and 10

Mrs. Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer
Ms. Katie Etheridge, Solicitor, Legal Services
Mrs. Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor/Clerk

CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) BY MR HEWARD SHINWARI FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF PREMISES SITUATED AT 21 MONKWOOD ROAD, ROTHERHAM S62 7JN

Further to Minute No. 38 of 19th May 2026, the Licensing Sub-Committee was reconvened to consider an application (made in accordance with Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003) for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of premises situated at 21 Monkwood Road, Rotherham S62 7JN.

The applicant, Mr. Heward Shinwari, was seeking authorisation to allow the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises on the days of Monday to Saturday between 0700 and 2300 hours and Sunday between 0800 and 2200 hours.

Mr. Shinwari was present together with Mr. Taimor Hairat (supporter). Mr. Ibrarulhaq Amin was the independent interpreter, arranged by the Local Authority, to assist Mr. Shinwari during the hearing.

As established at the previous hearing, 15 "Other Persons" had made representations to the application opposing the granting of the application during the consultation period. The representations of the Licensing Authority had been withdrawn due to the conditions having been accepted by the applicant and the application subsequently amended. If the Sub-Committee was minded to grant the application, the 14 conditions would automatically be applied to Annex 2 of the licence.

Subsequent to the first meeting, Mr. Shinwari had been requested to supply confirmation of his Personal Licence and a copy of the lease. The documents had been supplied and were to the satisfaction of the

Licensing Service. Mr. Shinwari had also supplied further information in support of his application which was attached at Appendix 6 of the agenda.

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

- Allegations that one of the objectors had deliberately caused trouble for his proposed new business to prevent it from opening
- Mr. Shinwari would be the Designated Premises Supervisor. There would be two other employees who would be trained to look after the premises
- Mr. Shinwari's spoken English was quite good, however, the atmosphere of the meeting made him nervous. Ms. Kraus confirmed that she had spoken to Mr. Shinwari following the last meeting and that his standard of English was understandable
- Mr. Taimor would assist Mr. Shinwari in training the employees
- During the first month of trading Mr. Taimor would also be in the shop to help Mr. Shinwari
- Mr. Shinwari explained the principles of Challenge 25 and the situations where he would not serve alcohol
- The shop was currently closed pending the outcome of the meeting
- If there was a medical emergency at the shop, the employees would speak better English than Mr. Shinwari who would be able to summon help from the emergency services. However, in Mr. Shinwari's home country, children were taught how to do to CPR/what to do in an emergency
- The parked vehicles were blocking access to his premises
- Mr. Shinwari clarified the methods of ID that were acceptable for the sale of alcohol

The Sub-Committee considered the supporting comments, both in person and written, which could be summarised as follows:-

- The presence of another premises selling alcohol in such close proximity raised concerns with regard to increased anti-social behaviour including street drinking, disorder and potential crime in the immediate area
- Risk that granting of the licence would contribute to increased noise, littering and loitering particularly during late hours. This would impact negatively on local residents and nearby businesses
- May increase exposure and accessibility of alcohol to underage individuals
- Increased concentration of alcohol outlets within a small area may lead to greater risk of incidents affecting public safety particularly during evenings and weekends
- A shop selling alcohol opposite a secondary school was not the best position for such an outlet

- Alleged criminal damage and wilful destruction of vehicles parked outside the proposed premises. The vehicles had been parked there for some time and there had never been any problems
- Anti-social behaviour already existed in the area – fears that a third off-licence would exacerbate the problems
- Increased traffic and parking congestion
- The external lights and noise from shutters particularly early morning and late at night
- No adequate rear access to the property for storage and waste removal
- The parking in front of No. 21 was for everyone/anyone

Arising from the discussion/questions, the Licensing Service and Legal Service provided the following clarification:-

- Any building/renovation work taking place within the premises did not fall within the remit of the Licensing Sub-Committee
- The Personal Licence Scheme was dictated through Government and there were prescribed approved trainers; it was not within the control or remit of the Local Authority
- Parking was not a specific consideration to be taken into account when making a Licensing decision

Resolved:- That the application for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of premises in respect of premises situated at 21 Monkwood Road, Rotherham S62 7JN be approved subject to the inclusion of the 14 management control conditions applied to Annex 2.

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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
30th June, 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Ball and Monk.

Also Present:-
Mr. A. Kalamohan, Licence Holder
Ms. A. Forrest, Solicitor
Mr. C. Kalamohan, Witness

Ms. J. Belton, Licensing Officer, South Yorkshire Police
Mr. R. Sowter, Solicitor, South Yorkshire Police
Mr. L. Durrant, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership
Mr. A. Pogorzelec, representing the Licensing Authority

Mrs. D. Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, RMBC
Ms. K. Etheridge, Solicitor, RMBC
Mrs. D. Pons, Governance Advisor/Clerk, RMBC

CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.51 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) FOR THE REVIEW OF THE PREMISES LICENCE ISSUED TO AKMS RETAIL LTD IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS TODAY'S SITUATED AT UNIT 4, OX CLOSE AVENUE, KIMBERWORTH PARK, ROTHERHAM S61 3QY.

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003) for the review of the Premises Licence issued to AKMS Retail Ltd. in respect of the premises known as Today's situated at Unit 4, Ox Close Avenue, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham, S61 3QY.

On the 6th May 2026 an application was made on behalf of the Licensing Authority for the review of the Premises Licence issued to AKMS Retail Ltd in respect of the premises known as Today's situated at Unit 4, Ox Close Avenue, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham, S61 3QY.

The review application therefore sought the revocation of the Premises Licence.

A copy of the application was served on the Licence holder by post and email on 6th May 2026 as well as a hand delivered copy to the premises.

Three of the Responsible Authorities, Public Health, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership and South Yorkshire Police had made representations in support of the review application. Mrs. D. Kraus (Principal Licensing Officer) presented the report and the Sub-Committee heard representations from Alan Pogorzelec (representing the Licensing Authority), Robert Sowter (Solicitor - South Yorkshire Police), Jo Belton

(Licensing Officer - South Yorkshire Police) and Lee Durrant (Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership). The written representation by Public Health was set out in the document pack.

The licence holder was AKMS Retail Ltd. who had a single director Mr. A. Kalamohan who was present today and assisted by an interpreter. Also present at the meeting were Mr. C. Kalamohan (Witness) and Ms. A. Forrest (Solicitor). The Designed Premises Supervisor (DPS) was not present at the meeting.

The application sought the revocation of the Premises Licence.

The premises traded as an off licence/grocery shop and was currently licensed for the sale of alcohol, for consumption off the premises, on every day of the week between 6.00 a.m. and 11.00 p.m.

The opening hours of the premises, as stated on the Premises Licence, were twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

The premises were subject to the mandatory licensing conditions and the offered conditions set out in Annex 1 and 2 of the Premises Licence.

The premises were first licensed by the Council under the Licensing Act 2003 in March 2025. The Licence was granted by the Licensing Sub-Committee as the application for the grant of a Licence was subject to representations.

Additional documents were received after the publication of the report and these were circulated electronically to all parties in advance of the hearing.

Paper copies of the majority of the documents were provided for Members.

The representative of the Licensing Authority confirmed that an application to review the Premises Licence was submitted on 6th May 2026 in respect of the premises known as Today's situated at Unit 4, Ox Close Avenue, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham, S61 3QY.

The application sought the revocation of the Premises Licence on the grounds that the Licence holder had failed to promote the licensing objectives of:-

- prevention of crime and disorder; and
- protection of children from harm.

A copy of the application was served on AKMS Retail Ltd, the Company that held the Licence, by post and by email on the 6th May 2026. In addition, on the same date, a copy of the review application was hand delivered to the premises.

The review was triggered following a social media post identified by the Licensing Team on 26 April, 2026 via a local councillor and the Kimberworth Action Group. On 30 April 2026, Licensing Officers and South Yorkshire Police conducted an unannounced visit to the premises.

During a full licensing inspection, officers identified breaches of licence conditions. Single cans of alcohol were being offered for sale at £1 each, the staff authorisation document was out of date and no staff training records were available on site. These three matters were found to be non-compliant with the premises licence conditions.

Officers also viewed CCTV footage which showed a child entering the premises through the main entrance and subsequently entering the stock room. A member of staff entered the area when another customer came into the shop and the child then followed. Officers were able to record the child leaving the stock room, but were unable to record the earlier part of the footage. The licence holder's representative challenged this evidence, stating that sufficient information had already been provided to the Police and that there was no necessity to record any further footage.

It was reported at the time that the staff member who had commenced employment in October 2025 had since been dismissed and had been granted permission to stay overnight at the premises due to shift patterns. Details of right to work permissions and shift patterns had since been provided and received on 29th June, 2026.

Subsequent to this, a further visit was carried out on 6 May, 2026 to serve the review papers on the licence holder. During that visit, Licensing Officers observed single cans on display for sale. A discussion subsequently took place involving Mr. Ian Rushton regarding the CCTV footage. Due to the significant volume of footage available, the Local Authority agreed to review five-minute extracts taken from the operational hours of four cameras throughout the premises.

Officers reviewed footage covering the period from 2nd April to 26th April 2026 and identified that the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) was present on only fifteen occasions out of approximately one hundred observations. In some clips, no staff members were visible. The individual alleged to have committed the offence, who was subsequently arrested by the Police, appeared on approximately fifty occasions out of the one hundred observations reviewed. Officers also identified footage showing a young male, appearing to be under the age of twenty-five, purchasing alcohol without being challenged for identification, despite Challenge 25 signage being displayed within the premises.

Whilst reviewing the footage, officers also considered a video clip that had been circulated on YouTube. The clip showed two young females approaching the side and rear of the premises. An extracted section of the video isolating this part of the footage was provided for viewing. Officers

were able to identify corresponding CCTV footage from the premises which showed a staff member opening the rear door, supporting statements made within the YouTube video.

A further complaint was received on 1st June, 2026 regarding an event advertised to be held on 5th June, 2026 involving a barbecue and wine tasting. Given that the premises were already subject to a review process, Licensing Officers were concerned about the proposed event. Following discussions and advice provided to the premises, the event was cancelled. A notice displayed at the shop informed customers that the event had been cancelled following a complaint and included an image of an angry face.

On 9th June, 2026 further information was received alleging that sweets had been placed on a counter of the premises and that children had been invited to take a handful. The individual making this assertion provided information in support of the review application.

A further inspection was carried out on 10th June, 2026. During that visit, the Designated Premises Supervisor, Mr. Silva, was present. Officers observed that single cans remained in the refrigerator despite previous advice being given. Mr. Silva explained that plastic binders had been ordered to secure cans together in pairs and that new notices had been purchased and displayed on the refrigerator advising customers that two cans must be purchased. Training records were also made available for inspection.

On 24th June, 2026 at approximately 11.30 a.m., arrangements were made for a colleague to undertake a test purchase operation who entered the premises and attempted to purchase a single alcoholic drink of 500ml or less. The purchase was successful and a witness statement was subsequently provided. The name of the individual conducting the test purchase was redacted from the documentation to preserve confidentiality.

The test purchase revealed two areas of concern. Firstly, a single can of alcohol was sold in breach of the premises licence conditions. Secondly, although the purchaser appeared to be under the age of twenty-five and was challenged regarding their age, when they stated that they did not have any identification, they were told that it was acceptable and the sale proceeded regardless.

Following the test purchase, officers entered the premises, identified themselves and spoke with staff. Right to work documentation was produced, although officers were not entirely satisfied that the records presented related to the individual who had completed the sale and whom they had met on the day.

When questioned about the sale of single cans, the staff member appeared uncertain. He confirmed that customers were not permitted to purchase a single can and that two cans were required, pointing to the notices displayed in the store. Officers then selected a can of White Storm and asked whether it could be sold individually. The staff member stated that it could not. When asked why the same product had been sold during the test purchase, he suggested that he thought it had been a 700ml can and, therefore, permissible to sell. However, the can was the same size as the others on display. The member of staff was unable to provide a satisfactory explanation and his demeanour suggested that the sale may have resulted from a lapse in concentration.

Before leaving the premises, officers noted that a significant number of single cans remained available within the refrigerator. Whilst some cans had been secured together in pairs, these represented only a minority of the stock on display. Officers then left the premises and had no further involvement.

The Sub-Committee requested that the webcast be paused and the meeting move into private session to allow video footage to be viewed.

In conclusion, the Licensing Authority determined that the licence holder had not demonstrated that they were adequately upholding their responsibilities in promoting the licensing objectives. Evidence gathered throughout the investigation indicated deficiencies in staff recruitment, training and supervision, together with breaches of licence conditions. In addition, aspects of the conduct and management of the premises gave rise to significant concern, particularly given that the premises were already subject to a review by the Licensing Authority.

Having considered all of the evidence, the Licensing Authority's position was that revocation of the premises licence was the appropriate and proportionate step. Accordingly, the Licensing Authority sought revocation of the premises licence as its recommended outcome of the review.

In response to a question it was confirmed that there had been no other test purchases to the premises nor any concerns raised prior to this event.

In response to the written representations received it was noted:-

South Yorkshire Police supported the review based on the evidence disclosed. An investigation remained ongoing and no further comment could be issued.

Rotherham’s Safeguarding Children’s partnership were also fully supportive of the review in order to mitigate any future risk.

Public Health had reviewed the evidence supplied by the Licensing Authority and support the recommendation to revoke the premises licence held by AKMS Retail Ltd. The lack of staff training records, missing

employment information and several licence breaches showed a complete disregard for the licensing objectives evidencing that the owners of this licence should not be allowed to continue selling alcohol.

In addressing the Sub-Committee the licence holder represented by their Solicitor explained the importance of remembering that the matter concerned an individual's livelihood and that the Sub-Committee's role was to determine what, if any, outstanding causes for concern remained and what measures would be reasonable and proportionate to address those concerns going forward. The focus should be on the promotion of the licensing objectives and not on assumptions, suspicions or allegations unsupported by evidence.

The principal reason for the review was not the administrative breaches or licence condition failures, but the allegation of grooming involving a member of staff. It was argued that this matter was properly a matter to be investigated by the Police, with the additional licence breaches being the issues for the Sub-Committee's consideration. The further incident involving the sale of a single can of alcohol was also acknowledged.

The alleged grooming incident was continuing to be investigated and the licence holder was fully co-operative with the Police and was both shocked and appalled by the allegations supporting the arrest of the individual concerned. The employee had been dismissed immediately and banned from the premises owing to the nature of the allegations.

Appropriate pre-employment checks had been carried out. The individual concerned had held a clear DBS certificate, had undergone right to work checks and had obtained a personal licence in March 2026. He had also completed Level 2 training and had prior experience within the trade. Given that he held a personal licence, he had been trusted to work alone and had received the same training as the DPS.

The representative advised that the licence holder’s son had become involved in the business, had completed personal licence training and was applying for his own personal licence. It was submitted that no other member of staff had been aware of the alleged conduct. Whilst it was understandable that the Licensing Authority and Police had sought a review given the seriousness of the allegations, it was argued that the licence holder should not be held responsible for the actions of one individual. Following review of the CCTV footage, it appeared that the employee had worked alone for significant periods and had taken advantage of the opportunity presented.

The Sub-Committee's consideration should, therefore, focus on the licensing objectives, particularly the protection of children from harm and the prevention of crime and disorder. Significant weight should be given to the fact that the individual concerned had left the business and would not be returning. The management had acted decisively and should not be held accountable for conduct of which they had been unaware,

particularly given that there were no previous criminal concerns associated with the individual and all relevant documentation had been obtained before he was employed.

It was argued that the incident could have occurred at any premises and it would be inappropriate to punish the licence holder or other staff members for the actions of a rogue employee, should the allegations ultimately be proven.

In relation to the remaining issues before the Sub-Committee, it was submitted that these related predominantly to compliance matters and record keeping. The licence holder had provided substantial due diligence documentation. There had been no previous concerns regarding underage sales at the premises and a number of refusals had been recorded. It was suggested that, had previous test purchase failures occurred, those would have been brought before the Sub-Committee.

The sale of a single can of alcohol during the test purchase was accepted as a breach of the licence conditions. However, it was argued that revocation was disproportionate when considered alongside a small number of administrative breaches and condition failures, particularly where the police investigation remained ongoing and separate from the licensing review.

There were significant differences between shortcomings in record keeping and absence of staff training. A training policy was operating, staff possessed valid right to work documentation and were authorised to sell alcohol. The training booklet before Members included additional guidance covering matters such as conflict management and hate crime awareness.

The test purchase was described as an isolated incident involving a relatively new member of staff. The individual had been trained and understood that single cans below the permitted volume could not be sold individually. Whilst it was accepted that the incident had occurred, it was submitted that it had exacerbated an already difficult situation. Appropriate disciplinary action had been taken against the employee concerned.

Safeguarding measures were already in place, including enhanced supervision arrangements, reporting procedures and incident logs. The premises had fully co-operated with the Police throughout the investigation and management remained committed to promoting the licensing objectives.

It was queried whether any additional support, advice or guidance had been provided to the premises during the safeguarding visit undertaken on 10th June, 2026 as part of Operation Duxford and wider safeguarding activity involving the Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership. The circumstances leading to the review had not been foreseeable and that

greater guidance from partner agencies regarding safeguarding indicators may have been beneficial.

In relation to the till prompt system, it was submitted that the system displayed a Challenge 25 reminder requiring staff to verify that a customer appeared to be over 25 before completing an alcohol sale. This did not amount to a breach of licence conditions and was consistent with the requirements of the premises licence.

Regarding the proposed barbecue and wine tasting event, it was accepted that, in hindsight, it may not have been the best idea whilst the review process was ongoing. However, it was submitted that the intention had been to bring the community together rather than undermine the licensing objectives. Criticism directed at the event had unfairly cast doubt on what had otherwise been a well-managed business.

The original application for the premises licence had previously attracted a significant number of objections from residents, Responsible Authorities and other interested parties. Despite this, the licence had been granted. A petition containing approximately seventy signatures demonstrated continuing community support and reflected the view that the licence holder should not be blamed for the actions of one employee.

Sweets allegedly left on the counter at the premises were simply items left over from the cancelled barbecue event and not an attempt to attract children to the premises.

It was acknowledged that single cans remained visible in the refrigerators during inspections. However, the mere display of single cans did not constitute a breach of licence conditions; the breach occurred only when a sale took place. Staff had been in the process of securing products together in pairs and that, given staffing levels, this was a continuous task. Prominent notices advising customers that single cans could not be sold had also been displayed.

Many of the licence conditions had been found to be fully compliant and that documentation previously identified as missing had since been produced. The premises would continue to uphold safeguarding responsibilities going forward.

In terms of safeguarding training, whilst it was accepted that alcohol sales training had been delivered, specific safeguarding training could be strengthened. Discussion had taken place with Mr Ian Rushton, Licensing Consultant, about access to potential safeguarding resources available through organisations such as the NSPCC, the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership and other online training providers. It was suggested that the licensing sector generally would benefit from more specific safeguarding guidance to assist staff in recognising and responding appropriately to indicators of exploitation.

Employees would be encouraged and supported to engage with safeguarding agencies and the Police and to report concerns in accordance with the Council's Licensing Policy concerning child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and safeguarding responsibilities.

As an alternative to revocation, it was proposed that an additional condition could be attached to the licence requiring all existing staff to complete an approved safeguarding awareness training course within four weeks of the Sub-Committee's decision, with the content and format to be agreed by the Licensing Authority.

In closing, the representative of the licence holder accepted the seriousness of the concerns before the Sub-Committee and acknowledged why the review had been brought. However, the concerns remained under active police investigation and should not be attributed to the licence holder. Revocation of the licence would be disproportionate in circumstances where the employee concerned had no known criminal history, had been appropriately vetted and had been immediately dismissed following the allegations.

Administrative failings had been recognised and were being addressed and due diligence measures had been strengthened. Staff training had been implemented and management arrangements had significantly improved. Particular reference was made to the licence holder's son's increasing involvement in the business, the introduction of computerised rotas, enhanced oversight of staff and his intention to obtain a personal licence.

The licence holder and his family had been deeply disturbed by the alleged conduct and did not dispute that something serious appeared to have occurred. Nevertheless, the risk of repetition was very low because the individual concerned no longer had any involvement with the premises.

Should the Sub-Committee consider additional measures necessary, the licence holder would accept further conditions, including enhanced safeguarding training requirements. Accordingly, the Sub-Committee were asked to allow the premises licence to continue, subject to any additional conditions considered appropriate, rather than revoke the licence.

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

- The room separate to the shop premises was equipped to allow for the employee to stay overnight and was usual where he had missed his transport home.
- The licence holder had been fully co-operative with all authorities when he became aware of the safeguarding concerns. The concerns were drawn to his attention when a friend had seen a post on social media.

- The BBQ and wine tasting event had been pre-arranged to celebrate a wine company's trading.
- Agreement was given to all CCTV footage being shared.
- The accommodation area was not part of the commercial premises and had its own access/egress.
- Regular random checks of the CCTV were carried out and this had since been increased.
- Ensuring checks to the CCTV system were made randomly and not just following an incident.
- A request for specific safeguarding training for all staff, what to look out for and who to raise concerns with was welcomed.
- Compilation and how the petition was advertised was clarified.
- Adequacy of the supplementary training document.
- Purpose, confusion and inadequacy of the refusal logs provided in support of the premises licence.
- Clarity of DPS authorisation.
- Parameters of having living accommodation within a stock room.
- Access to the stock room by members of the public.

In summary the Licensing Authority believed it reasonable to expect a licence holder to have effective management arrangements in place to ensure that the licensing objectives were promoted and upheld. Did the matter before the Sub-Committee constitute a one-off incident involving a single individual or evidence of wider, systemic failures in the management of the premises.

Some matters could be characterised as administrative failings; however, it was argued that there had also been clear breaches of licence conditions. Reference was made to the sale of single cans of alcohol. This was not simply a case of single cans remaining in a refrigerator awaiting bundling. On an earlier occasion, single cans had been placed in a basket and identified for sale at £1 each in order to clear stock. It was submitted that this demonstrated a deliberate management decision rather than a misguided action by a sales assistant.

A number of issues raised during the hearing undermined confidence in the overall management of the premises. Whilst additional documentation had been provided, some of that material gave rise to further concerns rather than reassurance. The petition submitted in support of the premises was said to have limited evidential value in determining whether the licensing objectives were being upheld.

Concerns were also raised regarding the staff training booklet, which was described as confusing, inaccurate in parts and containing material of limited relevance to the issues. In addition, two separate refusal logs had been produced which appeared to contain conflicting information. Reference was also made to the CCTV evidence, which indicated that the Designated Premises Supervisor had been present on only a limited number of occasions during the period reviewed.

The Licensing Authority's position was that it had no confidence in the management of the premises and was asking the Sub-Committee to revoke the premises licence and to reach their decision on the basis of all of the evidence and submissions heard during the review hearing.

In conclusion the representative for the licence holder accepted two separate refusal logs was confusing and would personally ensure these were consolidated into a single log book. This issue had become a distraction from the principal reason why the matter was before the Sub-Committee, namely the serious incident involving a former member of staff. The individual concerned was no longer employed at the premises.

The remaining issues were relatively minor by comparison. The presence of single cans in the refrigerator did not, in itself, constitute a breach of the premises licence and that there would have been no further concerns had the test purchase not been successful.

The licence holder understood the concerns that had been raised and wished to work constructively with the Responsible Authorities. It was important to separate the alleged criminal conduct from the licensing compliance issues and had the serious incident not occurred, the premises would not have been subject to a review.

It was acknowledged that there had been some failings and advised that assistance would be provided to the licence holder in improving record keeping and administrative procedures. Staff training had been undertaken and the necessary due diligence processes were now in place, although the associated paperwork required further organisation and improvement.

The proposed barbecue event was accepted as being an ill-judged idea. However, the intention had simply been to bring the local community together and the event had ultimately been cancelled. It was pointed out, however, that aspects of the Council's Licensing Policy appeared to be outdated.

The key issue outstanding was the need for greater safeguarding awareness and training to enable the licence holder and staff to understand how to identify potential safeguarding concerns, how to report them and what action should be taken. More specific training tailored to the retail sector would be of significant benefit.

In relation to the failed test purchase, the individual who sold the single can of alcohol had acknowledged receiving training and had only been employed at the premises for approximately one week at the time of the sale.

The licence holder’s son had become increasingly involved in the business, was learning the role on the job and had already proved to be a

valuable addition to the management of the premises. He intended to obtain a personal licence in the near future.

Finally, all staff documentation had been checked, including right to work records and the Designated Premises Supervisor had no knowledge of the conduct which had allegedly taken place. Staff were willing to follow any additional guidance arising from the Council's policies and from the Licensing Authority and argued that the premises licence should, therefore, be permitted to continue.

The Sub-Committee considered in detail the application for the review of the Premises Licence and took account all the representations made for the revocation of the Premises Licence and the responses received on the grounds that the licence holder had failed to promote the licensing objectives of:-

- prevention of crime and disorder; and
- protection of children from harm.

Resolved:- That, after due consideration of the application for review and to the representations, the Premises Licence in respect of the premises known as Today's situated at Unit 4, Ox Close Avenue, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham, S61 3QY be revoked.

LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
6th July, 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Currie, Stables and Sutton.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Garnett.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for 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).

6. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to three applications for the grant of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Mrs. S.R. and Messrs. A.S. and V.K.

Mrs. S.R. and Mr. A.S. were in attendance at the hearing.

Mr. V.K. was unable to attend due to work commitments.

Resolved:- (1) That the applications for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence for Mrs. S.R. and Mr. A.S. be approved.

(2) 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.

Signed: ……

Dated: ……

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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
14th July, 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester and Jones.

Also present:-
Mr. Mark McGrail, Applicant
Mr. Scott Roberts, Operational Manager

Ms. Jo Belton, Licensing Officer, South Yorkshire Police
PS Antony Cartlidge, Licensing Dept, South Yorkshire Police
Mr. Phil Reed, Operational Support Unit, South Yorkshire Police
Mr. Robert Sowter, Solicitor, South Yorkshire Police

Councillor Beresford, Ward Councillor
Other Person 1, 12, 16, 17 and 19 together with 4 other local residents

Mrs. Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, RMBC
Ms. Kirsty Leonard, Community Protection Unit, RMBC
Mr. Lionel Desai, Solicitor, RMBC
Mrs. Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor/Clerk

CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) BY SME ENVIRONMENTAL HOLDINGS LTD. FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF AN OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE SITUATED AT BASSINGTHORPE LANE, ROTHERHAM S61 4QW

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003) by SME Environmental Holdings Ltd. for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of an Outdoor Event Space situated at Bassingthorpe Lane, Rotherham S61 4QW.

The applicant, Mr. Mark McGrail, Director of SME Environmental Holdings Ltd., was seeking authorisation to allow:-

- The sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises
- Regulated entertainment by way of the provision of live and recorded music, the performance of plays and dance and the exhibition of films
- Provision of late night refreshment

The application sought permission to provide licensable activities between May and September on no more than 16 occasions between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 12.00 midnight. An “occasion” could fall on any day of the week.

Mr. McGrail was named in the application as the Designated Premises Supervisor.

Mr. McGrail was present at the hearing together with Mr. Roberts.

Consultation on the application had been carried out in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council procedure. During the consultation period, 29 representations opposed to the application had been received together with a single representation in support.

Two of the Responsible Authorities, South Yorkshire Police and the Council's Community Protection Unit, had made representations opposed to the application (Appendix 3).

Representations of the 2 Ward Councillors and 25 "Other Persons", all of whom were opposed to the application, were attached at Appendix 4 of the report submitted.

The representation received by an "Other Person" in support of the application was attached at Appendix 5.

Subsequent to the publication of the agenda, South Yorkshire Police had continued their negotiations resulting in the applicant formally amending the application. The application now sought permission to provide licensable activities between May and September on a maximum of 6 occasions. In addition, a further 28 event management controls had been offered all of which would automatically be applied to any licence that may be granted.

This amendment to the application had resulted in the withdrawal of South Yorkshire Police's representation.

The Community Protection Unit had further added to their representation welcoming the proposed control measures, however, felt that they remained largely aspirational and lacked sufficient detail to provide confidence that events would be effectively managed and controlled in practice.

The proposed migration measures did not address the fundamental concerns associated with the suitability of the locality itself. The field was accessed via a narrow road with events proposed that may attract significant numbers of attendees. Noise sensitive receptors were 600 m away with no material barrier between themselves and the venue. This presented ongoing concerns regarding the prevention of public nuisance and the practical management of large scale events.

If the licence was to be granted, the Community Protection Unit had requested additional amendments and conditions be applied to the licence.

Representatives of South Yorkshire Police were present as a courtesy to the Sub-Committee and to answer any questions Members may have as a result of their representation withdrawal.

The applicant provided the following information:-

- Bassingthorpe was subject to a future housing development of approximately 2,400 new houses. The sports and recreation facility was not affected by the development
- Bassingthorpe sports and recreation facility had a long history of owners and had been a sporting facility for over 120 years. Following the purchase by the Council in 2013, it had been sold on with an agreement that an easement was put in place with no access/egress to the site and Gin House and Gin House Lane would feed the sports facility
- In 2019 there was a Letter of Comfort from the Council that the sports facility would remain as a sports and recreation facility used for sports and recreation and any events within that parameter
- There was an issue with the site in that there was a Control of Major Accidents Hazards (COMAH) in relation to the factory on the junction with Gin House Lane
- The applicant was not responsible for highways as stated in the deed and the contract between the Council and Bassingthorpe sports and recreation. The site must always be kept maintained, open and accessible. When originally built it was a 6m wide double lane road, however, since then the road had eroded
- Since 2014 due to the farm allocation there had been no interest in the area
- Since deciding to use the land, Mr. McGrail had cleaned up the location which had been associated with flytipping and related anti-social behaviour
- The houses had been built after the facility and were given a new access road up Potters Hill onto Munsbrough Lane
- Gin House Lane had always been a rat run
- The current licence allowed sports/recreation, however, it did not permit the sale/consumption of alcohol
- It was the aim to create a new facility and link it up with the other facilities in the town centre. The business model was to revitalise the town centre leisure and tourism offer and use Gin House Lane as a pedestrianised area
- There would be a sports facilities, restaurant, café and community element on the site. Once that facility was complete there would still be a need to apply for a premises licence
- The 200 parking spaces would be for day use e.g. café patrons, deliveries. The intention was not to encourage car usage. Festivals now encouraged walking and cycling rather than cars. It was about integrating the facilities e.g. use the camping/glamping facilities and walk to venues in the town centre
- The events would be in the Spring/Summer when there were lighter nights. The drinking time could stop at any time; the issue was getting people off the site in a controlled and safe manner

- Rotherham Council had given assurance in 2019 that the highway would be maintained and there was a legally binding Deed of Easement to ensure there was access/egress to the sports facilities. Highways would visit in September to assess the highways situation. It also needed to ensure the safety of pedestrians as currently there were no safe refuges
- The applicant, prior to any event, had to submit a traffic management plan as part of the report to the Safety Advisory Group. If it was not acceptable, the event would not go ahead
- Under the applicant's current licenced activities, glamping could be provided for 28 days a year, football matches etc. without an alcohol licence. There was no licensing requirement for a sports facility
- An Event Management Plan was now a required condition by the Police and would need to be circulated prior to any event taking place and include how visitors accessed/egressed the venue. If it was not satisfactory, the event could be cancelled
- The issue was not the drinking-up time but how the team could get visitors off the site. A midnight close with a 1:00 a.m. deadline allowed 1 hour to get visitors off site. There was no issue if the time to stop serving changed to 10:00 p.m.
- As part of the COMAH, Munsbrough Lane, Bassingthorpe Lane and Gin House Lane must be clear at all times. If an event was taking place, members of the public would not be allowed to park their cars on that route

Councillor Elliott had submitted his apologies for the meeting. Councillor Beresford presented their objections to the application which centred around:-

- It was felt to be the wrong place to hold large events with the potential to impact on public safety and may cause noise nuisance due to the number of potential attendees and the finishing time of such events
- Bassingthorpe Lane was a very narrow rural road, with no street lighting and a speed limit of 60 mph. It had limited visibility due to the number of bends and overgrown hedges on the side of the road
- Concern for pedestrian safety using the road particularly when it was dark as there were no footpaths
- Concern with regard to the proximity to Victrex, accessed by Bassingthorpe Lane, which had site specific emergency planning arrangements because of the storage and use of hazardous materials
- In the event of an emergency local residents were alerted by warning sirens and advised to stay indoors and close their windows. People attending events would not have this protection
- The possibility of visitors to events arriving by car and parking on Munsbrough Lane and Broom Riddings. Residents were concerned that their safety may be compromised if ambulances and fire engines were unable to get to their properties
- 12:00 midnight was too late for music events to be held on the field and the disruption caused to local residents as revellers left the venue

Kirsty Leonard presented the Community Protection Unit's objections to the application as follows:-

- Noise impact from outdoor events – there were no baseline noise survey/noise limits or specific decibel thresholds provided
- The measures outlined were vague and non-quantified and did not demonstrate adequate control of noise breakout
- Likely disturbance to nearby residential receptors and noise caused by late night dispersal
- No detailed Noise Management Plan
- Concerns regarding access and egress/dispersal with a single entrance/exit point with parking for 200 vehicles even though events would have up to 3,000 attendees
- Potential traffic congestion, noise and disturbance to the surrounding area
- Failure to demonstrate adequate measures to promote the prevention of public nuisance and protection of public health
- The objections had been updated and the CPU welcomed the proposed control measures, there was sufficient detail lacking to provide confidence that the events would be effectively managed and controlled in practice

The Sub-Committee considered the comments of the objectors, both in person and written, which could be summarised as follows:-

- Noise and light pollution from the venue
- Increased traffic and the unsuitability of the local highway infrastructure
- The unsuitability of Bassingthorpe Lane and associated highway safety concerns
- The movement of 3,000 people before, during and after events could create safety concerns and potential associated anti-social behaviour and alcohol related disorder
- The area was surrounded by working farmland with livestock including sheep and horses which were highly sensitive to noise and sudden disturbances
- Active agricultural land which could present a fire risk in dry weather conditions
- Large scale entertainment events were not in keeping with the character of the area
- The effect on local wildlife
- Ability for emergency services to access Bassingthorpe Lane whilst an event was taking place
- The lack of pavements and street lighting
- One of the access roads to the site passed directly through the middle of Bassingthorpe Farm farmyard

- Health and safety implications for the existing farm residents and the potential fire from discarded cigarettes. The events were due to take place during harvest; the farm required access both ways up/down the lane
- Existing issues with littering which was felt would increase
- The number of deliveries that would be needed prior to an event taking place

There was one "Other Person" who had submitted written support for the application:-

- It was a fantastic opportunity to have local events for people to attend during the summer months
- It was something that Rotherham needed and was good news for the town

Ms. Kraus clarified that currently a farmer's market could be held on the site and alcohol could be purchased and consumed on site. However, the application as it currently stood was for the sale of alcohol on site only i.e. it could not be purchased and taken off site unless the application was amended.

The Sub-Committee considered the application for the review of the Premises Licence and the representations made specifically in 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, after due consideration the application for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of an Outdoor Event Space situated at Bassingthorpe Lane, Rotherham S61 4QW, be refused.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
14th July, 2026

Present:- Councillor Garnett (in the Chair); Councillors Bennett-Sylvester and Bower.

Also Present:-

Mr. Daniel Havenhand, Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor
Ms. Cheryl Schofield, Manager

Ms. Jo Belton, Licensing Officer, South Yorkshire Police
PS Antony Cartlidge, Licensing Dept, South Yorkshire Police
Mr. Robert Sowter, Solicitor, South Yorkshire Police

Mrs. Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, RMBC
Ms. Katie Etheridge, Solicitor, RMBC
Mrs. Dawn Mitchell, Governance Advisor/Clerk

CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION (MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.51 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003) FOR THE REVIEW OF THE PREMISES LICENCE ISSUED TO MR DANIEL HAVENHAND IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS THE SPORTSMAN INN SITUATED AT 55 BROAD STREET, PARKGATE, ROTHERHAM S62 6DU

Consideration was given to an application (made in accordance with Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2033) for the review of the Premises Licence issued to Mr. D. Havenhand in respect of the premises known as The Sportsman Inn, 55 Broad Street, Parkgate, Rotherham S62 6DU.

The Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police (acting in their role as a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003) had made the application on 21st May, 2026 for the review of the Premises Licence in respect of The Sportsman Inn, 55 Broad Street Parkgate, Rotherham S62 6DU.

The application sought the revocation of the Premises Licence on the grounds that the Licence Holder had failed to promote the licensing objectives of:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Protection of children from harm

Should the Licensing Sub-Committee be minded not to revoke the Premises Licence, the applicant asked that 19 management control conditions be imposed.

A copy of the application was served on the Licence Holder, Mr. Havenhand by post and email on 21st May, 2026 as well as a hand delivered copy to the premises.

Consultation on the application had been carried out on the application in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council's procedure. There was a prescribed period of 28 days following the submission of an application during which time representations in relation to the application may be submitted.

At the end of the prescribed consultation period no representations had been received.

Also present was Mr. D. Havenhand (the Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor) and Ms. Cheryl Schofield (Manager).

Mr. Havenhand did not wish to be shown on the webcast.

As previously stated, the objections of South Yorkshire Police were based on 2 of the licensing objectives and raised the following concerns:-

- It was noted that technically there had been no breach of the licence as it was a relatively old licence with no detailed conditions, unlike the licences issued now, with no requirement for CCTV
- Following an allegation of a serious assault on the premises having been made, it was established that the Sportsman Inn had CCTV. The Police investigating officer had made numerous attempts to meet with the Licence Holder to view the CCTV footage. Appointments had been made and then cancelled or the premises found to be closed. This had led to the investigating officer raising concerns with the Police Licensing Officer that the Licence Holder was not co-operating with a Police investigation
- The Police Licensing Officer had also attempted to meet with the Licence Holder to bring the licence up-to-date and promote the licensing objectives but again the meetings were either cancelled or he did not attend
- An unannounced visit was made to the premises by the Police Licensing Officer on 30th April, 2026 and met the Licence Holder. An action plan for improvement was agreed which required improved management controls being put into place all of which had to be formalised as conditions of the Licence
- The agreed action plan had been shared with the Council's Licensing Team and asked that they assist the Licence Holder to make the required application
- A fully completed application form had been sent to the Licence Holder on 30th April requiring it to be checked, signed, dated and returned
- To date the Licence Holder had failed to do this despite numerous emails being sent by him requesting that the hours of opening be extended until 02:00 a.m.

- A test purchase was carried out on 12th May, 2026 and alcohol sold to 2 x 17 year old children. The member of staff who made the sale informed officers that he did not know about the need to ask for identification and that he had not been trained on this requirement
- On 16th May a "street safe" visit was made to the premises. There had been a solo worker behind the bar who, when asked, had no knowledge of any training records. She attempted to call the Licence Holder but he did not pick up
- The Police felt that the Licence Holder had consistently demonstrated that he was either unwilling or unable to promote the licensing objectives and work with Responsible Authorities to bring about necessary improvements
- The review was not due to the allegation of GBH but due to the attempts to work with the Licence Holder to obtain the CCTV of the serious offence and then to work with him to update the licence
- The action plan was verbally agreed on 31st March, 2026. However, the failed test purchase had followed soon after so a review of the plan had not been taken any further

In response to the Police's statement, Mr. Havenhand provided the following information:-

- Mr. Havenhand had held his Personal Licence for approximately 18 months and was also the Designated Premises Supervisor
- The alleged serious assault had taken place on the street; the Sportsman Inn had been closed at that time
- The Police had contacted him on 8th January, 2026, and he had offered them the CCTV recording box as he did not know how to retrieve recordings
- It had been wrongly stated on social media that the assault had happened in The Sportsman; there had been a backlash against the premises resulting in a loss of trade
- There were no conditions on the licence requiring CCTV so could not understand why it had been raised as part of the hearing
- There were regular visits by the Police wanting to look at the refusals book
- Mr. Havenhand had been on his way to the airport at the time of the failed test purchase. Ms. Schofield had been upstairs at the premises. The member of staff should not have been serving behind the bar and had taken it upon himself to serve the 2 young females. The member of staff no longer worked at the premises. No-one should have served alcohol until 2.00 p.m.
- Mr. Havenhand confirmed that he had received the completed licence application form from the Licensing Service

Resolved:- That, after due consideration of the application for review and to the representations, the Premises Licence in respect of the premises known as The Sportsman Inn, 55 Broad Street, Parkgate, Rotherham S62 6DU, be revoked.

LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
10th August, 2026

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Ball, Brent, Jones and Steele.

Also Present:-
Ms. K. Etheridge, Solicitor, Legal Services
Mrs. D. Mitchell, Governance Advisor/Clerk
Mrs. C. Liversidge, Solicitor (Observer)

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

8. 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).

9. 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 six applications for the grant/renewal/review of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. V.K., A.A., K.W., D.S., L.F. and J.D.

Messrs. A.A., K.W., D.S., L.F. and J.D. were in attendance at the hearing.

Mr. V.K. was unable to attend due to being on holiday.

Councillor Brent left the meeting before consideration of Mr. J.D.'s application.

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 applications for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licence for Messrs. A.A. and D.S. be approved.

(3) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence for Mr. K.W. be deferred to the next meeting in order for him to seek legal advice.

(4) That the application for the renewal of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence for Mr. L.F. be approved together with a written warning regarding his future conduct/behaviour.

(5) That Mr. J.D.'s hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence be suspended until successful completion of the advanced driving course.

PLANNING BOARD
16th July, 2026

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Brent, Currie, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Hussain, Lelliott, Reynolds, Sutton, Tarmey, Taylor and Thorp.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adair and Jackson.

Officers also in attendance were:-

Mrs. L. Brooks, Development Manager
Mr. S. Evans, Planning Solicitor
Mrs. B. Gale, Governance Manager
Mr. S. Gammons, Senior Manager, Transportation and Highways
Mrs. A. Kemp, Governance Advisor
Mrs. E. Ottewell, Head of Planning and Building Control
Mr. M. Peck, Assistant Development Manager

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

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

16. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE, 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 25th June, 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

19. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

20. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the applications below:-

- Erection of a new 400kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation including gantries, internal access roads, a GIS building, parking, drainage, emergency diesel generator, lighting and CCTV, permanent access road from Long Lane, earthworks, landscaping and biodiversity enhancement, and fencing and the permanent realignment of Whiston Footpath 10 at land at Long Lane Whiston for National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (RB2025/1468)

  Mr. J. Leeming (Applicant)
  Mr. S. Oxer (Objector)
  Ms. M. Bancroft (Objector)
  Mr. S. Tingle (Objector)
  Mr. R. Croxton - Treeton Parish Council (Objector)

  A statements was also read out on behalf of:-

  Mr. N. Eastwood (Objector)

- Installation of steel roller shutter doors, galvanised steel palisade fence and gates, and replacement roof at Rear of 94 to 100 Melton High Street West Melton for A&J Real Estate 2021 Limited (RB2026/0241)

  Mr. J. Greaves (Objector)
  Mr. M. Chambers (Objector)

- Demolition of existing dwelling and garage, and erection of 5 residential dwellings at 13 Quarry Lane North Anston for Eton Home Developments Ltd. (RB2026/0371)

  Mr. M. Woodhead (Agent)
  Ms. D. Broad (Objector)
  Ms. S. Thackery (Objector)

- Construction of 4 apartments over existing buildings with rooms in roofspace, balconies to front and stairs and access balcony to rear, conversion of laundrette to cycle/bin store and erection of 2.1m high fence at 41 Worksop Road Swallownest for Mr. S. Pryor (RB2026/0480)

Mr. M. Edgar (on behalf of the Applicant)

A statement was also read out on behalf of:-

Ms. G. Brammer (Objector)

(2) That in relation to application RB2025/1468:-

(a) That the Council enter into a legal agreement with the developer under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- £24,954 towards Biodiversity Net Gain Monitoring over a period of thirty years.

(b) subject to the satisfactory signing of the agreement application RB2025/1468 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 RB2026/0241 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting, subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to the addition of a further condition requiring improvements to the structural appearance of the development, the details of which shall be delegated to, and agreed by the Chair and Vice-Chair. Such improvements shall be implemented within one month of the date of the decision.

(4) That applications RB2026/0371 and RB2026/0480 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

21. REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, REGENERATION AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

Further to Minute No. 45 of the meeting of the Planning Board held on 27th November, 2025 and Minute No. 67 of the meeting of the Planning Board held on 19th March, 2026, consideration was given to the report of the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transportation Service and several slides presented by officers which outlined the latest update on the Whitestone Solar Farm proposal being progressed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), requiring a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 rather than determination by the Council.

The Planning Board was advised that at the time the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) sought the Council's views, comments were requested solely on the adequacy of the applicant's pre-application consultation. The Council's review concluded that, although the applicant had undertaken a programme of engagement with statutory consultees

and the local community in line with its Statement of Community Consultation, significant concerns had been raised by Parish Councils and local residents regarding the quality and effectiveness of the engagement. The Council had also raised concerns about potential failures to serve Section 42 notices on some affected landowners. Despite these issues, the Planning Inspectorate concluded that the statutory consultation requirements had been met, and consequently the Planning Inspectorate accepted the application on 3rd July 2026.

The application had now entered the pre-examination stage, which was expected to run until October 2026 with interested parties being required to register with the Planning Inspectorate by 27th August 2026 to participate in the examination process. It was emphasised that only those who registered by this date would be able to participate in the examination process and submit written representations.

During the pre-examination stage, the Council would prepare key documents, including the Local Impact Report and Statement of Common Ground, supported by technical and legal advisers, and would continue engagement with the applicant, statutory consultees, local communities and other stakeholders.

Whitestone Solar was also undertaking further engagement activity during this period, including a webinar on 20th July 2026 and community support sessions on 21st July 2026 to assist residents with registering as Interested Parties.

The formal examination stage was expected to run from October 2026 to April 2027, involving written submissions and a programme of hearings, including issue-specific, open floor and compulsory acquisition hearings with the Council playing a key role throughout the process.

A recommendation to the Secretary of State was expected following completion of the examination, with a final decision anticipated in Autumn 2027.

In receiving the update, Members expressed disappointment that the Planning Inspectorate had deemed the consultation adequate despite concerns raised by the Council, Parish Councils and local residents. Officers advised that the Council had submitted Parish Council representations and highlighted consultation concerns, but the Planning Inspectorate had concluded that the statutory requirements had been met.

Members sought assurance that Rotherham and Doncaster Councils were working together on the Local Impact Report, which officers confirmed would be prepared jointly. Officers noted that separate written representations could also be submitted on specific topics where required, although the Local Impact Report would be the key document for the Council.

Members requested a briefing note to be issued to all Members explaining the DCO process and registration requirements, which officers agreed to circulate, including the relevant Planning Inspectorate link, on behalf of the Chair. This information would also be included in the Members Briefing.

In response to a question regarding the additional engagement by Whitestone Solar, officers advised that details of the 21st July community event would be available on the applicant's website and noted that these activities were additional, rather than statutory, consultation.

Resolved:- (1) That the update be received and the contents noted.

(2) That a briefing note be circulated to all Members, on behalf of the Chair, setting out the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, the requirements for registering as an Interested Party, and the relevant Planning Inspectorate registration link. This information would also be included in the Members' Briefing.

22. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

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PLANNING BOARD
6th August, 2026

Present:- Councillor Mault (in the Chair); Councillors Adair, Brent, Clarke, Currie, Duncan, Elliott, Fisher, Jackson, Reynolds, Taylor and Thorp.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ahmed, Hussain, Lelliott and Tarmey.

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

23. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

24. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16TH JULY 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 16th July, 2026, be approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

27. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no deferments or site visits recommended.

The Chair confirmed that application RB2026/0697 (Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey extension to gable sides, two storey front extension, single storey side and rear extension, decking area to rear with steps, rendering of external walls and additional highway access

with new boundary wall, fencing and gates at 17 Stafford Drive Moorgate for Mrs. S. Hussain) had been withdrawn from this agenda and would feature at a future meeting.

28. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the application below:-

- Change of use of ground floor of existing public house to a convenience retail store (Use Class E), including installation of new shop frontage and the provision of bollards to the pavement at the front of the building at 149 Fitzwilliam Street, Swinton for Mr. G. Luxmanan (RB2026/0529)

  Mr. G. Luxmanan (Applicant)
  Ms. A. Lawrence (Objector)
  Ms. M. Saltis (Objector)
  Mr. L. Pearce (Objector)

(2) That application RB2026/0529 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to an amendment to Condition No. 5 (opening hours) to now read:-

05
The use hereby permitted shall only be open to customers between the hours of 07:00 and 22:00 Mondays to Saturdays and 07:00 and 21:00 Sundays.

Reason
To safeguard the amenities of the occupiers of nearby residential properties in accordance with Local Plan Policy SP52 'Pollution Control' and the National Planning Policy Framework.

(3) That application RB2026/0697 be withdrawn and feature at a future meeting.

29. UPDATES

The following update information was provided:-

(a) Planning Enforcement January to June, 2026

Further to Minute No. 53 of the meeting of the Planning Board held on 22nd January, 2026 consideration was given to a short presentation by the Development Manager (Enforcement) which provided an update on planning enforcement from January to June, 2026.

The presentation highlighted:-

Number of complaints received	192
Planning Contravention Notices	0
Enforcement Notices	8
Breach of Condition Notice	0
Temporary Stop Notice	0
Section 215 Untidy Land	0
Tree Replacement Notices	0

There were also 60 other cases where enforcement action was pending and authorised.

Further information was provided on the numbers of planning applications received as a result of enforcement:-

Number of applications received	55
% of applications refused (18 of 34)	53%
Numbers of applications dismissed at appeal	8
Number of applications upheld at appeal	2

From the Enforcement Notices issued a number appealed the decision:-

No. of Enforcement Notice Appeals	3
Appeals Dismissed	3
Appeals Allowed	0
Appeals awaiting determination/withdrawn	6

Photographic evidence of examples was shared where action was recommended and where this had been successful.

Members welcomed the data as presented and thanked the Enforcement Team for the work they had provided.

The Board asked a number of questions and shared examples of planning contravention in their own Wards, including making reference to a recent appeal decision relating to the flats on Shelley Road, Herringthorpe.

The Development Manager (Enforcement) provided an update on application RB2025/0525 (Erection of three storey building comprising of 9 No. Residential Flats, including alterations to the existing first and second floor front elevation and storage rooms in roof space at 17A Shelley Road, Herringthorpe for Mr. S. Hussain) which had been dismissed at appeal.

An Enforcement Notice was still live and required the applicant to either demolish the building within two years or take action to overcome/redress the reasons for refusal with a further application.

The Development Manager (Enforcement) reminded the Board that where there may be issues or concerns about ongoing and delayed development these should be referred to the Service for investigation. Anyone ignoring recommendations to stop work where matters were found to be in contravention did so at their own risk of future enforcement action and ultimately prosecution.